

Akaash Maharaj **Chief Executive Officer**



Akaash Maharaj is Chief Executive Officer of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC), the non-partisan international alliance of legislators working together to combat corruption, strengthen good government, and uphold the rule of law. GOPAC has sixty national chapters and individual members in almost all parliaments of the world.

In addition to his overall responsibilities, Akaash leads GOPAC's project on international prosecution of kleptocracy and Crimes Against Humanity, its efforts on institution building in fragile states, and its work on reconciliation in conflict states.

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration selected him to speak for the world's parliamentarians in the General Assembly Chamber, on employing international law to combat political corruption.

A frequent contributor to international debate, his articles have been published by newspapers in every populated continent. He was a broadcast essayist for TVOntario's "The Agenda", and Canada's *Maclean's* magazine named him as one of the country's 50 "most well known and respected personalities".

Outside of his professional life, he is a national athlete, and was a triple gold medallist at the International Championships of Equestrian Skill-at-Arms. He subsequently led the overall Canadian Equestrian Team and federation as their CEO through the team's most successful Olympics and Paralympics of all time.

Akaash earned his MA from Oxford University, in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, and was the first overseas student and the first non-European elected President of the student government in the University's history. He is an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, of the Royal Asiatic Society, and of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

He has been decorated twice in Canada's national honours, for his work on peace in the Middle East and for his service to the integrity of international sport.

An active volunteer, he has taught adult literacy, has served as a director on a range of international development and local community boards, and has been particularly involved with UNICEF's efforts on maternal and childhood welfare. He speaks English and French.

His personal web site is www.Maharaj.org.