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Global Campus of Human Rights
MAGAZINE



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Editorial

MANFRED NOWAK

Secretary General
of the Global Campus
of Human Rights

The core of the 14th edition of the Global Campus Magazine are highly impressive students' "Capstone Projects". These are examples of powerful storytelling about specific issues of human rights and social justice, inspired by **Albie Sachs**, **Andrew Leon Hanna** and other well-known teachers in our new online course called "Authoring Justice". By touching the hearts and minds of readers, these narrative nonfiction works aim at affecting change around a world in which democracy, human rights, social justice, international peace and international law are rapidly backsliding. The wars in Ukraine, Gaza and Lebanon are the most obvious examples that have a devastating impact on our educational activities. When we planned to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Arab Master in Democracy and Human Rights during our graduation ceremony in Beirut on 27 September, heavy shelling of Beirut prevented both events, and we are currently busy to find safe places for our students and graduates of the Arab Master at universities in Europe, Africa and Asia. In this context, I wish to draw our readers' attention to the powerful message of the Academic Coordinator of the Arab Master, **Jihad Nammour**, which was part of our press release and is reproduced below.

The Graduation and Inauguration Ceremony of the European Master in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA) took place only a few days earlier on 22 September, this time in the Scuola Grande San Giovanni Evangelista in Venice. Our most prominent keynote speaker was the Prime Minister of Kosovo, **Albin Kurti**, whom our EMA students have met in most of the 20 years that **Marijana Grandits** had been organizing our field and study trip to Kosovo. This is also a reminder that even 25 years after the end of the armed

conflict between Serb forces and the Kosovo Liberation Army, Kosovo finds itself still in a post-conflict situation with a heavy presence of international peace-building organisations.

The second keynote speaker was **Sabrina Ugolini**, who served as President of the Italian Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights before she was recently appointed Italian Ambassador for Afghanistan. In her Interview, she outlined the finalisation of National Action Plans as top priority of the Italian Government and emphasized that higher education as well as the "teaching of civic education, in schools at all levels, are key tools to promote human rights, inclusion and non-discrimination". Her message to the GC is to have the courage to promote fundamental rights as a "daily exercise". The EU was represented by **Micha Ramakers** from INTPA who reminded us that, together with the EU Member States, "the EU provides over half of the official development assistance to education worldwide" and that the Global Campus is in this regard "particularly important for the EU".

This edition contains also interviews with two remarkable women who were awarded prizes during the EMA Graduation Ceremony. The well-known Indonesian LGBTQ+ musician **Kai Mata** is the winner of the second edition of the Joint Annual Engaged Artist Award: "In my six years as a musician, I'm proud to have gained a reputation for turning trials into triumphs, venom into vitality, and death threats into love notes. To counteract current cultural waves of discrimination – from targeted legislation to societal stigma towards sexual minorities – I highlight celebration as rebellion, pride as protest, and joy as resistance." **Andra Matei**, an EMA graduate of 2007 who founded and leads Avant-Garde Lawyers in Paris, the only organization in the world providing specialized legal support to artists, received the 2024 EMA Alumni Award for her outstanding work in supporting artists being censored, harassed, persecuted and

imprisoned from across the world. Her time at the Global Campus was “transformative. It sharpened my understanding of human rights and deepened my commitment to standing up against injustice worldwide.”

I wish to close this short editorial by drawing our readers’ attention to a beautifully written tribute by **George Ulrich** in memoriam of **Koen de Feyter**, who like Andra Matei has dedicated his far too short life to human rights with a particular emphasis on freedom of the

arts. Koen was among the founders of EMA in the late 1990s and, as European Programme Director has introduced in 2004 many innovative elements into the EMA curriculum and our Venice events. Koen will always have a special place in the hearts and minds of many members of the Global Campus community.

Interviews



Micha Ramakers

Deputy Head of Unit Gender Equality, Human Rights and Democratic Governance, DG INTPA, European Commission

The Press Office had the opportunity to interview the Deputy Head of Unit Gender Equality, Human Rights and Democratic Governance, DG INTPA, European Commission, Micha Ramakers about his views on the importance and challenges in the field of Human Rights Education.

What is the importance that the EU gives to

Education on Human Rights and Democracy? How is the European Commission's Directorate General for International Partnerships and in particular your Unit supporting this type of education around the world in your current programmes and plans?

First, I should highlight that the EU has put education, which is a human right as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, at the heart of post-pandemic recovery, almost doubling its global spending on education to over EUR 6 billion for 2021-2027. More than 10% of its international partnerships budget for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific, and 10%



The Global Campus of Human Rights is particularly important for the EU. The EU has been the main supporter of the Master's Programmes in Human Rights and Democratization since 1997. [...] And we're particularly proud of the more than 4500 graduates from the programme, who work across the globe to promote human rights and democracy, in civil society organisations, the public sector, and, increasingly, the private sector.



of its humanitarian aid budget, currently goes towards education. Together with the EU Member States, in a Team Europe approach, the EU provides over half of the official development assistance to education worldwide.

Second, as required by the EU Treaties and the Global Europe legal basis for our actions, human rights, gender equality, and democratic governance are mainstreamed in our programmes and strategies, for example the Global Gateway strategy. The Commission also specifically supports Human Rights and Democracy education in many ways and forms with funding from its Human Rights and Democracy Programme, including in schools and for specific target groups, in many countries around the world. This can include, for example, civic education, raising awareness on human rights for marginalised groups, promoting gender equality, promoting political participation, and so on. Human Rights education can be delivered through civil society partners, multilateral organisations, national human rights institutions, and others.

The Global Campus of Human Rights is particularly important for the EU. The EU has been the main supporter of the

Master's Programmes in Human Rights and Democratization since 1997. We're delighted that this initiative has now grown into a centre of excellence and a world-wide network that includes over 100 universities. And we're particularly proud of the more than 4500 graduates from the programme, who work across the globe to promote human rights and democracy, in civil society organisations, the public sector, and, increasingly, the private sector.

What are the challenges do you think the EU will need to confront in the next years related to Human Rights?

In a context of many and increasing global crises, including armed conflict on the European continent, in the EU's neighbourhood, and in many other areas of the world, the European Union will continue to play a pivotal role in addressing pressing issues related to human rights violations and abuses, democratic backsliding, and rising to the new challenges of our ever more digitalised world.

This includes working on protecting and empowering individuals, building resilient, inclusive and democratic societies, promoting a global system for human rights

and democracy, harnessing opportunities and addressing challenges and ensuring we deliver by working with partners. Our priorities are set out in the EU's Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, which we recently extended until 2027, and which is matched by considerable financial resources from the Global Europe Human Rights and Democracy Programme 2021-2027, which has a budget of some 1.5 billion euro, roughly half of which is used for projects in partner countries and half for global and regional programmes, including support to the multilateral human rights system.

Could you give a personal message to students and professors of the Global Campus of Human Rights?

After decades of progress, we now live in a world where human rights and democracy

are increasingly attacked, and narratives are developed or resurface that question the universality, indivisibility, and interdependence of human rights. There's a backlash against many groups, including LGBTIQ persons, women, labour rights workers, indigenous peoples, and environmental human rights defenders. This backlash involves the use of pernicious new strategies and tools, notably in the digital sphere, that we had not seen before. In such a world, human rights students and professors are more than ever key actors and drivers of renewed positive change. In this great undertaking we hope to cross your paths in the future, and we wish that you can all realise your dreams and aspirations – and contribute to a world in which the human rights of all are upheld.

Sabrina Ugolini

Ex-President of the CIDU and now Ambassador of Italy in Afghanistan

The Press Office had the opportunity to interview the ex-President of the CIDU and now Ambassador of Italy in Afghanistan Sabrina Ugolini about her diverse functions and expectations.

What is the function of the CIDU (Comitato Interministeriale per i Diritti Umani)?

The CIDU was established in 1978 as a governmental body coordinating the national response in relation to the obligations assumed by Italy as a signatory country to

international treaties and conventions for the protection and promotion of human rights.

It is located at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and its members include representatives of Ministries, administrations and public bodies that in various capacities deal with human rights issues.

As a central part of its mandate, CIDU acts as a sort of focal point for the United Nations on the respect of human rights in Italy, in particular for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva. According to the UN system "language", the CIDU falls within the category of the so-called National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRFs).

Likewise, we work as focal point for two mechanisms of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, namely the Committee for the Prevention of Torture-CPT and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance-ECRI.

With regard to the European Union, we are National Liaison Officer for the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), based in Vienna, which plays an important role in raising awareness, monitoring and disseminating information on the multiple and new dimensions of human rights.

On all these activities, CIDU annually prepares a report to the Italian Parliament, which represents an important information link between the institutions.

Could you share with us your vision for the

priorities of the CIDU in the years to come?

Undoubtedly, I would say that a priority will be to consolidate the activity of developing the NAPs - National Action Plans, of which we are the custodians: the Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and the one on Business & Human Rights (BHR). As for the former, we have involved the civil society in defining and elaborating the next edition of the Plan (2025-2030), through a transparent and constructive dialogue.

On the NAP on Business & Human Rights - a sector of growing relevance - inspired by the guiding principles of the UN and the sustainable development in economic, social and environmental matters, according to the 17 SDGs of the UN 2030 Agenda, a working group "open" to civil society is equally active,



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which periodically identifies priorities and objectives to work on.

The constant dialogue with civil society is, after all, one of the CIDU's priorities, also within the broader framework of the UN Universal Periodic Review, that Italy will undertake at the United Nations in Geneva, at the beginning of 2025.

What are the challenges ahead in the next years in the human rights and democracy fields?

I believe it is important to work on “communicating rights” in the coming years, that is, what we can do so that communication on human rights becomes increasingly effective, trying to promote a stronger cultural and civic pathway. Overall, we need to ensure that the promotion and protection of human rights become factors of development and cohesion of our modern societies.

How fundamental is the high education to solve many issues in those areas?

Higher education as well as the teaching of civic education, in schools at all levels, are key tools to promote human rights, inclusion and

non-discrimination, with particular reference to the most vulnerable or marginalized groups, and are a first antidote against discriminations, bullying, cyber-bullying and hate speech.

Could you give a message to our community at the Global Campus of Human Rights?

The active role of academic institutions such as the Global Campus greatly complements the efforts to promote and protect human rights at the international level, and they also constitutes a valuable form of action and commitment at the local level.

The message is perhaps to always have the courage to promote fundamental rights as a “daily exercise”, in defense of a qualifying dimension of democracy and sustainable development.

Kai Mata

Winner of the second edition of the Joint Annual Engaged Artist Award

The Press Office had the honour to interview the winner of the second edition of the Joint Annual Engaged Artist Award Kai Mata about her artistic career and the meaning of this prize for her in the future.

Could you tell us more about your background and career as artist and activist (Artist)?

I am an Indonesian LGBTIQ+ Musician who uses music to amplify the minority experience in Indonesia and abroad. With a particular focus on gender and sexual orientation rights, I am motivated to showcase to LGBTIQ+ youth that we are more than the suffering societally imposed upon us. In my six years as a musician, I'm proud to have gained a reputation for turning trials into triumphs, venom into vitality, and death threats into love notes. To counteract current cultural waves of discrimination—from targeted legislation to societal stigma towards sexual minorities—I highlight celebration as rebellion, pride as protest, and joy as resistance.

Who I am and the work I do is the result of the fear and loneliness that surged through me when I was a teenager in Jakarta, frightened at the consequences I would face for liking a girl. The only media I saw regarding LGBTQ+ Indonesians were the public canings of a lesbian couple in Aceh, the invasive speculation on whether certain celebrities were gay (as if that were a major scandal), or the Indonesian Psychiatric Association publicly demonizing LGBTQ identities as a contagious mental illness that needs curing. In the 21st Century, LGBTQ+ Indonesians have been implicated as the cause of ecological disaster, economic failure, and moral erosion. Thus, I vowed to hide my sexual orientation from the world. With no one to turn to, I used songwriting to explore my emotional landscape. It started from a place of pain and isolation. And with enough time, in the solitude of my bedroom, the music shifted to have more acceptance for who I am, even developing into pride.

My goal as an artist is to be the person I wish I could have seen in the media when I was a lonely teenager, someone who could have shown me we as LGBTQ+ people are worthy of living, worthy of loving, and worthy of being loved.



Who I am and the work I do is the result of the fear and loneliness that surged through me when I was a teenager in Jakarta, frightened at the consequences I would face for liking a girl. My goal as an artist is to be the person I wish I could have seen in the media when I was a lonely teenager, someone who could have shown me we as LGBTQ+ people are worthy of living, worthy of loving, and worthy of being loved.





You obtained the second Joint Annual Artist Award on Atrocity Prevention and Human Rights. What are your future plans during the given period of artistic research residency both in Italy and US?

During the yearlong residency as the Joint Annual Artist Award Winner, I am spending my time in Italy and the USA finding grounded inspiration in my next project, where I will expand my scope beyond LGBTQ+ identities to include ethnic minorities and the Indonesian feminist movement.

Artistically, I aspire to grow in my ability to merge traditional Indonesian musical

elements with the modern landscape of the industry, ensuring that my message remains rooted in Indonesian culture even when taken abroad. Equally as important, being hosted by academic institutions, I am looking forward to representing activism as an integral part of the solution for change-making. Many of us, including myself, started through grassroots, on-the-ground efforts and a lo-fi ethic. We make up for limited resources with impassioned hearts and booming voices. But our power can be amplified through being included in the strong foundations in traditional institutions like the Global Campus of Human Rights. I feel a responsibility to honor the award with the awareness that the opportunity

I have received is a very rare one by existing as a living testimony of the real-world impact and value of artistic activism. Hopefully, my work can encourage other organizations to formally arrange similar awards for even more activists.

How should we keep strengthening the links between arts and human rights?

Many artists have historically imbued their projects with a hope for world development and a more just society. This has been seen across the globe—whether the rallying cry of Kendrick Lamar's "Alright" igniting U.S. protesters in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement, the poetic, homophonic wordplay of slogans chanted in the 2019 - 2020 Hong Kong Protests, or Michaelangelo's David in resistance against the Medici's political dynasty. Art is typically at the forefront of cultural changes, capable of quickly responding and even igniting change. Thus, creating collaborations between artists and legislative bodies, civil society organizations, and academic institutions creates a mutually beneficial relationship to tackle issues with multiple entry points concurrently. We artists need the work of researchers and academics to deepen the intellectual grounding of our

projects, allowing us to bring complex topics and issues in relatable, emotive ways that the public at large will seek out.

Could you give a message to the students, professors, alumni, staff and partners of the global campus for human rights?

I am grateful that the Global Campus of Human Rights has recognized the impact and scope of my work, especially since I operate outside of traditional structures of change-making. Although I don't speak for all activists, I know many of us want to be of service, as I know you are too. I encourage us all to reach out to each other and collaborate across disciplines and fields, as a united effort can propel our impact beyond what we can do as individuals. I believe a major aspect of what has bestowed me the title of Joint Annual Engaged Artist Award Winner is my current lack of embarrassment in approaching others for advice, collaborations, and offering my resources.

I want to remind us all to widen our networks and actively seek out people we can both be supported by and provide support for. We all hold influence and power to be change-makers in our lives.

Andra Matei

Winner of the EMA Alumni Award and funder of Avant-Garde Lawyers

The Press Office had the occasion to interview the winner of the EMA Alumni Award 2024 Andra Matei about her work at AvantGarde Lawyers and the experience of earning this recognition.

Could you tell us more about yourself, your EMA experience and your role now at AvantGarde Lawyers?

I am a Paris based free-speech lawyer, with distinction of Advocate Emeritus from the Québec Bar. I graduated with a Master's degree in Human Rights and Democratization from the European Master's Programme at the Global Campus of Human Rights in 2007. My time at the Global Campus was transformative.



It sharpened my understanding of human rights, and deepened my commitment to standing up against injustice worldwide. It is at the Global Campus that I forged some of the most important relationships of my life, and I am truly grateful to count faculty and fellow alumni amongst close collaborators and friends today.

Currently, I am the Founding Director at Avant-Garde Lawyers. At AGL, I am working to ensure that artists can imagine and create freely. To fulfill our mission, we leverage the full potential of the law in order to expand the space for artistic freedom both inside and outside the courts. In the past six years, we have supported artists being censored, harassed, persecuted, and imprisoned from across the world. I am proud to share that

Avant-Garde Lawyers is the only organisation in the world providing specialised legal support to artists.

What means for you to be the recipient of the EMAlumni Award 2024?

The EMA network comprises thousands of professionals working in the field of human rights. The solidarity and support of this community has played an important role in ensuring that I am able to implement my ideas and build a ground-breaking movement from scratch. Recognition from my peers in the form of the EMAlumni Award means a lot to me. It assures me that I am not alone in this work, and that the values that I stand for are shared, understood and appreciated by this network of brilliant individuals.

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For me - the most crucial challenge in relation to promoting human rights and democracy is the stifling of dissenting voices. Freedom of expression is crucial to be able to raise concerns about human rights violations and to hold governments accountable. In the absence of this crucial right, public debate and movements for the realisation of all other rights become impossible.

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What will the most important challenges be in relation to promoting human rights and democracy in the years to come? How might EMA graduates continue to help?

Across the world, we are witnessing the backsliding of democratic values and human rights. This is exacerbated by geopolitical conflicts and rising authoritarianism. But for me - the most crucial challenge in relation to promoting human rights and democracy is the stifling of dissenting voices. Freedom of expression is crucial to be able to raise concerns about human rights violations and to hold governments accountable. In the absence of this crucial right, public debate and movements for the realisation of all other rights become impossible.

EMA graduates can play an instrumental role in promoting the right to freedom of expression as a fundamental right. Through different instruments, be it law, public policy, art, literature or academia, they can keep defending this value and ensuring that it does not get drowned out amongst the noise of so many other, seemingly more urgent issues.

Could you give a message to our Global Campus community?

There is a tendency amongst human rights defenders, including myself to automatically assume who the good guys and the bad guys are, and this is a very dangerous tendency in an increasingly binary world.

If we think we perfectly understand the complicity of geopolitical conflict, then we all need to think better, we need to see better – there are many truths and we are probably looking at one of them. If I were to send one message to the community then it would be this: look for feelings of uncertainty, contradictorality and confusion.

When we are confused, it is the first sign that we are beginning to grasp the complexity of a situation - we don't function from default setting, we don't carry our prejudices with us, we are more open to the other. And this precisely the space where real conversation can take place. Don't be yourself, be the other!

Authoring Justice Capstone Projects

This year, the Global Campus of Human Rights debuted an exciting new online course called "Authoring Justice." The course focuses on how to write powerful narrative nonfiction works about issues of human rights and social justice – using storytelling to touch the hearts and minds of readers, affecting change around the world. This first iteration included lessons from award-winning authors and human rights leaders, including Professor Andrew Leon Hanna (the main lecturer), Justice Albie Sachs, Casey Gerald, Kao Kalia Yang, Jemma Neville, and Joel Rickett.

The inaugural cohort of students are human rights advocates, lawyers, professors, and researchers from across the globe with a wide range of focus areas – from peace mediation in Ukraine to equitable access to technology in Nepal and beyond. The following pages feature a few selected examples of the students' "Capstone Projects," which were designed to be either standalone long-form works or components of books they are now beginning to write.

THREE MOTHERS AND A RAID

By Dawne Y. Curry

On 10 December 1976, the police from John Vorster Square raided and ransacked the home belonging to Hilda Phahle, an educator from Alexandra Township in northeastern Johannesburg, South Africa. The story that she recounts involves George and Levi Phahle, two of her sons who both went into exile in Botswana where they lived in that nation's capital, Gaborone. George operated a transport business while Lindi was a social worker for the Botswanan government. Lindi's cousin Joseph Malaza was only visiting Gaborone for the night. The other house occupant, Levi Phahle, George's younger brother and Phahle's last born ultimately became a survivor, an eyewitness and a modern-day griot-storyteller.

The family's trouble began in the seventies not too long after the Soweto Uprising when it began on 16 June 1976. Students marched out of Morris Isaacson High School to protest the imposition of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction for all classes. The revolt, which lasted over the year, also encouraged students and ANC and Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) activists alike to flee the country and go into exile. This backdrop set the tone for the government's harassment of the Phahle family.

On one occasion, the police paid a visit and "they. . . did not have the decency to tell us what they were looking for. Their language was spiced with the violence of words."

Phahle concluded that this episode began the beginning of the rest of her beloved son George's life. George's life expired on 14 June 1985 when the South African Defence Force (SADF) crossed international borders and raided their home in Gaborone. Lindi, George's wife and her brother, Joseph Malaza also lost their lives from gunfire.

News of this assault reached Alexandra via the radio. An announcer proudly reported SADF's successful raid. The units had flushed out ANC exiles and had annihilated them. *The Sunday Times* denigrated George while *The City Express* offered a consoling report. Television channels broadcast scenes of the raid. The same communicative power used its platform to prove that George was a terrible man who had deserved his merciless death.

Phahle wanted confirmation. She called her son and daughter-in-law, but there was no response. She phoned a friend in Botswana who confirmed the deaths. Phahle then asked herself, "how does a parent receive and react to such devastating news?" "All she said [was] . . . 'My God, My God, have You forsaken me?'"

When Phahle finally settled down, she gained the courage to inform Lindi's mother of her daughter's passing. Later on, during the day, her son Levi Phahle, the sole survivor, phoned to break the tragic news. Levi survived because he had hidden underneath the bed. They killed Joseph Malaza thinking that he was him.

On the night of the raid, Levi explains how the SADF arrived swearing. They behaved as if they were drugged and drunk. They wanted George to open the door, but instead, the couple ran into his bedroom where they pushed his portable piano against it. Lindi knelt on the floor faced down.

George fell over her as a sign of protection. The SADF blew the door wide open. The piano fell against Levi's bed where he took cover and watched the events unfold.

Levi saw them pump bullets into his brother and his wife. The bullets penetrated them simultaneously. The police then turned over face upwards with one asking, "is hulle dood?" (are they dead)? "Morsdood-stone dead) was their reply. God spared Levi to tell this story, otherwise Phahle would have lost two sons that day.

Mamokete Malaza was another mother who lost her son Joseph Malaza during the Gaborone Raid. Malaza went to Phahle's house after all the wailing and crying that had occurred when she and her family heard the horrific news.

Phahle, Esther Mthembu (another parent who lost a child) and Malaza attained a kombi (mini-van taxi) to transport the cadavers back to South Africa from Botswana.

It took six or seven days before the three mothers had reached their destination. Immediately upon their arrival, local community members transported them to church so that they could pray on their behalf. They went to George's place and found it in extreme shambles. "The house was damaged beyond repair. It was proclaimed uninhabitable. All the furniture was bullet-damaged, nothing in the wardrobe was spared by the police." Flora, the family's helper, survived because she had spent the night out. Her room also stood in shambles. By witnessing this horrific scene, the mothers carried out two responsibilities.

First and foremost, Phahle, Mthembu and Mamokete carried out African cosmological duties when they visited the sites of death. Their journeys enabled them to tell the spirits that they were taking them back home to South Africa. These fulfilled responsibilities meant that the parents had engaged in two processes: reclamation—the pursuit to find the whereabouts of the deceased and to reclaim their cadavers for proper burial services. The other mission, repatriation, undertook several activities.

Of most important were the church services that women attended. They did this until the Botswana government finally announced that all the assassinated victims were going to be buried on Wednesday. The mothers arrived to witness big white sheets inscribed with the names of the decedents. Malaza looked frantically for her son Joseph's name. She found it at the bottom. It was only then that Malaza believed that her son was among those killed.

Despite Malaza's pleas to take Joseph Malaza back to Soweto, the Botswanans had to follow protocol. They telexed Pretoria for permission to bury Joseph in South Africa. After the official papers arrived, the three women began their journey back to South Africa.

When they reached the border gates, Phahle, Mthembu and Malaza ran into some trouble. Attendants wanted to open Joseph's black coffin, but they struggled to open it. When all attempts proved futile, they finally let them pass. All three mothers completed repatriation, which was another goal that these mothers pursued when they went to Botswana, by conducting a proper burial. These parents firmly believed that their children deserved to rest in peace on the soil that they had died for.

"[Their] children fled [South Africa's] oppression. They went into exile, fighting for their rights,

for the land of their birth, the land of their forefathers.” The SADF followed George and Lindi to Gaborone, to torture and to massacre them beyond reason. Phahle’s, Mtembu’s and Malaza’s children stood among the approximately 21,000 South Africans who died under apartheid from gunshots, pistol whippings, torture, bludgeons or ‘alleged’ suicide. Their deaths made them part of the collective oral obituary that the apartheid regime created.

Oral obituaries are testimonies that discuss how people died rather than how they lived. They document past times, eating habits, first words, last words, the positions of the cadavers, the decedents’ political affiliations and sporting activities that provided a briefing of the last days of their earthly life.

This whole affair conjured up three other oral obituaries that existed. For instance, the ‘Guns of Gaborone’ strike consumed the lives of fifteen men, women and children. The attack initiated and fomented militarized aggression. This encounter also wrote the ANC’s elegy. A cadre of Black and White South African soldiers took only forty minutes to kill anti-apartheid operatives, and to destroy 8 houses and 2 offices considered strategizing places for attacks against the regime (Dale, 1995). Levi Phahle also disinterred his brother and his sister-in-law’s life by giving his account of events to his mother in his oral obituary he constructed by his eyewitness narrative.

‘Liberation Struggle Eulogies: Death and Violence in Apartheid South Africa’ offers a unique perspective on how nations deal with the demise and sacrifice of those who undertake the task of liberation, with a focus on South Africa. It provides specific examples of important approaches to understanding how apartheid, the rigid system of racial segregation (1948-1994) denied the right to mourn on multiple occasions for different reasons during forty-six years of oppression. Officials dictated the date, time and length of funerals (Mzambu, 1996) and what survivors inscribed on tombstones (Curry, 2012). The state went as far as to disrupt the funerary process. Its police units invaded the sacred space, dispersed teargas and harassed attendants.

During the forty-six years in which apartheid operated, approximately 21,000 South Africans died (HSRC, 2019). They passed away from gunshot wounds, torture, bludgeoning, barbecuing and ‘alleged suicide.’

The central question that Liberation Struggle Eulogies addresses is the following: did Black South Africans enfranchise their grief by finding other ways to mourn or did they remain disempowered by never having full closure about the loss of loved ones?

Established the year after apartheid’s abolition in 1995, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) is a major repository of digital and written transcripts of 21,000 testifiers. A little over 2,000 respondents appeared at the various public hearings held throughout the country. The purpose of the TRC was to “promote reconciliation and forgiveness among perpetrators and victims of apartheid by full disclosure of the truth’ regarding gross human rights violations from 1960 to 1994 (Tutu, 1995). People came forward if they or their kin had been killed, abducted, tortured or severely ill treated for political reasons (Bozzoli, 1996).

Chroniclers documented the historical and structural background of apartheid’s violence, its system of racial oppression, and its gross violations of human rights (United States Peace Institute, 1995). The TRC sets the stage for many of the important questions engendered by its transcripts. The major concern is how did those testimonies provide a framework for analyzing and theorizing about death?

Respondents appeared in East London Cape Town, Johannesburg, and Durban to render testimonies that support the stages of eulogization that this study proposes. Sunrise connotes the deceased's birthdate and their baptism into politics. Twilight covers the period in which decedents neared their final hours while sunset marks their transitions from the earthly to the spiritual worlds. Each stage explores, interrogates and documents the ways in which the aggrieved tried to enfranchise their grief on behalf of the decedents.

This much-needed, innovative study, is crucial for understanding the anatomy of apartheid: (1) how state sponsored assassinations provided a structural framework for analyzing eulogies; (2) how the decedents' repatriation represents another type of obituary, (3) how the tombstones inscriptions conceal truth, and lastly, (4) how oral obituaries raise questions about childhood and adulthood.

ANC activist George Phahle crossed both age thresholds. His marital status connoted adulthood, however, his mother crossed international boundaries to perform maternal duties for her 'grown, adult child' who died violently during the South African-sponsored raid in Gaborone, Botswana.

The Truth Commission's oral testimonies and government documents like the Cillie Commission Report (findings of the Soweto Uprising (student revolt) provide important details about death. They include how loved ones pass away, the position of the cadavers, the decedents' ages, how survivors' reclaimed the corpses, visited the sites of death or had conversations with the fallen before they entered the celestial world. Despite criticism of the Truth Commission, this body like the Cillie Commission Report, deserves credit for the internment and exhumation that it carried out.

Governmental and TRC transcripts, oral testimonies, funerary art, cemetery visits, protest music and poems will carry the caskets (the narratives) into the analytical arena for public viewings or wakes of the liberation struggle eulogies.

During bereavement, subjects and 'wake' participants will grapple with how the TRC and the Cillie Commission's dirges represented three things: a form of repatriation, an edifice constructed by African oral traditions and a case study germane to other areas around the globe where repressive regimes inhibited or prohibited funerary practices. Thus, this innovative study conjured up by three women and a raid, is apartheid's elegy wrapped in an entanglement of systemic violence, racial oppression, and White minority rule.

HOW TO GET HOME

By Evghenii Alexandrovici Goloșceapov

The COVID-19 pandemic had an unexpected result: working with people living with HIV, I began to hear that others were becoming more accepting and friendly towards them. One day at a work meeting, a colleague of mine mentioned his HIV-positive status to an official. The official's response was very succinct and unexpected, but perfectly reflected the new reality: "HIV? Well, that's OK. We have COVID here!"

Suddenly, the world was faced with a more powerful, obscure and dangerous virus, one that made HIV pale in comparison. Yes, well, as we say, 'everything is a comparison'.

In fact, it was a kind of *déjà vu*. Fears and prejudices about HIV, which have been circulating in the world for 40 years, were magically transferred to COVID-19 and spun in society in the accelerated mode of a three-year pandemic. 'The virus doesn't exist - it's all made up by the authorities! Have you seen the virus yourself? It's a worldwide conspiracy, they want to scare us! This virus was developed in a foreign laboratory to kill us! We're all going to die!' All of these fears and prejudices have also spiralled among the officials whose decisions affect the lives of all of us. Our story is about this and about overcoming problems created by the people themselves, not by the virus.

* * *

It so happened that in 2009 I became the first Moldovan citizen who, thanks to the Chevening Scholarship, entered the prestigious Master's programme in Human Rights at the University of Essex in the UK. By doing so, I paved the way for Moldovan human rights defenders to study on this postgraduate programme. Several of my mates and colleagues followed my example, which I was very happy about. After all, the more well-trained professionals there are in the country, the faster we can achieve better living and development conditions for each and every one of us.

Exactly ten years later, in 2019, my mate and human rights activist Ion Schidu enrolled in the same Master's programme and his wife – Daniela Schidu – in another postgraduate programme at the University of Essex. Both were of average height and slim build, very hard working and aspiring. Ion, with expressive dark eyes and a small beard, was 35. Daniela, with long light brown hair and a kind smile complemented.

"it was the dream of my life to study abroad, and it came true thanks for the Chevening scholarship I've been awarded! But we didn't want to spend a year apart. To study together, we covered part of Ion's tuition and living expenses by selling our car. The rest was covered by our savings and by the fees Ion earned during the study year: it took him about 20 hours of online consultancy every week," Daniela explains.

All would have been well, but in early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic happened. Like many other organisations, the University of Essex moved to an online teaching regime. It became clear that you didn't have to be physically in the UK to continue your studies. In addition, the university informed the couple that health care workers would be placed in their dormitory to fight the

COVID-19, and so they would be relocated to other student accommodation. After weighing up the pros and cons, Ion and Daniela decided to return to Moldova.

“During this difficult period, we wanted to be close to family: loved ones might need our help, or we might need their help. I knew that the COVID would have major health impacts on my grandparents and mum. We were able to be a pillar at a time when we needed to be there for our family. And we really were there for them when they needed it,” Ion explains.

“Besides, another reason was uncertainty. There were very relaxed attitudes and rules in the UK at the time, in the sense that everyone would get over the disease and everything would be fine. There were cases where our classmates would call the ambulance service all day long, but it would always be busy or no one would answer the phone. But in Moldova, you know the doctors you can call - there is a personal relationship and trust that they will answer and help you. So, we decided that in such a situation like that, it was better to be in an environment that we knew well,” Daniela adds.

It is one thing to make a decision, but quite another to implement it in these uncertain times. “It was a bit of a challenge to book our tickets. It took about two weeks from the moment we decided to come back to the time of our return. Once we’d made up our minds, we wrote a letter to the Moldovan consulate in the UK and to the company selling charter tickets, asking to be put on the waiting list. A week later we got a positive response.”

It looked like everything was set for the flight. But on 31 March, the Moldovan authorities decided that only those Moldovan citizens who have a Moldovan compulsory health insurance policy will be allowed to board flights.

“We got why the authorities were making this demand. Health insurance is compulsory in Moldova, and it is enshrined in the legislation. But we didn’t get why the presence or absence of a policy affects the possibility of returning to the country? This led to the question of how legitimate it is to prohibit people without medical insurance from returning to Moldova? In our opinion, this condition is illegal even in an emergency situation,” says the couple.

“In addition, we found the mechanism of fulfilment of this requirement questionable. It turns out that an airport in another country should have refused to let a Moldovan citizen board a flight without a medical policy, even though they had a ticket and a passport.”

If you have citizenship of a country, that country is your home and you always have the right to return to it. But now, it seemed, the issue of health insurance could bring the possibility of returning into question.

Just picture this for a moment. You get back home in the evening after work, ring the doorbell, and it’s opened by your home ‘front porters’ with a question:

- *“Do you have health insurance?”*
- *“No.”*
- *“Then come back when you’ve got it,” they say and shut the door in your face.*

It is worth noting that the authorities in Moldova provide free health insurance for students. But

Ion and his wife were studying abroad, and this was not recorded in the database of the National Health Insurance Fund. “There was no mechanism for notifying the fund. The airlines, in turn, relied on this database to allow passengers on board.”

Normally, human rights defenders fight for the rights of others. But at that moment, Ion and his wife had to fight for themselves. “It gave us a lot of headaches,” Ion recalls. He wrote to the Moldovan Prime Minister and his advisor, as well as the foreign ministry, asking them to change the foundation's database so that students would not be forced to pay for health insurance.

“After making some noise, including on social media, I was contacted by the Prime Minister's advisor, who confirmed that students studying abroad do not have to buy health insurance. However, we then received a call from the company selling the tickets and were told that we had to buy the policy. Then, just 24 hours before the flight, we were told that we could fly without insurance. Even so, we still felt pretty uncertain.”

In this situation of confusion, the young couple decide to travel to Stansted Airport at their own risk without medical insurance. Their relative who drove the couple to the airport even joked to them, ‘Should I park and see if you get in or not?’ To their delight, they were given boarding passes and allowed to board the plane. However, the airline representatives told the couple that students who had travelled back to Moldova before them had bought an insurance. After several hours of a flight that seemed like a bad dream and resembled Armageddon with people wearing masks on their faces, fellow travellers coughing carelessly, constant disinfection of their hands, which made their skin dry and flaky, with flight attendants in white spacesuits, the couple arrive in Chişinău, the capital of Moldova.

It seems like we could be happy for the students and put an end to the story. But that's not quite where the story ends.

* * *

From 2018 to 2024, I was a member of the Equality Council. This is a public body that works to combat discrimination and promote equality in Moldova. But my 'love story' with the Council started much earlier.

At the end of 2010, I submitted my Master's thesis at the University of Essex, which included an analysis of discrimination issues, and returned to Moldova. To my delight, shortly afterwards the Ministry of Justice announced the creation of a working group to draft country's first ever anti-discrimination law, which I obviously joined.

What a naked professional joy it is to be involved in the creation of something new from scratch, at home, the national level, something strategic and useful for people, and even to be able to apply the fresh knowledge you have just acquired at a top-notch foreign university! I don't have to eat my bread – just let me think up something advanced and write it into the text of the law!

We worked on the draft for about a year, on a pro bono basis. On 25 May 2012, our work was crowned with success when Parliament voted on and passed the Law No. 121 on Ensuring Equality.

By that time, I had already spent four days working for the United Nations Development Programme in Moldova (UNDP). Over the next six years, therefore, I was able to programme and provide much needed and varied support for the implementation of this law and the creation and development of a new public body - the Equality Council. This included recruiting consultants, organising training, conferences and study visits, purchasing the necessary office equipment and scientific literature, conducting sociological research and developing the Social Distance Index survey, establishing cooperation with Moldovan authorities and foreign partners, optimising the drafting of decisions on complaints, developing a website, conducting public awareness campaigns, and much more. Over these years, the Council has become the youngest but already reputable public institution in Moldova.

In 2018, I applied for the competition to form a new composition of the Council and was appointed by the Parliament as one of its five members. Because of my active support for the Council, some of my mates joked that I had prepared my new workplace myself.

From the beginning of the pandemic, my colleagues and I at the Equality Council monitored the authorities' decisions to combat COVID-19. We realised that in these extraordinary circumstances, overreactions were possible and we could well run into problems. This is what happened on Tuesday, 31 March 2020, when I heard about the introduction of the health insurance rule.

Having dug through the Internet, I quickly found the Decision of the Commission for Emergency Situations that introduced this requirement. This decision specified that only those citizens who travel back to Moldova by plane should buy health insurance. Those who return to the country by car, bus or train can cross the border without health insurance.

Maybe this rule was introduced because the new virus was spread by air-and-drop rather than above-and-below-ground? Who knows! I'm not going to guess. But it was this aspect that caught my attention: you cannot do it by air, but you can do it by land! What's the logic of that? It became clear that we were dealing with discrimination: some citizens could return without any problems, while others were subjected to conditions – and the only difference was the means of transport used.

After discussing the discovered problem with our Council colleagues, we agreed that there were no reasonable and objective explanations, including medical ones, for this distinction of people. We also realised that there was an urgent need to act, as tens of thousands of people would not be able to return to Moldova because of this rule.

As you probably know, bureaucracy loves paper. But in this emergency situation, paper alone might not have been enough. That is why we did it in such a way: we were developing analyses and recommendations for changing the decision of the Commission for Emergency Situations. And in parallel, Council President Ian Feldman was already calling officials, explaining the problem and urging them to change the rules. On Friday, 3 April, the Council members – the President, Ms. Svetlana Doltu, Mr. Andrei Brighidin, Ms. Victorina Luca and myself – approved our analysis and recommendations we sent them to the authorities. On the same day, the obligation to have health insurance to return to the country was cancelled. This insurance rule was in force for three days.

* * *

I soon found out that Ion was in Chişinău and I phoned him to talk about all his 'adventures'. Now that he and Daniela had returned, they were able to exhale and even recall what had happened with a certain amount of humour. But as we talked, we also realised that we were working on the same problem in parallel. Each of us using our own methods and resources.

I don't know what was the last straw that overflowed the cup and changed the situation. I like to think that it was the belief in justice, knowing one's rights and standing up for them in a critical situation, complemented by simultaneous – albeit uncoordinated – efforts, that brought about the change.

* * *

Since the beginning of the pandemic, tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of citizens have returned to Moldova without presenting health insurance. Few of them know who acted and what was done so that they could return to their homes without unnecessary obstacles.

TALKING ABOUT A REVOLUTION: A CHRISTMAS CAROL

By Geanina Turcanu

Ghost 1: Christmas Past

“The Dictator is Dead!” It (no longer) was the silent word electrifying everyone's lips, the only word in the wide world that would make it whole out of a cordless phone chain of whispers, starting on Radio Free Europe, all the way up in Prague, and ending with my grandparents' village in North East Romania, bordering the next level frontier: Ukraine and Moldova.

Article 30, Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Freedom from State or Personal Interference in the above Rights

The morning of December 26, 1989, I heard it spelled out loud for the first time in my 5 years of life. Freed at last by my tiny grandmother's grave voice, from all the by now unchained chests, instantly filling up with the beginning of a new era's vibration. My granny was the sunniest human being ever, most resilient and least political, but then again, merely breathing was political back then. Tucked under my thick blanket, and without comprehending the historic significance of her statement, I was still struck by the sudden shift in the trend of private news delivery: never before had it been initiated by her and even less so, loudly. This time around, her sentence fled from the wood fuelled red brick stove, where she was multitasking breakfast, all the way down to the hall, filling in for the arrested greeting that would usually welcome our most omniscient and omnipotent neighbor, who now stormed in with the frozen expression of Munch's Angst. Her face was as always contained between her palms, yet this time the function of her gesture was not to preserve secrecy, but to admit defeat. The village's Rumor Mill herself was speechless.

The scratchy harsh sound of torn paper is still ringing in my ears, like it happened yesterday. My granny proceeded to rip off the first page from my older cousin's ABC schoolbook, aka the Dictator's portrait. She then removed his framed picture from the wall. “What if it's not true? What if he's coming back? Trouble is written all over your family, if that's the case!”, the Rumour Mill summoned cautiously. “Better wait and see that it gets confirmed!” My granny pointed at the Radio and with the power of her mind amplified its sound, or perhaps with her luminous smile, that could invariably melt down even the coldest winter, as it just did. It was in the news and that's as real as it'd ever get. Truth be told, some people had more to lose than others, when communism fell. The state apparatus had as many eyes as citizens who were willing to skip the queue for daily groceries, or save their skin if need be, at the price of spying on their neighbors. Mistrust was the first value instilled in me. You never knew who had signed the Pact with the D, so to protect yourself was to act as though everybody else but you did, for fear, or for need.

But that was the Ghost of Christmas past, or so we most thought. For me, and to a certain extent

for every other middle class child during the 90's, we were free. Which meant the Dictator's portrait was replaced with golden Orthodox icons (forbidden under the previous regime, a sudden counterintuitive freedom hit, following five decades of religious oppression), porcelain figures and most spectacularly... cable TV superheroes. They made three distinct symbolic dishes served on the transition menu, which one felt truly free to re-combine in an a la carte choice, to best suit their personality styles. The region you were coming from would determine the languages that you were already able to speak, and inform the ones that you were willing to learn. Kids in the capital and other bigger cities had access to LEGO bricks, debate clubs and alternative lifestyles, based not so much on economic differences, as much as on proximity to the West. By the time I was fifteen, I was studying in the bilingual English class. Because that was my and everyone else's ticket to building the dream life that we were fed for the subsequent decade to the Revolution - or at least a version of it portrayed on our holy Cable TV.

Ghost 2: Christmas Present

"Dear Student: We are pleased to inform you that you have been accepted to Central European University's Political Science MA. This year, CEU received over 3000 applications from more than a hundred countries around the world, making the selection process extremely competitive. We congratulate you on your success." My graduation year coincidentally marked 20 years since the Revolution.

Art. 30, UDHR: Freedom from State or Personal Interference in the above Rights

You know how in the news, in the aftermath of horrific crimes, journalists coalesce across the spectrum, from conservative to progressive, towards the very opposite strategy of that they would normally adopt, and decide not to disclose any distinctive traits of the criminal? They do it to prevent adding the critical drop to a boiling pot. To avoid bearing the guilt for blowing up the ideological powder keg on which we are all sitting, in the worst case scenario, or stirring into that illogical mixture and risk perpetuating the very same stereotypes that we are trying to fight, in the best case scenario! For the sake of preserving social harmony, or for lack of critical thinking skills, we never questioned what has become of the perpetrators in Romania. And who should have done it? It took a couple of years before the decimated state-controlled media regrouped itself. Private TVs excelled at importing what was sold abroad. The State Party shattered in a myriad different names, while still running on the same old electoral platforms. The price of dissent, even if legal, was to not resonate with the masses... To be sanctioned by the popular vote.

I didn't leave because of a lack of food. I didn't leave because of the lack of a roof. I left for lack of justice. I left for a rights based life. According to pre-Ukraine war UN statistics, 4 million Romanians had left the country since 1990, making up for a diaspora second largest only to Syria, a war torn state. But that's a narrative that landed flat with most of my newly found companions, who grew up in the heydays of democracy, and for whom my childhood equaled the Dark Middle Ages. Roughly, their parents were unable to relate to me were it not for either the iconic horror images from Romanian orphanages that circled the West on Christmas '89, followed by regular notorious news of robbery and human trafficking, or most random examples of co-nationals who made it

to top positions in their circles. My friends and partners would travel home with me in my and my country's Renaissance phase, chasing fading urban legends, only to experience a rampantly widening social gap between the rich and the poor, pushing Romania closer to infamous soap operas than to social Europe. They'd take pride in progressive views by befriending someone exotic enough to stand out and yet similar enough to fit in...

Except... fitting in was never my dream. They were power and I was speaking truth to power. And the last thing I wished for was to reinforce the flawed imagery of what a dream life as portrayed on our by now unholy cable TV looked like. Rather, by shining light on the unacknowledged and the unseen, I wished to expose the dying myth of "a savior" or "a match made in heaven" powered by a "Prince Charming on a white horse", in its plain planned obsolescence, all of which belongs to a uniform world that no longer holds or rings true. Assuming it ever did, beyond the propaganda trumpets cutting all across gender equality from socialism to liberalism. My dream friends and partners, from my twenties to my thirties, were all that and beyond, and yet I watched my relationships fail like domino pieces, pushed against my limits by the same currents that pulled them in, to begin with: my deepest wounds, stemming from the Revolution within. My unprocessed collective trauma, in its economic, social and human complexities, made and broke my life script as I was writing it.

- *What do you wanna do when you grow old?* asked my dream partner with a sense of urgency. An emergency like no other. At stake was our future. Our thirties were about to end and our dreams had not yet begun. We were well past asking ourselves what we wanted to do when we grew up, or even when we grew young. But... we still had a go, one final shot at happiness. Growing old. Together. We melted together across the East-West divide and it was the only thing that mattered. The rest was history. In the making. We sighed and sided, with our shared story, and golden cable TV dream!

- *You go first!* I giggled with a sense of electric expectation, half pleasure delaying and half people pleasing. Except... I'm no people pleaser. I read the rules before I break them, or so my Facebook cover photo states, and I have worked for an iconic NGO for about a decade - the equivalent of the Big Five in the world of world-savers. And yet, every time I must go first, I back down. As if the first move could potentially turn into a last piece of information, that might as well prove pivotal in turning the tables, and eventually flip my whole strategy on its head. I do that in my private life as well as in my work.

- *What did you get for Christmas... when you were my age?* his 5 year old nephew popped. Boom! A match made in Heaven - I can help the little one understand how freedom is born. That would clearly be news to him, inheritor of thousand years of stability, as impactful as the adversities plaguing my own country for generations.

-*When I was your age, you see, I got democracy, following... the Romanian Revolution!* I couldn't be any prouder of myself! Here's something we can bond over, my formative story, a Christmas present to remember... the blond little boy sank into his pillow, his big blue eyes widening to the point of overtaking his whole face, like in those Japanese anime I watched when I was 5.

-*What? Can you still buy that thing nowadays?*

My Cable TV like dream partner pulled my sleeve in a slight gesture of panic, his gorgeous

features as composed as ever, in a Ken type of grin, for whom it has just hit home that... he might be next to the wrong Barbie or even worse, next to no doll of sorts at all.

-Have you lost your mind? You're gonna traumatize this child! You're a lost case, no matter how happy we are, you keep spoiling it! Why can't you just drop the drama and live mindfully in the here and the now? You're living in the past. You should seriously consider therapy!

Ghost 3: Christmas Yet to Come

We are doomed to repeat the behaviors that make us sick, until we sit down with our feelings for long enough to become conscious of their roots. And then, boom! Change creeps in! When I will have added my Christmas story to the world children's encyclopedia, as a legitimate piece of history, and not as a transitory nuisance in the world of yesterday, then my dear, will be my "Christmas yet to come!"

THE THING ABOUT CHILDREN

By Machteld Vonk

In accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population in armed conflicts, States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict (UN CRC art. 38(4))

I had been thinking about my mother's story for some time. My mind had been travelling to her experiences of war as a girl, in a women's internment camp in Indonesia – where she, her mother and her four siblings, spend some two years of their lives. I know snippets of their story. I know my grandmother was on the brink of death at some point but miraculously recovered, I know they had little food and I know they were afraid each day that their brother would be taken to a men's camp. I also know my mother played and found ways to be a child despite their imprisonment. The thing about children is that they are immensely resourceful and think of ways to play however dire the circumstances.

Last month, students at my university placed a long line of children's shoes trailing all the way from their anti-war encampment to the building that houses the university board. The shoes represented children injured and killed in the war Israel was waging against Palestine after the 7 October attacks by Hamas on Israel. When I talked to the students in the encampment, they told me they wanted the university to show that it did not condone the killing of children. The encampment was removed by the police shortly afterwards.

But the line of shoes remained. Walking past this long line of children's shoes in the early morning on the silenced campus on my way to work, was an experience that is hard to describe. I followed the zigzagging line to the end and tried to take in each pair. The small red and blue sandals for a toddler that has just learned to walk, the pink princess shoes of a ten-year old girl, the worn-out soccer shoes of a boy on the brink of puberty, and the trainers of a well-known brand that would have been the pride of any 15-year old. I imagined the children who died during armed conflict and then the children who survived, and the burden they would carry with them into the future.

The thing about children is that they find joy in the smallest places. I imagined children running around campus in the bright yellow rain boots and purple ballerina's, playing, screaming, laughing, inspecting the trees in the small forest alongside the road to the university board building and swinging in the newly installed swing chairs on the grass. The thing about children is that they play no part in the wars they survive, but war will play a part in their lives long after it is over, whatever side those responsible for their wellbeing were on. And I thought of my mother, and how she played with whatever she could find in a Japanese internment camp World War II.

After liberation of their camp in August 1945, my mother's family stayed in Indonesia until the summer of 1947, before returning to the Netherlands on leave. Both my mother's four siblings and her parents survived the camps, my mother's maternal grandparents did not. My mother's father was a missionary, sent to Indonesia by the church in the early 1930's. Before leaving he married my grandmother who had been born and raised in Indonesia as the daughter of a

missionary. Their work did not end with the end of the war with Japan, so they returned to their church on Java and continued their work until they were due for leave in 1947.

In those years after the war with Japan, an independence war raged in Indonesia, which finally led to the recognition by the Netherlands of the independence that Indonesia had proclaimed in 1945, on 27 December 1947. This is a complex part of my family history, because it involves the colonialization of Indonesia by the Netherlands and the fact that my family lived there for an extended period during the 20th Century. During the Japanese occupation my mother and her siblings were imprisoned by the aggressor, but now they were involved in a war in which their motherland was the oppressor. This switch in perspective probably went unnoticed by my mother at the time, there was a war going on and they were afraid either way. She was 6 years old when the war with Japan ended in 1945 and 8 years old when here family returned to the Netherlands on leave in the Summer of 1947. This switch in perspective did, of course, influence how their experiences were perceived afterwards.

My mother remembers her father sitting just inside the door of their home at night with a gun, while gunshots were fired outside. Their house was built adjacent to the hospital that was part of the missionary project, and in the morning my mum and her sister would look at the injured from both sides arriving at the hospital. They helped looking after babies and small children, so the nurses had their hands free to look after the wounded. No surprise they both took up medical professions later in life.

My mother's family does not talk (much) about their experiences. My mother told me her parents never discussed their experiences during the Japanese occupation with their children, so they have no idea what happened to their father during his imprisonment. By the time they arrived in the Netherlands, there was no interest in their stories. The country was recovering from the German occupation and the terrible blight of the Holocaust. Zooming out, we all know that the Dutch were on the wrong side of history with the colonization of Indonesia. But my mother and her siblings were children. The thing about children is that they play no part in the wars they survive, but war will play a part in their lives long after it is over.

Almost all the world's nations are party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and have committed themselves to safeguarding children's rights. We know that children are affected by war in many more ways than adults simply because they are children. Armed conflicts impact their right to care, security, freedom of violence and abuse, education, protection, food and housing, medical treatment, play and so on. I know the Convention urges State Parties to take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by armed conflict and this includes the children on the other side of the conflict, something which is easily forgotten. But I think it would make much more sense to urge State Parties to accept that war in and of itself is a violation of children's rights.

A couple of weeks ago my mother's elder brother passed away. An old friend of my uncle led the service. He told us he had been instructed by my uncle not to talk about my uncle and his experiences as a child during the war. The service was about his faith and not his life. During the reception afterwards my cousins (all in their 50s and 60s) all had the same questions: does your mother talk about the war and the internment camps? What do you know about what happened to them? We all knew it had influenced their lives and ours and possibly our children's lives as well, but we did not really know what our parents had been through as children – just that it was rough

and that it was always there and was part of our history as well. My uncle was the eldest child and the keeper of the family history, but he and his stories are gone now.

Last week I discovered the line of children's shoes was no longer there. I found them in a big, messy pile close to the former encampment site. Next week they will probably be gone just like my uncle's stories of his and my mother's childhood during WW II. It worries me that we forget. Maybe only the grief for the children killed and the stories of the children who survived war can prevent us from starting new ones. We need to keep telling their stories over and over again, until we no longer forget that war destroys the lives of children. The thing about children is that they are the future. If we jeopardize their lives, we jeopardize the future.

News and Events



Ceremony of the Awarding of Diplomas of the “European Master’s Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation” 2023/2024

In a grand celebration of academic excellence and human rights advocacy, the European Master’s Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA, Global Campus Europe) marked the end of another successful academic year with its Diploma Awarding Ceremony held on 22 September 2024. The prestigious event took

place at the historical Scuola Grande San Giovanni Evangelista in Venice, serving as a testament to the dedication and passion of 82 graduates from 32 countries. The ceremony also marks a significant moment: the inauguration of the 28th cohort for the academic year 2024/2025, welcoming 78 students from 32 countries.

The ceremony was opened by Veronica Gomez, the President of the Global Campus of Human Rights, Manfred Nowak, the Secretary General of the Global Campus, Orla Ní Cheallacháin, EMA Programme Director and Diego Vecchiato from the Scuola Grande San Giovanni Evangelista. They extended a warm welcome to the

graduating students, their families, professors, and a global network of supporters, including representatives of the European Union as the main partner and donor, from partner organizations and local guests and the ceremony's keynote speakers.

The ceremony's opening speeches were given by Sabrina Ugolini, newly appointed President of the Italian Inter-Ministerial Committee for Human Rights, and Micha Ramakers, Deputy Head of Unit Gender Equality, Human Rights and Democratic Governance, DG INTPA, European Commission.

"The CIDU, placed since 1978 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, ensures the role of governmental coordination among Italian Administrations in their relations with international bodies on the issue of respect for human rights and has always fostered ongoing dialogue between institutions, civil society and academia," said Sabrina Ugolini.

"Today, we live in a world where human rights and democracy are increasingly attacked, and narratives are developed or resurface that question the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights. There is a backlash that involves the use of pernicious new strategies and tools, notably in the digital sphere,

that we had not seen before. In such a world human rights professionals are more than ever key actors and drivers of renewed positive change. This is why we support the Global Campus", said Micha Ramakers.

The highlight for students and guests was the keynote address by HE, Albin Kurti, Prime Minister of Kosovo. For 20 years EMA students have travelled to Kosovo at the end of their first semester to see first-hand the realities of human rights field work, and the wide range of actors that are required to rebuild society after war. This experience has always been a key highlight of the EMA year for our students, helping them to develop skills that are now more necessary than ever considering horrific violence taking place in Palestine, Ukraine, Sudan, Myanmar, and elsewhere.

"This academic year we have an even greater reason to celebrate, due to two milestones that have been reached. First, on December 10, 2023, we marked the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the landmark document that launched the modern human rights movement. And second, this year was also the 20th time that students from the EMA program embarked on a field trip to Kosova – the country I lead – to learn first hand about what it means to promote human rights and democratization in a real-

world setting. I have had the pleasure of welcoming them to Kosova every year." Declared Albin Kurti.

"The EMA graduates, celebrated during the 2024 Graduation Ceremony, remind us of the reason why the EMA programme and the Global Campus were established by our university network and the EU in the 1990s: to educate professionals ready to engage in the essential work demanded by global polycrises and conflict situations our world continues to be the stage of." - said Manfred Nowak. *"This expertise has always been key to assist countries torn apart by wars or taking their first steps into democracy."*

Established in 1997, the EMA programme is the longest-running and largest regional network in the Global Campus. In its decades-long history, the EMA programme has been a pioneer in inter-university cooperation growing from an original group of 10 universities to a network of 43 universities representing all EU member states, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The EMA programme is possible due to the dedication, energy and commitment of our 43 EMA Directors, who ensure that the programme continues to live up to the vision of its founders, to shape the state of the art in human rights education through mobility

“The EMA graduates, celebrated during the 2024 Graduation Ceremony, remind us of the reason why the EMA programme and the Global Campus were established by our university network and the EU in the 1990s: to educate professionals ready to engage in the essential work demanded by global polycrises and conflict situations our world continues to be the stage of.”

exchange and collaboration in teaching and research. The graduation ceremony, and governance meetings that take place before them, are an important moment to recognise and to celebrate the contributions of EMA universities, and the support they give to the graduating students throughout their academic journey in EMA.

Among significant moments of the Ceremony were the EMA Alumni Award 2024, introduced by H el ene Bauwens, President of the EMA Alumni Association. This year’s award was given to Andra Matei, founder of Avant-Garde Lawyers, for

her tireless work to protect cultural rights defenders and artists at risk and promote the right to freedom of artistic expression in a time where civic and cultural space is ever shrinking. The award is a glass sculpture entitled “Collective Memory” generously donated by artist Koen Vanmechelen and Fondazione Berengo. In addition, the second Joint Annual Engaged Artist Award on Atrocity Prevention and Human Rights has been presented to the artist Kai Mata. The year-long artistic residency award is symbolized with a Murano glass sculpture created by Venetian designer Eleonora Vaccari in collaboration with our partners from the Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities (AIPG) and Binghamton University (G-IMAP).

Finally, Global Campus Europe has given the second scholarship in memory of our late colleague Nicola Tonon, IT and web marketing specialist, to Abdus Sadiq, EMA student of the 2024/2025 cohort, from Pakistan.

“The EMA graduation ceremony 2024 is the occasion for the Global Campus of Human Rights to bring an old-time partnership into light, that with the Scuola Grande of San Giovanni Evangelista”, said Elisabetta Noli, Administrative Director

of the Global Campus. “The Scuola hosted one edition of the graduation in the past. This year, thanks to the Scuola welcoming us again, we have an opportunity to strengthen cooperation and include the EMA Graduation among the different human rights and democracy events in the Scuola’s rich portfolio as seat of the Venice Commission and of G7-related activities. We are sure this partnership will grow in the future and increase visibility of the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice.”

The ArTime Quartet contributed to the Ceremony’s special atmosphere with beautiful musical pieces, including Beethoven’s Ode to Joy, a tradition of the Ceremony honouring our shared spirit with the European institutions.

The event concluded with a sense of pride and accomplishment, marking not only the end of an academic journey but also the beginning of a new chapter for these human rights advocates. As the graduates embark on their respective paths, armed with knowledge, passion, and a global perspective, they carry with them the legacy of the Global Campus of Human Rights, reaffirming the commitment to a world where human rights are upheld and cherished by all.



Koen De Feyter In Memoriam

It is with shock and profound sadness that we in the Global Campus of Human Rights have received news of the sudden, untimely death of our friend and colleague Koen De Feyter.

Koen loved Venice. He loved the programmes and institutions that we have jointly established in the Monastery of San Nicolo: the European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA), the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC) and the Global Campus of Human Rights (GCHR). And motivated by this devotion, he has for a quarter of a century contributed to and left an indelible imprint on EMA, EIUC and GCHR endeavours in countless different ways.

Koen was a regular teacher in

the EMA programme from the very beginning. Representing the Maastricht University Faculty of Law, he was in the late 1990s responsible for organising an EMA teaching week on human rights and development titled 'globalisation and inequality'. This early engagement was emblematic of Koen's lifelong commitment to human rights as a vehicle for global social justice (see, for example *Human Rights: Social Justice in the Age of the Market*, Zed Books 2005). Being loaded with interactive exercises, discussion fora and an elaborate simulation event (the 'Agani village conference'), the teaching week moreover provided a venue for his equally profound dedication to 'student-oriented learning'.

In the academic year 2004-2005, Koen stepped up his

involvement and assumed the role of resident EMA Academic Coordinator / Programme Director. The EMA curriculum was at the time benefitting from an amazing diversity of inputs; its characteristic structure was beginning to crystallise but was not yet clearly defined. Koen therefore initiated a comprehensive curriculum review, which led to the distinction between a 'first stream' of mandatory and mostly plenary curriculum components organised in five thematic sections and a 'second stream' of elective course components conducted in smaller interactive groups.

Rolling seminars, master classes, clusters, and skills seminars, which remain hallmarks of EMA to this day, are all outcomes of this curriculum development effort, which served both to define and consolidate a common programme core and to facilitate a differentiated, personalised learning experience for the participating students. Being a staunch supporter of student-led initiatives, Koen established a 'lounge' in the monastery, envisioned as a student-controlled space to which visiting lecturers and experts could be invited at the end of a teaching day to further explore aspects of their teaching, or any current issues, in a relaxed, interactive atmosphere.

Towards the end of his year in Venice, Koen pursued another personal passion and took initiative to establish an EIUC (since Global Campus) Summer School on Cinema, Human Rights and Advocacy. He engaged filmmaker and photographer Nick Danziger and EMA graduate Claudia Modonesi in the initiative, and 19 years later they still remain responsible for the scientific coordination of this annual event organised by the GC project and training department in the Monastery of San Nicolo at the time of the Venice International Film Festival.

Koen's own teaching in the summer school tended to focus on exploring the importance of, and possible limits to, freedom of expression in the arts. This a theme that he has also elaborated in a more recent pioneering Global Campus undertaking, namely the music and human rights project leading to publication of the Routledge Companion to Music and Human Rights, Routledge 2022, to which he contributed a chapter.

Following a remarkably intense year in Venice, Koen assumed the position of Chair and Professor of International Law at his alma mater, the University of Antwerp. This provided a platform for him to further deepen the academic interests characterising his EMA involvement. As

convenor of the Law and Development Research Group at the University of Antwerp, he has remained a leading voice in this field leading, inter alia, to assuming editorial responsibility for the Encyclopedia of Law and Development, Edward Elgar 2021.

Soon after his return to Belgium, Koen launched an innovative inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional research initiative on 'localising human rights' that engaged scholars and PhD researchers in an exploration of how the international and national/regional human rights frameworks respond, or fail to respond, to local aspirations for social justice and change. The contours of this visionary research agenda were traced in a jointly edited publication *The Local Relevance of Human Rights*, Cambridge University Press 2011, and Koen was since able to support doctoral students to conduct comparative research in this area in different countries worldwide, including Bolivia, China, DRC, and India.

In the course of his years at the University of Antwerp, being no longer directly affiliated with an EMA-participating university, Koen nevertheless remained a regular teacher in the master's programme, almost always on topics related to human rights and development and in

many instances also on human rights and economic globalisation, intersections between business and human rights, and responsibilities under international law of transnational corporations and international financial institutions.

The right to development was a central theme of Koen's doctoral dissertation and remained a life-long focus of his work. In the lead-up to the 25th anniversary of the 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development, Koen contributed to the work of the High-Level Task Force mandated by the UN to examine and clarify the normative content and operational implications of this challenging and potentially groundbreaking right (*The Right to Development: A Treaty and its Discontents*, Asser Press 2016).

In 2019, he was appointed to serve as member of an Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development (EMRDT) established by the UN Human Rights Council expressly with the aim of drafting a would-be binding treaty on the right to development. In his final teaching sessions in Venice, Koen shared his experience of this engagement with EMA students both in plenary sessions and in interactive 'second stream' master classes – thus coming full circle to the curricular

framework that he had helped to put into place almost two decades earlier.

Koen was a dear friend and source of inspiration to many of us in the Global Campus of Human Rights. His unwavering dedication to students and lifelong pursuit of social justice from below was coupled with a

remarkable intellectual rigor and visionary intuition.

Koen leaves behind his wife Han Verleyen and children Moya, Nathan, Stan and Jules. Our hearts go out to all of them in this moment of unfathomable loss. We join them in celebration of a life of accomplishments and of Koen's characteristic

unimposing leadership in so many areas, both professional and private. As once stated about Koen, almost in passing, by the EMA founder Prof. Antonio Papisca – 'that is a person of the highest moral integrity'.

George Ulrich on behalf of Global Campus of Human Rights, Venice.



A People's Diplomacy Training in Timor-Leste Empowers Human Rights Defenders from Southeast Asia and the Pacific

"With the sharing, exchanging of ideas, and support from other participants, I feel a strong commitment in myself to take action against discrimination and fight for women's rights as human

rights.

Mariny Oy, Women Peace Makers (Cambodia)

From August 12th to 24th, the Diplomacy Training Program affiliated with the University of

New South Wales in Sydney joined forces with the Global Campus of Human Rights to co-organize the 32nd edition of the Annual Human Rights and People's Diplomacy Training in Timor-Leste.

Founded by Peace Nobel Laureate and Timorese President José Ramos-Horta in 1989, the annual training is one of the most established and prestigious human rights education courses in the Asia-Pacific. An innovative format defined by a highly practical and hands-on methodology, the programme has so far trained over 3500 human rights advocates from over 50 countries and three generations. In the words of President Ramos-Horta “the programme remains unique with its participatory approach, combined with its realistic introduction to the complexities of international politics that impact on human rights defenders”.

After having travelled the region in its past editions, the annual training symbolically returned to Timor-Leste in 2024 hoping to make of it its permanent home, thanks to the special partnership with the Global Campus and the Human Rights Centre of the National University in Dili (HRC-UNTL), which was also founded under the patronage of JRH in August 2019.

The training was organized as a residential and itinerant summer school-like activity taking place in Dili and its outskirts, involving 28 participants representing 14 countries from the ASEAN, Pacific islands, Australia and Timor-Leste.

During two intense weeks of classes, workshops, hands-on activities and field visits, students had the opportunity to learn about human rights standards, UN special procedures, sustainable development, lobbying and advocacy techniques, solidarity and movement building thanks to leading experts and practitioners, among them Noam Peleg, Surya Deva, Ian Martin and Bella Galhos. The programme also included special sessions on peace and human rights supported by GC Asia Pacific scholars from Mahidol University, and on human rights diplomacy with President Horta himself, and the EU Ambassador Marc Fiedrich.

The joint organization of the training in Timor-Leste in tandem with the UNTL Human Rights Centre, the youngest member of the GC network, was meant as a key opportunity to support its consolidation, internationalization and integration in the regional human rights education fora, and in the context of the multiannual GC-UNTL cooperation agreement.

The 32nd annual programme was made possible thanks to the funding by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on the GC side, and by the Australian Department of Foreign

Affairs and Trade, and the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy on the DTP side. In the occasion of the closing and diploma ceremony, Hon. Giorgio Silli, Undersecretary of State to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation addressed the authorities and participants with a video message, stating: *“The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs firmly believes in the role of diplomacy and the protection of human rights. The promotion of universal human rights fundamental freedom, gender equality and sustainable development, as well as the respect of the ruled based international order and international law, including humanitarian law, are at the core of the agenda of the G7 presidency. Italy is also actively engaged in strengthening its relations with ASEAN and Pacific countries while implementing the EU strategy for the Indo-Pacific. Our approach is inspired by incisiveness and collaboration with our partners in the area as well as with the regional organizations like ASEAN and PIF, which we support in their endeavours to promote peace, stability and inclusive sustainable development”.*

This project is part of the GC Capacity Development programme.

For more information contact the programme manager Adriano Remiddi.

Equity in Digital Education: Assessing the Impact of Remote and Online Learning on Low-Income Students in Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine and Effective Approaches

by Goharik Tigranyan

<http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/2649>

Addressing the Digital Divide among Students at Risk of School Dropout in Latin America by Lucía Camacho Gutiérrez

<http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/2648>

Education for All in the Digital Age: Exploring EdTech Regulatory Frameworks across Africa

by Reda Benkhadra

<http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/2647>

AI Integration in Education in the MENA Region: Will it Be a Driver of Social Inequality?

by Aida Traidi

<http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/2646>

ChatGPT in Classrooms: A Double-Edged Sword by Desara Dushi

<http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/2645>

Framing a Human Rights-Based Approach to the Digitalisation of Education Systems: Reflections on Research Findings in Seven Regions by Chiara Altafin

<http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/2644>

Press Release: ArMa Global Campus Arab World Graduation Ceremony

The students of the Arab Master in Democracy and Human Rights, based in Beirut, Lebanon, who were finishing their studies under extremely difficult circumstances owing to the war in Gaza and escalating conflict between Hezbollah and Israel were ready for their Graduation Ceremony, which was scheduled to take place today in Beirut with the online participation of many students, professors and colleagues from the Global Campus and high level dignitaries, including the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk.

Unfortunately, this Graduation Ceremony had to be cancelled in the last moment in light of the heavy shelling of that city. We are shocked by these developments and express our deeply felt solidarity with all students, faculty, staff and all civilians who are suffering from this terrible conflict.

We share below a message we received today from the Academic Coordinator of the Arab Master, Jihad Nammour, which expresses the sadness and determination of our colleagues in Beirut.

Beirut, 28 September 2024

Dear Council members, colleagues, and friends,

It is with a sad heart that I am informing you of the cancellation of the graduation ceremony planned for this afternoon.

We witnessed yesterday a significant change in the so-called rules of engagement, and last night was the most horrific of all, for those of us in Beirut.

The continuous raids levelled to the ground whole neighborhoods.

We are safe. But it was for most of us a sleepless and traumatic night.

And one that displaced a third of Beirut's metropolitan population, with many families sleeping on sidewalks, in parks or on the corniche.

Yesterday/this morning's military operations were the culmination of two weeks of escalation and intensification of the war, with monstrous actions that changed its very nature.

For almost a year, we entertained the illusion that the Israeli army will follow certain rules of engagement.

And it did, at first, but with regular escalations. It seemed to have adopted for Lebanon a doctrine other than that of "Dahieh" (named after the southern suburb of Beirut, adopted in the 2006 war) that we have been witnessing in Gaza for nearly a year.

But now we know that this was only tactical. These past two weeks showed that their violence is only geared towards total elimination, the annihilation of their enemy at whatever cost.

As you know, this year's graduation ceremony was labelled "Human Rights Education in Times of Crisis and War".

We didn't expect that on that very day, we would represent Human Rights Education from the Front Lines.

We cannot predict how things will evolve, but we know that we will pick ourselves up and continue our work as activists, researchers and lecturers in the field of human rights, to ensure that such things never happen again, and that all human beings are treated as equal in dignity and rights; and that the safety of any

people is the concern of all, and that it doesn't come at the expense of another.

Today, our small community in Beirut will be caring for the displaced, the wounded, and the bereaved families.

And we hope that you will join us in calling not only for a ceasefire but for the war on Gaza and Lebanon to stop.

This is not resilience. It is stubbornness. It is commitment to the values that we share. It is faith that change is possible, and that education plays an important role in it.

Thank you for your support and all your efforts to help us set up and transform the ceremony that we had to cancel today.

But rest assured, your efforts were not in vain. We will pursue this journey together in one way or another.

To better times,
Best,

Jihad Nammour
Academic Coordinator
Arab Master's Programme in Democracy and Human Rights - ArMA

The Global Campus Internship Programme 2024: a key step for launching the careers of our graduates

The Global Campus Internship Programme continues to be a launchpad for aspiring human rights professionals, offering a unique and transformative experience for recently graduating alumni. Every year, around 20 of the brightest alumni from our seven regional Master's programmes, embark on

"I gained invaluable diplomatic experience, particularly in the fields of science and human rights, which allowed me to grow professionally."

six-month internships with leading organisations

around the world. The 2024 cohort of interns recently completed a valuable experience with renowned institutions worldwide, including the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (Banjul, The Gambia), the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (Arusha, Tanzania), ILO (Bangkok,



Thailand), the National Coordinating Committee for Combating Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons (Cairo, Egypt), Terre des Hommes International Federation (Brussels, Belgium), World Organisation Against Torture (Geneva, Switzerland), the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (San José, Costa Rica), UNESCO (Paris, France), Amnesty International's European Institutions Office (Brussels, Belgium), Ateneo Human Rights Center (Makati, Philippines), Broederlijk

"Augustina made a noteworthy impact on our team and consistently demonstrated her professionalism and competence in a fast-

paced and complex environment"

Delen (Brussels, Belgium), and the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo). Our graduates delved into vital human rights issues such as climate change, migration, human trafficking, refugee protection, child rights, and legal advocacy. In the course of their placements, they developed essential skills

"The internship has been a remarkable opportunity to develop my legal skills and gain a deeper understanding of human rights jurisprudence at a continental level."

in research, legal support, project management,

communication, and more. Host organisations appreciated the interns' dedication and ability to tackle complex challenges. Supervisors valued the interns' contributions and many highlighted their desire

"Meron is an exceptional intern. Her remarkable contributions have significantly impacted the work of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa."

"Waris has emerged as a critical member of the Legal Division within the Court"

for continued collaboration. On their side, interns saw the



Global Internship Programme as a turning point in their professional journeys, appreciating the hands-on experience and access to

“The internship allowed me to apply theoretical knowledge to practical challenges in the field of human rights advocacy and build meaningful professional networks.”

influential networks.

As the Global Campus prepares for the next round of internships, the achievements of the 2023-2024 cohort set a high standard. We are confident that their work will have a lasting impact on their host organisations and enhance their own professional trajectories in the field of human rights. The Global Campus Internship Programme is co-funded by the EU. We extend our sincere thanks to Giwoong Son, Ahmed Al Aydi, Federica Pavia, Walter Vela, Dharmendra Bahadur Dhami, Waris Asmal, Reem Abdelmagied, Maria Agustina Petrone, Clarisse Fagard, Meron Eshetu Birhanu, Andrea Veronica Cruz Rojas, and Lamija Kovačević for their highly productive internships.

We acknowledge that some interns remain unnamed to protect their safety and the confidentiality of the hosting organisations.



2024 Right Livelihood Awards

Our partner RIGHT LIVELIHOOD announced today four new Laureates at a Press Conference

STOCKHOLM – Right Livelihood Press Release - This year’s Right Livelihood Laureates have each made a profound impact on their communities and the global stage. Their unwavering commitment to speaking out against forces of oppression and exploitation, while strictly adhering to non-violent methods, resonates far beyond their communities.

With violence raging in all parts of the world, these Laureates show that the way forward is through empowering communities, peace-making, and a steadfast commitment to truth. Their work serves as a beacon of hope in these challenging times.

The 2024 Right Livelihood Award goes to: Joan Carling (Philippines) “for raising Indigenous voices in the face of the global ecological breakdown and her leadership in



defending people, lands and culture,”

Issa Amro and Youth Against Settlements (Palestine) “for their steadfast non-violent resistance to Israel’s illegal occupation, promoting Palestinian civic action through peaceful means,” Anabela Lemos and Justiça Ambiental! (Mozambique) “for empowering communities to stand up for their right to say no to exploitative mega-projects and demand environmental justice,” and Forensic Architecture (UK) “for pioneering digital forensic methods to ensure justice and accountability for victims and survivors of human and environmental rights violations.”

“The 2024 Laureates demonstrate the power of non-violent resistance and truth-telling, placing decision-making into the hands of local communities. Faced with violence, exploitation and oppression, this year’s Laureates are charting ways towards a just, peaceful and sustainable future for all. Let their commitment inspire us all to be braver and take action for the benefit of our communities!” said Ole von Uexkull, Right Livelihood’s Executive Director during their Press Conference today followed by the Global Campus of Human Rights press office.

Anabela Lemos and Justiça Ambiental! are the first Laureate from Mozambique to receive the Right Livelihood Award.

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF THE 2024 LAUREATES

Joan Carling

Joan Carling is a Filipino Indigenous activist who has been defending the rights of Indigenous Peoples for more than 30 years. Her work spans grassroots and international levels, focusing on human rights, sustainable development, climate justice and the fight against land exploitation. Since the late 1990s, Carling has led multiple Indigenous rights organisations. She continues to play a pivotal role in amplifying the voices of Indigenous Peoples across the Philippines, Asia, and globally, with a focus on combating the systemic marginalisation and criminalisation of Indigenous communities.

Carling has dedicated her life to protecting Indigenous communities, often at great personal risk. She has been unjustly arrested, labelled a terrorist, falsely accused of crimes and received threats on her life. Despite this, she continues to fight for Indigenous Peoples’ rights, helping communities defend their lands and resist exploitation by powerful corporate and state interests.

Carling’s advocacy has had a profound impact, from helping stop destructive mining projects opposed by

Indigenous communities to influencing policies on Indigenous women's rights at the United Nations. Her work in the Philippines, one of the most dangerous countries in the world for Indigenous Peoples—where activists are frequently targeted, killed and forcibly disappeared—has been especially critical. By empowering Indigenous Peoples to defend themselves against these threats, Carling has helped communities across the Philippines take an active role in defending their rights and protecting their lands.

“This recognition sends a powerful message—not just to me, but to all activists—that our work is being acknowledged. It encourages others to keep fighting for human rights and shows that standing up for what's right can make a global impact.”
Joan Carling

Issa Amro and Youth Against Settlements

Issa Amro is a Palestinian human rights activist who has dedicated his life to peaceful resistance against Israeli occupation in the West Bank city of Hebron. Together with the activist group he founded, Youth Against Settlements (YAS), he has become a leading voice in the non-violent movement, striving to create a future where Palestinians live freely and with dignity. His efforts

have garnered international recognition, and his strict commitment to non-violence stands in stark contrast to the violent realities of the Israeli occupation.

Amro and YAS have successfully mobilised local communities and international allies to resist the ongoing Israeli occupation through peaceful means. YAS plays an essential role in documenting human rights violations, organising protests, and supporting local communities in Hebron who live under constant threats and attacks from Israeli settlers and military forces. The group's initiatives have also served as an inspiration for non-violent resistance in other Palestinian cities under Israeli occupation.

Amro and the group have been under constant pressure from settlers, the Israeli military and also the Palestinian Authority. Amro has been detained, tortured, attacked on the streets, evicted from home and subjected to judicial harassment. However, he has kept his unwavering commitment to non-violent resistance, which he sees as the only way to achieve justice and peace for the people of Palestine.

“Receiving the Right Livelihood Award makes me feel happy, proud, motivated and inspired to continue my hard work to defend human

rights in Palestine, to defend Palestinian children's rights, Palestinian women's rights and the Palestinian people's right to remain and live with freedom, justice and equality in their land.” Issa Amro

Anabela Lemos and Justiça Ambiental!

Anabela Lemos is a Mozambican environmental activist and Director of Justiça Ambiental! (JA!), an organisation committed to environmental justice in Mozambique. For over 20 years, Lemos and JA! have fought corporate-led projects that displace communities, damage livelihoods and intensify climate change. The organisation's leadership in the 'Say No to Gas Campaign' has brought international attention to the environmental and human rights violations caused by liquid natural gas (LNG) extraction projects in northern Mozambique.

In addition to grassroots activism, JA! is renowned for its effective global advocacy, particularly against Mozambique LNG, a 24-billion-USD gas extraction project in Cabo Delgado backed by TotalEnergies. The organisation has built alliances with civil society in over 23 countries to challenge this project. By providing critical on-the-ground evidence of the project's harm to local communities, JA! has exposed human rights



Besides being available for one-on-one interviews, the Laureates held consecutive online press conferences during the day.

For 45 years, the Right Livelihood Award has honoured and supported courageous people solving global problems. The award comes with long-term support to highlight and expand Laureates' work.

In 2024, 176 nominees from 72 countries were considered. Previous Laureates include Ukrainian human rights defender Oleksandra Matviichuk, Congolese gynaecologist and women's rights advocate Dr Denis Mukwege and American public interest lawyer Bryan Stevenson.

The 2024 Laureates will be honoured during a televised Award Presentation in Stockholm on Wednesday, December 4.

violations and corporate crimes, successfully delaying Mozambique LNG's progress.

Despite operating in a politically oppressive space, Lemos and JA! continue to amplify local voices on the world stage, demonstrating that the fight for environmental justice transcends borders. Their work has empowered communities to defend their rights, paving the way for a future where all people's environmental and human rights are respected.

"The Award will give us visibility and provide both myself and Justiça Ambiental! the assurance that the work we do is valuable and important. It shows we're not just a group of people opposing development for no reason. We take risks because we believe in our work." Anabela Lemos

Forensic Architecture

Forensic Architecture is a pioneering research agency dedicated to uncovering and documenting the truth about environmental and human rights violations using cutting-edge open-source investigation and digital modelling techniques. Based at Goldsmiths, University of London, Forensic Architecture integrates advanced technology with witness and historical accounts to create powerful visual and spatial reconstructions, which have been used as evidence in landmark legal cases worldwide.

Since its founding in 2010, Forensic Architecture has led the development of new methodologies that combine technology with human rights advocacy. They have conducted more than 100

investigations on behalf of affected communities, uncovering truths about events both historic, such as the German colonial genocide in Namibia, and current, like the 2017 fire at Grenfell Tower in London. Their innovative methodologies not only set new standards for accountability but also assist survivors in processing trauma.

In an era when truth and facts are constantly challenged, including by governments, Forensic Architecture's work helps usher in a new layer of oversight to ensure accountability, harnessing technology and witness testimony. With a fierce commitment to collaborative work with frontline communities and to developing and disseminating new evidentiary techniques, the organisation's work has significantly impacted

international legal processes and human rights investigations. As such, they help to hold perpetrators accountable and empower communities to seek justice on their own terms.

"I'm always saying I prefer

winning cases to winning prizes, but, especially at this time of brutal carnage, the one accolade I wanted Forensic Architecture to get is the Right Livelihood Award. Some of the previous Laureates are the people I most admire, and it's especially great

to receive it alongside my friend Issa. The Award has a spirit of doggedness and resistance and will help us confront the powers we face." Eyal Weizman, Founder and Director Forensic Architecture

GC Student Abstracts 2024 on the topic Just Transition recently published!

We are thrilled to announce the publishing of the Global Classroom 2024 student abstracts, which marks the end of a six-month research journey. The Global Classroom 2024 programme, which focused on the theme "Just Transition: Conditions for Change of the Global Order," brought together students from eight regional Master's programmes in the Global Campus network to share their different viewpoints.

The conference, which took place from June 17-21, 2024, in Bishkek and Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan, and was co-organized with the OSCE Academy in Bishkek (GC Central Asia hub), featured research presentations by 24 students from 24 different countries on a variety of topics, including transitional justice, democratic institution building, frozen conflicts, peace building through art, and civil society engagement. The student papers, presented in five separate panels at the conference, take us across regions and countries, reflecting on issues in modern global governance and transitions in the past, present, and future.

1 TRANSITION TO AND FROM DEMOCRACY

The abstracts explore various tools, institutions, frameworks, and socio-political factors that either supported or obstructed transitions to

democracy. Topics include the role of electoral observation in Kyrgyzstan (Tenizbaeva Akylai – GC Central Asia); the legacy of dictatorship in Chile's constitution (Magdalena Schaub – GC Latin America & Caribbean); the influence of political families in the Philippines (Rizky Ashar Murdiono – GC Asia Pacific); challenges of consociation and power-sharing in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Anju Sadasivam – GC South East Europe); and the dynamics of peace-making in the MENA region (Faten Hamze – GC Arab World).

2 TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

Global Campus students on this panel present a range of national and regional case studies. These include the connection between transitional justice and economic, social, and cultural inequalities in selected African countries (Eleonora Cambuzzi – GC Europe); the impact of compulsory military training for students on transitional justice in some Asia-Pacific countries (Anusha Shrestha – GC Asia Pacific); the failure of democracy in Afghanistan (Javad Mohammadi – GC Central Asia); the role of civil society in transitional justice processes in Mauritius (Marie Rebecca Jolicoeur – GC Africa); and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Kosovo (Orestis Nicolau – GC South East Europe).

3 MELT-DOWN OF FROZEN CONFLICTS

These abstracts explore diverse perspectives on the role of institutions in relation to armed conflicts, revolutions, and war-related violence. Topics include the role of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (Oluwatosin Senami Adegun – GC Africa); reforms aimed at preventing LGBTQ+ rights violations that were perpetrated during the Northern Ireland conflict (Jessica Gill – GC Europe); political transitions in Armenia following the Velvet Revolution and the ongoing conflict with Azerbaijan (Anush Mkrtchyan – GC Caucasus); the relevance of Colombia's transitional justice experience for Mexico (Luis Fernando Herrera Martínez – GC Latin America & Caribbean); and the consolidation of power in Morocco and its connection to water security (Matthijs Mantel – GC Arab World).

4 HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLIANCE IN TIMES OF TRANSITION

Students' abstracts highlight various mechanisms and frameworks relevant to the enforcement of human rights, including: the role of International Human Rights Law in shaping transitional justice in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (Alina Salakhunova – GC Central Asia); the need to reform ASEAN's non-interference principle, which hampers intervention in human rights crises like in Myanmar (Nattida Phonyong – GC Asia Pacific); the 2020 post-electoral protests in Belarus (Alexander Maltsev – GC Caucasus); participatory filmmaking as an emerging and effective tool for societies in transition (Catriona O'Sullivan – GC Europe); and the successes and failures of international peacebuilding initiatives in the MENA region (HibaTollah Ibrahim Raad – GC Arab World).

5 CHALLENGES OF TRANSITION

These abstracts address the challenges societies and countries face in achieving a truly 'just' transition. Topics include Haiti's

democratic transition and the role of the international community (Jean Bonaparte – GC Latin America & Caribbean); the difficulties the African Union and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) face in promoting just transitions and addressing coups, such as in Gabon (Kipkoech Nicholas Cheruiyot – GC Africa); Spain's amnesty laws and transitional justice measures, questioning whether reconciliation can hinder justice (Raúl Suárez Pascual – GC Europe); and the connection between transitional justice and the decline of media freedom (Nejra Kravić – GC South East Europe).

After the publication of the abstracts, the students (many of whom have now graduated!) are currently working on the next stage of their research. This involves either publishing a more 'accessible' version for the Global Campus Human Rights Preparedness blog (or other platforms) or developing an academic article to submit to a journal, including the Global Campus Human Rights Journal .

Access "Just Transition: Conditions for Change of the Global Order. Global Classroom 2024. Collection of Student Abstracts" on our Open Knowledge Repository.



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

The Global Campus of Human Rights (GC) and the Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities (AIPG), in collaboration with the Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention (I-GMAP) at Binghamton University, are thrilled to announce the call for applications for the third edition of the Joint Annual Engaged Artist Award on Atrocity Prevention and Human Rights. Eligible Artists may submit their applications from October 10 until December 10, 2024 (Human Rights Day).

The purpose of this Award is to recognize the work of Artists (artist-activists), highlighting the original ways in which they respond creatively to large-scale identity-based violence and mass atrocity in varying conflict contexts and geographic regions across the globe. The concept of “Art as Atrocity Prevention” is related to the role of the arts in mitigating risk factors associated with genocide, other mass atrocities, and identity-based violence, as well as the use of the arts as a powerful tool to contribute to the transformation of post-atrocity societies. The sponsoring institutions understand atrocity prevention broadly. Among other things, artistic interventions can be seen as preventive when they:

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

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



The call for applications is open to Artists from October 10, 2024 until December 10, 2024. This is jointly organised by Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities, Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice, Binghamton University's Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention.



2026 at the Global Campus of Human Rights headquarters in Venice, Italy, with the possibility to participate actively in the educational activities of the Global Campus during this period and audit relevant classes and with a stipend of EUR 12,360 to support room and board, workspace, and any other needs;

- A residency from January 2026 to May 2026 at Binghamton University's Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention in Binghamton, New York, with the possibility to audit relevant classes and with a stipend of USD 22,000 to support housing and other needs;
- A week-long visit to one of the offices of the Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities in either New York (USA), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Kampala (Uganda), Bucharest (Romania), or Oświęcim (Poland); and
- The costs associated with travel to and from Venice, travel to and from Binghamton and travel to and from to an Auschwitz Institute office, including all relevant visas (as necessary and separately).

and using art as a tool for effective communication.

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

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

- A residency from mid-August 2025 to January

The selected Artist will be honored during the Ceremony of the Awarding of Diplomas of the “European Master in Human Rights and Democratisation” (Global Campus Europe) in Venice, Italy, at the end of September 2025. That ceremony will also feature the work of the awarded artist. In the past, this has included a display of selected past works or a performance. As art comes in many forms, the concrete manner will be decided in advance of the ceremony together with the artist. Following the two residencies, the three institutions will offer a joint certificate to the Artist acknowledging the completion of the unique artistic visiting research period.

Global Campus of Human Rights: EMA awarded theses 2022/2023

We are glad to announce that the Global Campus Europe / EMA awarded theses 2022/2023 selected for the publication are online and you can find them at our Repository.

The five theses are:

- *Voices Unheard, Stories Untold. A Qualitative Content Analysis of Gender Bias in War Reporting and Human Rights Journalism as a Viable Alternative*, written by Jozefien Dierynck and supervised by Antonis Gardikiotis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/2697>
- *The Good Ukrainian, the Bad Syrian, the Ugly Afghan (and the Forgotten Ones). Reframing Migration Governance through Michel Foucault's and Hannah Arendt's Legacies* written by Clarisse Fagard and supervised by Graham Finlay, University College Dublin.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/2698>
- *Beneath the City's Shining Facade, Discrimination and Death in the Sewers. An Analysis of India's Right to Life Obligations to Eradicate the Caste-Based Practice of Hazardous Manual Sewer Cleaning*, written by Yamuna Kali and supervised by Michel Rouleau-Dick, Åbo Akademi University.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/2699>
- *Mind the Gap: Incorporating Human Rights into the Curricula of Undergraduate Business Programmes*, written by Sara Rentroia Pacheco and supervised by Carmen Márquez-Carrasco and Laura Garcia Martin, University of Seville.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/2700>
- *When the Land no Longer Provides. Human Rights and the Status of "Climate*

Refugees" in the Sahel, written by Daniel George Shynn and supervised by Matjaž Nahtigal, University of Ljubljana.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.25330/2701>

Each year the EMA Council selects five theses which stand out for:

1. originality of the research topic, and its relevance and importance (including its contribution to the promotion and implementation of human rights and democratic values);
2. innovation with respect to argument, methodology, and theoretical approach, including case studies;
3. exceptional knowledge of the academic literature and excellent capacity for critical analysis;
4. clarity of structure, language and argumentation of a publishable standard with minimum revisions

The five theses are awarded with the online publication after an editing review.

New Publication on Practical Skills for Human Rights Experts: *Lessons Learnt from an Exchange Between Right Livelihood Laureates and Global Campus Alumni*

The Global Campus of Human Rights has just released a new collaborative booklet, showcasing the cooperation between Right Livelihood Laureates and Global Campus Alumni. The small publication, titled Skills Exchange Series 2024, documents workshops and discussions between distinguished laureates and alumni, highlighting their efforts in promoting human rights, environmental protection, and social justice globally.

Through this Right Livelihood and Global Campus of Human Rights collaboration, we connect activists with current and future human rights champions. The lessons learned and presented in this booklet exemplify the skills and experience that Right Livelihood laureates pass on to the next generation of changemakers and leaders.

In early 2024, the Global Campus Alumni network invited four Right Livelihood Laureates to participate in roundtable discussions with alumni from various regions. Held from March to June 2024, the goal of these workshops was to enable practical skills exchange. Laureates

shared their hard-earned knowledge with both senior and young Global Campus alumni, who, in turn, contributed regional perspectives and experiences, fostering mutual exchange of ideas and strategies.

Key Themes from the Workshops Featured in the Publication:

- **Environmental Advocacy:** A discussion between GC South East Europe alumna Alma Midžić, Human Rights and Community Support Campaign Leader at CEE Bankwatch Network (Prague), and Laureate Vladimir Slivjak, co-founder of Ecodefense!, focused on grassroots advocacy for environmental protection in Russia. Slivjak's work opposes environmentally hazardous projects, including nuclear energy, coal mining, and radioactive waste disposal. His insights underscored the role of grassroots movements in challenging powerful governments and corporations, a message increasingly relevant given today's global environmental challenges.

**SKILLS
EXCHANGE
SERIES 2024**

- **LGBTQ+ Rights Campaigns:** In a dialogue with GC Africa alumnus Ayo Sogunro, Nigerian writer, social entrepreneur, and human rights advocate, and Laureate Kasha Jacqueline Nabagesera, a Ugandan queer feminist, discussed LGBTQ+ advocacy in hostile environments. Nabagesera offered guidance on community building, security strategies, empowerment through education, and creating media platforms to advance LGBTQ+ rights.
- **Community Empowerment through Cooperation:** The conversation between GC Latin America alumnus Santiago Plata Garcês, Senior Analyst at the Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos (Brazil), and Laureate Cecosesola, a network of community organisations in Venezuela, highlighted the power of cooperative models for community resilience and economic sustainability. Cecosesola's model, which replaces competition with solidarity, shows how organisational change and elimination of hierarchy can empower communities and improve efficiency.
- **Gender and Anti-Gender Movements:** GC Arab World alumna Nouha Maaninou, Gender & Social Inclusion Expert at Integrated International (Jordan), co-led a workshop with Laureate and Egyptian feminist Mozn Hassan. Hassan emphasised collective feminist action's importance in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Their discussion focused on gender-based violence prevention, gender equality, and navigating the restricted space for civil society in the region.

LOOKING FORWARD

The publication is both a record of these impactful workshops and a valuable resource for human rights defenders, activists, and anyone engaged in advocacy and social change. The skills and lessons shared provide essential guidance for addressing today's human rights

challenges and building resilient movements. As part of its mission, the Global Campus of Human Rights will continue fostering such collaborations, ensuring the legacy of these Laureates inspires future generations. The release of this booklet demonstrates the transformative power of shared knowledge and united efforts in the fight for a more just and equitable world.

BACKGROUND ON RIGHT LIVELIHOOD LAUREATES AND GLOBAL CAMPUS ALUMNI NETWORK

The Right Livelihood Laureates are internationally recognised individuals and organisations that have made exceptional contributions to global issues, including human rights, environmental protection, and social justice. Often referred to as the "Alternative Nobel Prize," the Right Livelihood Award has honoured over 180 laureates from more than 70 countries since 1980.

The Global Campus Alumni Network, with over 4,600 members, is a thriving community of professionals who have completed one of the eight Master's programmes offered by the Global Campus of Human Rights. With members in over 100 countries, the network provides continuous professional development, advocacy, and support for human rights defenders, policymakers, scholars, and activists.

For more information and to access the recordings of these workshops, visit the Global Campus Alumni website.

Download the publication *Right Livelihood Laureates & Global Campus Alumni - Skills Exchange Series 2024*.

Promotion

Biennale Cinema 2024

The VENEZIA 81 Jury, chaired by Isabelle Huppert and composed by James Gray, Andrew Haigh, Agnieszka Holland, Kleber Mendonça Filho, Abderrahmane Sissako, Giuseppe Tornatore, Julia von Heinz and Zhang Ziyi, having viewed all 21 films in competition, has decided as follows:

GOLDEN LION for Best Film to:
THE ROOM NEXT DOOR by Pedro Almodóvar (Spain)

SILVER LION – GRAND JURY PRIZE to:
VERMIGLIO by Maura Delpero (Italy, France, Belgium)

SILVER LION – AWARD FOR BEST DIRECTOR to:
Brady Corbet for the film THE BRUTALIST (United Kingdom)

COPPA VOLPI for Best Actress:
Nicole Kidman in the film BABYGIRL by Halina Reijn (United States)

COPPA VOLPI for Best Actor:
Vincent Lindon in the film JOUER AVEC LE FEU by Delphine Coulin and Muriel Coulin (France)

AWARD FOR BEST SCREENPLAY to:
Murilo Hauser and Heitor Lorega for the film AINDA ESTOU AQUI by Walter Salles (Brazil, France)

SPECIAL JURY PRIZE to:
APRIL by Dea Kulumbegashvili (France, Italy, Georgia)
MARCELLO MASTROIANNI AWARD for Best Young Actor or Actress to:
Paul Kircher in the film LEURS ENFANTS APRÈS EUX by Ludovic Boukherma and Zoran Boukherma (France)

Orizzonti

The ORIZZONTI Jury of the 81st Venice Film

Festival, chaired by Debra Granik and composed by Ali Asgari, Soudade Kaadan, Christos Nikou, Tuva Novotny, Gábor Reisz and Valia Santella, after screening the 19 feature-length films and 13 short films in competition has decided to award:

ORIZZONTI AWARD FOR BEST FILM to:
ANUL NOU CARE N-A FOST (THE NEW YEAR THAT NEVER CAME) by Bogdan Mureşanu (Romania, Serbia)

ORIZZONTI AWARD FOR BEST DIRECTOR to:
Sarah Friedland for the film FAMILIAR TOUCH (United States)

SPECIAL ORIZZONTI JURY PRIZE to:
HEMME'NIN ÖLDÜĞÜ GÜNLERDEN BIRI (ONE OF THOSE DAYS WHEN HEMME DIES) by Murat Firatoğlu (Turkey)

ORIZZONTI AWARD FOR BEST ACTRESS to:
Kathleen Chalfant in the film Familiar Touch by Sarah Friedland (United States)

ORIZZONTI AWARD FOR BEST ACTOR to:
Francesco Gheghi in the film FAMILIA by Francesco Costabile (Italy)

ORIZZONTI AWARD FOR BEST SCREENPLAY to:
Scandar Copti for the film HAPPY HOLIDAYS (Palestine, Germany, France, Italy, Qatar)

ORIZZONTI AWARD FOR BEST SHORT FILM to:
WHO LOVES THE SUN by Arshia Shakiba (Canada)

VENICE SHORT FILM NOMINATION FOR THE EUROPEAN FILM AWARDS 2024 to:
RENÉ VA ALLA GUERRA by Luca Ferri, Morgan Menegazzo, Mariachiara Pernisa (Italy)

Orizzonti Extra

ARMANI BEAUTY AUDIENCE AWARD to:
 SHAHED (THE WITNESS) by Nader Saeivar
 (Germany, Austria)
 Venice Award for a Debut Film

LION OF THE FUTURE - "LUIGI DE LAURENTIIS" VENICE AWARD FOR A DEBUT FILM Jury at the 81st Venice Film Festival, chaired Gianni Canova and comprised of Ricky D'Ambrose, Bárbara Paz, Taylor Russell, and Jacob Wong, has decided to award:

LION OF THE FUTURE "LUIGI DE LAURENTIIS"

VENICE AWARD FOR A DEBUT FILM to:
 FAMILIAR TOUCH by Sarah Friedland (United States)
 Orizzonti

Venice Classics

The VENICE CLASSICS Jury, chaired by Renato De Maria and comprised of 24 students of Cinema, chosen from the professors of Italian University Cinema programmes, has decided to award:

VENICE CLASSICS AWARD FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY ON CINEMA to:
 CHAIN REACTIONS by Alexandre O. Philippe (United States)

VENICE CLASSICS AWARD FOR BEST RESTORED FILM to:
 ECCE BOMBO by Nanni Moretti (Italy, 1978)

Venice Immersive

The VENICE IMMERSIVE Jury, chaired by Celine Daemen and comprised of Marion Burger e Adriaan Lokman, after viewing the 26 projects in competition has decided to award:

VENICE IMMERSIVE GRAND PRIZE to:
 Ito Meikyū by Boris Labbé (France, Luxemburg)

VENICE IMMERSIVE SPECIAL JURY PRIZE to:
 OTO'S PLANET by Gwenael François (Luxemburg, Canada, France)

VENICE IMMERSIVE ACHIEVEMENT PRIZE to:

IMPULSE: PLAYING WITH REALITY by Barry Gene Murphy, May Abdalla (United Kingdom, France)

In the context of this edition of the Venice Film Festival our 19th Summer School on Cinema, Human Rights, and Advocacy (CHRA School) has concluded with great success. And the Press Office attended most of the activities related to Art and Human Rights.



For more information, contact the
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