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Global Campus



CONTENTS

Editorial

03

Manfred Nowak

Interviews

05

Simone Venturini

07

Jacopo Galli

11

Mariagiovanna Scrobogna

12

Hélène Molinari

17

Chiara Mondello and Vasil Ivanov

News

23

EMA Human Rights Film Festival Returns to Venice with a Focus on Children's Rights

23

"EMA call for applications for the academic year 2024/2025"

25

Unlocking Professional Growth: Global Campus Celebrates Impactful Internship Journeys

26

Congratulations to Anja Mihr, 2023 Recipient of the UCCHRE Human Rights and Higher Education Award

27

Italian MFA to Support the Global Campus and UNTL in Strengthening Human Rights Education in Timor Leste

28

Global Campus Alumni Engage at "Human Rights 75 Youth Dialogue" in Geneva

29

Contribution: The EU NGO Forum 2023 through the eyes of GC Alumnae

31

Global Campus of Human Rights and Amina Bouayach Honoured with North-South Prize for Human Rights Contributions

32

Our MOOC on Children's Right to Education in Armed Conflict

33

Strengthening Political Processes Through Technical Assistance

33

Cinema, Human Rights and Advocacy

34

Global Campus Human Rights Journal: New Issue is now online

35

Second Joint Annual Engaged Artist Award on Atrocity Prevention and Human Rights

Promotion

37

GC Online Conversations: "The value of education and projects regarding Sustainability: Local and International

Editorial

MANFRED NOWAK

Secretary General
of the Global Campus
of Human Rights

Venice as a city for young people with a sustainable future is the main theme of this 12th edition of the Global Campus Magazine. “Coming to study in Venice must mean coming to study the future” is one of the messages of City Councillor **Simone Venturini**. The city increasingly realises that young people are an asset for Venice and, therefore, started the Venice City Campus project with the aim of doubling the number of university communities in the coming years. The “Citta Campus” initiative is closely linked to the idea of developing Venice to become the World Capital of Sustainability, as Jacopo Galli, the project manager of the Venice Sustainability Foundation, explains. The history of Venice, a city built in an “impossible” place, is a “path of sustainability that spans the centuries”. In his opinion, the Mose project, “a work of mobile hydraulic engineering that has no equal in the world”, is the “true game-changer of Venetian development, as it enables the socio-economic development of a territory finally protected by the sea”. Visions for a Sustainable Future is also the theme of a series of TEDxVenezia talks, as **Maria Giovanna Scrobogna** explains in her interview for the GC Magazine. “Venice is built on water, and water is the source of life” serves as a powerful inspiration for the SUMUS (“We are”) community in Venice with the vision of a new way of living respectful of humanity and the planet. “What makes us so optimistic is the power of nature” says **Helene Molinari**, the founder of SUMUS: “nature is not only a beautiful landscape or supermarket for human beings, nature is an unlimited source of innovations to solve all our human challenges”. She urges us to better protect the rights of children, animals, plants and minerals and to “give an identity to the rivers, mountains as if they were a person to be able to better defend their

rights.” These ideas resonate very well with the new priorities of the Global Campus, developed in partnership with Right Livelihood, namely to go beyond children’s rights to the protection of rights of future generations, nature and Earth Trusteeship.

“Living in Venice was a once in a lifetime experience” for **Chiara Mongello**, one of our current EMA student representatives, and her counterpart **Vasil Ivanov** adds: “I never lived in a place that can take your breath away a few times every single day”. However, according to Vasil, Venice is still “mostly known as a tourist city and not really as a study destination. If more is done for the local students, such as the establishment of more places to socialize, student events (festivals), sports facilities, venues etc (especially in the historic centre) I believe that more and more young people will start seeing Venice as their future study destination.”

As Secretary General of the Global Campus of Human Rights, I fully agree with our EMA student representatives and, therefore, support local initiatives, such as the Venice City Campus and all efforts to make Venice the World Capital of Sustainability and, thereby, more attractive for students and young people who are actively engaged in fighting for climate justice and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Let me close this editorial with two messages of our student representatives. Chiara wishes the Global Campus community to “approach others with openness and kindness”, since “our honesty and interactions are our daily chances to live human rights and create positive impact”. In the same spirit, Vasil sees “many people from my generation that are good at outlining criticisms towards various things, however I wish more people started offering solutions as well. The reason for this is because the world nowadays more than ever needs answers about how to tackle multiple current crises instead of hearing the criticisms that the majority of people are already aware of.”

Interviews



SIMONE VENTURINI

Councillor of the City of Venice

The Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights had the honour to interview the Councillor of the City of Venice Simone Venturini, about his important work related to social cohesion, economic development, tourism, and other fields.

How do you see the role of universities as an institution in the coming years, particularly those that are part of the Municipality of Venice, and what would be the future of their relations with the city of Venice and its sustainable future?

The world of universities has always been intimately linked to the history of Venice and, indeed, has contributed in a fundamental way to making it a city, or rather a “capital”, for centuries a leader in terms of science, art, and values. In the shadow of St. Mark’s bell tower, up and down from the vessels that docked in the Basin full of goods from all over the world, you often breathed a different air than in the rest of Europe, of progress and mixture of peoples and cultures. In giving life to this peculiar cultural substratum, universities have played a leading role and still do so, bringing their contribution in terms of ideas, visions, concepts, and hosting thousands of students from all continents. Their presence is essential to improve the attractiveness of our territory and to build the foundations of its future. This is why it is not possible to talk

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These are difficult years. We have discovered that social, humanitarian, and health emergencies can erupt suddenly and have consequences in our daily lives in a matter of days, if not hours. For example, we were faced with the need to develop in less than a day a first reception system for Ukrainian mothers and their children fleeing the bombings in their country. In collaboration with many third sector organizations, we have also created projects aimed at those who live on the margins of our territory, those who have problems reintegrating or are faced with barriers (cultural, linguistic, cultural, or social) too difficult to overcome on one's own strength. For all these situations, the Global Campus will be able to make its concrete contribution in the awareness that creating a “social machine” that works also has positive repercussions from an economic and work point of view.

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about a sustainable tomorrow in Venice without involving the academic world: it is there that ideas and trends that will influence our future lifestyles and our future ways of reading the world are sedimented, analysed and developed. Young people, their progressive vision, are an asset for Venice.

The Global Campus of Human Rights has been collaborating for some time with the University of Ca' Foscari and the University of Padua, with the Venice International University. How, in the coming years, will the academic institutions of Venice and Veneto be able to contribute to the issues that will affect you (Social Cohesion, Housing Policies, Economic Development, Employment, Tourism)?

These are difficult years. We have discovered that social, humanitarian, and health emergencies can erupt suddenly and have consequences in our daily lives in a matter of days, if not hours. For example, we were faced with the need to develop in less than a day a first reception system for Ukrainian mothers and their

children fleeing the bombings in their country. In collaboration with many third sector organizations, we have also created projects aimed at those who live on the margins of our territory, those who have problems reintegrating or are faced with barriers (cultural, linguistic, cultural, or social) too difficult to overcome on one's own strength. For all these situations, the Global Campus will be able to make its concrete contribution in the awareness that creating a “social machine” that works also has positive repercussions from an economic and work point of view.

The twenty-year collaboration of Global Campus of Human Rights with the European Union has brought to Venice the high institutional offices of European institutions and students from all over the world. How can the city become even more welcoming and hospitable in the future?

We have recently signed the Venice City Campus project, which involves all the city's universities and some of its important cultural

realities. We intend to double the number of university communities in the coming years, guaranteeing each student services, opportunities and stimuli that can make Venice an “indispensable” option for those who want to grow as students, individuals, and citizens. There will be many investments and there will be just as many projects, because we are convinced that, in the lagoon and on the mainland, the future will be written by young people. Coming to study in Venice must mean coming to study the future.

Do you consider it important to educate in the field of human rights and democracy in times of wars and crises such as these?

That is fundamental. Human rights must be our North Star, especially today when newspapers and TV are full of news and images of wars and devastation. Especially today when populism speaks vehemently to the “gut” of the people. The complexity of our present cannot be explained with simplistic schemes,

we must have the courage to escape this approach and deepen themes and problems for what they are. In this way, the democratic and solidarity values that permeate our Western culture would emerge even more strongly.

Can you leave us a message for the teachers, alumni, students, and staff of the Global Campus of Human Rights?

I believe that even today, when guns thunder too often, indeed especially now, we need to be aware of how “stubborn” the facts are. Commit yourself to what you believe by overcoming fatigue and frustration, do it even if the world seems to be going in the opposite direction. Facts are stubborn and acting concretely, beyond words, acting in the right way, will certainly bear fruit.

JACOPO GALLI

Architect and Project Manager of the VSF Foundation

The Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights interviewed the Project Manager of the VSF Foundation Architect Jacopo Galli about the “Città Campus” initiative and the role of the institution.

Can you tell us something more about yourself and where the idea of creating a Venice World Capital of Sustainability Foundation came from?

I am an architect and researcher in architectural composition at the IUAV University of Venice. Furthermore, I am project manager on behalf of the Venice World Capital of Sustainability Foundation / Venice Sustainability Foundation (FVCMS/VSF) for the Venezia Città Campus project. The idea of creating the Venice World Capital of Sustainability Foundation was born from the need to generate an integrated approach to numerous and pressing challenges, which allows us to recreate in an innovative and stable form that experience of use (residential, work, tourism) which for centuries has made Venice a place without equal. The Foundation is

chaired by Renato Brunetta, Venetian, teacher, former minister and currently president of the CNEL. The president has always had his hometown close to his heart, appreciating its merits and suffering from the lack of solutions to his problems. Today tourism, which also generates wealth, appears like a voracious animal, which devours everything around it, without caring too much about sustainability: the last twenty years have seen the establishment of an economy with low added value and a low employment rate, which exploits scarce and precious resources, such as houses. The phenomenon of residents fleeing, common in historic centers and not only in Italy, takes on peculiar aspects in the lagoon context. The alternative is, however, possible. It is suggestive to think how, in its first millennium of history, the wealth and very existence of the lagoon city was based on a high added value economy, of production and trade of precious goods, different in different historical periods. The intrinsic potential of the metropolitan area of Venice is very many, it can and must be connected and systematized. The history of Venice, a city built in an “impossible” place, if we read it correctly, is a path of sustainability that spans the centuries: the idea is therefore to rediscover this common thread and re-tie it, combining history, development and sustainability. Furthermore, the topic of sustainability is perceived today as among the most relevant in a global sense. In this sense, the Foundation indicates in its name the desire to promote Venice as the “world capital of Sustainability”, that is, an objective to be achieved in the continuation of its history and, possibly, a reference for everyone.

2-What is the mission and scope of the Foundation's activities and its connection with academic institutions and universities? The Foundation wants to facilitate the creation of solutions for the complex challenges posed by the territory, to be shared with other entities. We wish to promote an innovative and integrated model of sustainable environmental, cultural, economic and social development. The Foundation has a large group of founding members (13) and co-founders (33). Institutions, public bodies, universities, businesses, each willing to provide their con-

tribution for the sustainability of Venice. The activities are divided into a series of areas of intervention, currently nine, as well as some transversal project initiatives, currently three. Each area brings together, due to interest and expertise, different members of the Foundation and establishes a program of activities. Some areas of intervention are already active. They are called as follows: “Hydrogen”, which aims to develop the hydrogen hub in Veneto, also as one of the keys to the economic regeneration of Porto Marghera; “Energy Transition and Environment”, to promote the supply chains of renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable mobility and infrastructure, as well as the circular economy in the Venetian area; “Venezia Città Campus”, a disruptive initiative which aims to expand the local academic offer, to train the human capital of the future, but above all to create an urban cluster of knowledge which is an employment and residential driver also in the historic center and which develops, at the same time, , teaching, research, innovation, collaboration with businesses and services, consistently with the international spirit that has always distinguished this city, a crossroads of peoples and cultures. In 2024 we also want to start the activities related to the areas “Residentiality”, “Sustainable tourism”, “Innovation”, “Social inclusion”, “Culture of legality” and “Innovative cultural productions”. Transversal projects, on the other hand, are multi-thematic or instrumental initiatives for the best success of the Foundation's activities. Today we have 3 active. The most strategic is “Objective Scenario” which aims to outline, with the members of the partnership, a reference scenario for the sustainable development of Venice. to become the point of reference for the activities and projects that Foundation accompanies. At the same time, the project aims to measure the effect of the initiatives implemented in Venice, through the creation of an index that feeds an observatory on Venetian urban sustainability. Finally, in developing the scenario exercise, it will be useful to reconstruct the history of modernization and resilience of a space as peculiar as the territory in which we live. Through the “Sustainable Bonds” project, however, we pro-

vide those seeking financing for their sustainability ideas with an accompanying service in the use of sustainable finance tools, provided that the proponent undertakes to achieve positive impacts for the Venetian socioeconomic system.

Finally, in 2023, organized the first “Biennial of Sustainability”, a program of events, every other year, which aims to create a space for international debate and exchange on the best sustainability practices of the territory, starting from those that arise from our places. Last year’s edition, called “The Mose Era”, was dedicated to safeguarding Venice from tidal events through a work of mobile hydraulic engineering that has no equal in the world. It represents not only a pride for our nation, but also the true

game-changer of Venetian development, as it enables the socio-economic development of a territory finally protected by the sea.

What type of events and services does the association provide to its members and how is it working nationally and internationally?

Our main *modus operandi* is to accompany and accelerate the projects proposed by the partners, acting as a “facilitator”, thanks to the competence and plurality of the subjects that make up the partnership, as well as their respective relational networks. At the time of affiliation, members decide which areas of intervention to concentrate their contribution on. There is no limit to the ambition of projects that can be conceived in an “impossible” city like

Venice, which can exploit the attractive charm of a global brand with incredible strength such as that of the lagoon city. Last year, eight seminar events were held in different areas of intervention and, of these, seven were part of the programming of the Biennial of Sustainability. I remember that 2023 was the first year in which the Foundation, established on 14 March 2022, operated at full capacity. Five international conferences were held, which saw the overall participation of over 900 people. High-profile speakers from Italian and foreign institutions, research bodies and universities took part in the meetings. Among them the Minister of Infrastructure and Transport, Matteo Salvini, the Minister of the Environment and Energy Security, Gilberto Pichetto Fratin, the Minister for Civil Protection and Maritime Policies, Nello Musumeci, the President of the CNR, Maria Chiara Carrozza and the President of OGS, Nicola Casagli, the CEO of the Green H2 Organization, Jonas Moberg, the Director of C40 Cities Climate Resilience, Sachin Bhoite, the Head of the Italian Civil Protec-



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Although the Foundation does not specifically address the issue of human rights, this is clearly a fundamental and indispensable dimension of the sustainability of development. Hosting the presence of the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice is an undeniable added value. Internationalization and discussion of delicate issues such as this bring Venice back to its central value: that of a city that has always been a crossroads of peoples and cultures, therefore of exchange and sharing. But access to education and education also fall within the sphere of fundamental rights: with the “Venezia Città Campus” project, for the development of the knowledge economy in Venice, we want to bring new life to the city, betting on its ability to train young people and retain talent. To do this, we need to provide the infrastructure and services necessary to make our places competitive in training, research, and innovation. And to do so compatibly with the carrying capacity of a very peculiar and fragile territory.

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tion Department, Fabrizio Curcio, the Director of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Paola Albritto. they were joined by the mayors of Biarritz and Porto, several executives of the European Commission, technicians and institutional representatives from the USA, EU, United Kingdom, Japan, Nigeria, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, and Caribbean states. Alongside the conferences, we created the exhibition “Venice and science, two centuries of sustainability”, organized together with the Veneto Institute of Sciences, Letters and Arts - IVSLA (over 3500 visitors in one month of programming), which offered a compelling story of how the scientific and technological progress of the late 19th and early 20th centuries changed the city, overcoming the serious economic crisis caused by the fall of the Serenissima and making it an active part of the modernization process. The 2023 Sustainability Biennial also included seven “side events”, such as confer-

ences, workshops and exhibitions. Furthermore, the monograph “MOSE ingenza italiano” was created with the magazine Fortune Italia. In it, we wanted to tell - in Italian and English - the entirely “Made in Italy” success of the great engineering work, with interventions by institutions, builders and experts. Finally, the monograph was an opportunity to describe the Foundation and its partnership to a wider audience. In October we will co-organize the first “Venice H2 Forum”, together with the Green Hydrogen Organization, an international meeting between institutions and upstream, midstream, and downstream operators interested in the hydrogen sector. The forum will promote discussion between European, North African and Middle Eastern actors, to develop, starting from the Mediterranean, infrastructures serving the hydrogen economy.

What are the biggest challenges you have

faced in educating and raising awareness about the importance of sustainability in these early years?

The path taken in disseminating sustainability issues was to start with the technical/scientific in-depth analysis of the skills expressed by our territory. Specifically, we chose to start from an obvious assumption, that is, the success of the MOSE mobile dam system seen as a best practice capable of defending the territory. We have therefore described “The Era of MOSE” as a concrete example of integrated sustainability potentially replicable in other cities around the world. By doing so, we have managed to position Venice (and the Foundation) as a place for exchanging best international sustainability practices, discussing with actors who are facing the same challenges in other geographical areas. We did this by involving authoritative interlocutors, who proposed quality content. The other important challenge was to make original content accessible to a generalist audience, through publications and seminars. In the area of development of the hydrogen economy, for example, together with the Veneto Region and with the technical support of Boston Consulting Group, the mapping of the actors in the Venetian hydrogen supply chain was carried out, segmented by role: production (upstream), distribution and storage (midstream) and end uses (downstream). The study was presented on 13 October during the conference dedicated to the state of the art and the development prospects of the Venetian hydrogen supply chain. The members interested in the topic collaborated in various forms: from the preparation of the questionnaires to the analysis of the data collected, from the drafting of the final report to participation in dissemination activities towards the Venetian business network. The mapping - and the technical debate that followed - was able to

provide useful ideas and indications on how to imagine development policies for the hydrogen economy at a regional level.

What value do you place on human rights education to help solve these challenges?

Although the Foundation does not specifically address the issue of human rights, this is clearly a fundamental and indispensable dimension of the sustainability of development. Hosting the presence of the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice is an undeniable added value. Internationalization and discussion of delicate issues such as this bring Venice back to its central value: that of a city that has always been a crossroads of peoples and cultures, therefore of exchange and sharing. But access to education and education also fall within the sphere of fundamental rights: with the “Venezia Città Campus” project, for the development of the knowledge economy in Venice, we want to bring new life to the city, betting on its ability to train young people and retain talent. To do this, we need to provide the infrastructure and services necessary to make our places competitive in training, research, and innovation. And to do so compatibly with the carrying capacity of a very peculiar and fragile territory.

Can you leave a message for faculty, alumni, students and staff of the Global Campus of Human Rights?

“Everything of value in human society depends on the opportunities for progress that are afforded to each individual”. The sphere of human rights is indispensably upstream, in the middle and downstream of this illuminating quote by Einstein.



MARIAGIOVANNA SCROBOGNA

Sustainability and Partner Manager
TEDxVenice

The Press Office had the opportunity to interview Maria Giovanna Scrobogna of TEDx- VENEZIA about her experience as the contact person for their Sustainability team.

Can you tell us something more about yourself and where the idea of bringing TEDx to Venice came from?

My name is Mariagiovanna Scrobogna and I am the contact person for the TEDxVenezia Sustainability Team. The idea of bringing the TEDx format to Venice came to fruition in 2019, with the TEDxMestre license, thanks to the Licensee and Curator Matteo Maggiò, who believed and believes strongly in the idea of the TED format, that is, that of spreading valuable ideas in our territory. Since 2023, our commitment has extended to Venezia Isola with the TEDxVenezia license. -What kind of events have you organised, particularly on the topic of sustainability, and how are you work-

ing on upcoming initiatives at a local level At the beginning of 2022, we created a specific path, called Visions for a Sustainable Future, because we felt the urgency of addressing the topic of sustainability in a concrete way, on everyday topics such as recycling and fashion, involving sector experts in round tables and visits to the most significant realities of the area, creating a dialogue with our community, with the aim of generating new ideas and reflections in the typical TED style. The next appointment is scheduled for the end of February, in which we will face future challenges involving the Food&Wine sectors. During our last Main Event, certified as a Carbon Neutral event, we proposed a Sustainability Corner with some activities that involved the public in an interactive way. Also for the next Main Event, Sunday 14 April 2024, we are working on a sustainability area and activities to propose to personally involve the public, continuing our commitment and reflection on not only the environmental but also the economic and social aspect, for example on the aspect of identity and gender stereotypes.

What are the biggest challenges you have faced in educating and raising awareness

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Education is fundamental, it is the only way to create awareness and culture on such a complex and necessary topic and provide the right tools to face and, hopefully resolve, these challenges.

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about the importance of sustainability?

The main one is certainly that of finding the right way to deal with such a delicate topic in a dynamic and engaging way, which can speak to our entire TEDxVenezia community, made up of people who are certainly curious but at the same time very different in age and interests and not necessarily interested or already experts on the topic.

What value do you place on human rights education to help solve these challenges?

Education is fundamental, it is the only way to create awareness and culture on such a com-

plex and necessary topic and provide the right tools to face and, hopefully resolve, these challenges.

Can you leave a message for the community of students, alumni, professors and staff of the Global Campus of Human Rights?

I congratulate you on the work, certainly not easy. but necessary and fundamental, which you are carrying forward and we thank you for having created a connection between our two realities.

HELENE MOLINARI

Engineer, journalist, Ax Group manager and founder of the SUMUS project

The Press Office had the occasion to interview the Founder Helene Molinari about the work of SUMUS community in Venice and abroad.

Can you tell us more about yourself and where did the idea of creating the SUMUS Community come from?

I am a citizen, a woman, a mother and one day hopefully a grandmother, I am deeply commit-

ted in building a better future, a new societal model in harmony with «the living». In my career, I worked in finance and important corporate companies, I also was involved in many philanthropic associations until 2020 when I decided to found the SUMUS community. It was just after the first lockdown. Too much was too much for me, so I decided to share my vision of a new way of living respectful of humanity and the planet and to dedicate my time to make it happen!

We all know that six of the nine planetary limits have already been exceeded, the survival of humanity is in danger. Even if it seems unbelievable for many people in my generation, we all

have contributed to this situation. It is obvious for me that it is now our collective responsibility to restore it as much as we can to legat a better future to our children and grandchildren. Crises are opportunities to invent something better!

SUMUS means «we are» in Latin, it is time to reconnect to who «we are» as human beings. It is time to be the change we want to see in the world as Gandhi said! At the core of Sumus, there is the growth of humanity for more sense in life, for more wisdom and joy.

SUMUS is a humanist, independent and philanthropic association, it is a citizen community open to all who are ready to contribute to this better future.

It is at the same time an international community and a venetian community. We do believe in the strength of concrete experimentation and we have decided to experiment it in Venice! Venice as «the pilot city» of this new societal model.

Why Venice? In the past, Venice has been a pioneer in so many fields (political, economical, cultural...) Venice has innovation in its DNA!

Venice is unique and universal at the same time, a city of humanity able to influence other cities in the world to accelerate the vital mutation and maximize the positive impacts. To rethink Venice to rethink the world, to regenerate Venice to regenerate the world. This is the idea. Last but not least, Venice is built on water, and water is the source of life, what a powerful symbol for a regenerative way of living! As we are facing a systemic crisis, SUMUS proposes a systemic approach.

To make it simple, we represent SUMUS as a rose with 3 petals:

1. The HUMAN petal: how to elevate humanity to a higher consciousness for more serenity and well being
2. The SOIL petal: how to regenerate agriculture and food for the Health of the planet and the health of people.
3. The WATER petal: how to create a regener-

ative economic cultural academic ecosystem around an acqua biomimicry center with the support of impact funds for a new prosperity.

The challenge is huge! What makes us so optimistic is the power of nature. Not so many people have understood that nature is not only a beautiful landscape or a supermarket for human beings. Nature exists for more than 4 billion years and is the most effective R&D center, the most important school on earth, an unlimited source of innovations to solve all our human challenges.

Leonard Da Vinci used to say «look at nature, it is your future»! He is right, it is time to ask nature through biomimicry and bioinspiration and leverage the power of the Living to create a better world!

What kind of support does the community provide and how is it developing its objectives at the local and international levels?

We act as an «international think-tank» to identify the best practices and experts of the living in the world and as «a local venetian do tank» to implement them in the different ecosystems/petals in Venice.

We also organize «art exhibitions» to promote our ideas, this is what we named «artivisme», art for purpose. Art is a common language, and can speak directly to our heart and soul! it is a precious accelerator of consciousness!

To give you a concrete example, last November, we have organized a 3 days event in Venice, it was an international and local gathering on the theme «We Care We Dare a heartfelt peaceful and regenerative future». We have invited more than 100 international pioneers in agriculture, food, education, biomimicry, regenerative economy etc. They have presented their experiences and results, we have worked in workshops to select some of them in the 3 sumus petals (human, soil, water).

In the human petal, we have identified many interesting projects such as:

1. *Cercle des petites lumières* by Chiara Pastroani: philosophical workshops for chil-

dren between 4 to 15 years old. Discussion circles around news, a piece of art. It helps the children to express their point of view, to listen to others and to be able to express

economic and public leaders to integrate the respect of life and common goods.

5. The objective now is to deploy them with the help of venetian do-tank.



their emotions. This brings a higher behavior maturity to children.

2. The expérimental master of Émilie Gaillard who teaches it in «science pp» about «the Rights of the New generations» to train young leaders to defend the rights of nature, biodiversity, animals and human rights too.
3. The IDG initiative Inner Development Goals (IDG) of Thomas Borkgman, an international tool box and community available to help people to leave a more meaningful life, to change their behavior to a more collaborative world, replacing competition by cooperation, fear by empathy etc. And therefore able to make humanity evolves .
4. The humanistic leadership by nathalie Rodary: book and training to coach futur

How do we do to mobilise the Venitians? It is not obvious. Of course many of them are very proud of their city and hope for a better future for Venice and for the world but most of them are wondering if it is not too late.

This is why we have innovated in the way to communicate and to attract their attention. In parallel of the conferences , we have launched an art exhibition «1000 Donne di Venezia for a better future». With the artist Pierre Maraval, we have shooted 1072 venetian women during the summer. Our aim was to celebrate the feminine forces of Venice and the importance of the feminine skills for a better future. It was also to communicate on the manifesto «We Care We dare »

embedded in the exhibition, which is a call for action to the venetian women to be part of the society's renewal.

The exhibition has been launched on a symbolic day: the 20th november which is the international day for children. There were more than 800 mainly women on the campo San Lorenzo for the opening! It was impressive!

So now we have on one hand concrete projects and experts ready to share their knowledge with us, and on the other hand more than 1000 venetian women who are potentially ready to jump into action.

During 2024, we will work with the 1000 Donne and many others who are joining our movement and the international family of pioneers on these concrete projects to adapt them to the local environment of Venice. We would like to implement the petites lumières in some schools. We have already contacted San servolo to present the master course of Emilie Gaillard to adapt it to the international course of the international university of Venice etc. We are working to gather the venetian economic community to present humanist Leadership in a more detailed way.

To summarize our approach, for each SUMUS petal (human, soil, water), we aim to create an organic local ecosystem of volunteers,

“ *Human rights, Nature rights are at the core of this new paradigm, this is why you personally as part of the Global Campus of Human Rights have an incredible role to play to influence the future of humanity!* ”

feeded and supported by our international pioneer family. It is just the beginning of our development, we are pragmatic, in the following months and years, we count on organic growth encouraged by the first.

What are the biggest challenges you faced in educating and raising awareness about sustainability?

We are facing incredulity. We go one step further than many actors of the mutation, we speak of sobriety, we speak of sustainability and our main message is about regeneration. We think we need to combine the 3 axes to build a better future.

Once again, nature is much more powerful than any other type of intelligence, if we understand it and if we leverage the regenerative

power of the natural ecosystems, if we develop the Biomimicry sciences to accelerate our knowledge of nature, we can invent products, services, systems that will help us make the mutation to a new healthy paradigm.

The other issue we face is that many people would like to help but they feel overwhelmed by the global challenges! They are used to a top down approach and think that most of the keys are in the hands of administrations or finance or corporate sectors. We think that the keys are in our hands too and every citizen can play a role in his own zone of influence, in his life, his couple, his family, his company, his city. One step by one step! That will make the difference at the end if everyone is committed! One day we will reach the critical mass and the new world will be there!

What value do you place on human rights education to help solve these challenges?

It is absolutely crucial. Humanity is suffering everywhere. It is time to open a new chapter of our history, to elevate humanity, to help the people reconnect to their soul, to their heart to their body et not only to their ego, it is time to better understand that we are all unique, different and original and that's fine. It is time to better understand that we are all part of the same family, the human family and more widely the family of the living.

We should first reconcile the feminine and masculine forces in each of us and in the society and combine them «in harmony» as they are at the source of life, the foundation of humanity. We should better protect the rights of children and give them the chance to express their unique potential. We should protect the animals, the plants, the minerals from human predators. We should give an identity to the rivers, mountains as if they were a person to be able to better defend their rights.

CHIARA MONDELLO and VASIL IVANOV

EMA Global Campus Europe
students representatives

The Press Office had the opportunity to interview the two EMA Global Campus Europe students' representatives Chiara Mongello and Vasil Ivanov about her experience in the Global Campus headquarters and about a sustainable future not only for Venice but for the world.

Can you leave a message for the faculty, alumni, students and staff of the Global Campus of Human Rights?

Even if we are facing chaos , a profound change is already undertaken, solutions exists, we can reinvent a new way of living inspired by the intelligence of life, combining in a smart way artificial intelligence, numeric tools, ancestral intelligence and consciousness. This new society model will take care of people, will take care of the commun goods, will regenerate the natural ecosystems, will bring more well being, more heath, more prosperity for all and more joy in our societies.

It depends on us, everyone can be an actor for his future, can decide to survive or fully experience life, it is in our hands! It starts by opening our consciousness and developing more wisdom and confidence in life. Human rights, Nature rights are at the core of this new paradigme , this is why you personally as part of the campus of human rights have an incredible role to play to influence the future of humanity!

Could you tell us more about yourself and your roles as EMA student representatives? Could you describe the experience of studying in Venice during the first semester of the Masters?

CHIARA: I am Chiara from Germany and I started studying at the Global Campus of Human Rights in September 2023 and became student representative of the class shortly after. As a student representative, I see myself as a connection between the students and the EMA staff which mostly translates into communicating about

technical questions regarding schedules and assessments but can also include conflict solving and mediation. Being one of the student representatives surely has intensified my experience in Venice. I feel like it has enabled me to form connections I would not have had otherwise and it again highlighted the importance of transparency and communication for me. I am grateful to have had this experience. Besides that, my experiences during my first semester were different than anything I could have expected. This master surely makes for an unforgettable journey that starts with getting to know 90 new people from all around the world in a monastery on a small island. These people ended up being my closest confidants and biggest help during the last months. But not only the people, also the content and the classes have left an imprint on me and there is no chance I will ever forget the past months.

VASIL: Hello, I am Vasil Ivanov, I come from Bulgaria and I did my Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology at the University of Leeds, UK. My role as an EMA student representative has been a great experience for me because it allows me to contribute to tackling various issues that arise during the course of our studies. It is also very satisfying when changes happen as a consequence of our work because the overall experience of our fellow students is improved.

Living in Venice during the first semester of the Masters was an immense privilege. I never lived in a place that can take your breath away a few times every single day. Furthermore, it was often that beauty of Venice that kept me going through the academic challenges associated with EMA, for this I am very grateful.

What could be a possible future for the city in terms of hospitality of foreign students, academic offers, quality of living and ways to improve the current conditions you have experienced? Do you think there is a way for Venice to become more efficient, innovative, attractive and well-prepared to host important events and course studies? What could



students like you need?

CHIARA: Living in Venice was a once in a lifetime experience for sure. Not having visited Venice before, I was unsure what to expect but was positively surprised whilst overwhelmed by the masses of tourists at the same time. I personally would see room for improvement in the integration of students in Venetian civil society.

We mostly stayed within our EMA bubble, also because we lacked the time to fully immerse ourselves. Many people in Venice surely are tired of foreigners coming to their region, but unlike tourists we were generally interested in everyday life and more than the usual tourist sights. The student-led film festival that takes place annually in December created a good starting point for connection but I would have wished for more opportunities of that kind.

Furthermore, finding housing was surprisingly difficult. Specifically during the off-season when apartments are not used for tourists, students could inhabit these. Structural agreements and platforms for this would be a huge help, not only for EMA students, who are



well as general high cost of living. I think when organising important events Venice has many challenges to face solely based on the location and the spatial limitations of the main island. I think the city has found very unique ways of managing the special challenges.

One thing I would like to add as a student who has spent 5 months in Venice would be the atmosphere and interaction with the Venetian people. When visiting new places, getting in touch with society is one of the most impactful and insightful experiences one can have. In Venice, people are tired of tourists who visit for a weekend to drink Aperol and eat Cicchetti - understandably. For students who are actively moving to Venice for several months, it would be nice to have the chance to engage with people and be able to take away more than pictures of tourist sights. Networking events and conversation classes or intercultural exchanges, even with other students would be a great opportunity. As for efficiency and innovation I think the city is trying to be very creative and find its own individual solutions to combat climate change, the effects of tourist masses and challenges of geographical location.

VASIL: I think that Venice is mostly known as a tourist city and not really as a study destination. If more is done for the local students, such as

searching from a distance.

I think the city itself is very attractive which cannot only be seen by the masses of tourists every year. It also in the reaction of people when they find out that our study programme takes place in Venice. The idea and picture people have of the city surely is positively shaped. Nevertheless, when coming to Venice, people are faced with transportation as a major cost factor as

“ *Most of us come to the Global Campus of Human Rights with the goal to stand up for human rights in big ways and with the best intentions. I think sometimes we forget that our actions, the way we treat people around us, our honesty and interactions are our daily chances to live human rights and create positive impact* ”

the establishment of more places to socialize, student events (festivals), sports facilities, venues etc. (especially in the historic center) I believe that more and more young people will start seeing Venice as their future study destination. In terms of academic offers I believe that increasing the number of courses taught in English will see more and more international students coming to Venice as Italian is not of the main languages which are taught in school.

Lastly, I think building more student accommodation, or turning tourist hostels into student dorms, will be beneficial as well. The reason for this is because often the demand for student housing exceeds the supply, which can discourage many students from applying.

How do you envisage the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) being integrated into the sustainable future of the city of Venice and the Region of Veneto? Do you have any specific concrete ideas? How might EMA students continue to help at the local level in the possible sustainable future scenarios?

CHIARA: I would love for EMA students to have a practical class once a week where they would go to do active human rights work in Venice. Be it information campaigns, environmental activities like beach cleanups or interactions with the local community in culture centers or schools. Together with experiencing different forms of working with human rights it could also highlight the SDGs. This could also help with my previously mentioned aspect of students being immersed within the city's society.

VASIL: I believe that quality education is crucial in order for a city to be considered sustainable. In my opinion the recommendations mentioned above could boost the ranking of the universities in Venice, which could attract more talent from across the world. Furthermore, another area to work in is residency, and namely encouraging a program of residency and services for those individuals that are interested in living permanently in Venice. This would hopefully decrease the current depopulation of the City of Venice,

which occurs as many local people feel like their daily lives are disrupted by the tourism industry. However, a good way to counter this as well is to promote a sustainable tourism model, which sees the management of the incoming flows of tourists in order to protect the cultural and environmental heritage of Venice, its residents and improving the value of the experience for the visitor.

Which topics could be interesting to address in relation to your human rights and democracy education during these particular times of war conflicts, economic, environmental and health crises? Which will be the most important challenges in relation to promoting human rights and democracy in the years to come?

CHIARA: I think one of the biggest challenges that strongly impacts these times is how we interact with differently-minded people. It is easy to treat people with kindness, when they share the same views and live a similar lifestyle. But to overcome challenges of the present and the future and in order to address crises, we will need to engage with the "opposing team" and understand that they are humans who are fighting for what they believe is the good cause. Populism and social division will challenge us and our human rights work but I am hopeful that we will find ways to overcome these. After all, the work of human rights is built on hope for the future.

VASIL: For me an interesting topic to look at would be success stories when it comes to resolution of previous conflicts and disasters. By that I mean what worked well when societies tried to overcome them. I believe this is important because we often tend to focus on the issues itself without trying to consider different successful solutions and practices that were implemented in similar scenarios in the past.

When it comes to a future human rights challenge I think that the rise of far right parties across Europe may threaten the democracy on which the EU is founded. We are already see-

ing anti-immigration, anti-EU, and other populist narratives by the aforementioned political entities, which can threaten fundamental human rights.

Could you share a message with the Global Campus of Human Rights Community (professors, experts, alumni, staff) and to their students in particular?

CHIARA: Most of us come to the Global Campus of Human Rights with the goal to stand up for human rights in big ways and with the best intentions. I think sometimes we forget that our actions, the way we treat people around us, our honesty and interactions are our daily chances

to live human rights and create positive impact. So, I guess my message to the Global Campus Community is to approach others with openness and kindness.

VASIL: Nowadays I see many people from my generation that are very good at outlining criticisms towards various things, however I wish more people started offering solutions as well. The reason for this is because the world nowadays more than ever needs answers about how to tackle multiple current crises instead of hearing the criticisms that the majority of people are already aware of.

News and Events

EMA Human Rights Film Festival Returns to Venice with a Focus on Children's Rights

The EMA Human Rights Film Festival returned to Palazzo Michiel on 8 and 9 December 2023, with a dedicated focus on children's rights. Now in its 13th edition, the festival was organised by students of the EMA Global Campus Europe with the support of the Right Livelihood Foundation.



This free event aimed to make human rights education more accessible, fostering awareness about contemporary issues in the context of the severe international wartime scenario. The festival's engaging and accessible program aligned with the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948. The central theme of this year's festival revolves around children's rights, addressing crucial aspects of their well-being and protection. Students from the European Master's in Human Rights and Democratisation program at GCHR spearhead the organisation of the EMA Human Rights Film Festival, with vital support from the Right Livelihood Foundation. The festival kicked off on Friday, 8 December, at 6:00 PM with official welcomes, followed by the screening of the impactful film – "Promises" (Israel, Palestine, 2001). Renowned director Justine Shapiro connected

via streaming for question and answers following the screenings. Saturday, 9 December, was a morning dedicated to children and youth, featuring films tailored for the younger audience. The carefully curated selection mostly comprised dialogue-free films, including short movies shot in South America, revolving around environmental themes and children's relationships with their surroundings. A specially designed space welcomed children and their parents or guardians to watch films together, ask questions, or engage in drawing activities. And a yoga session, accessible by reservation, offered a unique experience.

The film screenings continued with "Abia" (Jordan, 2022), "Le temps une danse" (Belgium/Benin, 2022), "Sami Blood" (Sweden, 2016), followed by "Dear Future Children" (Hong Kong, Chile, Uganda, 2021). The evening showcased "Metro" (India, 2015) and "Biscuits" (Afghanistan, 2019) and "For Sama" (Syria, 2019). The festival concluded with farewells from the students.

For more information, visit the official website: <https://www.emahrfilmfestival.com>

"EMA call for applications for the academic year 2024/2025"

Admissions to the 2024/2025 edition of the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation are open! Application deadlines: Non-EU and scholarship applicants: 12 February 2024 and EU and self-funded applicants: 16 April 2024.

The European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA) is one of the eight Regional Master's Programmes organised by the Global Campus of Human Rights. EMA was created with the support of the European Union and 43 universities from all EU member states, the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

EMA is a one-year advanced master's course aimed at educating professionals in the field of human rights and democratisation. The Master's degree offers an action- and policy-oriented approach to learning that combines legal, political, historical, anthropological, and philosophical perspectives with skill-building activities, and in-depth study of the following areas: Human Rights Institutions, Mechanisms and Standards; Human Rights in Context: Historical, Philosophical, Religious and Anthropological Perspectives; Globalisation, Development and Human Rights; Building and Protecting Democracy; Human Rights, Peace and Security. EMA provides the foundation for a career in national, international, governmental, inter-governmental and nongovernmental organisations, as well as academic institutions dealing with human rights and democratisation.

COURSE PROGRAMME

A place where
likeminded people meet
to **change the world**

EMA 2024/2025
Apply Now



EMA is both a residential and an exchange programme. The first semester from September to January is organised at Global Campus Headquarters in Venice and the second semester from February to July takes place in one of the 43 participating universities. The multidisciplinary EMA Programme includes lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials, skill-building sessions and individual research.

HOW TO APPLY

EMA is open to EU and non-EU citizens. The criteria adopted during the selection process are academic ability and background, relevant additional academic work, courses or publications, relevant practical experience, motivation and language competence. Applicants are required to hold a university degree of a high standard in a field relevant to human rights, including disciplines in Law, Social Sciences and Humanities, and must have a minimum of 180 ECTS (Bachelor/General Degree). Certified fluency in English is an admission requirement to the programme.

COURSE FEE AND EXPENSES

The tuition fee for the academic year 2024/2025 is 5650.00€, payable in two instalments. Tuition fees cover all EMA courses, both in the first and second semester; reading materials for the first semester; tutoring; access to Global Campus' specialised library; lunch on class and exam days; individual access to our e-learning platform; use of available IT facilities (including wireless area and computer room), and the field trip (subject to final budgetary approval). The tuition fee does not cover accommodation and subsistence, travel costs to and from partner universities and visa expenses.

ENROLMENT DOCUMENTS

The following documents shall be enclosed with the application:

- Transcript of records and degree diploma
- Curriculum vitae
- Two reference letters (preferably one academic and one professional)
- Copy of passport picture page
- Proof of English language proficiency
- Receipt of payment of the application fee of 50 Euro

More information about EMA, the faculty and the programme can be found at:
gchumanrights.org/ema.

Unlocking Professional Growth: Global Campus Celebrates Impactful Internship Journeys

The Global Campus Internship Programme stands as a transformative opportunity for recent graduates, offering a unique path to professional growth. Approximately 20 top GC alumni are chosen annually for six-month internships with renowned organisations worldwide, such as the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, EU delegations, and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The program, made possible by the Global Campus's extensive network, exposes interns to a myriad of human rights topics, including child rights, women's rights, refugee protection, legal case management, climate change, and migration. Interns develop transversal skills such as quantitative and qualitative research, data analysis, writing and communication, project management, and adaptability to new challenges.

Supervisors consistently express gratitude for the competence, loyalty, commitment, and willingness to go the extra mile displayed by interns. Many express a desire for continued collaboration, emphasising the intern's significant impact on their work. Simultaneously, interns appreciate the collaborative and supportive work environments, along with unparalleled networking experiences offered by host organisations.

In 2023, the programme's success is echoed through the words of exceptional interns: Hussienatou Manjang, GC Africa Alumna (HRDA) interned with ACERWC (African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child) in Maseru, Lesotho. *"My internship proved to be*

an incredibly fruitful experience. Not only did I have the opportunity to hone my communications skills, but also I gained invaluable practical experience in the field of children's rights".

Nikola Tucakov, GC South East Europe Alumnus interned with the Institute of European Studies in Belgrade, Serbia. During this period, he crossed paths with his future PhD mentor. Subsequently, he initiated his doctoral studies at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade.

"I highly recommend this internship for anyone looking to truly immerse him/herself in the actual work in a field they have a passion for."

Mayrem Vargas Araya, GC Latin America & Caribbean Alumna interned with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

"My internship was an excellent opportunity to learn about the inside job the staff carry out. I was involved in case management and resolution, which is a great experience."

Kristine Bdoyan, GC Caucasus Alumna interned with Mission Armenia in Yerevan, Armenia.

"Long before the successful completion of my internship, I received an offer from Mission Armenia. Currently, I am a member of the Department of Social Development."

João Verdelho, GC Europe Alumnus interned with the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions in Brussels, Belgium. *"There was a good balance between adapt-*



ing to my first work experience and being entrusted with significant responsibilities: in the last month of the internship, I was given the choice to be the leader of a project, which is not common in the context of an internship.”

Phoebe Sheppard, GC Europe Alumna interned with No Peace Without Justice in Brussels, Belgium.

“This experience is really what you make of it. I gained a lot because I took on a lot of responsibility, made frequent suggestions on things I felt needed to be improved that I could help with, and created opportunities for myself.”

Anne Gscheidlen - GC Europe Alumna interned with the EU Delegation in Geneva, Switzerland.

“Learning from experienced EU human rights experts and the vital work they do to protect human rights values in the UN, is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I grew so much thanks to them.”

Anju Anna John, GC Europe Alumna interned with the Basque Centre for Climate Change in Bilbao, Spain. This experience played a significant role in securing her a research position at the University of Deusto in Bilbao.

“My internship resulted in two articles that I co-authored with Stefano [her supervisor] and published in Common Dreams.”

Chara Papastefanaki, GC Europe Alumna interned with the International Commission of Jurists - Europe and Central Asia Programme in Brussels, Belgium.

“It was an excellent way to gain experience in an international organisation working worldwide for justice and human rights, but also to gain understanding, network and experience in the NGO and civil society field of Brussels working closely with the European institutions.”

As these remarkable stories are celebrated, the Global Campus is currently selecting the next round of graduates for the 2024 Internship Programme. With confidence, we anticipate that these future participants will make a lasting impact on host organisations and emerge as even stronger candidates for meaningful job positions.

The Global Internship Programme is co-funded by the EU.

Congratulations to Anja Mihr, 2023 Recipient of the UCCHRE Human Rights and Higher Education Award

The UCCHRE Human Rights in Higher Education Award promotes work that embodies human rights principles and practices in teaching, learning, research, policies, and practices. It recognises an individual, organisation, initiative, or publication for its outstanding contribution to human rights education.

The 2023 award recipient, Dr. Anja Mihr, was recognised during the virtual UCCHRE/Human Rights USA Human Rights Day Celebration on 7 December.

Dr. Anja Mihr, PhD, is a political scientist, consultant, senior lecturer, writer and researcher for International Human Rights Law, Governance, Public Policy, and Transitional Justice/Transitology focusing on Eurasia. She is the Founder and Program Director of the Center on Governance through Human Rights at the Berlin Governance Platform in Berlin, Germany. She has held professorships at OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, at the Willy-Brandt School of Public Policy, Erfurt University, Germany, and the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM), University of Utrecht, Netherlands.

In 2023, Anja launched the Central Asia Regional Master in Liberal Arts Programme for Human Rights and Sustainability (MAHRS) which she is supervising at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. It is the 8th regional MA Programme of the Global Campus for Human Rights. Mihr has been Head of the Rule of Law department at The Hague Institute for Global Justice and carried out several Visiting Professorships for Human Rights and Public Policy, such as at Peking University Law School in China together with the Raoul Wallenberg Research Institute on Human Rights, Lund University in 2008 as well as at SIPA, Columbia University in New York. 2006-2008, she was the Program Director for the European



Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA) at the European Inter-University Center for Human Rights in Venice (EIUC, now Global Campus of Human Rights), Italy. She received her Ph.D. in Political Sciences from the Free University in Berlin, Germany, in 2001. She teaches international human rights law, transitional justice, & transitory public policy, democracy theories, and 'glocal' governance with an interdisciplinary approach to international and domestic politics.

More info: UCCHRE press release.

Italian MFA to Support the Global Campus and UNTL in Strengthening Human Rights Education in Timor Leste

The Global Campus of Human Rights and the Human Rights Centre of the National University of Timor-Leste (HRC-UNTL) are glad to announce a new cooperation project made possible thanks to the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAECI-DGMO).

The project foresees the organisation and implementation of a "regional human rights and peace summer school at the National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL)" with a thematic focus on the most vulnerable social strata including women, children, disabled people and the communities most exposed to the climate crisis.

The school will take place jointly with the prestigious "DTP - Human Rights and People's Diplomacy Training Program for Human Rights Defenders from the Asia-Pacific Region" and involve 35 human rights defenders, practitioners, and educators predominantly from Timor-Leste and ASEAN member states, as well as regional trainers/experts from participating local, regional, and international universities and institutions. This action aims at contributing to the promotion and protection of human rights, democracy, peace, and sustainable development through higher and professional education, for a more equitable and just Timor-Leste. Also, the school will play a key role in the structural and equitable participation of Timorese scholars, experts, and students in the best regional exchange schemes, training programmes, events, and networks. This will expedite the inclusion in the ASEAN University Network (AUN-HRE) and in the mobility of professors and students to and from the Global Campus Asia-Pacific Master Programme universities. Eventually, this will significantly contribute to advancing higher education quality and internationalisation in Timor-Leste, especially in the regional context.

The school will take place in August 2024 in the context of the 25th anniversary of the popular consultation in Timor-Leste, and under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Timor-Leste H. E. José Ramos-Horta, 1996 Peace Nobel Laureate.

The project is conceptualised in the broader



context of the development cooperation support provided by the Global Campus to the UNTL, as its younger member university, for the strengthening of higher human rights education in Timor-Leste. *“The University is proudly housing the Human Rights Centre with the continuous support of the Global Campus of Human Rights, and with the main objective of promoting human rights in Timor-Leste and globally, through academic work and research”.* Prof. Joao Martins, Rector of the National University of Timor-Leste.

This project is part of the GC Capacity Development programme. For more information contact: adriano.remiddi@gchumanrights.org

Global Campus Alumni Engage at “Human Rights 75 Youth Dialogue” in Geneva

A delegation of Global Campus Alumni (GCA) recently took part in the “Human Rights 75 Youth Dialogue” held at the UNHCR headquarters in the Palais des Nations, Geneva on 11 December. In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the event brought together youth activists and advocates to amplify the HR75 initiative and reaffirm their commitment to human rights.

The delegation was composed of alumni who are already working in Geneva, and others who came from other regions specifically for the event. They brought together their knowledge of human rights monitoring, child rights, advocacy, and human rights law with a spirit to represent the GCA. The GCA coordinator, Hazem Mizyed, and the head of the GC Capacity Development unit, Adriano Remiddi, also took part in the event. The OHCHR event not only celebrated the Universal Declaration’s milestone but also marked the launch of a Youth Declaration and a Youth Rights Advocacy Toolkit, which aims to inspire and empower young people globally to actively advance human rights causes. The event provided a valuable networking space for the participating Global Campus Alumni, fostering connections and creating lasting memories in the beautiful city of Geneva.

KEY THEMES AND INSIGHTS FROM THE EVENT

The opening remarks by Mr. Volker Türk, High Commissioner for Human Rights, set the tone for the event, emphasizing the role of the Universal Declaration to encourage people to pursue their rights, the importance of youth voices in promoting human rights, and the need for youth to participate in decision making. He mentioned the issue of safety for human rights defenders, and how important education is, especially human rights education, to inspire young people and provide them with an understanding of their fundamental human rights.

Several key themes emerged during the discussions:

1. **Youth Activism and Empowerment** –The dialogue underscored the critical role of youth activism in advocating for human rights. Participants highlighted the need to protect human rights defenders and emphasized concrete actions by decision-makers to secure their safety. The launch of the Youth Rights Advocacy Toolkit was highlighted as a valuable resource to empower young advocates.
2. **Addressing Global Challenges** –Wars, discrimination, gender bias and violence, the scarcity of housing, resources, and the impact of climate change on young people were significant concerns. Participants called for accountability for those responsible for climate change and stressed the importance of putting people before profit.
3. **Inclusive Decision-Making** – The event emphasized the necessity of inclusive decision-making, especially for vulnerable populations. Representatives of Qatar and the Philippines shared insights into their efforts, including aiming to engage youth in decision making, the development of learning resources, advocacy tools, and policies promoting youth participation.
4. **Human Rights Education** – Participants stressed the importance of human rights education, advocating for its inclusion in formal and informal education mecha-

nisms. The Youth Dialogue discussed ways the UN can support and connect young people with governments to ensure meaningful participation.

YOUTH DECLARATION AND ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

A group of 12 youth, selected by OHCHR from over 2000 applicants, presented the Human Rights 75 Youth Declaration. Each participant spoke about various causes, including the end of wars, discrimination, child marriage, and climate change. The Youth Advocacy Toolkit, introduced during the event, is poised to be a valuable resource for young advocates worldwide.

CHANGEMAKERS DOCUMENTARY

The event featured the screening of “Changemakers: Stories of young human rights educators,” a documentary developed by OHCHR, Amnesty International, and Soka Gakkai International. The documentary showcased inspiring stories of young human rights educators from around the globe. The “Human Rights 75 Youth Dialogue” was a platform for meaningful discussions and collaboration. The participation of the Global Campus Alumni not only gave alumni the space to connect with those at the forefront of youth activism and decision making, it also gave them space to have their voices united with other youth calling for putting human rights forward during these troubled times. The participating alumni had the chance to enjoy Geneva and explore parts of it quickly, before departing back. Till next time. More info: Hazem Mizyed and Ana Teresa C. Khatounian.

Human Rights 75 Youth Dialogue: Amplifying the HR75 initiative among young people organised on the margins of the Human Rights 75 High-level event, this event allowed young people to express their concerns and expectations about the future of human rights and share their vision of what States, the UN and young people should do to strengthen human rights in the coming years.



Contribution: The EU NGO Forum 2023 through the eyes of GC Alumnae

The EU-NGO Forum is organised yearly by the European Commission and the European External Action Service, in partnership with the Human Rights and Democracy Network of Brussels-based NGOs. The theme for 2023 Forum, which took place on 4 and 5 December in Brussels, was “Youth as actors of change for human rights”. Cláudia Aguirre, 2022 alumna of the GC Europe Master’s programme (EMA), and Carolina Muzzillo, 2021 alumna of the GC South East Europe Master’s programme (ERMA), joined the event and shared with us energetic accounts of their participation.

«I had an exciting experience in Brussels, so thank you very much for this opportunity. I had never been in an event like that as an EMA Alumna, and I could see in practice how EMA makes part of a broader network with many possibilities beyond the academic perspective. I did not get the chance to make a presentation, but it was not a disadvantage in the end, as I could participate and exchange ideas with the other participants. In fact, most of the activities were interactive and conducted in smaller groups. These interactive activities were basically of four kinds:

1. “Building the right future” sessions – where groups worked on specific themes and systematised suggestions to be sent to the EU. In my group we talked about

gender and other identities, and polarising trends in public space.

2. *Thematic sessions – I participated in the “Democracy and rule of law” session both days. Here, I made some suggestions related to access to justice mechanisms. There were also several discussions on youth participation and age discrimination, as well as other intersectional types of discrimination. On the second day, we discussed how the Internet and other media could help young human rights leaders’ participation, as well as issues on the shrinking of civil space (more acute in some countries like Nicaragua, Israel, and so on). Here I mentioned, for example, the difficulties of people in remote areas to get access to information and the important role of community radios.*
3. *Regional sessions – I joined “The Americas” session, where participants from Latin America and Caribbean countries mentioned the main threats to human rights and engaged in a dialogue with EU representatives. This was such an interesting session because we could see how some trends in the region were similar (for example, climate change and indigenous peoples rights issues) and others were different (for example, struggles in some countries in Central America with authoritarian governments). I mentioned some issues about indigenous lands rights in Brazil, access to justice for people in vulnerability, and the participation of Public Defenders Offices and the National Association of Public Defenders in the framework of the Interamerican Court of Human Rights (as this was previously mentioned by the EU representatives as a point of interest).*
4. *Learning and information sessions – I participated in the “Advocacy towards EU” session where I learned about how and when it is possible/appropriate to open some advocacy channels towards the EU. As a Latin American woman this was a completely new experience, and I learned how I could try to make connections between EU and Brazil – for example, exploring the possibilities of advocacy with the EU in UN Treaty Bodies,*

with which some Public Defenders’ Offices in Brazil have engaged recently.

Overall, I was surprised by the diversity of participants from all continents, which shows the willingness of the EU to listen to different groups; I also learned a lot from the other participants. Another very positive point for me was the possibility of networking with NGOs and UN and EU representatives: for example, I got the chance to talk with EU representatives who worked in Brazil and learned about some experiences from the Public Defender’s Office there, which was very, very nice. This experience was an eye-opener for me, as it gave me a view of possible exchanges/partnerships to enhance human rights initiatives as an EMA Alumna. So thank you again for the opportunity!»

Carolina shared with us her experience as a foresight facilitator. «In this role, I moderated two sessions, ensuring that discussions followed a specific methodology to be as enriching and inclusive as possible. This experience deepened my understanding of ‘strategic foresight’—a future key methodology for multilateral systems and government institutions. It focuses on exploring, shaping, and anticipating future challenges using collective intelligence in a structured and systematic way.

The initial foresight session focussed on pinpointing present trends, challenges, and possible shifts in the landscape of human rights topics. The subsequent session was



dedicated to deliberating on the findings from the first session, extracting pertinent information, and devising practical strategies to shape a future centred on human rights. The goal of these sessions was to formulate recommendations and actionable steps that can be adopted by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the European Union (EU), or the United Nations (UN).»

Cláudia Aguirre is a young public defender with extensive experience gained at the Defensoria Pública do Estado do Acre (Brasil). From January to July 2023 she also worked as a human rights researcher with Adam Mickiewicz University, a Global Campus member university and lead of the project “Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights as Rights of the Child – Empowering Children in Building a Better Future”.

The project is still underway and aims to draft the Compilation of Principles and Standards of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of the child and is funded by Right Livelihood in the framework of its cooperation with the Global Campus.

Carolina Muzzillo, currently working at the Human Rights Action Unit of the European Parliament, is a young professional experienced in fieldwork and ethnographic research. She is specialised in the study of the ex-Yugoslav space, with a focus on ethnonationalism and identity building through diaspora and citizenship practices in the framework of kin-state relations.

Global Campus of Human Rights and Amina Bouayach Honoured with North-South Prize for Human Rights Contributions

The Council of Europe has awarded the 2023 North-South Prize to the Global Campus of Human Rights and Ms. Amina Bouayach, recognising their remarkable efforts in the defence and promotion of human rights. Since 1995, the North-South Prize has been annually bestowed upon two noteworthy individuals or organisations that have distinguished themselves through their dedication to fostering solidarity between



the Northern and Southern hemispheres. These recipients, whether activists, prominent personalities, or entities, are recognised for their outstanding commitment to advancing cooperation and unity on a global scale.

GLOBAL CAMPUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS - A BEACON FOR EDUCATION AND DIALOGUE
The Global Campus of Human Rights has been selected, by the jury of the award, in acknowledgment of its pivotal efforts in providing accessible and top-tier education in the realm of Human Rights. Through fostering a North-South dialogue, the Campus brings together a community of academics, students, lawyers, and experts dedicated to supporting universal Human Rights and upholding democratic values. The Global Campus stands as a symbol of excellence; it unites scholars, students, lawyers, and experts in a collaborative network. The Global Campus of Human Rights has played a pivotal role in fostering understanding and cooperation among diverse global communities. By providing a platform for exchange and education, the Global Campus has contributed significantly to the shared goal of advancing human rights across borders.

MS. AMINA BOUAYACH'S REMARKABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Ms. Amina Bouayach has been singled out for her exceptional dedication to the advancement of human rights, gender equality, and the prevention of torture, both at the na-

tional level and across the African continent. The jury commended Ms. Bouayach for her political engagement in the abolition of the death penalty and praised her tireless efforts in fortifying civil society structures in the Mediterranean region. Additionally, Ms. Bouayach was recognised for her instrumental role in promoting North-South cooperation based on shared democratic values. The jury emphasised her impactful work, citing her as a beacon of change in advocating for a more just and equitable world. Ms. Bouayach's commitment to strengthening the bonds between nations in the pursuit of common values has positioned her as a driving force in the global human rights movement.

CEREMONY DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED AND PREVIOUS LAURATES

The date of the prestigious North-South Prize ceremony, where Ms. Amina Bouayach and the Global Campus of Human Rights will be officially recognised, is yet to be announced. Previous laureates of the North-South Prize include esteemed figures such as Kofi Annan, Simone Veil, Mary Robinson, Emma Bonino, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Xanana Gusmão, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, and Louise Arbour.

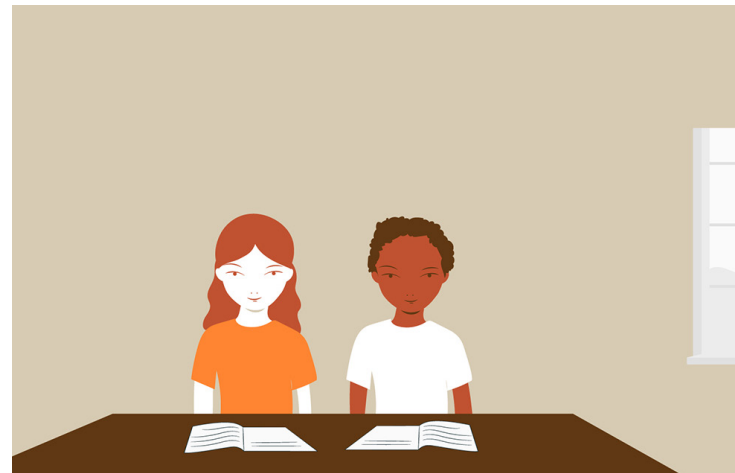
Our MOOC on Children's Right to Education in Armed Conflict

According to recent reports by UNICEF and WHO, the decline in children's mental health has become a significant global issue. A longstanding source of concern, it has emerged more strongly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Children have been further exposed to threats - including anxiety and depression attacks, heightened exposure to domestic and sexual violence and more subtle abuses such as unhealthy competition - which are taking an enormous toll on them and may ultimately lead to social exclusion and inability to realize their full potential.

Despite these highly concerning developments, availability of adequate support and services for the mental health of children and adolescents is

greatly lacking worldwide. With this MOOC we want to show that it does not have to be this way. Children's right to health is well articulated in legal and policy terms. An understanding of the main challenges faced by children and young people in this context and the knowledge of possible mechanisms that exist to address these concerns may help realise that there are solutions.

One particular area of interest looks into ap-



proaches that prioritise and commit to the direct participation of children and young people in decision-making in this area of their lives. As demonstrated by the recent GC International Conference, there is a strong call from children themselves to ensure that answers are given to their doubts and requests, and that measures are taken through meaningful consultation with them to support their coping mechanisms and their proper, healthy and safe psychological development.

Our MOOC on this theme facilitates such understanding and knowledge by providing not only information and materials to understand children and young people's mental health as a human right, but also guidance and examples on what can be done at the practical level. This MOOC is offered within the framework of the collaboration between the Global Campus and Right Livelihood.

More info: e-learning@gchumanrights.org

Strengthening Political Processes Through Technical Assistance

Democratisation is a complex process that requires long-term engagement and commitment to democratic values by national stakeholders and international partners alike.

Elections are the crucial milestones for every new-born democracy and the international community, or at least part of it, continuously supports electoral processes and democratic institutions encouraging political inclusion and participation all over the world.

For almost thirty years Election Observation Missions (EOM) have played an important role in development cooperation, strengthening the public's confidence in the electoral process. International electoral observers contribute to increase transparency and discourage frauds thus providing a comprehensive, independent, and impartial assessment of an electoral process. One of the main task of an EOM is to issue recommendations aiming at promoting democratic reforms and enhancing the legal framework of relevant institutions such as Electoral Management Bodies (EMB), Civil Registration Offices, National Assemblies and Governments.

To allow an effective follow-up on EOM recommendations and build a shared process that aims at strengthening the system of governance of a given country, international development partners and sending authorities fund direct Technical Assistance (TA) missions. These missions are purely technical and are often comprised of several experts in different fields of expertise such as Legal Framework, Political Party Development, Cyber Security, Voter Education, Logistics and more.

ABOUT THE COURSE

Technical assistance missions assist partner countries in meeting medium and long-term goals as outlined by EOMs recommendations. They aim at building sustainability and strengthening recipient technical capacity and policy through long-term reforms. Technical assistance missions are also supporting investments in projects' planning,

funds, and partnerships or concentrate on the acquisition of technical material in specifically identified areas, including media and cyber security.



With this newly designed training on Strengthening Political Processes through Technical Assistance, the Global Campus of Human Rights aims at channelling its vast expertise in the field of election observation, towards a more direct operational endeavour, providing a practical understanding of the technical assistance cycle through the professional expertise of its trainers.

Website:

<https://gchumanrights.org/technical-assistance>

Email:

training.iao@gchumanrights.org

Cinema, Human Rights and Advocacy

The 19th edition of the Summer School in Cinema Human Rights and Advocacy is a training initiative jointly developed by the Global Campus of Human Rights (GC) and Picture People. The school is aimed at participants wishing to broaden their understanding on the connections between human rights, films, digital media, and video advocacy, and learn how to use film as a tool for social change. The 10-day programme provides a safe, culturally rich and collaborative environment where diversity and inclusivity are



Global Campus Human Rights Journal: New Issue is now online

Volume 6.2 of the Global Campus Human Rights Journal is now online.

"It consists of eight articles resulting from a special cooperation with the GC Human Rights Preparedness Blog which has provided a valuable platform for innovative and inclusive conversations within the Global Campus network and beyond. In this regard, this blog generally invites contributors to explain the ways in which protecting, respecting and fulfilling human rights is vital in meeting the challenges of pandemics and other emergencies, or to imagine how human rights could be better prepared for such challenges in view of where, how and why human rights have failed or done less well than anticipated.

Seven articles are based on shorter contributions previously published by Global Campus alumni acting as regional correspondents for the aforementioned blog after having been trained by Rosie Cowan, a member of the blog editorial team. The eighth article is written by the lead editor of the blog. All these articles provide insights into different topics from a rights-based approach taking into account that there are lessons to be learned from the past and preparations that can be made for the future."

Excerpt from the 'Editorial' by Chiara Altafin and Ravi Prakash

embraced, original and critical thinking are encouraged, skills are honed, creativity is unleashed and networking with experts from the human rights arena and professionals from the film industry at the 81st Venice International Film Festival is supported.

The programme has a cross-cutting focus on environmental rights in the broader framework of human rights protection and promotion and its impact on young generations and local communities. The course is designed to appeal to participants from diverse backgrounds, nationalities, and experiences.

Why choose this course?

- Advance understanding of the intersection between visual media, human rights, and advocacy
- Unique film festival experience
- Networking with like-minded people from across the world as well as international experts
- Guidance and mentoring from faculty on individual projects on a voluntary basis.

Website: www.gchumanrights.org/chra

Email: chra@gchumanrights.org

Global Campus Human Rights Journal



By encouraging multi- and inter-disciplinary perspectives and a range of methodological approaches, the Global Campus Human Rights Journal continues to offer a distinct forum for a critical analysis of the most pressing human rights issues of our time.

GCHRJ is supported financially by the European Union Commission and is an open-access journal available on the Global Campus Open Knowledge Repository.

Submissions in English are welcome at any time and should be sent electronically to: globalcampusjournal@gmail.com.

Submissions should conform to the Author Guidelines as indicated in the GCHRJ Call for Submission and the GCHRJ Style Sheet.

Second Joint Annual Engaged Artist Award on Atrocity Prevention and Human Rights

After the successful recent launch of the first edition of this joint initiative, and to celebrate 75 years of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Global Campus of Human Rights (GC) and the Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities (AIPG), in collaboration with the Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention (I-GMAP) at Binghamton University, are thrilled to announce they closed the call for applications for the second edition and they had awarded the artist KAI MATA with the Second Joint Annual Engaged Artist Award on Atrocity Prevention and Human Rights.

The purpose of this Award is to recognise the work of Artists (artist-activists), highlighting the original ways in which they respond creatively to large-scale identity-based violence and mass atrocity in varying conflict contexts and geographic regions across the globe. The concept of “Art as Atrocity Prevention” is related to the role of the arts in mitigating risk factors as-

sociated with genocide, other mass atrocities, and identity-based violence, as well as the use of the arts as a powerful tool to contribute to the transformation of post-atrocity societies. The sponsoring institutions understand atrocity prevention broadly.

Among other things, artistic interventions can be seen as preventive when they:

- Contribute to improving the human rights of groups of people who have been marginalised;
- Call attention to violence or discrimination against groups of people;
- Demand justice for past human rights violations; or
- Depict visions for a different future where identity-based violence is less likely to occur.

This Joint Annual Engaged Artist Award emphasises the ways in which Artists around the world are working directly to mitigate atrocity risk factors, as well as the importance of art as an effective tool in processes of healing, reconciliation, and reparations. It encourages engaged artists to reflect on their role in the prevention of identity-based violence and the promotion of human rights by taking action, choosing a human rights issue and using art as a tool for effective communication.

The aim of this Award is to strengthen the quintessential role of the arts in the prevention of systematic violence, demonstrating how art may be used as a grassroots tool for addressing political violence and human rights abuses — and for advancing peace-building, transitional justice, and prevention efforts.

The award will be given to the selected Artist KAI MATA to support their work related to the topic of genocide and mass atrocity prevention, broadly understood. The selected Artist will benefit from a year-long residency during which the sponsoring institutions will provide the following resources:

- A residency from mid-August 2024 to

mid-December 2024 at the Global Campus of Human Rights headquarters in Venice, Italy, with the possibility to participate actively in the educational activities of the Global Campus during this period and audit relevant classes and with a stipend of EUR 12,000 to support room and board, workspace, and any other needs;

- A residency from January 2025 to May 2025 at Binghamton University's Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention in Binghamton, New York, with the possibility to audit relevant classes and with a stipend of USD 22,000 to support housing and other needs;
- A week-long visit to one of the offices of the Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities in either New York (USA), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Kampala (Uganda), Bucharest (Romania), or Oświęcim (Poland); and
- The costs associated with travel to and from Venice, travel to and from Binghamton and travel to and from an Auschwitz Institute office, including all relevant visas (as necessary and separately).
- The selected Artist KAI MATA will be

honored during the Ceremony of the Awarding of Diplomas of the "European Master in Human Rights and Democratisation" (Global Campus Europe) in the Scuola Grande di San Rocco in Venice, Italy, at the end of September 2024, where the artist's selected past work will be displayed and photographed. Following the two residencies, the three institutions will offer a joint certificate to the Artist acknowledging the completion of the unique artistic visiting research period.

For more information, contact the selection committee at award.GC.AIPG@gmail.com

ORGANISERS:

Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities: kerry.whigham@auschwitzinstitute.org

Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice, Italy: communications@gchumanrights.org

Binghamton University's Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention in NY, USA: mpensky@binghamton.edu



Promotion



GC Online Conversations: “The value of education and projects regarding Sustainability: Local and International Perspectives”

The conversation took place online on Wednesday 21 February 2024 via zoom organised by the Communications and PR Department of the Global Campus of Human Rights. The theme was the value of education and projects regarding Sustainability: Local and International Perspectives. We believe that higher education must be at the center of a sustainable future for the world and also for the city of Venice and could become one of the driving forces amidst this period of time, both for our local and global community. Sustainability is not only a beautiful word but it has to lead to education and concrete actions.

The speakers were:

- Mariagiovanna Scrobogna, Spokesperson Sustainability Team of TEDxVenezia
- Jacopo Galli, Project Manager of Venice World Capital of Sustainability Foundation (Fondazione Venezia Capitale Mondiale della Sostenibilità - VSF)
- Hélène Molinari, Founder of SUMUS Community
- Chiara Shania Mongello & Vasil Nikolaiev Ivanov, 2023/2024 student representatives of the European Master for Human Rights and Democratisation, EMA (Global Campus Europe)
- Manfred Nowak, Secretary General of the Global Campus of Human Rights
- The opening welcome words were done by the Councillor of the City of Venice Paola Mar and the Administrative Director Elisabetta Noli and were part of the official programme of the events under the patronage of the Municipality of Venice.
- This event was translated into Italian and English and animated with live illustrations by Fabio Rodaro.

ABOUT THE CONVERSATIONS

The Global Campus of Human Rights wants to provide a space for exchanging views on the

possible futures of Venice, and to do so is organising a series of “Global Campus of Human Rights Conversations” which are taking place as short one-hour online discussions. These conversations provide an opportunity for local partners, the government authorities, our staff, professors, alumni and students, to actively participate in the discussion on the future development of the city of Venice, which hosts the headquarters of the Global Campus of Human Rights: the Monastery of San Nicolò (Venice Lido).

For more information about these events, please contact the organisers:
communications@gchumanrights.org – pressoffice@gchumanrights.org

For more information, contact the
Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights
Elisa Aquino – Andrea G. Cammarata – Francesca Sante
pressoffice@gchumanrights.org



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#GCHumanRightsPress
#GCHumanRightsMagazine

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