

# MAGAZINE

Global Campus of Human Rights

*15th Edition*  
March 2025



Global Campus  
of Human Rights



## Global Campus of Human Rights

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Europe  
South East Europe  
Latin America-Caribbean  
Asia-Pacific

Central Asia  
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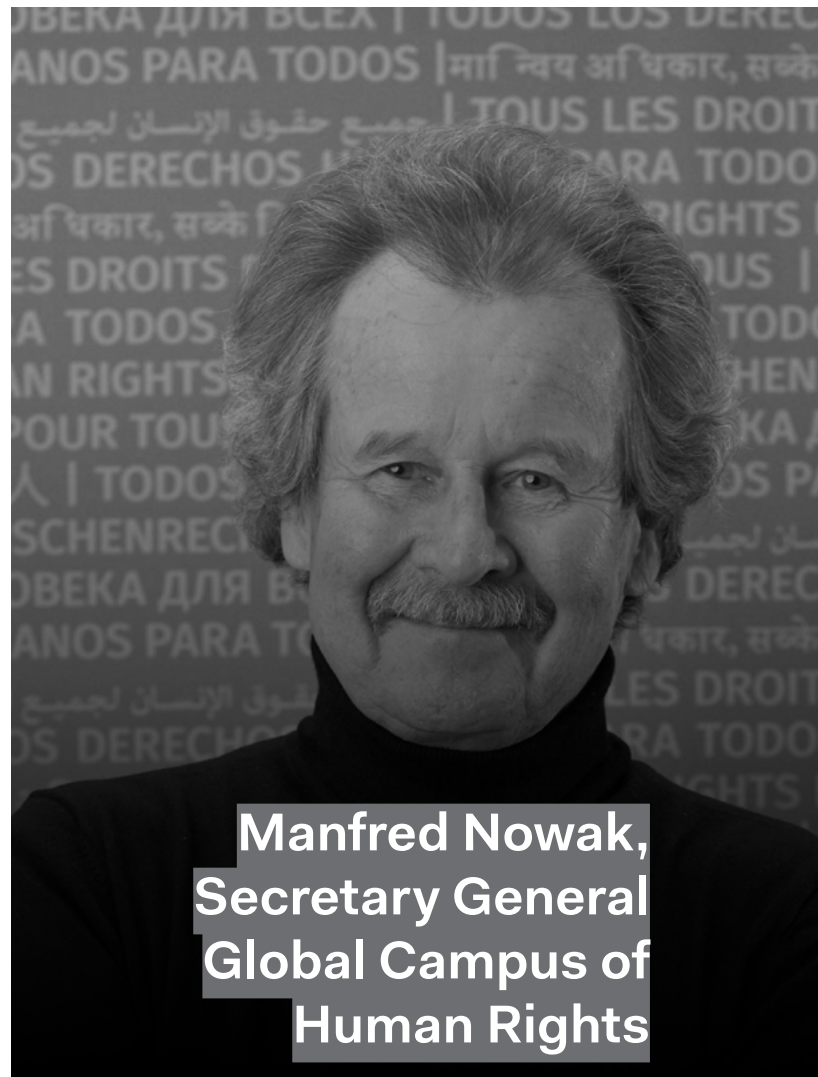
# Editorial

*“This is the place I come to every year, to fill myself up again with hope for the year ahead.”*

The place referred to in this quote is the Circus in Stockholm where Right Livelihood, our long-term partner in children’s rights, climate justice and sustainability, recognizes every December outstanding human rights and environmental defenders from all over the world with the prestigious Right Livelihood Award, better known as the **“Alternative Nobel Peace Prize”**. In times of Trump, Musk, Putin and other criminals steering the world into total neglect and contempt of a rule-based world order inspired by international law, multilateralism, democratic values, truth, justice, peace and human rights, it is indeed essential to fill ourselves up with **hope**. The interviews with some of the 2024 Right Livelihood Laureates covered in the 15th edition of the Global Campus Human Rights Magazine inspire us with hope and confidence to continue fighting for a better world.

Fighting for a better world means first and foremost **fighting against the destruction of our planet** by the economic greed of transnational corporations in collaboration with corrupt politicians. Right Livelihood Laureate **Joan Carling** is an **indigenous woman** from the Philippines who has dedicated her life to defending ancestral lands, indigenous cultures and **environmental justice** against marginalization, militarization and threats to indigenous territories by mining, agrobusiness, tourism and large-scale infrastructure projects in the Philippines and beyond as Secretary General of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact and one of the leaders of Indigenous Peoples Rights International: *“The challenges to human rights and democracy are immense. Shrinking civic space, the rise of authoritarianism, and the criminalization of human rights defenders are pervasive. For indigenous peoples, these challenges are compounded by land dispossession, resource exploitation, and violence against defenders.”* Her demands are echoed by Laureate **Anabela Lemos**, an environmental justice activist and leader of **Justicia Ambiental in Mozambique**: *“Human rights violations are happening at the*

*hands of powerful transnational corporations, in collusion with corrupted government elites. Without binding laws to regulate these entities, human rights violations will continue to happen systemically. Just like all around my country, Mozambique. Companies from France, Portugal, Italy, Japan, China, USA and many other countries are wrecking our climate and peoples’ lives. We need binding legislation to regulate transnational corporations and stop this pattern of impunity.”* In a similar spirit, Spanish students of the European Master in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA) have contributed to this Magazine a call for accountability and the rise of community solidarity in reaction to one of the worst natural disasters in Spain, the Valencia DANA flood disaster in late October 2024: *“Climate change, intensified by unsustainable production and consumption systems, underscores the responsibility of state-corporate dynamics in environmental crises. Natural disasters, such*



**Manfred Nowak,  
Secretary General  
Global Campus of  
Human Rights**

as the DANA, are increasingly linked to the harmful activities of large corporations whose operations continue unchecked, benefiting from state backing or permissive regulations." The students critically analyse the troubling systemic gaps in the government's approach at different levels to crisis preparedness and risk management, exacerbated by the privatization of emergency services. They also criticize profit-driven urban planning policies in flood-prone areas as well as the weaponization and politicization of this tragedy through the spread of false and racist information by far-right groups. Despite all these daunting developments, the Spanish EMA students end their analysis with a glimpse of hope: *"Thousands of Spanish people have mobilised themselves in an extraordinary display of communal solidarity, one of the largest ever seen in the country's history."* The students compiled a list of organizations dedicated to solidarity-based work with affected communities and call for donations and collaboration.

The third Right Livelihood Laureate interviewed in this Magazine is the London-based interdisciplinary research group **Forensic Architecture**, consisting of architects, software developers, filmmakers, investigative journalists, scientists and lawyers. Their mandate is to develop, employ, and disseminate techniques, methods and concepts for investigating state and corporate violence. Their practices of digital modelling, 3D reconstruction and video analysis were born during the "open-source revolution" of the 2010s and were "founded on the possibilities afforded by social media, by the ubiquity of open-source visual evidence. For a moment, it felt like this revolutionary potential was boundless. But as Twitter/X has collapsed as a source of reliable information, the early promise of that "open-source revolution" has, within just a few short years, begun to fade, into today's extremely troubling information-sharing environment." This brings us back to Elon Musk, the enormous power and political influence of IT corporations, and the current crisis of global governance, as Forensic Architecture rightly observes: *"With the second inauguration of President Trump, rightward po-*

*litical shifts across the globe, and a deeply fragmented public sphere, we are entering one of the most challenging periods for human rights, for public truth, and for international law, since the end of the second world war."*

The most powerful tool to fight these alarming tendencies in corporate-state global governance is human rights education at all levels of the education system. With its focus on the rights of children and future generations and the empowerment of young change-makers, the Global Campus of Human Rights with its eight Master programmes in all world regions appears to be more important than ever as a beacon of hope. The various activities of the Global Campus, its students and graduates described in this Magazine provide ample evidence of this forward-looking spirit: The Venice Human Rights Film Festival organized by the students of the Global Campus Europe (EMA) with a focus on children's rights during armed conflict; the contribution of graduates of the Global Campus South East Europe (ERMA) during the Council of Europe's Conference on Digital Resilience in Montenegro with a focus on combating online hate speech; the training of Asia-Pacific human rights defenders in Timor-Leste as part of our capacity development project in enhancing Timor-Leste's role as a leader in human rights education; the publication of the Global Campus Human Rights Journal fostering in-depth scholarship and critical discussions on the urgent challenges facing human rights and democratization today; the Global Campus Alumni Mentoring Programme, the Venice Marathon and many other activities.



# Interviews and Contributions



## Joan Carling, 2024 Right Livelihood Laureate

*The Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights had the pleasure to interview the 2024 Right Livelihood Laureate Joan Carling about her activism, achievements and aspirations for the future.*

**Please share with us about your background and role as an activist and advocate for Indigenous rights with more than 30 years of experience.**

I am an Indigenous woman from the Cordillera region of the Philippines. Growing up, I witnessed firsthand the struggles of our communities against land dispossession and environmental destruction caused by large-scale development projects. Such as large dams and commercial mining. These early experiences instilled in me a deep sense of responsibility to defend our ancestral lands, culture, and way of life. Working at the grassroots level for over a decade allowed me to connect deeply with the realities and aspirations of Indigenous communities. This foundation shaped my commitment to advocate for Indigenous peoples' rights, self-determination, and environmental justice.

Over the years, my work has expanded from local advocacy to national, regional and global engagements. As the Secretary-General of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), I worked closely with other Indigenous leaders and colleagues in raising awareness on the rights of Indigenous Peoples through the production and distributions of simple and culturally sensitive educational materials including on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). We have also conducted series of trainings and workshops to strengthen the skills and capacities of Indigenous leaders including Indigenous Women and to strengthen solidarity among Indigenous communities across Asia. We compiled stories of grassroots Indigenous Women leaders and published it as "Her Stories" raising the visibility of the leadership, courage and aspirations of Indigenous women at the frontline of their community struggles.

I have collaborated with Indigenous leaders from different regions and with civil society organizations for advocacy activities at the regional and global levels to address systemic discrimination and human rights violations with impunity. Now, as part of the Indigenous Peoples Rights International (IPRI), I continue to champion these causes and amplify the voices of Indigenous peoples worldwide.

**How was being recognized as a Right Livelihood Award 2024 recipient, and how did it help with your activities and mission to boost urgent and long-term social change?**

Receiving the Right Livelihood Award is both a profound honor and a significant responsibility. It not only recognizes the resilience and contributions of Indigenous communities but also amplifies our voices on the global stage. The award has brought much-needed visibility to the struggles and achievements of Indigenous peoples, particularly environmental defenders who face increasing threats.

This recognition has opened doors to broader platforms for dialogue, strengthened our partnerships with like-minded organizations, and will hopefully mobilize support for urgent and long-term advocacy. It reaffirms the critical need to address systemic injustices and bolster movements for social change. For IPRI, this award may boost to our campaigns, enabling us to expand our work to end the criminalization of Indigenous environmental defenders and advocate for policies that uphold human rights and environmental justice.

**What is the current situation in your country, and how are you benefiting from this visibility? How could we support your cause?**

In the Philippines, Indigenous peoples face relentless challenges, including systemic marginalization, discrimination, militarization, and threats to their territories from mining, agribusiness, tourism, and large-scale infrastructure projects including energy projects. Environmental defenders, in particular, are at great risk. In spite of the law recognizing the rights of Indigenous Peoples, the vested interest of those in power continue to ensure control of Indigenous Peoples

lands and resources. Indigenous leaders and communities defending their rights are thereby often subjected to harassment, intimidation, criminalization with trumped up charges violence, harassment, and even killings. Four of my colleagues at the Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) are presently facing charges of terrorism. Further, an increasing number of legal organization providing development support to marginalized indigenous communities are now facing charges of financing terrorism for their invaluable work in reaching far flung villages.

The visibility brought by this award has helped shine a spotlight on these critical issues, mobilizing solidarity and action from international allies, civil society, and the media. It has also created opportunities to engage with governments and institutions on Indigenous rights and environmental justice.

To support our cause, I encourage you to amplify Indigenous voices and advocate for the implementation of international human rights standards particularly the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Supporting grassroots initiatives, promoting responsible corporate practices, and funding community-led projects are other meaningful ways to contribute. Solidarity and advocacy from allies play a crucial role in driving systemic change and empowering Indigenous Peoples communities.

**What is your opinion on the importance of human rights education in the field of environmental justice and Indigenous rights?**

Human rights education is fundamental to achieving environmental justice and protecting Indigenous rights. It builds awareness, empowers communities, and equips individuals with the tools to challenge injustices and advocate for systemic change. For Indigenous peoples, environmental justice is deeply intertwined with human rights, as our survival is directly connected to the health of our lands and ecosystems.

By integrating Indigenous perspectives into human rights education, we can emphasize the interconnectedness of human rights, cultural

diversity, environmental sustainability and social justice. This approach not only fosters empathy and respect but also strengthens the global movement for equitable and sustainable futures.

**What are the most important challenges ahead in the field of Human Rights and Democracy in the world? Could educational programs like ours at the Global Campus of Human Rights contribute to creating a safe space for discussion on these challenges?**

The challenges to human rights and democracy are immense. Shrinking civic spaces, the rise of authoritarianism, and the criminalization of human rights defenders are pervasive. For Indigenous peoples, these challenges are compounded by land dispossession, resource exploitation, and violence against defenders.

Educational programs like those at the Global Campus of Human Rights are vital in addressing these issues. They create safe spaces for critical dialogue, foster international solidarity, and equip future leaders with the knowledge and tools to confront these challenges. By prioritizing intersectionality and the protection of marginalized sectors, such programs can inspire real solutions and transformative action.

**Could you give a message to the students, professors, alumni, partners, and staff of the Global Campus of Human Rights?**

To all of you at the Global Campus of Human Rights: Your dedication to advancing human rights education and fostering global justice is a beacon of hope in these challenging times. You are fostering intergenerational understanding, commitments and actions in advancing human rights. You are building a community that values equality, dignity, and sustainability—principles that are essential for a just future.

I encourage you to center the voices of marginalized communities as rights holders, especially Indigenous peoples, in your work. Approach your advocacy in the spirit of partnership and solidarity, humility, and a commitment to listening and learning. Together, we can create a world where human rights are not just ideals but lived realities for all. Your work has the power to inspire change and

transform lives—thank you for your unwavering commitment. Let us continue to walk this path of hope and courage, fostering solidarity and action for a better world.



## Forensic Architecture, 2024 Right Livelihood Laureate

*The Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights had the opportunity to interview the 2024 Right Livelihood Laureate Forensic Architecture about their role as activists, their findings and their aims.*

**Please share with us about your background and role advocating for uncovering and documenting the truth about environmental and human rights violations using cutting-edge technology?**

Forensic Architecture (FA) is a research group based at Goldsmiths, University of London. Our mandate is to develop, employ, and disseminate new techniques, methods, and concepts for investigating state and corporate violence. As to our backgrounds: we are an interdisciplinary team, and our teams are made up of architects, software developers, filmmakers, investigative journalists, scientists, and lawyers. We are a highly interdisciplinary team, operating across human rights, journalism, architecture, art and aesthetics, academia and the law in pursuit of accountability for rights violations.

Our practice was born in the 'open source revolution', and still today, our core practice involves geolocating and analysing videos and images within navigable 3D digital models, alongside open source research and a range of methodologies, drawing from software development, interactive cartographies, 'remote sensing' and satellite image analysis, fluid dynamics simulation, and witness interviewing. Visit our website – [forensic-architecture.org](https://forensic-architecture.org) – and you'll get a sense of how all of these things fit together!

We always try to work directly with and for the survivors, victims, and witnesses of human rights violations, to ensure that our research and advocacy – whether in the media, in courts, in art galleries, or in any other forums – are oriented by the 'lived experience' of those

groups, and that our work supports their claims for accountability and transparency in relation to the harms they have suffered. We are privileged to have the space and resources to develop and experiment with a pioneering set of research methods and practices, and it is our goal to put them into the service of the claims and demands of individuals, families, and communities around the world who may not have the same privileges.

**How was being recognised as Right Livelihood Award 2024 and how did it help with your activities and mission to boost urgent and long-term social change?**

It's a little bit early to say how the award has supported our long-term ambitions for social change. Unfortunately, the field of human rights is facing some serious headwinds at present; the landscape in which FA operates looks very challenging, and things are likely to get harder in the short term for any organisations who call for – fight for – truth, justice, and accountability. But being in Stockholm at the award ceremony, meeting so many remarkable fellow laureates – not just Anabela, Joan, and Issa, but many laureates of previous years – was a very powerful, strengthening experience for all of us. One of our friends in attendance at the award ceremony said to us, 'this is the place I come to every year, to fill myself up again with hope for the year ahead'. And by the end of a wonderful few days in Stockholm, in the company of the Right Livelihood team, we could really see what they meant. Hope can sometimes be a hard thing to find these days, and we are grateful to have found more of it there.

**How are you benefiting with all this visibility? How are you helping victims and survivors? How could we support your causes?**

We are sure that the visibility afforded to us by the Right Livelihood Award will be important in supporting our work in the long-term. Already, we have been heard from institutions across the landscape of human rights and social justice seeking to collaborate, to hear from us and to exchange learning, and suggesting avenues through which to find new partners, and new supporters – including financial support, which

is of course fundamental, and increasingly hard to secure in these times of shrinking civic spaces. We are already seeing how the reputation of the Right Livelihood Award shines so brightly, acting as a beacon to other activists and rights advocates.

As we grow into our new position as laureates, and grow into this new family, we expect to see more benefits. To be plugged into this network of almost 200 remarkable laureates – among them, some of the individuals and groups in the modern history of human rights whose example has guided our own work and history – is not only an honour but an incredible resource, and we look forward to hosting fellow laureates as they pass through London and Berlin (where our sister agency Forensis e.V has its home), exchanging ideas, and learning from their experience.

**What is your opinion on the importance of human rights education in the field of investigating the past to bring truth, justice and accountability? What are the most important challenges ahead in the field of Human Rights and Democracy in the world? Could educational programmes like ours at the Global Campus of Human Rights contribute to create a safe space for discussion on these challenges?**

With the second inauguration of President Trump, rightward political shifts across the globe, and a deeply fragmented public sphere, we are entering one of the most challenging periods for human rights, for public truth, and for international law, since the end of the second world war. As a field, we will require every piece of support and good fortune that we can find, as we continue the fight to protect fundamental values, rights, and human dignity. Education has to be at the heart of that, of course, and for that reason, the work that the Global Campus does is essential: to nurture and empower future generations of human rights practitioners, to equip the human rights sector for the challenges of tomorrow and, hopefully, to train the Right Livelihood laureates of the future. We're delighted to be connected to the GCHR as it continues that vital work, and we look forward to supporting that mission.

**Could you give a message to the students, professors, alumni, partners and staff of the Global Campus of Human Rights?**

Political conditions all around the world make it clear: there is a long and challenging struggle ahead, for all of us invested in the struggle for human rights, accountability, justice, and public truth. Without the work of programmes like the GCHR, the field will be starved of one of its most valuable resources: well-trained, motivated, talented new allies! So please, continue your vital work in building the future cohorts of human rights defenders.

But - do so while being alert to the ways in which the landscape around us is rapidly changing. When FA grew to prominence in the late 2010s, it was a time in which open source investigation was booming; organisations like ourselves, Airwars, Bellingcat, were breaking new ground. The major news outlets followed, and now those revolutionary practices – digital modelling, 3D reconstruction, video analysis – are mainstreamed. Many of those successes were founded on the possibilities afforded by social media, by the ubiquity of open source visual evidence. For a moment, it felt like this revolutionary potential was boundless. But as Twitter/X has collapsed as a source of reliable information, the early promise of that ‘open source revolution’ has, within just a few short years, begun to fade, into today’s extremely troubling information-sharing environment.

While we all work out how to navigate in this new space, perhaps the wider lesson is: the ground we are standing on is not fixed, in fact it may never have been so unstable. The human rights defenders of the future must be ready to adapt and navigate through rapidly shifting terrain, and be proactive in finding the opportunities among those changes. We wish you all strength, solidarity, and good fortune in that task!



**Anabela Lemos,  
2024 Right Livelihood  
Laureate**

*The Press Office had the honour to interview the 2024 Right Livelihood Laureate Anabela Lemos about her work at Justica Ambiental and her objectives in the near future.*

**Please share with us about your background and role in Justica Ambiental in empowering communities to stand up for their rights and demand environmental justice?**

I have been an environmental justice activist ever since I remember. We started an environmental movement in my neighbourhood to stop a cement kiln from incinerating obsolete pesticides. We won. From there, we realized there was a need to support communities and protect the environment due to Mozambique's model of development: opening the door to foreign investment, bringing with it land grabs, human rights violations, loss of livelihoods, wars. We realized that communities that lived

in rural areas did not have a voice about what happened in their lands, were not aware of their rights, but they were well aware of what they wanted or did not want. We started working together, supporting their struggle, and the importance of defending the right to say no.

**How was being recognised as Right Livelihood Award 2024 and how did it help with your activities and mission to boost urgent and long-term social change? How are you benefiting with all this visibility? How could we support your cause?**

The recognition of the importance of our work, by such a prestigious prize, in a country like Mozambique that our leaders do not care about our people, do not care about the needs of peasants or fisherfolk or rural communities (the majority of our population) and the urgency to protect our forests, our rivers and sea for the future generations and planet is very important. JA has faced a lot of criticism for the work we do, we have been labelled as anti-development or anti-patriotic, apart from the constant threats and intimidations. So this prize shows that we are doing the right thing, that to fight for a better world is the right thing to do, and gives us strength to carry on. And above all, this recognition and the visibility it brings means more protection for JA team and especially the community activists who are on the frontlines resisting corporate land grabs and denouncing human rights violations.

You can support our cause by helping to further raise the voice of mozambicans who are every day affected by fossil fuel and extractivism megaprojects, demanding an end to fossil fuel exploration, stopping false climate solutions such as mega-dams, REDD, industrial tree plantations, and joining us as we demand an end to corporate impunity by advancing strong and binding legislation to regulate transnational corporations at national, regional and international level. You can help us concretely by using the network of Right Livelihood to have more people supporting and endorsing our declarations, disseminating our case studies and amplifying our demands especially in the global north, where most of these companies are headquartered. We

have international campaigns around specific projects, to expose and denounce violations (such as the campaign to stop the gas projects in Cabo Delgado, and the campaign against the Mphanda Nkuwa dam in the Zambezi river), where we work in collaboration with partners from across the world to expose the violations and demand respect for Mozambican peoples' right to say no. Joining these campaigns as a partner, and be part of the strategizing and collective work, is a great way to help us even more.

**What is your opinion on the importance of human rights education in the field of development of projects and environmental justice?**

It's hugely important, many of the problems we currently face in the world could be avoided if people understood the importance of Human rights and incorporated them in their work. A good education is the basis of your development as a person. If we learn to value human rights more than we value money or material possessions, if we place life and dignity at the center of decision making, we will be able to build different societies and preserve mother nature.

**What are the most important challenges ahead in the field of Human Rights and Democracy in the world? Could educational programmes like ours at the Global Campus of Human Rights contribute to create a safe space for discussion on these challenges?**

Education programs should start from an early age, deepening the knowledge as you grow. People will be more aware of human rights, and will have better tools to fight against violations, but only education won't be able to stop these violations.

In the field of human rights and democracy, we need to understand that human rights violations are happening at the hand of powerful transnational corporations, in collusion with corrupted government elites. Without binding laws to regulate these entities, human rights violations will continue to happen systemically. Just like all across my country, Mozambique. Companies from France, Portugal, Italy, Japan,

China, USA, and many others are wrecking our climate and peoples lives. We need binding legislation to regulate transnational corporations and stop this pattern of impunity. This is a critical loophole in international law that urgently needs to be addressed.

**Could you give a message to the students, professors, alumni, partners and staff of the Global Campus of Human Rights?**

Don't be afraid to support and raise radical ideas. Fight against human rights violations and defend the universality of human rights.

# News and Events



# Venice Human Rights Film Festival

Right  
Livelihood



## EMA HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL 2024

MA QUANTO MANCA?  
STORIES OF CONFLICT AND  
RESILIENCE IN CHILDHOOD

13-14  
DEC  
2024

TEATRINO  
GROGGIA,  
CANNAREGIO,  
30121 VENEZIA



The students of the Global Campus Europe were proud to present the *14th edition of the Venice Human Rights Film Festival*. Sponsored by Right Livelihood, the festival took place on 13 and 14 December in Teatrino Groggia, Cannaregio, 30121, Venice, Italy. United by our commitment to advancing human rights and democracy worldwide, the festival focused on *children's rights*, especially highlighting the experiences of those growing up amid conflict. We invited to explore powerful stories of children from across the globe who, despite facing conflict and adversity, embody resilience and hope.

This theme captured the universal longing for a brighter future, while also giving voice to children's perspectives in various contexts of struggle. In a world where many young lives are impacted by displacement, violence, and instability, **Ma Quanto Manca? Stories of Conflict and Resilience in Childhood** shined a light on the strength of children navigating these challenges. From personal narratives to community stories, we amplified these voices and examined the global impact of conflict on childhood. Exploring children's rights through the eyes of children themselves, the festival was divided into three questions commonly asked in childhood: **Ma Perché?**, **Dove Andiamo?**, and **Siamo Arrivati?**

**Ma Perché?** focused on the theme of questioning, and hosted movies that questioned the very essence of child rights issues by posing existential and contextual questions. Films about activism and stories of those who question the established rules were featured in this section. Friday 13th December offered a screening of *Obaida*, which focused on childhood in armed conflict and inter-generational trauma. We were also delighted to be screening *Caging Childhood: Palestinian Children in Israel's Military Detention System* which focused on children in detention and growing up amid conflict. These impactful films followed by a Q and A with Director of the organisation Defence for Children International (DCI) Ayed Abu Eqtiash. Finally, Friday evening closed with a screening of *20,000 species of bees*, focusing on LGBT+ rights in childhood, and the search for identity.

**Dove Andiamo?** featured films about movement, evolution and the future horizons that human rights envision. Throughout this section, topics such as climate, peace processes, refugees and migration, and post-conflict societies were covered. Saturday 14th December, was morning dedicated to children and youth from 11:00-14:00, featuring films tailored for the younger audience. Following on from our child-centred activity sessions, we screened *Iqbal. Bambini senza paura* which focuses on children at the frontline of the economic and climate crisis.

Finally, and perhaps the most famous children's question, **Siamo Arrivati?** reflected on challenges and possible changes: *are we at the end of something?* Is there a possibility to *change*? This section focused on breaking the cycle of violence, exploitation and generational trauma. Saturday evening featured two powerful films that focused on forced migration and detention during childhood. *Mogoneba; Recuerdo de un viaje* narrates the journey of a mother and daughter forced to leave their native country to travel across Europe by land until they reach Barcelona. *Nothing About Us Without Us* documents the fires that destroyed Moria refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos, and follows with a Q and A involving members of the organisation Refocus Media Labs, focusing on filmmaking as a tool of advocacy for children in migration detention.

We were also delighted to welcome Alef Zero, to perform on Saturday evening from 22:30, providing us with some incredible jazz fusion to close out the festival.

**The festival was free entry and open to all, and the venue will be fully accessible.**

For more information please visit the website: [emafilmfestival2024.squarespace.com](https://emafilmfestival2024.squarespace.com)

Instagram: [@ema\\_filmfestival](https://www.instagram.com/ema_filmfestival)

Email: [emafilmfestival24@gmail.com](mailto:emafilmfestival24@gmail.com)



Global Campus Alumnae present at the Council of Europe's Conference on Digital Resilience in Montenegro

Organised in partnership with the authorities of Montenegro, the event focused on exploring challenges and opportunities to build digital resilience, with a special focus on the role of youth. The North-South Centre's (NSC) Intercultural Conference, "*Digital resilience: youth strategies against racist and xenophobic acts through computer systems*", took place in Kotor, Montenegro, 2024, October 24-25. The first edition of the North-South Centre's conference, a new initiative of the NSC's medium-term strategy, aims to bridge the growing divide between the North and the South.

Organised in partnership with the authorities of Montenegro, the event focused on exploring challenges and opportunities to build digital resilience, with a special focus on the role of youth. Lamija Kovačević and Veronika Vasilić, Global Campus South East Europe (ERMA) alumnae, were selected by the Council of Europe to participate in the conference and discuss the involvement of young people as perpetrators of racist and xenophobic acts on the internet, as well as to understand deeper the existing legal frameworks and to engage in exploration of existing strategies to combat and prevent cybercrime and hate speech online.

The first day, dedicated to youth strategies against racist and xenophobic acts through computer systems, offered keynote speeches about technological horizons and the necessity to approach emerging challenges with a human-centric approach. The first panel discussion, which combined inputs from recent academic work and the experiences of key actors in this area, focused on the consequences of online hate speech. Lamija Kovačević was one of the youth presenters to share Southeast Europe's perspective. She presented her MA research findings under the title "*Rethinking Online Hate: Memes, Subtle Exclusion, and Youth Agency*".

Among the discussants were experts like Mr. Siniša Bjeković, Ombudsman of Montenegro, and one of the ERMA lecturers. The second panel focused on international standards and frameworks countering online xenophobia and racism. The panel presented the standards of the Council of Europe, providing a detailed account of the Budapest Convention and other relevant legal frameworks, along with the work of the African Union. Links between cybercrime and freedom of expression were discussed.

The second day of the conference started with a special presentation given by Dr. Mila Popović, director general of the Directorate for Interculturalism at the Ministry of Human and Minority

Rights of Montenegro. Following the presentation, a session explored how young people can aid in the detection and prosecution of hate crimes, showcasing ongoing initiatives aimed at raising awareness of youth cybercrime.

This conference was of special importance because it emphasised the crucial role of youth in solving social problems, especially those connected to cybercrimes. It concluded with key points made at the sessions, paving the way to the Kotor Declaration as the joining platform.

By **Veronika Vasilic** and **Lamija Kovačević**

#### **Lamija Kovačević**

(ERMA-GC SEE alumna 2023) works as a media researcher/research project coordinator at Mediacentar Sarajevo. Prior to this, she completed an internship at the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2024 as a recipient of the Global Campus Internship Award for the best student in the 2022/20223 cohort. To date, she has published interdisciplinary research on the politics of contention, the role of digital media, the presence of marginalized narratives in foreign policy discourse, and more.

#### **Veronika Vasilic**

(ERMA-GC SEE alumna 2019) is a researcher and a PhD student at the University of Belgrade. She collaborated with different thinktanks and NGOs but also completed an internship at one city municipality in Belgrade. The focus of her work is primarily academic, but she also carried out some projects regarding human rights protection, especially connected to the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons. She published scientific articles as well as public policy papers and analyses.



**Valencia DANA Crisis: A Call for Accountability and the Rise of Community Solidarity Amid Catastrophe**

## What Happened?

In late October, Spain experienced one of the worst natural disasters in recent history. The recent DANA (Isolated Depression at High Levels) in Valencia caused an unprecedented catastrophe, with torrential rains accumulating up to 500 liters per square meter. The phenomenon began on October 29th and unleashed a chain of storms that triggered severe flooding, particularly in the metropolitan area of Valencia and its surroundings.

The floods devastated key infrastructure, affecting homes and industrial areas, where many workers were trapped. More than 325,000 people in Valencia are in what has now been called the “ground zero” zone due to the extent of the damage. To date, the death toll has exceeded 218, many areas still undergoing recovery efforts.

## Chronology of events and the legal framework of Spanish competencies

Five days before the disaster, AEMET (State Meteorological Agency) announced the possible arrival of a DANA in Valencia, initially uncertain about its effects. As predictions of heavy rain solidified, Valencia was placed under an orange alert on Monday, October 28th, which escalated to a red alert on Tuesday morning, with warnings of torrential rain and flooding. AEMET recommended extreme precautions early Tuesday, but the first advisory from the Valencian president came only later that morning, urging road caution. Twelve hours later, at 8.11 p.m., a message was sent advising residents to stay indoors, despite populated areas were already flooded, and people were trapped or missing.

The delay in issuing a civil protection warning after AEMET’s announcement highlights the complexities of Spain’s decentralised autonomous communities’ system, which grants exclusive powers over civil protection to regional governments. In this case, the authority for issuing civil protection notices fell to the Generalitat Valenciana and revealed the autonomic government negligence in notifying the population about necessary precautions for the DANA. Under Spain’s emergency response structure, Valencia is currently at emergency level 2, classifying it as a regional emergency that the Generalitat Valenciana is responsible for managing with regional resources. This level allows the Generalitat to request additional state resources if needed, without declaring a state of alarm, which keeps control with the regional government. At level 3, however, the situation would be considered of national interest, and control would shift to the Spanish central government. The central government could also impose a state of alarm, centralizing authority, but has chosen not to intervene since the Generalitat has not requested assistance.

## Climate Analysis

Although DANAs are a familiar weather phenomenon in Spain, climate change is intensifying its frequency and severity. The Mediterranean is rapidly warming, causing higher sea surface temperatures that lead to increased evaporation and more moisture in the air. When this humid air encounters colder atmospheric conditions, it results in more powerful and erratic storms. Rising global temperatures also cause shifts in weather patterns, making extreme events like DANA more unpredictable and destructive.

Climate change, intensified by unsustainable production and consumption systems, underscores the responsibility of state-corporate dynamics in environmental crises. Natural disasters, such as the DANA, are increasingly linked to the harmful activities of large corporations whose operations often continue unchecked, benefiting from state backing or permissive regulations. These corporations contribute significantly to environmental degradation, and their impact is magnified when economic interests override environmental protections, demonstrating the critical connection between industrial practices, state policies, and climate-related disasters.

## Political Analysis

This catastrophic event in Valencia revealed troubling systemic gaps in the government's approach to crisis preparedness and risk management. One critical issue revealed by the disaster is the privatization of emergency services. On the 29th of October, Valencia's emergency call system, managed by the company Ilunion, was staffed by just 24 operators, a number that dwindled to only six at night. This lack of personnel, a result of cost-cutting measures, undermined the region's ability to respond effectively to the emergency. With rainfall reaching up to 500 liters per square meter in certain areas, this staffing shortfall severely hindered rescue and recovery efforts, contributing to the extent of the tragedy.

Additionally, the reluctance of the Valencian government to upgrade the emergency response to Level 3 during the DANA crisis highlights a troubling political pattern: economic continuity was prioritized over public safety. Regional president Carlos Mazón's focus on maintaining work schedules and economic activities, despite the looming threat of severe flooding, underscores a broader tendency to downplay the risks of extreme weather. This approach reflects a systemic tendency to prioritize economic interests, often at the expense of environmental protections and the well-being of the public, as seen in the Valencian regional's government delayed response to the emergency as the flood warnings to cell phones were sent at 8 pm on Tuesday when the flooding had already started in some places and well after the national weather agency issued a red alert indicating heavy rains.

Urban planning policies have also come under scrutiny. Decades of unchecked development in flood-prone areas have left Valencia and surrounding regions vulnerable to natural disasters. Despite warnings, development in high-risk zones has continued, a decision likely driven by corporate and economic incentives. This urban expansion disregards the vulnerability of infrastructure and the risks to human lives, placing residents in increasingly hazardous situations as climate change intensifies such events.

## Social Analysis

The DANA crisis in Valencia has had a serious and deep effect on several human rights issues, namely access to water and sanitation, housing, health or food; workers' rights; the situation of migrants and minorities and the right to information and participation.

The latter has been particularly damaged with the spread of false information by far right groups and the weaponization and politicization of the tragedy, basing their discourse around "public order" and anti-immigration, reinforcing racist attitudes.

Leaders of groups like Revuelta, Núcleo Nacional, Desokupa, and España 2000—far-right groups embracing reactionary discourse akin to that of Vox (far right political party)—have spent time in the Valencian coastal area, supposedly helping distribute food and clean up. They have been the main instigators of attacks on officials who visited the affected areas, with some displaying Nazi symbols on clothing. Vox has insisted on their assistance "only for Spaniards". They have also offered legal services to protesters who damaged one of the president's official cars. The far right uses the tragedy to promote its agenda against the government. Núcleo Nacional's Twitter account shared images of these attacks, claiming that *"it's the patriots, not the left or the state, who are saving Valencia in the face of the authorities' inaction and experts' failure to predict or prevent the tragedy"*.

Some groups profess to have ideological "foundations" centered on "protecting our Race," claiming that just as we understand the biological differences between men and women, we should also recognize racial characteristics. They declare their aid priority are Spaniards, adding, *"We want to*

*help our people, the Spanish people,”* according to Ruiz from Núcleo Nacional, who opposes both “illegal” and “legal” immigration. Felipe González Santos, a researcher at Babeş-Bolyai University in Romania who studies far-right movements globally, notes how the far right is publicizing its aid efforts to fuel a “cultural battle” rooted in a simplistic dichotomy: “us Spaniards” against “them”—immigrants, the idle left, and a “treacherous” government. According to El País, *“It’s a critical moment, as social collapse perception increases the likelihood of the far right pushing the boundaries of what’s acceptable.”*

When arguments questioning the government’s competence or data accuracy spread, they can generate distrust in public institutions, eroding government legitimacy and social cohesion. The perception of a “failed state,” as used by these extremist groups, can be exploited by far-right parties to gain support. Such parties often present themselves as strong, decisive alternatives to what they portray as the current government’s ineffectiveness, promoting authoritarian and exclusionary policies that undermine democratic principles.

### Call to Action

Even though the situation seems daunting a month after the floodings, thousands of Spanish people have mobilised themselves in an extraordinary display of communal solidarity, one of the largest ever seen in the country’s history. Faced with government inaction and failure, citizens have turned to collective action and organised support networks, demonstrating the power and necessity of mutual cooperation. These grassroots efforts have become the only hope for many affected by the DANA, reminding us of the crucial value of community-driven initiatives, which are often overlooked in non-crisis times.

However, we find it important to emphasise that the support provided to those affected by the DANA must be rooted in solidarity rather than charity. While charity often operates from a hierarchical perspective, reinforcing existing power dynamics and failing to challenge the root causes of the situation, solidarity takes a different approach. It means working with affected communities, not merely for them, and emphasizes collective empowerment, long-term solutions, and strengthening community resilience while addressing systemic injustices together.

With this principle in mind, EMA Spanish students have compiled a list of organizations dedicated to solidarity-based work. We hope this information proves helpful for anyone interested in donating or collaborating.

#### Possible entities to donate to or get involved with:

- o [Mutual Support Network DANA Valencia](#) (‘Xarxa de Suport Mutu Dana València’)
- o [Movement for Peace](#): Independent human rights NGO working in Aldaia. They have an open fundraising campaign for supplies. More info here.
- o [Bookstores](#): Small bookstores affected by DANA where you can purchase books online. List of bookstores here .
- o [Farmamundi](#): Provides essential supplies and hygiene products to affected senior centers. Info for donations here .
- o [Collectives Uhuru Valencia, casa Massapé, Mujeres Voces y Resistencias, and Azahara organization](#) —groups comprised of migrants and Afro-descendants—are coordinating to receive and distribute supplies and donations.



## GC and Italian MfA renew their Commitment to train Asia-Pacific Human Rights defenders in Timor-Leste

The Global Campus of Human Rights (GC), the Human Rights Centre of the National University of Timor-Leste (HRC-UNTL), and the Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) in Sydney are excited to continue their collaboration in advancing human rights education and capacity building. With renewed support from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAECI-DGMO), the three organizations will once again join forces in 2025 to organize the “Annual Human Rights and People’s Diplomacy Training Program for Human Rights Defenders from the Asia-Pacific Region.”

Building on the success of the 2024 edition, which saw a record 700+ applicants, the 2025 summer school will offer an intensive, residential program designed to enhance participants' knowledge and skills in human rights standards, sustainable development, lobbying, advocacy, and movement building. The program will bring together 35 human rights defenders, educators, and practitioners from Timor-Leste, ASEAN member states, and Pacific Island Forum countries. Regional experts and trainers from local, regional, and international universities and institutions will lead the training.

The partnership, which began in 2024, marks an important milestone in the effort to strengthen human rights education in Timor-Leste and the broader Asia-Pacific region. The successful collaboration aligns with the shared goals of the GC, UNTL, and DTP to provide high-level training opportunities and foster cross-regional solidarity in human rights advocacy. Under the patronage of President H.E. José Ramos-Horta, the 2025 edition will again coincide with the anniversary of Timor-Leste's popular consultation, further underscoring the significance of human rights in the country's history.

This initiative is part of a broader strategy to build the capacity of the UNTL Human Rights Centre (UNTL-HRC), which was established through a partnership between the GC and UNTL between 2019 and 2022, supported by the European Union. The success of the HRC-UNTL has been instrumental in enhancing Timor-Leste's role as a leader in human rights higher education. Following the project, UNTL and GC work together under a cooperation agreement to strengthen the Centre's impact and internationalization.



For two weeks, **I actively engaged with equally passionate human rights defenders.** There is no better place to learn about human rights, positive peace, and international solidarity than today's Timor-Leste, as a powerful force to be reckoned with in ASEAN. The training cultivated my knowledge of climate change issues, the right to development, and various human rights challenges from the communities and countries of my brilliant colleagues.

**Gianna Francesca Cattolico, 2024 participants from the Philippines**

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



## Global Campus Human Rights Journal

### **Global Campus Human Rights Journal: New Issue is Now Online**

*Volume 7, Issues 1-2, of the Global Campus Human Rights Journal is now online on the e-journal website!*

We are excited to announce the release of the latest issues of volume 7 of the Global Campus Human Rights Journal. These new issues reaffirm our dedication to fostering in-depth scholarship and critical discussions on the urgent challenges facing human rights and democratization today. Covering a wide range of topics – from climate change and gender equality to digital rights and global citizenship – the volume offers a compelling mix of theoretical perspectives, case studies, and practical solutions. We invite scholars, practitioners, and advocates around the globe to explore these contributions and join us in promoting the values of human dignity and justice.



As co-editors, I and Mariana are proud to present the latest volume of the Global Campus Human Rights Journal, which bring together **diverse voices and perspectives** from around the world. Each article invites us to critically examine human rights in a **rapidly changing landscape**, offering new insights and actionable solutions to advance justice and equality. We thank the editors, reviewers and staff involved for their **outstanding work and dedication** in producing the volume.

Mariana Hadzijusufovic & Ravi Prakash Vyas

### Call for Papers: Global Campus Human Rights Journal (Volume 8, 2024)

*We are excited to announce a new call for papers to the Global Campus Human Rights Journal (GCHRJ)!*

GCHRJ is established as a peer-reviewed bi-annual publication dedicated to serving as a forum for rigorous scholarly analysis and critical commentary in the fields of human rights and democratisation at the local, national, regional and global levels. We particularly encourage multi- and inter-disciplinary perspectives and a range of methodological approaches. GCHRJ also aims to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration between stakeholders, including academics, activists in human rights and democratisation, NGOs and civil society.

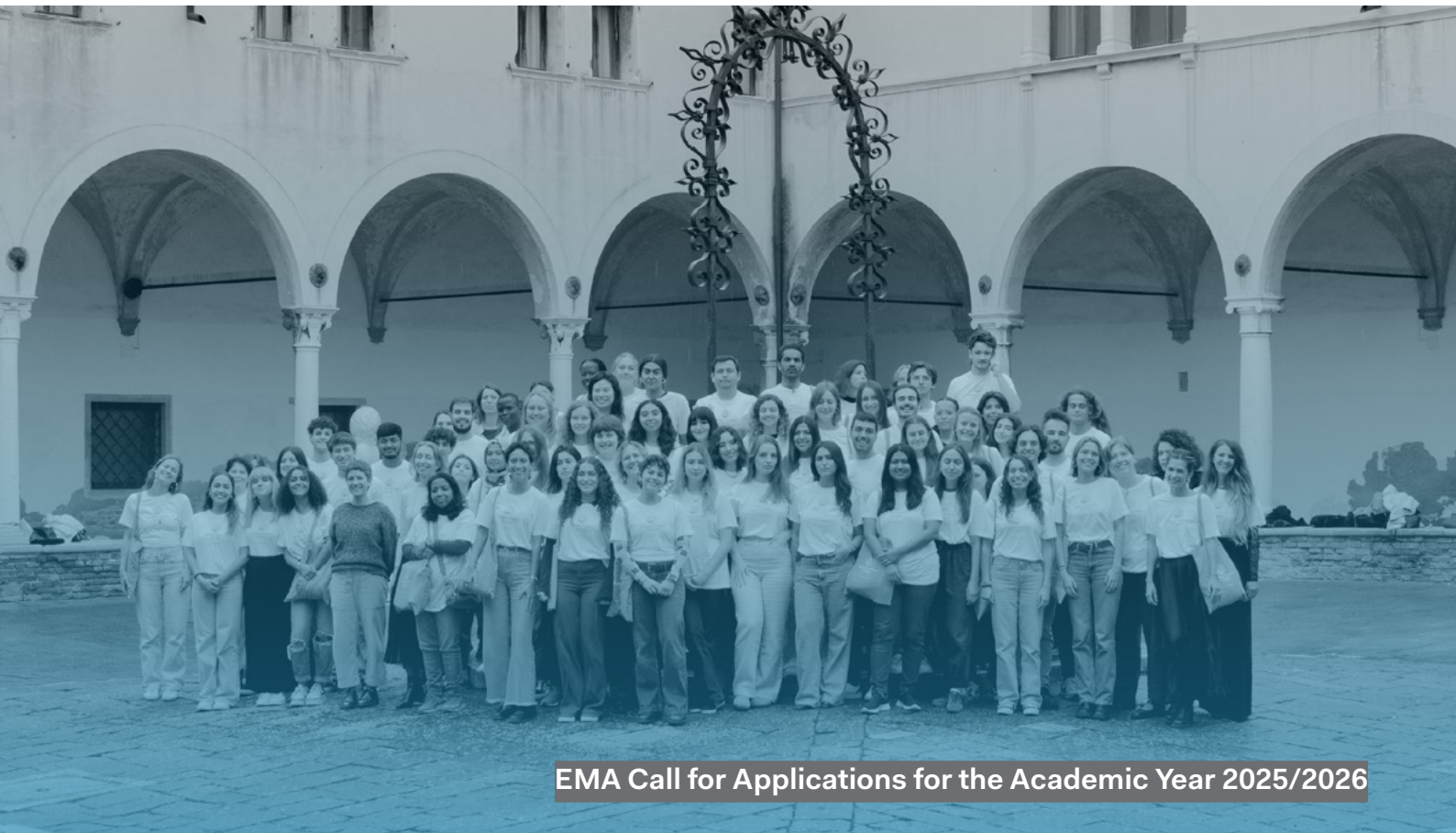
GCHRJ is an open access journal published under the auspices of the Global Campus of Human Rights , and is supported financially by the European Union.

**No fees are charged for submission, article processing or publication.**

The journal welcomes submissions on a wide range of topics relating to the fields of human rights and democratisation, but particularly welcomes contributions that speak to the Global Campus of Human Rights: Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives 2024-2028 .

**Submission deadline:** 30 January 2025 extended.

**The full Call for Papers can be found on the GCHRJ website.**



### EMA Call for Applications for the Academic Year 2025/2026

Admissions to the 2025/2026 edition of the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation are open!

Application deadlines: **2 February 2025**

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. In the first semester in Venice students pursue 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. In the second semester, students are hosted by one of our participating universities, and prepare a research thesis and follow courses offered by the host university. This approach provides both a broad education on human rights and democratisation issues, as well as ample opportunity to specialise on areas of specific interest to the student.

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

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, experiential learning 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 2025/2026 is €6450.00, payable in 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:

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

More information about EMA, the faculty and the programme can be found at <https://emahumanrights.org>.

# Global Campus of Human Rights Awarded Thesis 2022/2023

## Global Campus Awarded Theses 2022/2023

Global Campus is proud to announce the publication of the GC best theses from regional programmes for the academic year 2022/2023: find them all here.

This selection of theses proves once again the variety of topics investigated by GC students worldwide, with cross-disciplinary approach to human rights related issues: from maternal health care in Zimbabwe, to pretrial detention in Guatemala; from climate justice rights and responsibilities to indigenous land rights connected with world heritage sites; from children's rights to education in the digital era in Nepal to youth participation for EU integration of Western Balkans and to elderly social protection in Lebanon.

If you would like to go deeper on one of these topics check out the 2022/2023 Global Campus Awarded Theses:

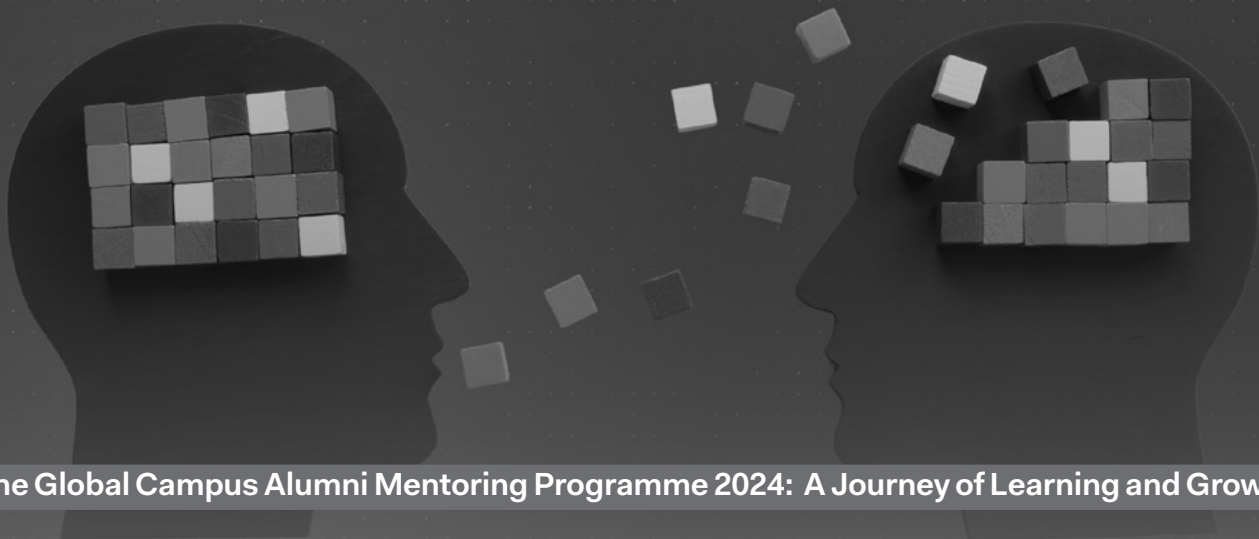
- *Chikomba, Idirashe Amanda*, **Enhancing Access to Decentralised Maternal Health Care Services in Council-Run Clinics in Zimbabwe. Lessons from Kenya.** Supervisors: Michelle Maziwisa, University of Pretoria and Nkatha Kabira, University of Nairobi. Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa (HRDA), coordinated by Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria. <http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/2702>
- *Hazboun, Nadim*, **Saving the Blue Planet. Climate Justice: Rights & Responsibilities.** Supervisor: Zoi Aliozi, Global Campus of Human Rights. Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in the Caucasus (CES), coordinated by Yerevan State University. <http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/2703>
- *Karmacharya, Swasti*, **Children's Rights to Education in the Digital Era: Barriers of the Digital Divide for Children of Low-income Families in Nepal.** Supervisors: Wasantha Seneviratne, University of Colombo and Mark Capaldi, Mahidol University. Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Asia Pacific (APMA), coordinated by Mahidol University (Thailand). <http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/2704>
- *Murgja, Chiara Maria*, **Youth Participation in the EU Integration of Western Balkans: A Token or**

**an Effective Tool for Addressing the Enlargement Fatigue?** Supervisor: Nikolaos Tzifakis, University of Peloponnese. European Regional Master's Programme in Democracy and Human Rights in South East Europe (ERMA), coordinated by University of Sarajevo and University of Bologna. <http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/2705>

o *Rosales Lossley, Rony*, **Torture of the Innocent. Pretrial Detention in Guatemala from a Human Rights Perspective.** Supervisors: Francisco Javier Urizar Pérez, Rafael Landivar University (Guatemala). Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Latin American and the Caribbean (LATMA), coordinated by National University of San Martin (Argentina). <http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/2706>

o *Thorne, Jordan*, **Indigenous Land Rights and World Heritage Sites. Why Are Some Indigenous Peoples Treated Better Than Others by UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee?** Supervisor: Jan Klabbers, University of Helsinki. European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA), coordinated by Global Campus of Human Rights Headquarters. <http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/2707>

o *Yassine, Nisrine*, **Elderly Social Protection. Lebanon as a Case Study.** Supervisor: Nizar Hariri. Arab Master's Programme in Democracy and Human Rights (ARMA), coordinated by Saint Joseph University (Lebanon). <http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/2708>



### The Global Campus Alumni Mentoring Programme 2024: A Journey of Learning and Growth

The Global Campus Alumni Mentoring Programme connects alumni seeking to advance their human rights careers with professionals volunteering to mentor them. Over six months, mentees receive tailored guidance to achieve their goals, while mentors share their knowledge and experience. This year introduced a significant change: alumni mentees were requested to select and approach their mentors directly, fostering a more personalised and engaging process. Graduates from 15 countries chose mentors from 18 nations, focusing on human rights-oriented mentoring.

### A Path for Mutual Enrichment

The overwhelmingly positive feedback from both mentors and mentees highlights the success of this initiative. One mentee emphasized how their mentor's tailored advice helped them navigate their career with renewed confidence. Another noted the practical tools they gained, such as self-assessments and public speaking skills, supported by their mentor's encouragement.

Mentors also found the experience deeply rewarding. One mentor shared, "Witnessing my mentee's growth was inspiring," while another described building trust through open conversations that ranged from career challenges to personal development. This mutual exchange fostered a unique bond, transforming mentorship into a partnership of shared learning and achievement.

Among the successes, one mentee secured a long-term role with an organisation that recognized their unique potential, thanks to their mentor's guidance. Another mentee rediscovered their confidence and capabilities. Such stories are the foundation of the Global Campus Alumni Mentoring Programme, showcasing the profound impact of guidance and connection.

### Building Resilience

The programme showcased resilience in the face of challenges. One mentee, living in a conflict zone, shared how their mentor's encouragement helped them focus on growth despite difficult circumstances. As one mentee mentioned: "My mentor took the time to listen to my concerns and gave great advice that helped me feel more confident in my work. What I liked the most was how she understood my goals and gave me advice that was really useful. I am very grateful for her help during this time."

These experiences demonstrated that mentorship extends beyond career advice, offering hope and resilience even in uncertain times. On the other hand, mentoring cannot and should not provide psychological support, as this is a distinct type of service that may be necessary for some graduates facing hardship.

### Moving Forward

Participant feedback highlighted areas for enhancement to improve the programme, such as encouraging progress journals, implementing more structured follow-ups, and enabling expanded networking opportunities. Suggestions to enable broader collaborations among mentees and mentors could create a ripple effect of learning and inspiration. As this year's programme concludes, participants carry forward lessons, connections, and memories. Certificates of appreciation will soon be distributed.



**This experience wasn't just about career guidance—it was about rediscovering myself and realizing the power of perseverance and connection.**

We wish to thank all the mentors who volunteered to support our Global Campus Alumni. This programme would not have been possible without you.

## Prof. Manfred Nowak receives the “Juvenile Justice Without Borders” International Award

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO) announced on December 18th that Prof. Manfred Nowak has been granted the 'Juvenile Justice Without Borders' International Award for his efforts in conducting the United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty. This award, now in its 8th Edition, is given biannually by the International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO) to prominent professionals and organizations in the juvenile justice and children's rights fields.

Prof. Nowak has been awarded for his work as a strong advocate for the implementation of children's rights worldwide, in particular as director of the United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, which assessed the number and conditions of children in various detention situations around the world and proposed measures for their protection and rehabilitation. The IJJO also highlights his participation in different high-level forums and events, actively engaging with decision-makers to raise awareness of these issues and promote change.

This year marks the 8th anniversary of the 'Juvenile Justice Without Borders' International Award, which was created by the Observatory with the aim of recognizing and raising awareness about the great work, professionalism, and firm commitment of people and organizations who, from different fields, contribute to the advancement of juvenile justice and the protection of the rights of children around the world.

Prof. Nowak said:



I am deeply honoured to receive this prestigious award on behalf of many different people who contributed to the preparation, presentation and dissemination of the **UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty**. While the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child clearly stipulates that the arrest, detention and imprisonment of a child shall be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, we found that more than **7 million children** are annually deprived of liberty in prisons, police lock-ups, special institutions for children and other places of detention.

In the words of the IJJO Chairman, Francisco Legaz Cervantes:



The individuals and entities awarded in this edition embody **the fundamental values** that the International Juvenile Justice Observatory seeks to promote through this recognition. Their work reflects an unwavering commitment to defending the rights of children and young people, creating opportunities for their holistic development and for the improvement of juvenile justice systems. Through their efforts in research, advocacy, education and awareness-raising, they have been able to bring about **significant changes in legislation, practices and social attitudes**.

Prof. Nowak is joined by the following six other awardees of the 8th edition of the award:

**Prof. Dr. Adeela Ahmed Shafi** MBE (United Kingdom) Professor of Education in Youth Justice, University of Gloucestershire. Prof. Shafi has been awarded for her work in the research and development of interdisciplinary projects to improve education and training for young people in conflict with the law in custodial settings, promoting their educational and personal development, their interest in formal and informal learning, as well as their future employability. The IJJO highlights her efforts in investigating the most effective learning methodologies and adapting them to the needs of these young people.

**Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth** (United States). This organisation has been awarded for its defense of individuals deprived of liberty with extreme sentences for crimes that they committed as children, as well as its support to those released for their successful reintegration into society. The IJJO highlights CFSY's advocacy, research, and awareness-raising efforts, which contribute to producing legislative, procedural, and societal change against extreme sentencing and in favour of rehabilitation, reintegration, and children's rights.

**Prof. Julia Sloth-Nielsen** (South Africa) Emeritus Professor, University of the Western Cape. Prof. Sloth-Nielsen has been awarded for her distinguished professional trajectory as a researcher and academic, which has contributed significantly to the understanding and improvement of the legal and policy frameworks that affect children at both a national and an international level, including in the field of juvenile justice. The IJJO highlights her work on the development of international standards in children's rights, as well as on the drafting of children's laws in a wide range of countries, including Kenya, Mozambique, Zanzibar, South Sudan, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, and South Africa.

**Mr. Luis Pedernera** (Uruguay), Vice Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. Mr. Pedernera has been awarded for his outstanding work in defending the rights of children in Latin America and globally, monitoring the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in different countries, and developing guidelines and recommendations for the continued development of these rights. The IJJO also highlights his work in raising awareness and reporting to governments and society, alerting them to the rights violations suffered by children in different regions of the world.

**Univ.-Prof. Dr. Manfred Nowak** (Austria), Secretary General of the Global Campus of Human Rights and Scientific Director of the Vienna Master of Arts in Applied Human Rights at the University of Applied Arts of Vienna. Prof. Nowak has been awarded for his work as a strong advocate for the implementation of children's rights worldwide, in particular as director of the United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, which assessed the number and conditions of children in various detention situations around the world and proposed measures for their protection and rehabilitation. The IJJO also highlights his participation in different high-level forums and events, actively engaging with decision-makers to raise awareness of these issues and promote change.

**Save the Children** (Spain), this organisation has been awarded for its many and diverse actions to protect the rights and well-being of children in vulnerable situations, and specifically those who come into contact with the justice system. The IJJO highlights its contribution through the publication and dissemination of research that raises awareness of the situation of these children and provides essential data and analysis that contributes to the development of policies and practices

on child rights and juvenile justice in Spain.

**UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office**, this Regional Office of UNICEF has been awarded for its contribution to the promotion of children's rights and the development of youth justice systems in East Asia and the Pacific through different actions of capacity-building, research, advocacy, and the implementation of innovative programmes in partnership with governments, NGOs, and communities. The IJJO highlights UNICEF EAPRO's efforts to provide valuable data and insights that inform policy changes and improve professional practices in the region.

#### More information

To learn more about the awardees, and see their photos and videos, please go to the International Juvenile Justice Observatory's website: <https://www.oijj.org/en/ijjo-award/2024>

#### The International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO)

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO) was established by the Board of Trustees of Fundación Diagrama in 2003 as an autonomous non-profit organisation within the internal structure of Fundación Diagrama. Its work focuses on addressing the issues faced by children and young people in conflict with the law, with an interdisciplinary and plural approach that is also sensitive to different realities and cultures, with the ultimate aim of contributing to the protection of their rights and the improvement of their lives.

This mission is centred on the promotion of the rights of children and young people in conflict with the law through the observation of juvenile justice systems from an international, interdisciplinary, and rights-based perspective, as well as the promotion and support of initiatives that aim to advance a fairer and more inclusive juvenile justice.

#### Contact:

**Alfonso Andreo Almansa**

Collaborator – Communications

[a.almansa@collab.oijj.org](mailto:a.almansa@collab.oijj.org)

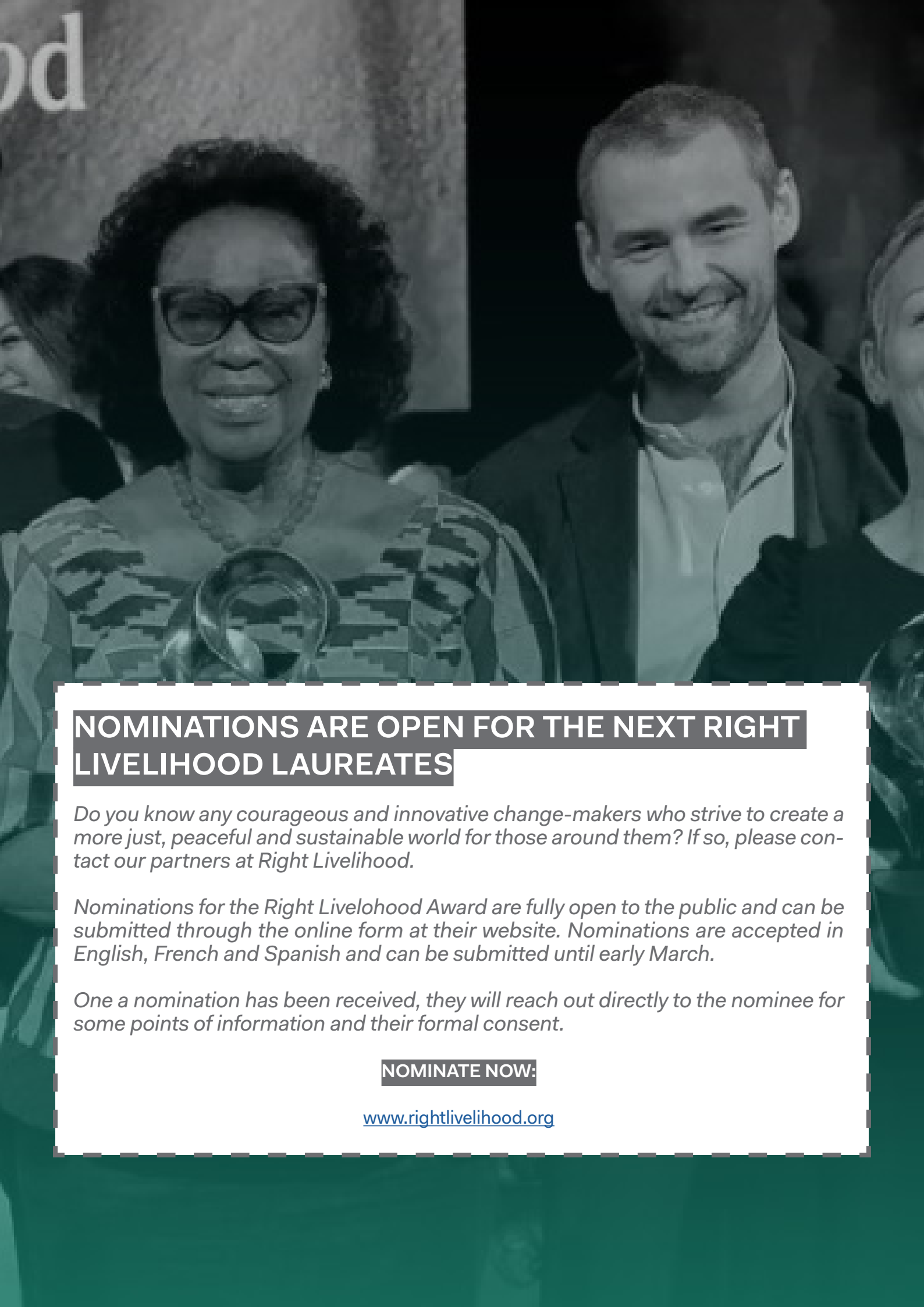
International Juvenile Justice Observatory

[www.oijj.org/en](http://www.oijj.org/en)

Hashtag for social media: **#JJWB2024**

Global Campus of Human Rights Press Office: [pressoffice@gchumanrights.org](mailto:pressoffice@gchumanrights.org)





## NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN FOR THE NEXT RIGHT LIVELIHOOD LAUREATES

*Do you know any courageous and innovative change-makers who strive to create a more just, peaceful and sustainable world for those around them? If so, please contact our partners at Right Livelihood.*

*Nominations for the Right Livelihood Award are fully open to the public and can be submitted through the online form at their website. Nominations are accepted in English, French and Spanish and can be submitted until early March.*

*Once a nomination has been received, they will reach out directly to the nominee for some points of information and their formal consent.*

**NOMINATE NOW:**

[www.rightlivelihood.org](http://www.rightlivelihood.org)



# Promotion



## Venice Marathon 2024

The Global Campus of Human Rights was committed to increase awareness of human rights by connecting with the culture of sports initiatives at local and international levels. The Sports Culture through their diverse disciplines with engaged activists are closely related to human rights and to education. Sports can only flourish in an atmosphere of peace and security. With its universal reach, Sports culture is a joyful medium to promote the universal values of human rights. This is the focus of the cooperation with many other institutions through a series of sportive events and awards which have been developed and also planned for the near future.

The Venice Marathon proved to be an important event and solidarity has always been an integral part of the project. Proof of this were the numbers of their Charity Programme which in 9 years has raised over 1 million euros, but above all it is the enthusiasm with which the non-profit organizations participated in the initiative every year and are committed to creating teams of fundraisers, ambassadors of a good cause.

In that sense, we had invited our community of students, alumni, professors, experts and staff to present their interest and apply for our #Sport4HumanRights Awards consisting in awarding the payment of the registrations fees to be one of our few selected runners to participate in the Venice Marathon 2024 and more specifically in the VM10K non professional that is more accessible to everyone. All other expenses were not covered. We had received and awarded 25 runners in this edition with promo code to use and our #GCHumanRights branded materials (T-shirt, bag, pin and water bottle) for running on Sunday 27 October 2024.

The Press Office organised the stand of the Global Campus of Human Rights at the Venice Marathon Charity Village that attracted more than 50.000 visitors over the weekend.

For more info, please contact [communications@gchumanrights.org](mailto:communications@gchumanrights.org)  
[#GCHumanRights](#) [#Sport4HumanRights](#) [#VeniceMarathon](#)  
<https://www.venicemarathon.it/index.php>

And last but not least stay tuned for our next campaigns related to **SPORTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**:  
**SAVE THE DATE: 8 APRIL 2025** for the 8th edition of the online Global Campus of Human Rights Conversations.

Stay tuned for the **Milano Cortina Winter Olympics 2025-2026** activities with the support of our partner the **Region of Veneto - The European Region for sports 2024**.



For more information, contact the

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