

March 2023



MAGAZINE

Global Campus

MANFRED NOWAK
Secretary General
of the Global Campus
of Human Rights

This year we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 30th anniversary of the 2nd World Conference of Human Rights, which took place in Vienna in June 1993. The two most memorable slogans from Vienna were “All Human Rights for All”, the motto of the NGO Forum underlining the universality, equality, interdependence and indivisibility of all human rights, as well as “Women’s Rights are Human Rights”, one of the most influential demands of NGOs. In retrospective, this might seem surprising, as the equality of women had been strongly rooted from the outset in the legal UN human rights framework, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 and having entered into force in 1981, had become a milestone in the advancement of women’s rights and the fight against gender-based discrimination. However, while discrimination against women had been gradually eliminated from domestic laws and women had increasingly gained access to all human rights, including the rights to vote, to education, to marry and to justice, the most egregious violations of women’s rights continued to be practiced in the “private” sphere, be it in the family, the work place or in society at large. In the UN system, rights of women were dealt with in the Commission on the Status of Women rather than in the Human Rights Commission, and the monitoring of CEDAW by the CEDAW Committee was strictly separated from the activities of other UN human rights treaty monitoring bodies.

The Vienna World Conference on Human Rights 1993 and the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing 1995 symbolized a paradigm shift in the protection of human rights of women in the “private” sphere, above all against domestic violence, all forms of sexual harassment and gender based violence, traditional practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, honour killings, sati, the gender pay gap in business etc. In December 1993, only half a year after Vienna, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, and in March 1994 the Human Rights Commission created the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, which had a major impact on the advancement of women’s rights and led to the adoption of domestic laws on domestic and other forms of violence against women and girls. Much has been achieved in making women’s rights more equal to men’s rights, but much more needs to be done in fighting for the full equality of women and against male dominance in governments and politics, business, religion, the family and society at large. That’s why this 9th edition of the Global Campus Magazine and the Global Campus Human Rights Conversation on 8 March, marking the International Women’s Day, is dedicated to strengthening the human rights of women.



Interview with Domenica Bumma, European External Action Service (EEAS)



The Press Office had the opportunity to interview Domenica Bumma about her work at European External Action Service (EEAS) and their next activities about Human Rights and Democracy.

Please share with us about your background and your role at the European External Action Service.

I joined the Human Rights Team of the External Action Service in September 2022, after four years as Head of the Political Department of the EU Delegation to Brazil and previous experiences in the area of human rights and democracy in Turkey, the Middle East and Northern Africa region, as well as in the academic world. In the EEAS Human Rights Team, I am responsible inter alia for the relations and cooperation with the Global Campus, which I consider one of the most important flagship cooperation programmes of the EU ever.

The EU is a strong supporter and the main funder of the Global Campus since its beginnings more than 20 years ago and I am very proud that I have been tasked with coordinating our relations with the Campus. The EU has been supporting the Campus and helped it to grow into the unique network of universities providing human rights education in basically all regions of the world. I like to say that Global Campus is much more than a network of universities, students and academicians. It is a global community of advocates and defenders strongly committed to the promotion of dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law and respect for human rights. These values are in the DNA of the European Union and permeate our relations with the rest of the world. This is why I like to say that the Global Campus and the EU are strong natural partners in promoting and defending human rights and democracy across the world.

What are the next events and activities about Human Rights and Democracy that are organised by EEAS in 2023?

Of course, we will continue to implement many thematic human rights activities, including around the commemoration of major international human rights days, like Women's Day on 8 March and all the other that will follow. But in 2023 we have decided to focus specifically on one vastly important overarching theme: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In the last few years, there have been unprecedented challenges for human rights and democracy. Just name it: war crimes, peaceful demonstrations repressed in the most violent way, women and girls deprived of their most basic rights, arbitrary trials, impunity and increasing attacks against human rights defenders and their families and the list go on and on. But most worryingly, new narratives started questioning the universality of human rights, trying to alter the agreed international human rights doctrine, hinting that some human rights are more important than others. This is highly concerning. And this is why in 2023, the EU will focus its public events and communication on the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, together with the UN of course, the Global Campus and all the actors who are like us committed on a daily basis to defending all human rights as equal and universal.

Could you tell us about your participation in the sixth online Global Campus of Human Rights conversation regarding the International Women's Day campaign and gender equality?

This is the first time I participate in an online conversation organized by the Global Campus in the context of International Women's Day and I am very much looking forward to it because it is very important to stand up for women's rights and gender equality and have open and frank



conversations on these topics with the public. I hope I will be able to contribute with the perspective and experience of the EU in this regard. This is a hugely important day for the EU and we are also getting ready for it. Typically, every year all our EU Delegations around the world join forces with EU Member States, the UN, Civil Society and human rights organizations in a broad range of activities and events.

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

As I said, the Global Campus and the EU are strong allies in every region of the world to defend and protect human rights and democracy. Nowadays, the work of the Global Campus of Human Rights is more relevant than ever before, and the EU is proud of having supported the Campus since its inception more than 20 years ago, up to becoming the unique global human rights education network that it is today. We are no doubt living in complex times and my message to the "Global Campus Community" is: "Let's continue to join forces and work even more closely together between us, with the UN, EU Member States, other countries, civil society, youth, the private sector and all actors committed to defending human rights around the world. We owe it to the too many people across the world, who turn to us for support!"



Interview with Laura De Dilectis, Founder of the Association “DonnexStrada”



The Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights asked one of the winners of Women of Europe Awards and founder of the civil society association DonnexStrada Laura De Dilectis about her work to help women victims of gender violence and for their safety in the streets.

Can you tell us more about yourself and where did the idea of creating the association Donnexstrada came from?

Donnexstrada was born in March 2021 after Sarah Everard was kidnapped, raped and killed in London. On a Sunday morning I woke up and learned about the facts. Anger and the desire to do something immediately meant that the project was born in a natural way, quickly putting down a draft which I later launched as project on social media and which today is known as donnexstrada, an association against gender violence and for women's safety in the streets.

What kind of support does the association provide and how is it developing on the national territory?

The association offers legal, psychological and soon also nutritional and gynecological support services. We want to work and help women and beyond, at 360 degrees. Our projects vary from interventions on the streets and in the cities with our “Punti Viola” (commercial spaces sensitized against violence), to collaborations with institutions and companies, awareness and information campaigns and so on. We have always been present at a national level thanks to our volunteers and associates present throughout Italy.

What are the biggest challenges you faced in educating and raising awareness about gender-based violence and discrimination?

To date, people welcome donnexstrada's initiatives with great enthusiasm, many are ready to participate in this common project that wants to change things. The biggest challenge is the planning and the economic one, given that

the fight against violence and all the projects designed by donnexstrada need support and sustainability. Those who have chosen to dedicate their time and work to combating violence should be supported and valued with concrete actions.

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

I believe that talking about human rights is talking about a gaze and a sensitivity which are the necessary conditions to be able to intervene, but also the answer. It is important to see the other, to create dialogue, to fight to change things, to get angry if such basic rights are not guaranteed. In 2021 I realized that women are not free to walk on the street and that we still don't have this essential right. It is clear that there is a problem. Until human rights are guaranteed we will not be able to talk about progress. We must start from here and not stop until we obtain freedom and the right to life and not to be killed on the street or at home.

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

I want to thank you for this important invitation and I am honored. I thank anyone who has chosen not to be indifferent and to be that voice that makes many other people's voice resonate. We are a society and realizing this gives us a great opportunity to do something. I leave you with a phrase quoted on social media by professor emeritus Philip Zimbardo: I said “Somebody should do something about that.” Then I realized I am somebody.



Interview with Ermelinda Damiano, President of the Venice City Council



The Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights interviewed the President of the Venice City Council Ermelinda Damiano about her role, and specifically about the local policies and activities related to women's rights.

Every year, the City of Venice offers many initiatives for the 8 March. In which direction should the city look to plan a possible future for its inhabitants and in particular for the women who come to study and live here?

The City of Venice is very active in proposing initiatives aimed at women together with other authorities, institutions or associations of the city with events that take stock of some aspects of their lives: from health to the fight against gender violence, from the role of women in art and culture to the issue of equality in the workplace and useful paths to reduce the gender gap in all fields. These are important opportunities for reflection that aim to raise awareness among citizens and to find concrete solutions together to remove the obstacles present still today in women's life paths.

A commitment that finds its maximum expression in the month of March, which for many years, is characterized by a multiplicity of initiatives and contributions that are useful in laying the foundations for a future that must increasingly see women as protagonists, the real engines of the world.

Based on its history, Venice as the first Republic of Europe and an example of values such as freedom, rights and democracy that are very dear to the Global Campus of Human Rights, how relevant is human rights education for our city?

Venice with its history has a lot to teach, we cannot forget its historical vocation of a city open to the world, a crossroads of peoples and cultures, a city of dialogue and hospitality. From this history, full of important values made of freedom, respect and democracy, education on human rights is becoming essential, but unfortunately still today

rights are being seriously violated in many parts of the world. Proper human rights education must aim at countering those germs of hatred and intolerance present in all societies, but also to promote respect since childhood and adolescence to the principles of equality, dignity and justice, without forgetting to provide all people with the tools they need to exercise their own rights, and respect and defend those of others. If we then think of women, human rights education becomes even more essential. Most of the human rights that are violated concern the world of women: from the scourge of violence, to trafficking and sexual exploitation, to women's work, from child brides to the denied freedoms. Situations that represent a world in which women's rights still cannot be taken for granted and indeed must be constantly vindicated, defended and protected.

From this point of view, could you also share your priorities in the field of policies for the inclusion of women?

A lot of work needs to be done on inclusion activities and from this point of view it is necessary that all the institutions do their part to guarantee women the much-desired gender equality. The Municipality of Venice has been engaged for years in a series of measures and interventions aimed at promoting a culture of inclusion to fight stereotypes and in particular gender-based violence. And it does so through the Municipality's Anti-Violence Center and the protection of the victims, through punctual interventions in schools to stimulate new generations to discussion and dialogue, to help them build greater awareness of their own emotions and relationship dynamics, throughout a series of awareness-raising initiatives open to citizens that are being developed even during the



month of November, dedicated entirely to the fight against gender violence.

In recent years, great attention has also been paid to the toponymy, through the naming of streets and roundabouts after the women who made great the history of our country and which are often forgotten or little valued. Finally, among the three-year objectives in the single programming document 2022/2024 we have included that of promoting the achievement of equality of gender through initiatives to enhance the role of women in various fields of society: in the family, in the economy, in the culture and in the preservation of Venetian traditions; the implementation of projects and activities in support of the principle of equal opportunities by monitoring the actions taken to affect gender inequalities through actions in various fields: education, work, violence prevention, health, parenting support, childcare and adolescence, also through the study and introduction of gender balance.

Venice is a window for Italy and for the whole world. What do you think are the most important events on the agenda for 2023 and the main challenges?

The main challenges revolve around the word “sustainability” in which respect the City of Venice has recently seen the birth of the ambitious project called “Venezia Capitale della Sostenibilità” (Venice capital of sustainability) with the aim of creating an integrated model (environmental, economic, social) for the country and the world, attractive for investments and for ideas and which also involves our Municipality as a founding member of the Foundation with the same name.

The sphere of activity of the Foundation is developed around 10 key themes which are

relevant to the sustainable development of Venice around which the main projects will rotate. Among these is the theme of social inclusion which, if placed from the perspective of gender equality, it is clear that sustainability and inclusion of women are supported by each other. There can be no real ecological transition without the social one. On the other hand, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, among the 17 Goals that aim to improve everyone’s life, both environmental and gender equality are in fifth place. The centrality of issues related to overcoming gender inequalities comes also reaffirmed in the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) which identifies the Equality of gender as one of the three cross-cutting priorities pursued in all missions that make up the Plan itself. Our commitment, therefore, must go in this direction.

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

To all the students and teachers of Global Campus of Human Rights, I address my heartfelt thanks and congratulations for the activity carried out in recent years and for the dedication and passion in supporting university education and the culture that could and must contribute to the development of our city. Venice is proud of you.



Interview with Mahsa Kayyal, Global Campus Visiting Researcher



The Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights had the opportunity to ask the GC visiting researcher Mahsa Kayyal about her experience in Venice and the situation of women in her country of origin Iran.

Please share with us about your background and your role as a visiting researcher and in the EMA Master Programme at the headquarters of the Global Campus of Human Rights.

I am a PhD student in International Law at Tehran University and a Visiting Researcher at the Global Campus of Human Rights Headquarters in Venice. My research is about “the evaluation of non-discrimination and equality in Human Rights European Court jurisdiction”. Also, I hold an LLM in human rights and have over fifteen years of experience as a Lawyer in the field of human rights, with particular expertise in women’s and children’s rights.

During my time in Venice, I tried to play a role in raising students’ awareness of the discrimination against children and women in Iran, especially after anti-state protests broke out across Iran in supporting women’s rights.

In this regard, I have published a post on the blog about Protecting International Human Rights Mechanisms for Children’s Rights in Iran. And I gave a speech during the human rights film week for students of EMA about the status of children’s rights in Iran.

In the future, there will be research on discrimination against women in the Middle East.

How could Venice become more efficient, attractive and prepared to host events and programmes for academic activities in the near future?

I think Venice, as a popular tourist, refugee, and migrant destination, has everything needed to attract students to a higher education program and multinational events. Although, to become more a driving force in both our local and international communities, it just simply needs to apply of its

human rights field capabilities.

Venice is not only is a tourist destination full of charm and beauty, but also it has also welcomed refugees and migrants into its borders, that giving the city a culturally and religiously diverse face which can consider as a human rights educational field in equity and human rights. I personally believe, a winter human rights school about equality and non-discrimination with a focus on awareness raising for women’s equity would be one of the best opportunities for students who want to thoroughly investigate the evaluation of these concepts, especially in Venice.

In addition, celebrating events about women’s human rights, especially on International Women’s Day could change Venice into the most orange color city at a global level which raise awareness of women’s work, the challenges they face, and gender equality.

So, using the potential of Venice city will represent a major influence on the Global Campus of Human Rights to create a forum for discussion of Venice’s and human rights education’s potential in futures.

Regarding your involvement in the Global Campus online conversation related to the international women’s day, could you describe the situation of women in your country Iran and how the international community could support the movements to protect their rights?

Women in Iran are among the Middle East’s most educated but are subjected to a broad range of discriminatory laws and practices. In Iran, Women have unequal and highly limited rights to divorce, inheritance rights, and traveling outside of Iran. The age of criminal responsibility for women begins very soon from 9 years old and some



crimes bring flogging and death sentences for women. In addition, a women's court testimony is worth half that of a man's. Women in Iran also suffer workplace, political, and public sphere discrimination.

Every day, women in Iran see their rights challenged and face systemic human rights abuses and discrimination. The peaceful advocacy of women's rights is criminalized and many women have been imprisoned for their activism. Recently, the murder of 22-year-old Masha Amini in government custody due to an inappropriate hijab led to a new wave of widespread protests for women since September 2022, in whole cities of Iran. Anti-government demonstrations support the rights of Iranian women and eliminate discrimination towards them with the motto of "Women, the life, freedom". This is a wonderful movement that started in the Middle East in support of women.

Unfortunately, protesters faced aggressive violence from the Islamic Republic of Iran's government. Many youths were killed by shooting or beating in the streets, universities, and schools or in custody. Many of them were injured or got blind. Women in custody were raped and sexually abused, and other protesters were deprived of education and lost their jobs.

Worst of all, some protesters are sentenced to death without a fair trial and are currently at risk of imminent execution. But the international community should not watch these tragedies. Although, according to supporting of the international community, The UN Human Rights Council's decision to investigate the Islamic Republic's lethal violence against protesters in the country and the vote of the UN Economic and Social Council to remove the Islamic Republic of Iran from the UN Commission on the Status of Women are signals broad support by the international community for Iran's embattled movement for social and political change.

Yet executions are being carried out in Iran and there is more the world can and must do to support the struggle for freedom in Iran. So, the international community can support movements to protect their rights. Coordinated and sustained action by the international community has been effective in reducing government abuse in many cases around the world. If statesmen around the world speak up and citizens share information about the violent suppression of protesters in Iran, the IRI government will realize that the world is watching and condemning its actions. A strong and coordinated international alliance in the international community can be the best solution that could support the victims of the Islamic Republic's violent repression of peaceful dissent and its systemic discrimination against women, even against the most powerful forces.

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

Indeed, our world would be a scary place for women without equity. It gives women the courage to save our world in perfect harmony with their amazing kindness. So each one of us, in whatever position we are, as students, teachers, alumni, etc., must do our best to embrace equity for women. Also, we should keep in our mind that treating everyone equally is not the best path to achieving equity. By treating everyone fairly and considering their circumstances, it will be accomplished.

It is not important whether our action is a small-scale movement or a large one, we are all able to challenge gender stereotypes, call out discrimination, draw attention to bias, and seek out inclusion in every situation. So, within our respective spheres of influence, each of us can actively support and embrace equity.

Let's all embrace gender equity and make it a daily priority to make the world a better place for everyone to live.

News & Events

Dili Human Rights Week and Human Rights Centre Handover

New Capacity Development Initiative with the Moldova State University

MOOC Transitology:

Pathways to and from Democracy

Strengthening Political Process Through Technical Assistance

Venice School for Human Rights Defenders

18th Summer School on Cinema, Human Rights and Advocacy

6th Online Global Campus of Human Rights Conversations: Embrace Equity
Global Campus Awarded Theses 2020/2021

Global Campus Human Rights Journal
Press Statement on the Death of HRDA Graduate Thulani Maseko

15th Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition

Nominations of 2023 Right Livelihood Laureates

Afghan New Year's Celebration ("Nowruz")

300 participants joined the “Dili Human Rights Education Week” and celebrated the handover of the Human Rights Centre

From 10 to 15 December, the EU Delegation to Timor-Leste together with the Global Campus of Human Rights and the National University (UNTL) jointly organised a closing event to present and discuss the results of the four-year capacity building project “Development of Human Rights Education and Research at the UNTL” as well as the final handover ceremony of the newly established UNTL Human Rights Centre.

This umbrella event comprised a series of academic and outreach activities under the patronage of the Presidency of the Republic and in the context of year marking the 20th anniversary of the Timorese independence. The opening session took place on 10 December, the international human rights day, with the launch of the trilingual textbook “*Our Human Rights, our Future!*”, the first editorial initiative of this kind, aiming at supporting students and lecturers of the new undergraduate course available across all Faculties. This was also the occasion to award 21 UNTL lecturers with their diplomas for having finalised the training of trainers on human rights education organised by the Centre in 2022.

Other activities of the week included the presentation of the master’s theses by the Timorese human rights defenders who successfully completed the Global Campus Asia-Pacific programme; the publication of the first research project of the UNTL Human Rights Centre, focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the state of human rights; the sub-regional launch of the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberties; the screening of the awarded documentary “*Bigger Than Us*” together with the Embassy of France; and a stakeholders workshop to discuss the future perspectives for the UNTL Human Rights Centre.



Surely, the most important moment of the week was represented by the high-level handover of the Human Rights Centre from the Global Campus to the National University. This was organised as part of the ceremony for the awarding of the prestigious “*Sergio Vieira de Mello Human Rights Prize*”, conferred by the President of the Republic since 2009. This event represented the deserved conclusion for all tireless efforts made during the project implementation, and to proudly celebrate the success story of this new academic institution aimed at contributing to a more just and equitable Timor-Leste for the generations to come.

With the closing of the project, a new chapter opens up for the UNTL Human Rights Centre which will continue its core activities while also enduring the close collaboration with the Global Campus through joint projects, and as an associate of the regional network for the Asia-Pacific. At the same time, the Global Campus will build on this successful model and continue supporting other emerging universities of developing countries.

For more information about this project, visit the web-page gchumanrights.org/hrc-untl or contact the project manager Adriano Remiddi adriano.remiddi@gchumanrights.org



GC and GC Caucasus launch a new capacity development initiative with the Moldova State University

The Global Campus of Human Rights together with its GC Caucasus regional network are proud to enter into a cooperation with the Moldova State University (MSU) as part of the GC Capacity Development programme.

This new partnership was officially kicked-off in Chisinau on 1 February with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding aimed to support the promotion and protection of human rights, democracy and sustainable development in the Republic of Moldova through innovative human rights education activities, with a special attention to the rights of children, youth and next generations.

The cooperation will be centred on the implementation of the project “Promoting Human and Children’s Rights Education at the Moldova State University” with a thematic focus on the impact of new technologies on the rights of children and youth. This project is the first step in the process of integration of the MSU into the Global Campus of Human Rights by the academic year 2024/25 as a full member within the regional hub for the Caucasus and the Eastern Partnership, coordinated by the Yerevan State University.

The project launching event was attended by representatives of the MSU administration, professors and students from the MSU Law Faculty and its Scientific Research Laboratory “Comparative Public Law and e-Government”, by the Minister of Environment Jordana-Rodica Iordanov, delegates from the Ministries of Education and Research, of Justice, of Social Protection, Health and Family, and from the Office of the People’s Advocate (Ombudsperson). Likewise, the event was honoured by representatives of the EU Delegation in Moldova, the Embassy of Italy as well as civil society organisations focused on human and children’s rights, such as the National Center for State Courts, Child, Community, Family - CCF Moldova and the National Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

In this context, Igor Sarov, Ph.D., Rector of Moldova State University, expressed his openness to the implementation of the project, considering that investments in human resources - university staff and students - must be supported, in order to strengthen the institutional capacities for training a solid pool of professionals, able to integrate on the labour market in the dynamics of global social realities. Serghei Brinza, Dean of the MSU Faculty of Law remarked that assuming the obligations to implement the project represents a new challenge for the MSU teaching staff and students, as a result of which the establishment of cooperative relations with local and foreign partners and alignment with the values and activities of the



Global Campus of Human Rights are indispensable. Furthermore, Ciobanu Rodica, Head of the Public Law Department, emphasised the responsibility that rests with the MSU by signing the Memorandum and, on the other hand, the opportunities for internationalization, which can become a reality through collaboration and common efforts. In this sense, she noted that the successful example of the Yerevan State University (Armenia), constitutes a strong argument for accepting challenges and committing towards the integration into the Global Campus of Human Rights and adhere to its values.

Through a video message, Prof. Manfred Nowak, GC Secretary General, expressed his strong confidence that, thanks to the joint effort of so many key actors, this capacity development project will be as successful as the recent cooperation experience with the National University of Timor-Leste. According to Mr. Adriano Remiddi, Head of the GC Capacity Development programme, this project will allow for the MSU to follow the virtuous path of all main public universities from the eastern, central and southeast Europe and join the Global Campus in the context of their EU accession process. During the meeting Ms. Kristine Gevorgyan, Coordinator of the GC Caucasus for Yerevan State University - Center for European Studies, stressed the regional dimension of this initiative, stating that "the involvement of the Moldova State University not only will enhance the GC Caucasus programme through inclusion of new partner university into the consortium with clear focus on child rights, but it will also boost the promotion of human and child rights in Moldova, strengthen cooperation between regional universities and stimulate internationalisation processes".

This project is supported by the Right Livelihood and will be implemented until July 2024.

For more info, contact the project manager Adriano Remiddi at adriano.remiddi@gchumanrights.org



MOOC Transitology: Pathways to and from democracy

Transitology is a concept and analytical framework applied in political and social science to analyse and assess political regime change and the subsequent consolidation process of democratic institutions, such as parliamentarians, elections, civil society, or the rule of law. It explains the different pathways how democratic institutions and regimes slowly consolidate and strengthen over time. Transitology also explains why weak and corrupted democratic institutions fail and backslide into authoritarian political practices and, subsequently, autocracies.

Such processes of transition and democratisation (transitology) have been seen, for example, in countries and societies in Europe after WWII in 1945, during and after the decolonisation process in Africa and Latin America in the 1960s, and after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Not all have been successful, and many are today authoritarian regimes or electoral democracies, if at all.

Regime change and the transition from one regime type and mode of governance to another do not say much about whether a regime is democratic or whether the rule of law, human rights, or good governance principles are adhered to. What consolidates and successfully transforms democratic institutions into 'stable democracies' are the pathways of participatory, inclusive, and trustworthy adherence and compliance with democratic rules and human rights. If that is not the case, the regime never becomes democratic in the first place. Regimes that have a short, decade-long experience of democratic elections but do not further strengthen the rule of law and civil society or non-partisan media become dysfunctional and most likely backslide into authoritarian rulership – as seen in many countries, including post-soviet Russia or post-colonial countries such as Nigeria, and post-junta regimes such as Venezuela.

In this MOOC, academic lecturers in the field of Regime/System Transformation, Quality of Democracy, Elections, and Comparative Politics have been invited to teach, as well as practitioners, data analysts, and policymakers from countries that are currently struggling with the backsliding of democratic institutions and/or are in demanding political regime change in their countries.



The faculty includes, among others:

- Arusyak Aleksanyan, Head of the Research Unit and Lecturer, Center for European Studies at Yerevan State University
- Mozn Hassan/NAZRA, Right Livelihood Laureate 2016, Egypt
- Damir Kapidžić, Professor of Comparative Politics, University of Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Wolfgang Merkel, Emeritus Professor at WZB/Senior Scholar at the Democracy Institute of the Central European University in Budapest
- Leonardo Morlino, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at LUISS, Rome
- Pippa Norris, Paul F. McGuire Lecturer in Comparative Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University/Founding Director of the Electoral Integrity Project
- Jacqueline Moudeina, Right Livelihood Laureate 2011
- Thomas Millar, INTPA, EU Commission

The MOOC is designed by Dr. Anja Mihr (OSCE Academy in Bishkek & Center on Governance through Human Rights in Berlin), who is also the main lecturer in the course, and managed by the E-Learning Department of the Global Campus of Human Rights (GC).

Course dates: From 20 February to 26 March 2023

Website: gchumanrights.org/transitology.html



Strengthening Political Process 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.



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.

Course dates: 20 – 23 April 2023

Website: gchumanrights.org/ta



Venice School for Human Rights Defenders

Human rights defenders play an essential role in the realisation of rights and promotion of equality. Not only do they fight for human rights in situations of oppression and abuse, they also act as monitors, drawing attention both to their respective communities and to the international community to otherwise neglected violations and threats.

They assist victims in claiming their rights and contribute to holding those in power accountable, thereby combatting cultures of impunity, which serve to cloak systematic and repeated breaches of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Furthermore, by linking the local level to the global and the global to the local, human rights defenders contribute to sustaining a circle of empowerment at all levels.

Whether acting individually or as part of an organised group, human rights defenders are often the target of reprisals and may themselves be subject to human rights violations. Because their work is in many contexts systematically hampered, there is an increasing understanding within the international community of the importance of safeguarding and facilitating human rights defenders at national, regional and international level.

Why choose this course?

During the training programme, participants will be able to:

- Develop human rights defenders' advocacy skills and expertise
- Enhance the ability of human rights defenders to engage strategically with UN mechanisms and examining how they can use them to bolster their work at the national level
- Develop diplomatic and civil society networks
- Share knowledge and expertise which human rights defenders can use to ensure their voice is central in international human rights decision-making processes
- Develop strategies and techniques to increase the potential of human rights defenders' national and regional advocacy work
- Discuss best practices and ways forward through the mutual exchange of experiences
- Develop networks among Sakharov fellows and other human rights defenders



Course dates: 10 – 17 June 2023

Application deadline: 14 May 2023

Website: gchumanrights.org/veniceschool



Summer School on Cinema, Human Rights and Advocacy

The 18th 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 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 80th Venice International Film Festival is supported.

The programme has a focus on the rights of children and young people in the broader framework of human rights protection and promotion. 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

Deadline for scholarship applicants: 30 April 2023

Deadline for self-funded applicants: 30 May 2023

Scholarships for children's rights experts available!

Website: gchumanrights.org/chra



Online Global Campus of Human Rights Conversations “International Women’s Day 2023: Embrace Equity”

The 6th online Global Campus of Human Rights Conversation took place on Wednesday 8 March 2023 and featured the following speakers:

- Ermelinda Damiano, President of the Council of the City of Venice
- Domenica Bumma, European External Action Service (EEAS)
- Mahsa Kayyal, Global Campus of Human Rights Visiting Researcher from Iran
- Laura De Dilectis, Association DonnexStrada
- Manfred Nowak, Global Campus Secretary General
- Elisabetta Noli, Global Campus Administrative Director (moderator)

Live illustrations were done by artist Nicola Ferrarese.

We live in difficult times with different crisis exacerbating human suffering, widening inequalities, and threatening peoples' livelihoods. The UN Secretary General has described it as a human crisis that is fast becoming a human rights crisis challenging societies at their very core moving people further apart, distancing conversations. To face the future in a spirit of hope, investing in the education of young generations, in creativity and in the continuous encounter with the others will be pivotal.

In this effort, the Global Campus of Human Rights wishes to provide safe spaces where views on important topics for our sustainable future can be freely imagined and exchanged, crossed, fertilised, and experimented, in the encounter with others.

This Conversation provided an occasion for partners, our staff, professors, alumni and students to actively participate in the discussion to imagine a gender-equal world free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination where difference is valued.

internationalwomensday.com

For more information, please contact pressoffice@gchumanrights.org

#GCHumanRights #GCHumanRightspress #GCHumanRightsConversations #EmbraceEquity #IWD23



Global Campus Awarded Theses 2020/2021

The best master theses of the Global Campus of Human Rights for the academic year 2020/2021 are now online. Since 2013, the Global Campus of Human Rights has granted this award to recognize the exceptional work of students and encourage the highest levels of research and writing.

The Global Campus master theses come from the research and field work of graduates of seven Regional Masters (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Caucasus, Europe, South East Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Arab world) and cover a range of different international topics and challenges that are central to the study and research on human rights.

The Global Campus awarded theses for the academic year 2020/2021 are:

- Daklo, Andrews Kwame, *Access to Healthcare for Persons with Albinism in Ghana: A Human Rights Approach*. Supervisors: Annette Lansink, University of Venda (South Africa) and Charles Ngweni, University of Pretoria. Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa (HRDA), coordinated by Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/1415>
- Dhami, Dharmendra Bahadur, *Caste Discrimination: A Study on Existing Law and Its Implementation on Inter-Caste Marriage of Dalits in Rukum, Western Nepal*. Supervisor: Wasantha Seneviratne, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Asia Pacific (APMA), coordinated by Mahidol University (Thailand).
<http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/1414>
- Gogueva, Zemfira, *Between Tradition and Fundamentalism: Muslim Women's Rights in the North Caucasus*. Supervisor: Maria Hristova, Lewis and Clark Liberal Art College (USA). Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in the Caucasus (CES), coordinated by Yerevan State University.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/1413>
- Janković, Ana, *The Experiences of Humanitarian Aid Workers in Serbia: Testing the Impact of Organisational Support on Mental Health Outcomes*. Supervisor: Anna Krasteva, New Bulgarian University. 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/10.25330/1412>
- Ryan, Carmen, *Iniciativas de presupuesto con perspectiva de género en Argentina. La trama detrás de la experiencia local*. Supervisor: Pilar Arcidiácono, UBA – CONICET (Argentina). 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/10.25330/1411>
- Tisi, Alessandra, *Patent rights or patient rights? An Assessment of Intellectual Property and Right to Health within the Covid-19 Pandemic*. Supervisors: Steven L. B. Jensen, Danish Institute for Human Rights and Lars Binderup, University of Southern Denmark. European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA), coordinated by the Global Campus of Human Rights Headquarters.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/1410>

To be published:

- Bara, Rawad, *Cinema as a Tool for Human Rights Education and Reconciliation in Post-conflict Communities, the Lebanese Cinema and the Civil War as a Case Study (Arabic)*. Supervisor: Rabi Haddad, Saint Joseph University of Beirut. Arab Master's Programme in Democracy and Human Rights (ARMA), coordinated by Saint Joseph University (Lebanon).



Global Campus Human Rights Journal: Fifth Issue Now Online

The Global Campus Human Rights Journal Volume 5, No 1 is now available [online](#).

The Global Campus of Human Rights enriches its online publications with the latest issue of the Global Campus Human Rights Journal (GCHRJ). Launched in 2017 and already counting on thousands of readers around the world, the GCHRJ keeps serving as a forum for rigorous scholarly analysis, critical commentaries, and reports on recent developments pertaining to human rights and democratisation globally.

CONTENTS

Global Classroom: The COVID-19 pandemic and socio-economic rights

- [Introduction: The COVID-19 pandemic and socio-economic rights](#)
Rachel Kurian
- [The right to education in the Caucasus in the course of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
Sergey Ghazinyan, Ana Teresa Corzanego Khatounian, Christina Tatoueva, Jakub Wojsyk and Zemfira Gogueva
- [A she-cession? Exploring labour policy responses to COVID-19 and their impact on women's right to work in Europe](#)
Chiara Altafin, Manuela Baiker, Ríon McCall Magan, Francesca Mancarella and Mariana Ferreira
- [The pandemic and access to healthcare: Economic inequality and marginalisation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia](#)
Miloš Burzan, Imane Bellaadem, Selma Alispahić, Carolina Muzzillo and Giulia Russo
- [The realisation of the right to social security during COVID-19 in Africa: Case studies of Cameroon, Kenya and South Africa](#)
Ashina Mtsumi, Lihle Mabuza, Benjamin Tonga, Robert Akoto Amofo and Wilson Macharia
- [Envisioning the new normal in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic: Inequality, COVID-19 and vulnerability](#)
Dharmendra Bahadur Dhami, Zhouzheng Huang, Graciela Awkit and Sirikanya Santayakul

ARTICLE

[A critical review of the relationship between academic freedom and democracy in Ghana's public universities: From pre-independence to the Fourth Republic](#)

Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua

REVIEW

[Enhancing children's participation in research: A review of 'the limits of giving voice'](#)

Mark P. Capaldi



Press Statement:

Centre for Human Rights expresses shock and sadness at the death of human rights defender and HRDA graduate Thulani Maseko

PRETORIA

It is with great shock and profound sadness that we at the Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria, learnt about the assassination of Thulani Maseko on 21 January 2023. He was shot dead in front of his family in his home south of Mbabane, Eswatini, in what can only be described as a targeted killing.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife and family in this difficult and traumatising time.

Experienced and committed human rights defender

Thulani was a human rights defender of great and justified reputation. He was deeply dedicated to human rights, the rule of law and democracy in Eswatini. He slept, breathed, ate and walked human rights. He was also a spirited and committed public intellectual, not shying away from the risk of taking public positions at odds with that of the powerful monarchy.

Thulani was a founder member of Lawyers for Human Rights (Swaziland), of which he became the Executive Director, and where he also served as a Trustee before stepping down in 2018. Thulani has also worked for the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) for several years as a consultant based in Eswatini/Swaziland. He has for the last years worked as an attorney in private practice focusing mostly on human rights and constitutional litigation. As the chair of the Multi-Stakeholder Forum, a coalition of various stakeholders advocating for constitutional reform, Thulani has taken a leading role in the ongoing pro-democracy campaign in Eswatini.

It appears that his unwavering commitment to these principles, and his leading role in the current pro-democracy protests, have cost him his life. Thulani's shooting came as the government is embarking on intensified efforts to silence pro-democracy and human rights advocates in Eswatini. It also followed just after Majesty King Mswati III declared unreservedly that the 'demonic elements' perpetrating disharmony and disrespect in Eswatini will be eliminated in 2023.

Student

Many of us at the Centre got to know Thulani in 2005, when he was a student, graduating with the LLM in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa (HRDA). He spent the 'second semester' of the HRDA programme at Makerere University, Uganda. After the HRDA programme, in 2006, Thulani did a judicial clerkship at the Constitutional Court of South Africa with the then Chief Justice Pius Nkondo Langa.

We remember him from those times, and subsequently, as a deeply ethical person, generous and gentle, tenacious and tough, principled and passionate, fearless and friendly, with an openness to life and endearing smile for everyone. In his interactions, he exuded warmth and compassion. He leaves behind many colleagues who became dear friends.

Thulani also graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Law (BA Law, 1994), a Bachelor of Laws (LLB, 1997) from the University of Swaziland, and a Master's Degree in International Legal Studies from the American University Washington College of Law, 2011.

Prisoner of conscience

Thulani was, famously, convicted for contempt of court on 18 March 2014, along with journalist Bheki Makhubu, after criticising Swaziland's judicial system. In the dock, as an accused, he made the following statement, in which he placed the matter in its broader political context, calling for a constitutional monarchy: 'We deny that the call for a constitutional monarchy is a call to overthrow the monarch in Swaziland. We are calling for a system of government where democratic governance can and will co-exist with a monarchy whose powers are properly limited by law ... so that nobody is above the law, but the law, is the ruler.' (Centre for Human Rights calls on South African government to engage Swaziland government on encroachment of free expression, 29 July 2014.)

Thulani was sentenced to two years'



imprisonment, a gravely disproportionate punishment, and one of the longest imprisonment terms ever imposed under a common law jurisdiction. for this offence. On 30 June 2015, Thulani and Bheki were released after the Supreme Court found that they had been wrongly convicted, and overturned the High Court's judgment. The High Court admitted that great injustice had been done to him by his trial, conviction and imprisonment.

While serving his sentence, Thulani was placed in solitary confinement for three weeks for writing letters to his supporters. While in prison, he wrote: "One thing is clear; we may not know how long we will be in these jails, nevertheless, we will defeat not only imprisonment but our jailors as well. We will walk and the prison door will open. We will return, and return we will, alive. And we will sit at the table of brotherhood with our jailors to negotiate the future of Swaziland" (Thulani Maseko, 'Why We Are Jailed').

Vera Chirwa Awardee

The Centre awarded the prestigious Vera Chirwa Award to him in 2011, for his devotion to the cause of improving the lives of people in Africa and especially in Swaziland/Eswatini, through his fearless pro-democracy activism and his personal sacrifice. At the time, he was Executive Director of Lawyers for Human Rights (Swaziland), and already very active as a human rights defender and public intellectual. The Vera Chirwa award is made annually to one of the graduates of the HRDA programme, for outstanding professional achievements in the protection or the promotion of human rights, and the strengthening of democracy in Africa.

Scholar

Thulani was an excellent communicator. He spoke persuasively and passionately. He wrote eagerly and with a consistent clarity of purpose. He published, among other peer reviewed contributions, the following: Thulani Maseko 'The drafting of the Constitution of Swaziland, 2005' (2008) 8 *African Human Rights Law Journal* 312-336; and Thulani R. Maseko and Lukman Abdulraun 'Constitutional Implementation: The Swaziland Experience' in CM Fombad (ed) *The implementation of modern African Constitutions:*

Challenges and prospects (PULP, 2016).

For the last few years, Thulani has been working on a doctorate in Law (LLD) at the Centre, on the topic: 'Challenges to the right to political participation under the traditional Tinkhundla System of Government in Eswatini, under the supervision of Professor Michelo Hansungule. Regrettably, a final version of the thesis has not been submitted.

Thulani's legacy

In one of his statements from prison, he wrote: 'We have to pursue these ideals until the end of our days. In the words of the Reverend Martin Luther Jr., one has to believe in something, believe in it until the end of the days. Not only that, we have to be a reflection of the change we want to see in the world. So, I do believe that the dignity and humanity of the people of Swaziland, across Africa and the world can only be restored with the full enjoyment of all human rights, fundamental freedoms, and civil liberties without distinction. We have to stand up for 'Dignity and Justice for All'. Africa must rise up from the darkness of repression and walk forthrightly to the bright sunshine of human rights.'

We honour you, Thulani.

We mourn your unnecessary passing. As a Centre, we will, together with our alumni, seek ways to allow your death to shine a piercing light on all that is wrong in Eswatini. We will also do all we can to ensure that those responsible for your death are brought to justice. With admiration, we remember your humility and fearlessness. We celebrate your life of selfless sacrifice.

Long may your example inspire generations of human rights defenders experiencing hardships in their struggle for human rights, the rule of law, and democracy, in the face of oppression, authoritarianism, and violence.

For more information, please contact:

frans.viljoen@up.ac.za

davina.murden@up.ac.za



15th Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition

The 15th Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition adopts a hybrid format, with the in-person final rounds scheduled to take place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland from 17 – 21 July 2023 and the preliminary virtual rounds (online) scheduled to take place from 20 – 27 May 2023.

Students from all universities across the world are invited to apply and argue a hypothetical human rights case before judges from leading international tribunals and human rights experts.

21 - 31 May 2023 (Preliminary Rounds Online)

17 - 22 July 2023 (Final Rounds In Person, Geneva)

The Competition will be held in English, French and Spanish.

Website: chr.up.ac.za/worldmoot

Help Right Livelihood to find their next Laureates

Your nominee could become the next Right Livelihood Laureate.

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 nominate now. Nominations for the Right Livelihood Award are fully open to the public and can be submitted through their online web form. Nominations are accepted in English, French and Spanish and can be submitted from mid-December until early March.

Once a nomination has been received, we reach out directly to the nominee for some points of information and their formal consent, which is a key aspect of our “do no harm” principle.

rightlivelihood.org

Afghan New Year's Celebration (“Nowruz”)

Within the network of the [Afghanistan programme](#) supported by Right Livelihood and the EU, the Global Campus of Human Rights is excited to organise the second Afghan New Year's celebration (“Nowruz”) and the first symposium where we bring together all our scholarship recipients. This will take place at our cherished Monastery of San Nicolò on 31 March and 1 April.

After all the administrative difficulties and the emotional rollercoaster in getting to this point, we can't wait to get to know all our programme participants in person and share this moment of being together and celebrating Afghanistan's culture (and amazing food and music).



Promotion

The GC at the Opening Ceremony of our
partner Venice International University
2nd Semester
Events of the Municipality of Venice
Related to “MARZO DONNA 2023”



Global Campus of Human Rights at the Opening Ceremony of our partner Venice International University (VIU) 2nd Semester

The semester of our partner Venice International University (VIU) was inaugurated with the Lectio Magistralis “Metaversity: the University in the Internet Age” delivered by Prof. Riccardo Pietrabissa, Rector of the University School for Advanced Studies IUSS Pavia.

The Opening Remarks were made by Amassador Umberto Vattani, President of Venice International University and Prof. Carmelo Marabello, the Dean of Venice International University.

The Communications and Public Relations Office of the Global Campus was present in an exhibition area with a stand next to other local academic institutions like Ca' Foscari University, IUAV University and Padova University.

More info [here](#).

communications@gchumanrights.org

Events of the Municipality of Venice related to “MARZO DONNA 2023”

The Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights was present at the diverse events organised by the local Municipality in Mestre and in Venice related to the month of March when women's day is celebrated around the city.

In particular our sixth edition of the online Global Campus of Human Rights conversation was presented to the joint session of the Commissions II, III, VI and X of the City Council of Venice where all the different political parties representatives were attending.

More info: <https://www.comune.venezia.it/content/marzo-donna-2023-homepage>

communications@gchumanrights.org



For more information, contact the
Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights
Elisa Aquino – Isotta Esposito – Giulia Ballarin
pressoffice@gchumanrights.org



#GCHumanRights
#GCHumanRightsPress
#GCHumanRightsMagazine

Headquarters:

Monastery of San Nicolò
Riviera San Nicolò, 26
30126 Venice Lido (Italy)

gchumanrights.org

This project is co-funded by the European Union



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS

giz



**Right
Livelihood
FOUNDATION**