

# Development of Human Rights Education and Research at the National University of Timor-Leste

Contributing to the promotion and protection of human rights in Asia's youngest nation by establishing the UNTL Human Rights Centre in Dili. Recognised as a success story by the EU, the Centre is mandated to mainstream human rights education across all faculties, develop thematic specialisations, implement lecturers' training, engage in knowledge production and international networking



**2019 – 2022**

**Bangkok, Thailand**

Global Campus of Human Rights, National University of Timor-Leste – Human Rights Centre, in coordination with the Institute for Human Rights and Peace, Mahidol University

Under the patronage of Nobel Peace Prize laureate, José Ramos-Horta

**Dili, Timor-Leste**

## Main results

Extensive reconstruction created a safe and conducive learning hub with a **teaching room** (25 seats), **office space** (5 workstations), a reading and **meeting area** (8 seats), and upgraded **WASH facilities** (2). The Centre hosted **63 outreach events** for **1,593 participants**



**3 multi-year training programmes** forged the Centre's faculty and staff. The initiative also led to a **trilingual textbook** and a **Digital Learning Initiative** with 6+ hours of video lectures, slides, and a glossary



**Policy change** allowed the introduction of a compulsory first-year human rights course across all undergraduate degrees, reaching ~1,200 students in the pilot and **~2,000 students annually** from the second edition



**“The Human Rights Centre is a great initiative that will first reach out to our youth so that they will understand what are the fundamental human rights that come from our own Constitution and from the treaties we have ratified (...). This is like an insurance for the rule of law, democracy and freedom”** José Ramos-Horta, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and Peace Nobel laureate

**Timeline**

**2019**  
Training programmes begin in Dili and Bangkok for 25+ beneficiaries; refurbishment works and inauguration ceremony of the Centre's premises

**2020**  
Conceptualisation of the textbook and digital teaching tools; adoption of the general human rights course

**2021**  
The teaching toolkit is finalised; six human rights defenders defend their MA theses at the GC Asia-Pacific; the new human rights course is piloted in selected faculties

**2022**  
A second cohort of lecturers is trained in Dili and online; the second iteration of the general human rights course is implemented across all faculties; the Centre is successfully handed over

**Project team**

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