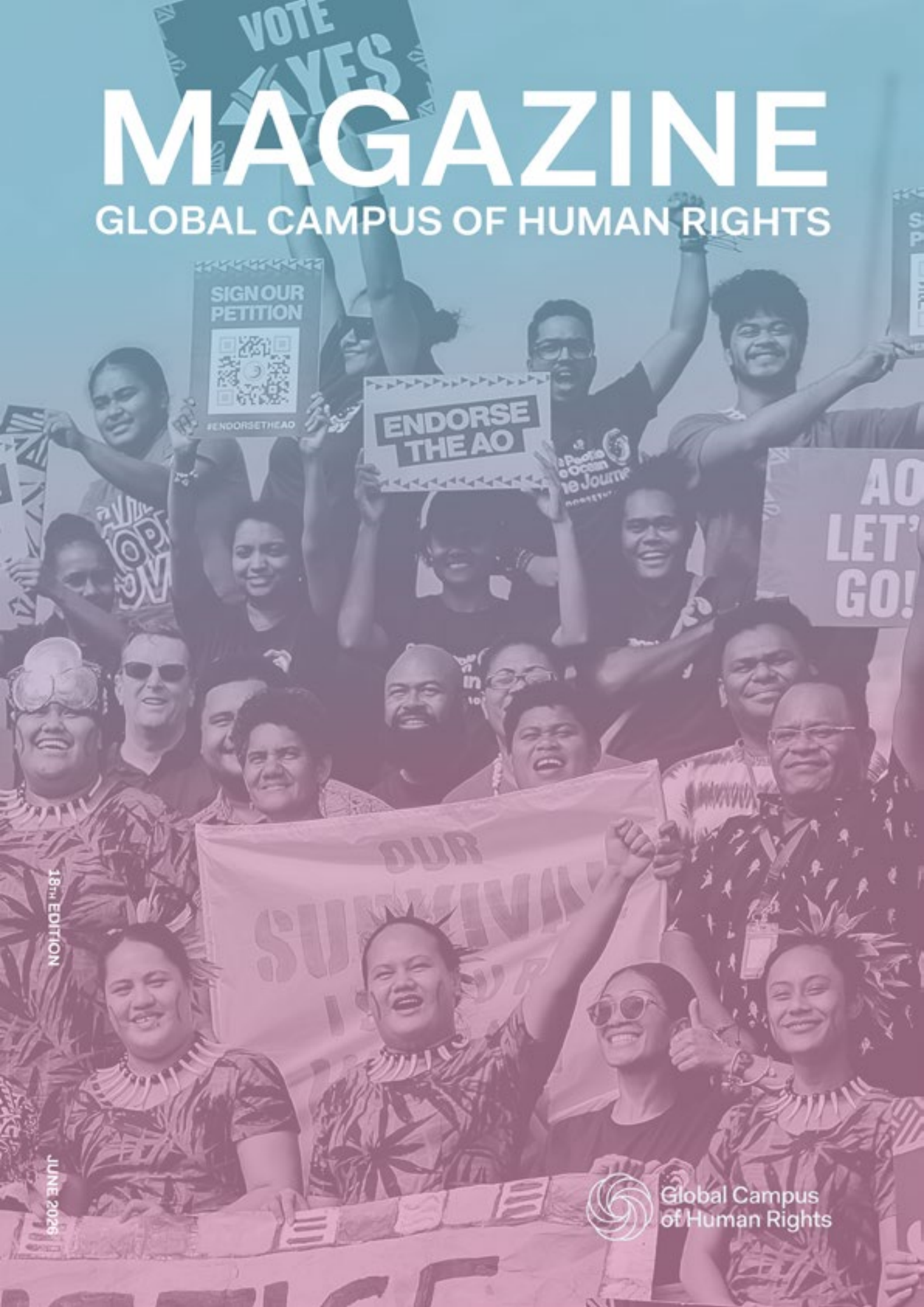


# MAGAZINE

GLOBAL CAMPUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS



18th EDITION

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Global Campus  
of Human Rights

# Editorial

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**Editorial**



The eighteen Global Campus of Human Rights Magazine is dedicated to our partnership with Right Livelihood that for over 40 years had supported and honoured individuals and initiatives worldwide working on practical solutions to human rights, environmental and social justice challenges through the well-known Right Livelihood Award or alternative Nobel peace prizes. Our work together connects academic knowledge with lived experiences and creates meaningful social change.

The interviews with some of the 2025 Right Livelihood Laureates covered in the 18th edition of the Global Campus of Human Rights Magazine inspire us with hope and confidence to continue building a better world. Here some inspiring quotes of the 2025 RL Laureates:

**“Human Rights Education is supremely important. Among other things, what the International Court of Justice made crystal clear is that the climate crisis is also a human rights crisis. Several of the core human rights have of course already been violated as a result of man-made climate disruption. Thus, human rights education must form one of the central components of any contemporary climate justice curriculum.”**

**JULIAN AGOUN — GUAM. 2025 RIGHT LIVELIHOOD LAUREATE**

**“I want to extend my deepest gratitude for the commitment the Global Campus brings to the struggle for justice, dignity, and human rights. Your work reminds us that even in the most difficult moments whether in Sudan or in any part of the world there are communities of people who refuse to accept silence, indifference, or oppression as the final word. The knowledge you build, the debates you host, and the solidarity you foster all contribute to protecting those whose voices are at risk of being erased by conflict or authoritarian power. Your dedication gives strength to frontline actors like us. When you amplify our stories, challenge harmful narratives, and hold space for honest reflection, you help create a global ecosystem where human rights defenders are not isolated but supported.”**

**ALSANOSI ADAM — ERR EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**

**“Human rights education in technology centers on a crucial shift from digital literacy to digital competence. In Taiwan, where broadband access is a human right, we believe that education must go beyond teaching citizens to be passive, literate consumers of content—mere readers of the internet. Instead, we focus on competence, which empowers individuals to become producers, fact-checkers, and co-creators of the digital landscape. True human rights education in this field means giving people the tools to access information and shape it, ensuring that technology serves as a space for civic participation rather than algorithmic consumption.”**

**AUDREY TANG | TAIWAN — 2025 RIGHT LIVELIHOOD LAUREATE**

**“Around the world, we are witnessing the resurgence of authoritarianism, digital repression, transnational organised crime and impunity for grave human rights violations. These challenges are interconnected and urgent. From Palestine to Ukraine, East Turkistan to South Sudan, conflicts are increasingly fuelled by opaque financial networks, disinformation and the complicity of global corporations. One of the greatest challenges ahead is ensuring accountability in a world where perpetrators can operate across borders with ease. For example, Russia, China, India and Belarus are the Myanmar military’s partners in crime, funding and arming its atrocities while supporting its sham election. Educational programmes like yours play a vital role by creating spaces where students and practitioners can amplify people’s voices, learn from each other, share strategies and build solidarity across regions.”**

**YADANAR MAUNG — SPOKESPERSON JUSTICE FOR MYANMAR**

# Interviews and Contributions

## Interview with 2025 Right Livelihood Laureate Audrey Tang

*The Press Office had interviewed the 2025 Right Livelihood Laureate Audrey Tang about urgent issues in the field of technology, democracy and human rights.*

**Please share with us about your background and role as civic hacker and technologist who rewires systems for the public good?**

My background is rooted in the civic hacker movement, where I embraced the Taoist philosophy of conservative anarchism — preserving the collaborative spirit of the internet while working without rulers. I realized that democracy is essentially a social technology that can be improved, just like software. This led me to the g0v (gov-zero) community, where we did not seek to destroy the government, but to “fork it.” By replacing the “o” in government URLs with a “0,” we built shadow sites that visualized budget data and made political information accessible. I saw my role not as a disruptor, but as a bridge, using radical transparency to build tools that turned passive observers into participants in the democratic process.

When I became a cabinet minister in 2016, I brought this open-source ethos into the cabinet to rewire how the government interacts with the people. I championed collaborative governance through initiatives like vTaiwan, utilizing the Polis consensus-building tool to

visualize areas of agreement on contentious issues like Uber, rather than letting algorithms amplify our divisions.

This approach was put to the test during COVID-19, where I worked alongside civic technologists to co-create real-time mask maps. By trusting the people with open data, we found that the people trusted the government in return, proving that we can build a listening society where policy is debugged and improved by the people in real-time.

**How was the experience of being recognised as Right Livelihood Award 2025 and how did it help with your activities and mission to boost urgent and long-term social change in your country?**

The 2025 Right Livelihood Award was an affirmation of my personal journey, as well as the Taiwan Model of digital democracy. This recognition validates my belief that technology should be used to heal divides rather than deepen them. To be cited for “advancing the social use of digital technology to empower citizens, renew democracy and heal divides” sends a powerful message to the world.

Polarization is not an inevitable consequence of the digital age, but a design flaw we can fix. It inspires me to continue proving that Plurality — fostering our shared values while innovating without top-down control — is a viable path for governance globally.

This honor has also significantly amplified my current mission to take these local innovations to the global stage. As I carry out my duties as Taiwan's cyber ambassador and a fellow at Oxford's Institute for Ethics in AI, the award serves as a platform to champion civic AI and initiatives like the Robust Open Online Safety Tools, or ROOST, initiative that was launched at the 2025 Paris AI Summit.

I am empowered to push harder for Plurality, ensuring that common challenges like online safety and long-term goals like AI governance are met with solutions that prioritize human dignity. In recognizing that cyberspace is a borderless contested area, the award helps me gather the partners, resources and opportunities needed to transform the geothermal power of conflict into an energy source for co-creation, turning “power over” into “power with.”

**How are you benefiting with all this visibility? How could we support your cause?**

Being named a 2025 Right Livelihood laureate is not about personal recognition. It is about validating the Taiwan Model as a blueprint for a better world. This visibility acts as a high-bandwidth signal, broadcasting the message that democracy and technology do not have to be enemies. It provides the platform I need to scale concepts like civic AI and Plurality from local experiments to global standards, proving that we can build digital spaces that foster co-creation rather than polarization.

The Global Campus of Human Rights, with its vast network of universities, is uniquely positioned to operationalize this vision by integrating digital human rights directly into the DNA of future leaders. It can support the cause by moving beyond traditional advocacy and teaching students how to debug the systems they will one day govern. I urge GCHR to incorporate our open-source book, Plurality,

into its curriculum and to use its campuses as living labs for testing consensus-building tools like Polis. By training the next generation of human rights defenders to be legal scholars and civic architects, we can ensure that the digital infrastructure of the future is built to protect human dignity by default.

**What is your opinion on the importance of human rights education in the field of technology?**

Human rights education in technology centers on a crucial shift from digital literacy to digital competence. In Taiwan, where broadband access is a human right, we believe that education must go beyond teaching citizens to be passive, literate consumers of content — mere readers of the internet. Instead, we focus on competence, which empowers individuals to become producers, fact-checkers and co-creators of the digital landscape. True human rights education in this field means giving people the tools to access information and shape it, ensuring that technology serves as a space for civic participation rather than algorithmic consumption.

This approach is vital because it transforms the internet from a medium of surveillance or polarization into a public square for Plurality. By integrating this competence-based curriculum into our schools, we are training the next generation to view democracy itself as a social technology that they have the right and the ability to debug and improve. When we teach the leaders of tomorrow that they are the stewards of digital rights and communities, we are sowing the seeds for more inclusive and prosperous societies of the 21st century and beyond.

**What are the most important challenges ahead in the field of Human Rights and Democracy in the world? Could educational programmes like ours at the Global Campus of Human Rights contribute?**

The most pressing challenge we face today is the weaponization of digital connectivity. This is illustrated by algorithmic polarization turning cyberspace into a contested area, threatening the very foundation of human rights — our

ability to trust and listen to one another. We are seeing a rise in digital authoritarianism where technology is used for top-down control rather than bottom-up co-creation, creating a crisis where freedom of speech exists without freedom of listening.

Educational programmes like those at the Global Campus of Human Rights are uniquely positioned to contribute by transforming universities into civic gyms — spaces where students do not just study democracy, but exercise the muscle of deliberation. GCHR can support this mission by shifting its curriculum from digital literacy to digital competence, teaching future human rights defenders how to use collaborative tools like Polis and Plurality to bridge divides. By sharing these technologies of listening, GCHR can ensure that the next generation can be architects of a digital peace, co-creating a common future built on rough consensus and running code, rather than silence and surveillance.

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

To the students, professors, alumni, partners and staff of the Global Campus of Human Rights: I invite you to view the defense of human dignity as a resistance against oppression and an infinite game of co-creation where we constantly debug our social systems to be more inclusive. As you navigate the intersection of technology and rights, remember the Taiwan Model and that Taiwan Can Help strengthen digital resilience, transforming the internet from a vector of polarization into a space for Plurality and mutual understanding.

By practicing the art of active listening and collaborative governance, we can ensure that democracy remains a living technology that serves everyone. Let us rewrite the source code of society and free the future — together! My friends and partners: Live long and prosper.



## Interview with 2025 Right Livelihood Laureate Justice for Myanmar

*The Press Office had the opportunity to interview 2025 Right Livelihood Laureate Justice for Myanmar about the situation in the country and their roles to contribute to a change.*

**Please share with us about your background and role as a Myanmar covert group of activists working to expose the financial architecture and global corporate complicity sustaining the military junta?**

We founded Justice For Myanmar in 2019 following the military's campaign of genocide against the Rohingya. For decades, the military ruled Myanmar with an iron fist, perpetrating mass atrocities against ethnic minorities and waging wars that fuelled long-running civil conflict. This enabled the military to seize control of public assets and build vast military conglomerates that enriched generals and financed mass-scale brutality against the people. The military and militias aligned with it made billions by exploiting natural resources and expanding global illicit trade, while the lucrative cyber-scam industry, run with trafficked labour, flourished under military protection.

Foreign companies have made themselves complicit in this system of criminality, investing billions in military-linked enterprises and supplying the arms and aviation fuel that sustain the military's international crimes.

Businesses, banks and investors continue to enable the junta's war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Our role is to expose this financial architecture and global corporate complicity. Through forensic research and a "follow the money" approach, we work to reveal the networks connecting international corporations, investors and governments that facilitate repression. Our mission is to dismantle the military's cartel and help pave the way for a just, peaceful, federal democratic Myanmar.

**How was being recognised as Right Livelihood Award 2025 and how did it help with your activities and mission to boost urgent and long-term social change in your country?**

We are deeply honoured to receive the Right Livelihood Award. The award belongs to the people of Myanmar, who have courageously defied the military junta for nearly five years and have made immense sacrifices in the struggle to dismantle the brutal military. The recognition shines a light on this ongoing struggle, particularly following the junta's illegal 2021 coup attempt.

It also sends a clear message to the military: the world is watching, and the people of Myanmar will not be forgotten. Governments, companies and investors must take urgent action to stop the flow of funds, arms and aviation fuel to the military. They must sever the ties that enable the junta to commit international crimes.

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

Following the military's coup attempt in 2021, the military junta is currently preparing for its sham elections, planned for December and January, amid an escalating nationwide campaign of terror involving mass killings, arbitrary arrests, indiscriminate airstrikes, rape and sexual violence, torture, and the systematic burning of villages. Increasingly, children are among the victims. More than 22,600 people have been arrested, including political leaders; voters are surveilled and punished for speaking about the election; and military's indiscriminate airstrikes are intensifying. There can be no free or fair election in Myanmar. This is a staged process designed to legitimise an illegitimate coup and prolong the junta's campaign of terror.

In the immediate term, governments must be urged to reject this sham election. Support must be directed to the people of Myanmar, who are building bottom-up systems of governance and administration that form the foundations of a future federal democracy.

You can call on your government to cut all ties with military-linked businesses, halt the flow of aviation fuel, and end the provision of arms to the junta. Governments should impose coordinated sanctions on the military's key revenue streams, including its conglomerates, arms brokers, aviation fuel suppliers and the banks that enable their transactions, while regulators need to investigate and prosecute companies complicit in the junta's international crimes and that are violating sanctions. Investors and pension funds must divest from enterprises that sustain the junta's war machine, and civil society, media and academic institutions can amplify the

voices of the Myanmar people, challenge disinformation and help document atrocities for future accountability. International solidarity is vital. The people of Myanmar are risking everything to resist a murderous junta and build an inclusive, democratic future, and with sustained external pressure and principled support, we can help cut the junta's financial lifelines and move closer to the federal democracy that Myanmar people are fighting for.

**What is your opinion on the importance of human rights education in the field of democracy and the fight against corruption?**

Human rights education is essential for any democracy to take root and for corruption to be meaningfully challenged. The knowledge you gain today could help you to understand your rights, recognise abuse, demand accountability and stand up and speak truth to power at a time when authoritarianism is on the rise throughout the world. This is a privilege that the people of Myanmar were robbed of for generations under military rule. Human rights education can revive, rebuild and flourish a political culture that is grounded in dignity, humanity, equality and accountability that nurtures empowered people who can build a world resistant to authoritarianism and fascism. It is a key foundation of a democratic society.

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

Around the world, we are witnessing the resurgence of authoritarianism, digital repression, transnational organised crime, and impunity for grave human rights violations. These challenges are interconnected, shared and urgent. From Palestine to Ukraine, East Turkistan to South Sudan, conflicts are increasingly fuelled by opaque financial networks, disinformation, and the complicity of global corporations. One of the greatest

challenges ahead is ensuring accountability in a world where perpetrators can operate across borders with ease as partners in crime. For example, Russia, China, India and Belarus are the Myanmar military's partners in crime, funding and arming its atrocities while lending support to its sham election.

Educational programmes like yours play a vital role. They can create critical spaces where students and practitioners can amplify the people's messages, learn from each other, share strategies, and build solidarity across regions. You can organize to push the EU and other governments to sanction the military and the enablers that fuel its international crimes. Programmes like the Global Campus can help to strengthen global efforts to defend human rights.

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

Your work, your voice and your action matters. We hope that you take notice of the courage and strength of the people of Myanmar and stand with oppressed communities throughout the world who are fighting not only for their own survival but for a future built on justice, dignity and equality in a life under a democratic government. This is something that can be easily robbed by those in power if not practiced and actively defended throughout the world. Your solidarity and action will continue to strengthen our resolve to work towards dismantling the military and building a just and peaceful Myanmar.



## Interview with 2025 Right Livelihood Laureate Emergency Response Rooms

*The Press Office interviewed 2025 Right Livelihood Laureate EER about the situation in Sudan and their roles as humanitarian response.*

**Please share with us about your background and role as a Sudanese grassroots, community-led network that has become the backbone of humanitarian response amid war, displacement and state collapse in your country?**

As a Sudanese grassroots, community led network, we emerged from neighbourhoods, villages, and local initiatives that refused to collapse under the weight of war, displacement, and the breakdown of state institutions. Our background is rooted in volunteerism and mutual aid ordinary citizens organizing emergency response rooms, youth committees, women led groups, and local coordination bodies that stepped in when formal systems failed. What began as small neighbourhood efforts quickly grew into a nationwide web of solidarity, driven by a deep commitment to protect civilians, deliver life saving assistance, and uphold the dignity of our communities during one of Sudan's darkest chapters. Today, we serve as the backbone of humanitarian response in areas where international access is restricted or impossible. Our role spans rapid needs assessments, medical and food distribution, civilian evacuation, shelter support, conflict sensitive communication, and accountability to affected people. We operate with agility,

legitimacy, and intimate local knowledge, enabling us to reach frontline communities with speed and trust. Despite limited resources and immense risks, we continue to bridge the humanitarian gap, advocate for civilians' rights, and sustain the social fabric of Sudan through community driven action.

**How was being recognised as Right Livelihood Award 2025 and how did it help with your activities and mission to boost urgent and long-term social change using mutual-aid principles?**

Being recognised with the Right Livelihood Award 2025 was both an affirmation of our struggle and a protective spotlight on the lifesaving work of Sudan's grassroots mutual aid networks. For us, the award was not only a symbol of global solidarity but also a moment when the world finally acknowledged the courage, sacrifice, and organizational strength of ordinary Sudanese volunteers who have carried the weight of humanitarian response amid state collapse and ongoing mass displacement. It elevated our story from the margins of a neglected crisis to an international platform, giving legitimacy to community led action as a powerful model of resilience and social justice. The recognition has strengthened our mission in tangible ways.

It expanded our access to allies, resources, and advocacy channels that help sustain and scale our operations. The global visibility offered by the award has provided a layer of protection for grassroots actors working under extreme insecurity, while also opening doors for partnerships that support both urgent relief and long term transformation. Most importantly, it reinforced our commitment to mutual aid principles solidarity, local ownership, transparency, and collective care showing that communities themselves can be the drivers of structural social change. Through this recognition, we have been better positioned to amplify civilian voices, sustain community resilience, and push for a future where Sudan's people not armed actors shape the path to peace and recovery.

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

Sudan is currently facing one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with violence, displacement, hunger, and the collapse of state institutions affecting nearly every aspect of life. As basic services deteriorate and millions are forced from their homes, community led networks like ours have become the main providers of emergency assistance, protection, and local coordination. Despite working under constant insecurity and with extremely limited resources, we continue to deliver lifesaving support because we are embedded in the neighbourhoods, villages, and communities most affected by the war. The visibility we've gained through international recognition, global media attention, and solidarity from partners has strengthened our ability to operate. It gives our volunteers a measure of protection, increases trust from external partners, and opens doors for funding and technical support that help us scale our mutual aid model. Your support can amplify this impact by advocating for humanitarian, sharing our story, and providing flexible resources that allow us to respond quickly to needs on the ground. Standing with us helps sustain our work and strengthens our long term mission to protect civilians, uphold dignity, and drive

community led social change in Sudan.

**What is your opinion on the importance of human rights education in the field of rights and specifically in helping to tackle the challenges to the rights you care for in your actions?**

Human rights education is essential because it builds the knowledge, confidence, and collective awareness that communities need to defend their dignity, demand accountability, and resist abuse. In a context like Sudan where war, displacement, and the erosion of state institutions have left people exposed to violations human rights education provides a foundation for understanding what protections individuals are entitled to and how to claim them. It transforms rights from abstract principles into practical tools that communities can use to challenge discrimination, safeguard vulnerable groups, and push back against impunity. For our work as a grassroots, mutual aid network, human rights education is directly tied to the challenges we face every day; protecting civilians, advocating for access to humanitarian aid, documenting abuses, and ensuring community led decision making. By equipping volunteers and local leaders with knowledge of rights frameworks, we strengthen their ability to act safely, ethically, and effectively in crisis settings. It also empowers communities to hold armed actors and authorities accountable, promotes nonviolent problem solving, and reinforces the values of solidarity and justice at the heart of our mission. Ultimately, human rights education is not just an add on, it is a tool of survival, resilience, and long-term social transformation.

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

I don't know about the whole world, but in Africa and especially in Sudan the most urgent challenges in the field of human rights and democracy are rooted in conflict,

authoritarianism, and the collapse of public institutions. Communities are facing widespread violence, displacement, hunger, and shrinking civic space, while activists and local responders work under severe insecurity. The breakdown of accountability mechanisms has left civilians exposed to abuses, and the weakening of democratic processes makes it harder for people to participate in shaping their political future. These challenges are intensified by economic inequality, digital repression, and the lack of safe platforms for honest public dialogue.

In this context, educational programmes like those offered by the Global Campus of Human Rights can play a critical role. They provide a safe, reflective space where practitioners, students, and community leaders can openly discuss these realities without fear.

Such programmes help build deeper understanding of rights frameworks, strengthen analytical and advocacy skills, and foster connections across regions and backgrounds by creating an environment for thoughtful conversation and shared learning, they support those of us working on the front lines to imagine solutions, build solidarity, and advance the principles of justice, dignity, and democracy in places where they are most under threat.

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

I want to extend my deepest gratitude for the commitment you bring to the struggle for justice, dignity, and human rights. Your work reminds us that even in the most difficult moments whether in Sudan or in any part of the world there are communities of people who refuse to accept silence, indifference, or oppression as the final word. The knowledge you build, the debates you host, and the solidarity you foster all contribute to protecting those whose voices are at risk of being erased by conflict or authoritarian power. Your dedication gives strength to frontline actors like us. When you amplify our stories, challenge harmful narratives, and hold space for honest reflection, you help create a global

ecosystem where human rights defenders are not isolated but supported. Please continue cultivating spaces for courage, learning, and dialogue. The world needs your curiosity, your integrity, and your insistence that human rights belong to everyone even in the midst of war and collapse. Thank you for standing with communities like ours, and for shaping a future grounded in humanity and hope.



## Interview with 2025 Right Livelihood Laureate Julian Aguon

*The Press Office had the opportunity to ask questions to the 2025 Right Livelihood Laureate Julian Aguon about the ICJ's historic ruling and next steps.*

### **Please share with us about your background and roles?**

I'm the President and Founder of Blue Ocean Law, which is the law firm that represented Vanuatu in the ICJ climate change advisory opinion proceedings, from its inception in 2019 to its conclusion in 2025.

### **How was being recognised as Right Livelihood Award 2025 and how did it help with your activities and mission to boost urgent and long-term social change?**

Apart from being an incredible honor, the award supported our work in a number of ways, including helping us to be able to return to the various Indigenous communities to deliver the news about the ICJ's historic ruling and to ascertain their wishes with respect to next steps. It's important to us that Indigenous peoples play a leading role in shaping the future of climate justice.

### **What is the current situation with after the ICJ intervention and how are you benefiting with all this visibility? How could we support your cause?**

At the moment, many people around the world are putting their heads together and mapping out potential cases where the ICJ opinion can

be used as leverage and support, especially where the Court has provided exceptional clarity. The visibility that the award has given us has helped us secure a spot in many of those conversations, affording us an opportunity to learn from, support, and be supported by others in the space.

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

It is supremely important. Among other things, what the Court made crystal clear is that the climate crisis is also a human rights crisis. Several of the core human rights have of course already been violated as a result of man-made climate disruption. Thus, human rights education must form one of the central components of any contemporary climate justice curriculum.

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

One of the biggest things working against us all is time. We have a mercilessly tight timeline in

which to get our collective shit together. Thus we need to devise as many brilliant, innovative, and diverse strategies, legal and otherwise, to get us from where we are to where we need to be. That also means we must become better at thinking on our feet. We must cultivate a kind of intellectual athleticism, and not just because the window to avert all-out climate catastrophe is rapidly closing, but because so many other nefarious forces are also on the rise, including authoritarianism. Educational programs like yours could reach out to and remain in conversation with frontline communities in order to learn what types of support they most need now, especially as some of them are already actively considering one or more pathways to climate reparations.

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

One thing that became abundantly clear to me over the course of working on this case is that the imagination that got us into this terrible planetary mess is not and cannot be the imagination to get us out of it. Thus part of our work as human rights lawyers is to use the law to protect those with a different imagination. Thus, protecting Indigenous peoples, that is, ensuring they are able to continue to live and thrive in their ancestral spaces, is a matter of the utmost importance. I would encourage educational programs like yours to find new ways to foreground Indigenous peoples, and their distinct worldviews and ways of knowing, in the teaching and practice of human rights.

# News and Events



## Statement of Solidarity with Birzeit University Following the Military Raid on Campus

We stand in solidarity with Birzeit University, a member university of the Global Campus of Human Rights and a founding member of the Arab regional programme in Democracy and Human Rights, with its leadership, its faculty, its staff and its students.

The Global Campus of Human Rights, the world's largest institution of postgraduate human rights education with 8 regional programmes across the Arab world, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia-Pacific, Central Asia, the Caucasus, Southeast Europe and Europe, issues this statement with profound concern and condemnation regarding the recent events that occurred on 6 January 2026 at one of its members, Birzeit University.

We have received with alarm reports that the Israeli army raided the Campus of Birzeit University in the Palestinian Occupied Territories, using live ammunition and rubber bullets. At least 11 students are reported wounded and the Vice-President was detained and interrogated. The use of military force within a university, a sanctuary of learning and intellectual discourse, is an unacceptable violation of the fundamental right to education, academic freedom and university autonomy.

Universities must be places where ideas are discussed openly, and where students learn and express themselves in an environment free from fear and intimidation. The right to peaceful assembly is an integral part of academic freedom.

The autonomy of academic institutions and the physical inviolability of their campuses are fundamental to the realisation of their mission. Any infringement upon

these fundamental rights harms the global network of universities and organisations that upholds the advancement of human rights and democracy.

We stand in solidarity with Birzeit University, a member university of the Global Campus of Human Rights and a founding member of the [Arab Master's Programme in Democracy and Human Rights](#), with its leadership, its faculty, its staff and its students.

We call for a full, transparent and independent investigation into the circumstances that led to the military operation on campus and the injuries sustained, and accountability for those responsible for the disproportionate use of force. At the same time, we call on the Government of Israel to respect and protect the autonomy, safety and academic freedom of all higher education institutions in the Palestinian Occupied Territories in accordance with its international obligations. Any future intrusion of a similar nature should be viewed as a violation of human rights by which the Government of Israel has agreed to be legally bound.



Sharing is caring: peer learning and co-creation at the core of the 20th CHRA anniversary reunion

Our School in Cinema, Human Rights and Advocacy (CHRA) officially celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2025.

Across all editions, we have had the privilege of connecting with some of the most brilliant and committed minds: a remarkable community of around 453 alumni from all over the world working in human rights advocacy, communication and campaigning, impact film production, documentary filmmaking (and the list is not over!). Each one of them has brought personal experiences, activism and stories of community empowerment, yet all shared a commitment: making this world more peaceful, just, and equal through strategic and responsible visual storytelling.

For this anniversary, we wanted to honour our rich and diverse community by creating a space for networking, dialogue and inspiration, one that could spark new ideas, collaborations, and hopefully new friendships. We recreated a small-scale version of the CHRA experience, giving alumni a space to learn with and from one another, openly discuss shared challenges, exchange experiences, good practices, and possible solutions. We have therefore organised a reunion consisting of 3 online roundtables across the month of January, inviting our CHRA alumni community to co-create the sessions. Together, we identified 3 meaningful topics of conversation that would be relevant to their professional development, and they coordinated each session as moderators.

### Roundtable 1: AI and Technology in Films and Human Rights

The first roundtable focused on AI and technology in films and human rights.

Participants discussed in breakout rooms the impact of AI on storytelling, journalism, and advocacy, focusing on its use in newsrooms, assisted storytelling, misinformation and political influence, and regulations and responsibilities.

By sharing personal experiences and perspectives, participants recognised AI's growing capabilities and practical benefits, such as transcription and illustration, while highlighting the risks of loss in empathy, context and potential job displacement. They emphasized the need for stronger regulations, media literacy, and global AI standards to address misinformation, transparency, and protection of minors.

### Roundtable 2: Impact, Campaigning, and Media Advocacy

The second CHRA alumni roundtable focused on impact, campaigning, and media advocacy. Participants discussed how film and digital media can move people from awareness to action. Participants reflected on challenges in using online platforms for campaigns, explored tools to build audience trust and representation, and discussed differences between awareness and impact.

Outcomes of the conversations included recognition of the importance of combining online platforms with in-person engagement; combining the role of partnerships and stakeholders for campaign success; and tailoring messages and personal storytelling to build trust with specific audiences.

### Roundtable 3: Fundraising, Partnerships, and Networks

The third CHRA alumni roundtable will take place this week and will focus on fundraising, partnerships and networks. Participants will discuss innovative funding strategies, the effectiveness of cross-sector partnerships, and how to build resilience (financial, professional, and emotional) in an increasingly competitive landscape. As the [next edition of the summer school](#) approaches, these online reunions reminded us about the importance and relevance of the schools' core themes, still at the centre of global discourse around human rights, media and advocacy. 20 editions and counting, and there is always something new to learn, a new perspective to embrace. Our heartfelt thanks go to all the alumni who participated, generously sharing their experiences and helping our community grow, bridging generations of CHRA participants through connections that might otherwise never have taken place. To our CHRA alumni we say: stay bold and connected, and should you ever be around Lido from August 31 to September 9, the Monastery doors are open! If reading this article made you feel the power of community, the strength of shared values, and a sense of belonging, just know that the CHRA family continues to grow and it's ready to welcome you on board!

Let yourself be transported into a world of possibility, and become part of our vibrant community: the [call for applications](#) for the 2026 edition of the CHRA School (August 31 to September 9) is open! We can't wait to welcome you in Venice!



As part of the Huqooq-e-Pakistan II project, the Global Campus of Human Rights continues to organise international mobility opportunities for Pakistani students pursuing human rights studies. Implemented in partnership with UNDP Pakistan and funded by the European Union, the initiative is open to students from the University of Baluchistan, Habib University in Karachi, the University of Peshawar and Lahore University of Management Sciences.

Building on the first round of the mobility scheme — which enabled four selected students to attend the [33rd Annual Human Rights and People's Diplomacy Training Programme \(DTP\)](#) — seven more participants took part in the second and third mobility hosted through the Global Campus Asia-Pacific network.

In December 2025, four students joined the Winter School on Economic, Social and Development Rights, co-organized by the Global Campus and the Kathmandu School of Law. The three-week residential programme explored digital rights and technology, AI, ethics, and human rights. Alongside in-class sessions and workshops, students participated in a SAARC simulation model and field visits examining ESDR challenges across South and the Asia-Pacific region.

For the third mobility round, three students travelled to Thailand for a two-week intensive programme on [Borders, Conflict and Migration, hosted by the Institute for Human Rights and Peace Studies](#) at Mahidol University. After a first week of classes and workshops on ethical research and writing, participants visited the Thailand-Myanmar border, meeting local NGOs and experts and exploring issues

of political transition, conflict, migration, and cross-border access to education and healthcare.

More updates on project activities and upcoming initiatives will follow in the months ahead — stay tuned!

*This activity is part of the GC Capacity Development programme. For more information, contact Adriano Remiddi – programme manager, Vukašin Pajović, and Larisa Barbu – programme officers at [capacity.development@gchumanrights.org](mailto:capacity.development@gchumanrights.org)*



### Ethical and Rights-Based Approach to Work with and for Children

How can research involving children move beyond procedural safeguards toward genuine, meaningful participation? On 22–23 January 2026, the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies (IHRP) at Mahidol University convened a regional workshop bringing together child rights practitioners from across South and Southeast Asia to reflect on ethical, inclusive, and rights-based approaches to engaging children in research, consultation and policy processes.

The workshop, titled “Researching on (with) Children: Beyond Procedural Ethics toward Relational Engagement,” was organised within the Global Campus – Right Livelihood partnership on children’s rights, and implemented by IHRP in collaboration with local NGO partners. Participants included seven consultants working directly with children in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand through the Children Leadership Team (CLT) initiative, alongside graduate students from IHRP.

Over the past three years, the CLT initiative has supported children to form peer groups and youth clubs, lead thematic discussions, and engage with authorities, ministries and community leaders. Children involved have also contributed to international processes, including [consultations with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child](#) (2024–2025) and the [Global Commission on Drug Policy](#) (late 2025). Despite these achievements, practitioners identified two persistent challenges: limited conceptual grounding in child participation as a right within research settings, and uneven familiarity with academic and institutional research ethics requirements.

The workshop therefore focused on strengthening NGO capacity to facilitate

meaningful and inclusive child participation. Sessions explored different levels and forms of participation, the risks of tokenistic engagement, and approaches to ensuring inclusion of refugee children, minority groups, and children affected by structural inequalities related to caste, class, literacy, age and psychosocial conditions.

A second core theme addressed ethical standards and protection. Discussions examined informed consent, guardianship, and the recognition of children as a particularly vulnerable group in research. Facilitators from both academic and NGO sectors emphasised that ethics must be treated as an organisational responsibility rather than a procedural formality, encouraging participants to adopt relational and context-sensitive approaches.

Participants shared field experiences from diverse national contexts, including work on refugee education in Bangladesh, climate justice and substance-use prevention in India, discrimination against girls and refugee children in Pakistan, child labour in Nepal, minority rights in Sri Lanka, and mental-health-focused education environments in Thailand. Contributions from Global Campus staff [Barbara Strasser](#) and [John Paul Amah](#) further connected regional practice with global children's rights initiatives.

By the conclusion of the workshop, participants reported a stronger shared understanding of rights-based participation and improved capacity to design ethical engagement processes. Practical tools and checklists were introduced to support ongoing CLT activities. The event marked an important step in deepening collaboration between academic institutions and NGOs, reinforcing a shift from compliance-focused ethics toward reflective, child-centred research practices across the region.

Drafted by [Mst Umme Habiba Fahmina Karim](#), PhD  
Lecturer, Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies (IHRP), Mahidol University  
GC Regional Children's Rights Officer for Asia-Pacific



**Launch of the Shaista Ikramullah Human Rights Education Centre Marks a New Milestone for Human Rights Education in Pakistan**

The Global Campus of Human Rights salutes the inauguration of the Shaista Ikramullah Human Rights Education Centre (SIHREC) held on 9 February 2026 in Lahore. Established to advance human rights higher education in Pakistan, the Centre is part of the Huqooq-e-Pakistan II project, implemented by UNDP Pakistan and funded by the European Union.

Conceived to become an interdisciplinary hub for learning, research and dialogue, SIHREC will support students, researchers, academics, civil society actors and institutions working on human rights issues.

The inauguration brought together representatives from government, academia, civil society and the diplomatic corps, including H.E. Raimundas Karoblis, Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan and the Abdul Khaliq Shaikh, Minister of Human Rights. The programme also featured an interactive training on peacebuilding and human rights led by Dr. Michael George Hayes, Director of the Global Campus Asia-Pacific Master's programme and GC's second Vice-President, who also represented the network at the inauguration events.

Since 2025, the Global Campus has been closely working on this initiative as a UNDP partner, also co-chairing the project's Academic Task Force to advise and support the Centre's programming and strategic development. The partnership includes co-developing new academic courses, establishing student mobility schemes, and providing technical assistance and training for Centre staff.

Photo credit: UNDP Pakistan

This activity is part of the [GC Capacity Development programme](#).

For more information, contact Adriano Remiddi – programme manager, Vukašin Pajović, and Larisa Barbu – programme officers at [capacity.development@gchumanrights.org](mailto:capacity.development@gchumanrights.org)



### From temple to classroom: how a Buddhist monk is bridging faith and human rights in Bangkok

In Bangkok, at the foot of Wat Saket, Venerable Napan Santibhaddo Thawornbanjob has spent years working where dialogue is most fragile: the conflict-affected south of Thailand. A Buddhist monk and interfaith peacebuilder, he has long brought together Buddhist and Muslim communities, promoting non-violence and mutual understanding. Yet, after years of mediation and community healing, he realised that peacebuilding alone was not enough — lasting peace required a deeper engagement with human rights.

Photo credit: PaRD/GIZ

That realisation led him to the [Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Asia Pacific](#) (APMA – GC Asia Pacific), hosted at the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University. For Ven. Napan, APMA provides a language and framework that complements religious teachings. “Peace and human rights are two sides of the same coin,” he reflects, drawing on his experience supporting communities affected by violence and fear. Learning about international standards and mechanisms has enabled him to move beyond moral persuasion towards structural change — equipping him to engage policy-makers, educators and religious leaders alike.

His journey to APMA grew directly from practical work on the ground. After collaborating with [Thailand's Human Rights Commission](#) on a project training

“healer monks” to support traumatised communities, he sought deeper knowledge to strengthen these initiatives. Through the APMA Programme he studied treaty systems, child rights protection and regional practices, while exchanges with classmates — including many from Myanmar — broadened his understanding of displacement, education and cross-border solidarity. The impact is already tangible: students from the Programme now intern at his Institute of Buddhist Management for Happiness and Peace (IBHAP) Foundation, translating classroom learning into community engagement.

The APMA experience also exposed Ven. Napan to comparative perspectives across Asia and beyond, helping him reflect on the relationship between religion, politics and democracy. This broader outlook reinforced his conviction that religious institutions can actively support democratic societies.

**“Religious leaders should not only learn about human rights — they can help society protect them,”** he says, emphasising the importance of inclusive spaces where civil society, faith communities and public authorities cooperate.

APMA student Ven. Napan as a [KAICIID](#) Fellow at the KAICIID 2024 Global Forum in Lisbon (Portugal), 14-16 May 2024. Based in Lisbon, KAICIID (the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue) is an intergovernmental organisation that promotes interreligious and intercultural dialogue worldwide to prevent and resolve conflicts and foster peace.

His thesis focuses on strengthening collaboration between human rights organisations and Buddhist institutions, embedding rights education within religious networks while drawing on spiritual traditions to promote dignity and resilience. The Global Campus plays a key role in this effort by connecting practitioners across regions; learning from experiences in Africa or Europe, he notes, helps communities in Thailand recognise shared challenges and solutions.

Beyond the classroom, his academic work feeds back into practice.

As Assistant Abbot of [Wat Saket](#) (Golden Mount Temple) and founding director of IBHAP, Ven. Napan develops training programmes that apply Buddhist ethics to youth leadership and community resilience. His growing engagement at the international level — including speaking as an interfaith leader at the UN Climate Conference in 2024 — reflects how the programme strengthens his ability to translate

local experience into global dialogue, and vice versa.

In a world where religion is often portrayed as a source of division, his work — strengthened by the APMA programme — shows another possibility: faith as a partner of human rights, and education as the bridge between them.



### Advancing the Right to Education for migrant children: Fahim's Journey to the Global Campus

Fahim Abrar Abid is a Visiting Researcher at the Global Campus of Human Rights (GCHR) in Venice, examining whether a child's migration status can justify exclusion from public education in Europe—focusing on undocumented migrant children in Spain's Melilla enclave.

Fahim's research project analyses judicial protections against procedural barriers like residence requirements that indirectly discriminate, drawing on the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's 2024 Views in *K.K. v. Spain* and connecting to ICCPR/ICESCR obligations on equality and social rights. This research extends his earlier work rooted in Bangladesh, where he witnessed Rohingya refugee children confined to camps without meaningful education access. During his LL.B. at BRAC University, his thesis addressed their right to education under national and international refugee law, establishing his focus on territorially present but marginalized children.

Fahim then pursued an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's across Glasgow, IBEI Barcelona, and Tartu. Glasgow built his expertise in international law, courts and treaty interpretation. Barcelona added political science and security perspectives on human rights dynamics. Tartu refined his comparative approach to rights issues across jurisdictions. His publications appeared in *Journal of Conflict and Security Law* (Oxford), *Cambridge International Law Journal*, *Asian Yearbook of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law* (Brill), and *Harvard International Law Journal*. Peers noted his Global South emphasis, which he took as an invitation to apply that rigor comparatively to Europe, beginning with Melilla's parallels to South Asian exclusion mechanisms.

Alongside a master's thesis on Muslim refugee children's education rights in India—probing domestic courts' use of international standards—Fahim is contributing to the European Yearbook on Human Rights 2026. This article ties Melilla's administrative barriers to covenant-based non-discrimination duties during the ICCPR/ICESCR anniversaries.

The Global Campus is recognised for its international work on children's rights and for building a community where scholarship, practice, and policy speak to each other. Its intellectual environment—combined with the resources available in Venice—made it the right place to develop his project at the intersection of children's rights, equality and migration governance.



## Our Alumni Launch Cross-Regional Human Rights Initiatives

The Global Campus Alumni (GCA) has launched the 2025–26 edition of its cross-regional alumni-led activities, reaffirming its commitment to supporting young graduates as they take their first independent steps and design and implement their own human-rights initiatives. Fourteen projects were selected for support — dynamic and diverse in scope, and led by alumni themselves.

The [scheme](#) is about investing in GC graduates at a formative stage of their careers. Recent alumni are given the space to test ideas, build portfolios and collaborate across regions — often for the first time as independent professionals rather than students. The result is work that blends research with advocacy, and local engagement with global relevance.

The themes are telling. Environmental justice features prominently, approached not as an abstract concern but as a matter of inequality and accountability. Some initiatives centre indigenous communities in the Amazon and populations in Small Island States, reframing climate change as a question of historical responsibility and global solidarity. Others interrogate child labour, extractivism and supply chains, including in the fashion industry, documenting how children and future generations bear the hidden costs of resource-driven growth.

**“I chose this project because child labour tied to ‘helping at home’ becomes invisible, yet the costs—missed school, long hours, hazardous tasks—are real.”**

Legal invisibility is another recurring concern. One project examines the status of children born of wartime sexual violence in Southeast Europe, comparing national frameworks to show that reform is not only necessary but feasible. Elsewhere, alumni are producing advocacy toolkits, policy briefs and digital platforms designed to make rights claims legible to decision-makers and accessible to communities.

Several initiatives shift the focus from headline issues to quieter forms of injustice. Unpaid caregiving — often carried by women and rarely recognised as a public concern — is reframed as a question of dignity and rights. Creative communication training seeks to counter polarising anti-gender narratives not with confrontation, but with what one participant describes as “hope-based” engagement. In each case, personal experience informs professional commitment.

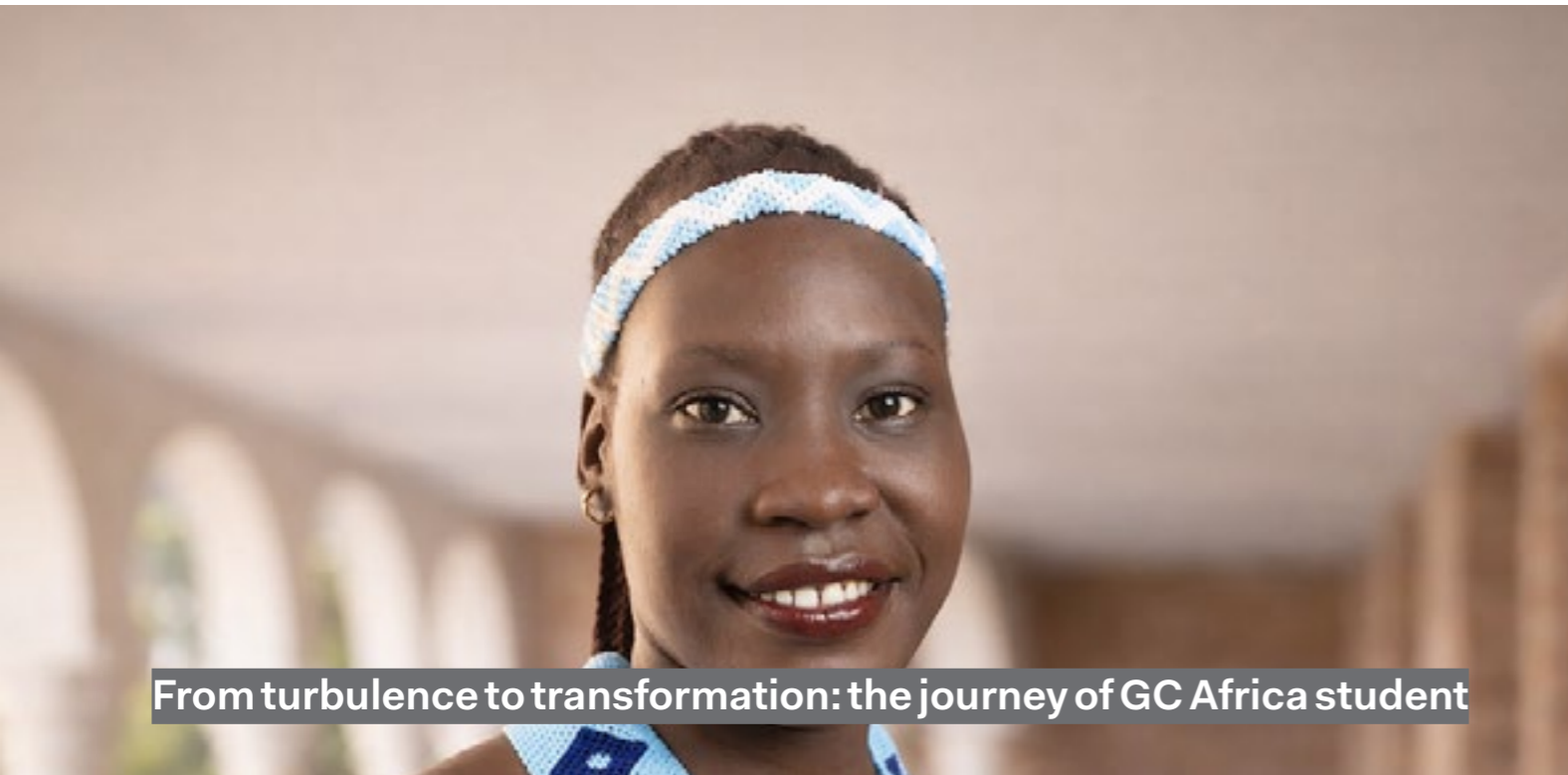
Many initiatives will be developed in partnership with Right Livelihood Laureates, linking early-career human-rights practitioners with globally recognised changemakers. The effect is to embed alumni work within a wider ecosystem of practice and mentorship.

**“In our project we focus on defenders at the forefront of democratic resilience, facing criminalisation, surveillance and shrinking civic space from Latin America to Southeast Asia.”**

The scheme is supported by the European Union and Right Livelihood, whose backing enables these small-scale experiments. Their continued support allows young human rights professionals to experiment, collaborate across regions, and contribute meaningfully to advancing human dignity worldwide by designing practical responses — research reports, legal handbooks, digital toolkits, exhibitions, documentaries and community-based interventions.

Curious to see what last year’s Cross-Regional Alumni-Led Projects produced? Discover the 2024–25 outputs [here](#).

*Header photo by Shobhajit Chowdhury, photographer of the photobook [Children of the River](#), which captures the lived realities of children in flood-affected Sirajganj, Bangladesh—one of the selected 2024–25 projects in the Global Campus Alumni cross-regional activities.*



### From turbulence to transformation: the journey of GC Africa student

In 2025, Dorcas Francis Loly Werson made a decision that required extraordinary courage. Leaving her children in South Sudan, she enrolled in the Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa (HRDA) at the University of Pretoria — a step shaped by sacrifice, determination and a deep commitment to advancing the rights of women and girls.

Growing up in Sudan before the independence of South Sudan, Dorcas was raised in a context marked by conflict and entrenched cultural expectations about women's roles. Ambition, especially for girls, often came with invisible boundaries. Encouraged by an HRDA alumnus, she applied to the HRDA Programme despite doubting her chances. Receiving the acceptance letter marked the beginning of a profound personal and professional transformation.

At the GC Africa Programme, Dorcas encountered an academically rigorous yet deeply supportive environment. The first semester challenged her resilience through intensive readings, presentations and demanding deadlines. At the same time, lecturers and tutors fostered not only academic growth but also mental strength and solidarity among students. Creative assignments — including drama, poetry, and collaborative presentations — encouraged new ways of engaging with human rights issues and strengthened bonds within the cohort.

Her second-semester mobility experience in Cotonou, Benin, further expanded her horizons. At the University of Abomey-Calavi and during her placement with Amnesty International Benin, she worked closely with local human rights defenders, examined Universal Periodic Review commitments and explored the relationship

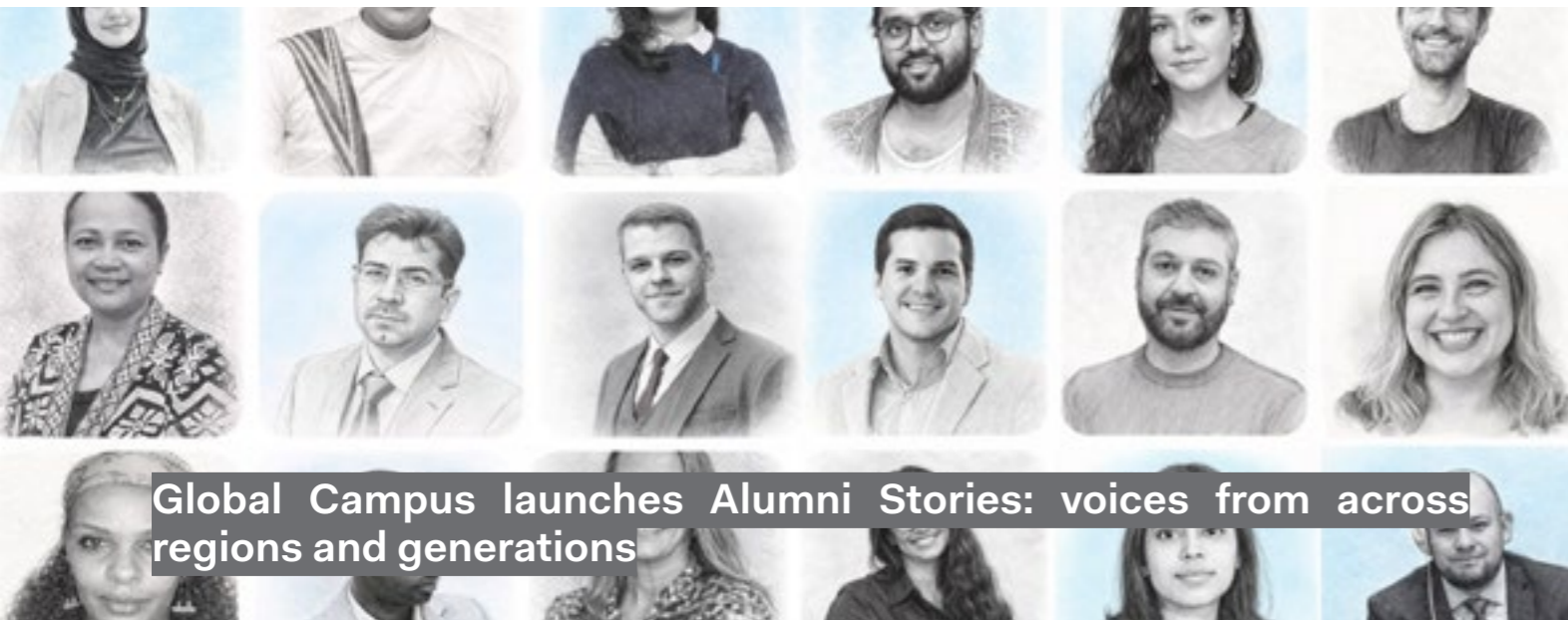
between legislation and lived realities. The experience deepened her understanding of regional human rights systems and demonstrated the importance of cross-cultural solidarity in advancing accountability.

Academically, HRDA transformed Dorcas's confidence. Once hesitant about her writing abilities, she developed clarity in analysing African human rights jurisprudence and mechanisms. Inspired by her studies, she authored an [article urging South Sudan to ratify the Protocol](#) establishing the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and to enable direct access for individuals and NGOs.

Professionally, moot courts, debates, proposal-writing workshops and policy discussions strengthened her analytical and advocacy skills. More importantly, the Programme reshaped her sense of belonging in professional spaces she had once considered beyond reach.

For Dorcas, HRDA was not merely an academic experience but a turning point. Becoming the first woman in her family to obtain a master's degree represents both personal achievement and a wider message of possibility. Today, she continues to advocate for the rights of women and girls in South Sudan and across Africa — rising not because the path is easy, but because her purpose is greater than the challenges she faces.

*From Dorcas Francis Loly Werson's Dean essay [Rising From Turbulence to Excellence: My Transformation Through the HRDA LLM Programme](#), 27 November 2025 Dean's Essay*



## Global Campus launches Alumni Stories: voices from across regions and generations

Global Campus Alumni Stories is a new publication that brings together the experiences, reflections and professional journeys of its worldwide alumni community. Subtitled "Many Paths, One Commitment to Human Rights," the volume offers a rich portrait of how graduates of the GC regional Master's programmes continue to shape institutions, communities and debates on justice and democracy across the globe.

**Alumni Stories** gathers a wide range of narratives from alumni whose careers have taken them into diverse fields: international organisations, public institutions, academia, civil society initiatives, humanitarian work and policy-making. Through **interviews, reflections and short profiles**, the stories trace how human rights education translates into practice in very different contexts: from local grassroots initiatives to global policy environments.

Taken together, these accounts reflect the breadth of the Global Campus alumni network, which today includes **almost 5000 graduates originating from over 40 countries**, working across more than twenty professional sectors. Their trajectories illustrate how **human rights knowledge travels across disciplines and geographies**, carried by professionals who often move between research, advocacy, public service and community engagement throughout their careers.

**At the heart of the publication are the voices of the alumni themselves.** Each profile recounts a distinct path shaped by different regional realities and professional choices. Some alumni work directly on human rights advocacy, documenting violations or supporting communities seeking justice. Others contribute through fields such as education, governance, media or development policy, demonstrating how human rights perspectives inform a wide range of professional practices.

Beyond these personal narratives, *Alumni Stories* also highlights the **collective strength and long-term impact of the Global Campus network**. The publication includes examples of senior alumni whose careers have reached influential positions,

offering recognition to those who have helped shape policy frameworks, legal practice and public debates in the field of human rights. The publication serves not only as a collection of individual stories, but also as a **\*\*celebration of a living global community**. Across regions and generations, many alumni remain closely engaged with the programmes that once shaped them — returning as lecturers, mentors, researchers and collaborators, and contributing to the intellectual and institutional life of the Global Campus network.

Together, these pages reveal how the **protection of human rights is rarely a linear journey**. Instead, it unfolds through diverse professional paths, unexpected encounters and long-term commitments. By bringing these voices together, \*Global Campus Alumni Stories\* offers a vivid snapshot of a global community united by a shared purpose: advancing dignity, equality and justice in societies around the world.

Explore the [Global Campus Alumni Stories – Many Paths, One Commitment to Human Rights](#) in our repository and in an [flipbook viewer](#).



Listening for a change: Sounds of Justice podcast explores the connections between music and human rights

**“Throughout history, music has been central to how people imagine justice and how they demand it. From the blues to flamenco, across cultures and genres, in the face of oppression, music shapes identity, carries memory and voices aspiration.”**

**“Throughout history, music has been central to how people imagine justice and how they demand it. From the blues to flamenco, across cultures and genres, in the face of oppression, music shapes identity, carries memory and voices aspiration.”**

So says Ignacio Saiz, host of the Global Campus of Human Rights’ new podcast series, [Sounds of Justice](#), which explores the rich and complex intersections between music and human rights.

Featuring musicians, human rights and environmental justice advocates, ethnomusicologists and neuroscientists, the series explores music’s power to move and mobilize, to foster empathy and solidarity, and to help us rethink our relationship to the more-than-human world.

For Ignacio Saiz, creating Sounds of Justice has brought together two lifelong passions: human rights – expressed through his work with Amnesty International and the Center for Economic and Social Rights – and a parallel calling as a musician and singer. The spark came when he discovered the Global Campus-linked publication, *The Routledge Companion to Music and Human Rights*:

**“It brought those two worlds together in ways I hadn’t imagined, showing how music not only amplifies a human rights message, but can itself be a transformative vehicle for change. At a time when the human rights movement is being challenged to respond to genocide, ecocide and the dismantling of democracy, exploring the role of music, sound and listening in advancing human rights felt urgent and full of possibility.”**

Angela Impey and Julian Fifer, two of the co-editors of the [Routledge Companion](#), have acted as advisors on the podcast, which spans genres from Haitian mizik angaje to Palestinian rap, from anti-apartheid rhythms to Dalit drumbeats from Maharashtra. As ethnomusicologist Angela Impey notes, music does not mean the same thing to all people. Many cultures don’t recognize song or dance as categorically different from speech; they all exist within a wider framework of communication:

**“Focusing on music from different cultural contexts compels us to engage in a politics of listening, of listening to how values, principles and interests are locally defined, communicated and protected,” she observes.**

Julian Fifer, former Executive Director of Musicians for Human Rights, explains that Sounds of Justice

**“aims to inspire and support musicians seeking to lead professional lives imbued with human rights values, as well as human rights activists and others in related fields looking to foster interaction between mind and heart as a source of inspiration for advocacy.”**

At a moment when attention is scarce and societies are polarized, Sounds of Justice explores how music connects – and how listening itself can be an ethical attitude attuned to our times.

Listen to the first five episodes of Sounds of Justice [here](#) and explore [the podcast playlist](#).

*South African singer Busi Mhlongo, whose voice threads through the podcast. Photo: Foto24/Gallo Images via Getty Images.*



7th Edition of the Global Campus Policy Observatory

The current 7th edition of the Global Campus Policy Observatory revolves around the research project on "Protecting, promoting and enjoying academic freedom: trends, challenges and impacts from a human rights-based approach". It is funded by the European Commission.

GC Research Manager Dr Chiara Altafin leads the research and involves 8 policy analysts selected among the alumni of GC regional master's programmes, namely Meline Avagyan ([CES](#)), Anida Gjurgjiali ([ERMA](#)), Lakshita Kanhiya ([HRDA](#)), Luis Fernando Herrera Martinez ([LATMA](#)), Mostafa Masjedi Arani ([ArMA](#)), Minh Nguyen ([APMA](#)), Nikolaos Sousos ([EMA](#)), and Akylai Tenizbaeva ([MAHRS](#)).

In this context, a [hybrid Policy Observatory Workshop](#) was held on March 26. It provided an opportunity for the team to present and discuss with GC representatives from regional hubs (Anja Mihr, Kristine Gevorgyan, Marco Borraccetti, Nyi Nyi Kyaw, George Ulrich, Veronica Gomez, Frans Viljoen, and Jihad Nammour) as well as external regional experts (Saniia Toktogazieva, Belina Bedini, Marina Galstyan, Khoo Ying Hooi, Peter Maassen, Camilla Croso, Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua, and Amro Ali) the preliminary research findings in the various regions concerned (respectively, Central Asia, South East Europe, Caucasus, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East & North Africa).

Following the opening welcome addresses by GC Secretary General Manfred Nowak, Dr Chiara Altafin introduced the research project, highlighting some of the premises from which it has been developed.

In particular, academic freedom has been progressively recognised as a multifaceted human right at the international level, and it is legally grounded in various provisions of international law, including those enshrining freedom of opinion and expression,

the right to education, and the right to the benefits of science; it also has elements of freedom of association, freedom of movement, and other rights.

Moreover, academic freedom and institutional autonomy have been acknowledged as essential elements of free and democratic societies.

Regional legal and policy frameworks have progressively reinforced academic freedom and institutional autonomy, at least formally. Significant initiatives from non-governmental higher education institutions have also contributed to the reinforcement of academic freedom beyond the state level since the eighties. However, threats to academic freedom at all levels of education have increasingly arisen from diverse situations of armed conflicts, authoritarianism, populist regimes, repressive governments, heightened polarisation based on religion, race, political divides, or democratic backsliding globally.

Over the past two decades, academic freedom has been deteriorating and remains under attack across all continents, with broad patterns of violations.

It has therefore become more and more worth understanding further different scenarios and strategies used to curtail academic freedom in various parts of the world, depending on the context, as well as calling for stronger acknowledgement of a rights-based dimension of academic freedom at international, regional, national, and institutional levels, to ensure effective protection and implementation.

The PO Workshop offered a great opportunity to trace emerging trends, address traditional and new threats to academic freedom, make relevant comparisons and discuss policy recommendations, before the forthcoming finalisation of policy briefs and other research outputs.



Global Campus Open Knowledge Repository @ UNOHCHR Library Catalogue

Following the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding, the Global Campus of Human Rights and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights have advanced their collaboration through two recent initiatives.

The partnership between the Global Campus of Human Rights (GC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was renewed through a Memorandum of Understanding in 2025, laying the foundation for a strengthened collaboration in the field of human rights education, research, and capacity building. Building on this framework, both institutions have begun to develop concrete joint initiatives aimed at enhancing access to research and fostering knowledge exchange.

A first outcome of this collaboration is the inclusion of the [Global Campus Open Knowledge Repository's](#) accessible records in the [OHCHR Library Catalogue](#), within the [UN Human Rights Knowledge Gateway platform](#). This integration significantly increases the visibility and usability of the GC Repository, positioning it as a valuable resource for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers worldwide.

In parallel, at the end of 2025 the GC Librarian and Repository Coordinator Stefania Saccarola, together with GC colleagues Imke Steimann and Dr Chiara Altafin, presented the GC Repository in the framework of OHCHR "Knowvember" programme. The online session, titled "*A research ally: the Global Campus of Human Rights Knowledge Repository. Access. Search. Learn.*", engaged more than 40 participants and opened the door to future joint activities, reinforcing a shared commitment to advancing human rights through knowledge.



Navigating the Future Through a Human Rights Lens: the Global Campus Annual Report 2025

In a world marked by conflict, democratic regression and growing technological disruption, the role of human rights education has rarely been more significant. The Global Campus of Human Rights Annual Report 2025 offers a detailed overview of how a global academic network continues to respond to these challenges through education, research, capacity-building and international cooperation.

The report documents the activities of a consortium of more than 100 universities organised in eight regional hubs, working across Europe, Africa, the Arab World, Asia-Pacific, the Caucasus, Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and South-East Europe to promote human rights through education, research, training and outreach.

*Navigating the Future Through a Human Rights Lens* documents a year shaped by profound global pressures. Armed conflicts, democratic backsliding, restrictions on civil society and limits on academic freedom have affected many of the regions where the Global Campus operates. These realities are not abstract: they influence how programmes are delivered, how students and faculty collaborate across borders, and how human rights defenders are trained to work in environments that are often hostile or unstable.

Yet the report also illustrates how human rights education continues to adapt and expand in response to these pressures. Across regional master's programmes, curricula and seminars addressed a range of pressing issues including environmental rights, children's rights, business and human rights and artificial intelligence, reflecting the growing impact of these themes on contemporary human rights debates and policy frameworks. In 2025, online and in-person training programmes and summer schools supported human rights defenders working in complex

environments, offering practical tools on advocacy, media literacy, digital risks, misinformation and community resilience.

In addition to postgraduate education and training programmes, the Global Campus continued to develop cross-regional initiatives linking human rights with fields such as arts, sport and public engagement, broadening the ways in which human rights values are communicated and discussed beyond academic settings.

Beyond programmes and partnerships, the report highlights the importance of community. Students, alumni, researchers and practitioners from around the world contribute to a shared ecosystem dedicated to strengthening human rights education and translating its principles into action.

We are convinced that educating, training and supporting human rights defenders is one of the most important keys that may open a window of opportunity to turn the current dynamics of world politics from the rule of the jungle back to the rule of law, democracy, peace and a sustainable future based on the universal values of human rights.

Manfred Nowak, Global Campus Secretary General

The unregulated use of high-risk technologies and the extractive activities that sustain them call for a new global paradigm that recognises humans as part of their environment. Education, interdisciplinary knowledge and international cooperation are essential to this effort. The Global Campus of Human Rights contributes by connecting universities worldwide to strengthen knowledge, dialogue and capacity for addressing these challenges.

Veronica Gomez, Global Campus President

Explore the [Global Campus of Human Rights Annual Report 2025 – Navigating the Future Through a Human Rights Lens](#)



**Global Feminist Voices: EMA students attend CEDAW's 92nd session in Geneva**

Alongside their studies, a group of students from the EMA Programme initiated a feminist collective called 'Global Feminist Voices'. From 1 to 4 February, the collective took a self-funded trip to the 92nd session of the CEDAW Committee at the United Nations in Geneva.

During the 1st semester, 'Global Feminist Voices', consisting of feminists and prospective human rights professionals of the [European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation](#) (EMA), organised weekly events including dinners and a poetry night to discuss gendered issues. Soon, the question arose: how could the collective put its values into practice? In response, they organised events for the [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#), including a protest in Venice, an in-class presentation, and a webinar with a [GREVIO](#) expert (the Group of Experts on Action Against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence). These efforts also led to a field trip to observe the 92nd session of the CEDAW Committee in Geneva.

What is CEDAW and why is it important?

[CEDAW](#) stands for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and has been ratified by 189 states. Its implementation is monitored by the UN [CEDAW Committee](#), which consists of 23 independent experts. States submit periodic reports and are subsequently invited to engage in constructive dialogue with the Committee in Geneva. This dialogue is significant, as it enables states to clarify their implementation of the Convention, while experts can ask questions and request further information. NGOs play an essential role by providing experts with their perspective on the domestic human rights situation. The output of this process is the concluding observations, which identify positive aspects and

areas where the state can improve its implementation.

#### Participating in the 92nd CEDAW session

The collective arrived in Geneva with 16 feminists. After studying the United Nations and CEDAW in theory in Venice, it was special to observe the process firsthand. The opening session addressed the UN's liquidity crisis, and national NGOs presented findings. On Tuesday, the group attended Vietnam's session and noted that Committee members could be strict; some directly told the state delegation that their answers were insufficient. On Wednesday, the focus was on Iraq. Experts called on the state to withdraw its reservations to the Convention. Notably, the chair raised concerns about Iraqi educational materials describing CEDAW as a tool to disintegrate the family.

Overall, experiencing the session and engaging with NGOs, experts, state representatives and UN staff was very valuable. Despite the UN's shortcomings, it is remarkable that state delegations and NGOs from around the world travel to Geneva to discuss the effective implementation of women's rights. The Committee's [concluding observations](#) are available online.

During their second semester at different universities, students are keeping Global Feminist Voices active through online meetings and plan to involve alumni and new students. Stay tuned!

#### Acknowledgements

Vasthi Rebong (International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific) proposed the field trip and, together with Mirthe den Held, initiated the feminist group. Aleksandra Banak led the practical organisation of the field trip. The blog post was written by Mirthe den Held.



### Global Campus of Human Rights joins Centre for Sport and Human Rights

The Global Campus of Human Rights is proud to announce that it has officially joined the Centre for Sport and Human Rights (CSHR) Network. As part of this landmark partnership, the Global Campus will become a member of the Centre's Responsible Sport Council (formerly the Advisory Council), bringing the expertise of the world's largest human rights education network to the global sport ecosystem.

The Global Campus of Human Rights (GC) consists of over 100 leading universities coordinated by eight regional hubs across Europe, South East Europe, Africa, the Asia-Pacific, the Caucasus, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Arab World, and Central Asia. This partnership marks a significant step in aligning high-level academic research and human rights training with the practical challenges of the sporting world.

By joining the Centre for Sport and Human Rights (CSHR), the GC commits to integrating international human rights and labour standards – aligned with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights – into its work in sport. Furthermore, the network will support the implementation of the Sporting Chance Principles and collaborate on innovative programmes to prepare future change-makers in the field.

Mary Harvey, Chief Executive of the Centre for Sport and Human Rights, said:

**“We are thrilled to welcome the Global Campus of Human Rights into our network. To drive systemic change, we need the rigour of academia and the reach of global education. The Global Campus brings an unparalleled ‘glocal’ perspective, with experts on the ground in every corner of the world. Their commitment**

**to exploring sport as a fundamental tool for defending human dignity will be a massive asset to the Responsible Sport Council as we work to close the gap between principles and practice.”**

Manfred Nowak, Secretary General of the Global Campus of Human Rights, said:

**“The Global Campus is fully supportive of the Centre’s mission to advance a world of sport that respects and promotes human rights. Sport itself, practicing sport, is a human right. With this partnership, we aim to connect our interdisciplinary expertise and our network with the sport ecosystem to contribute to a more just and sustainable future for all.”**

The collaboration will see both organisations explore joint opportunities for capacity building, resource development, and the delivery of projects that use sport as a channel for human rights awareness.

### About the Global Campus of Human Rights

The Global Campus of Human Rights is the most extensive human rights education network in the world. Coordination by eight regional hubs based in Venice, Pretoria, Bangkok, Yerevan, Buenos Aires, Beirut, Bishkek, and Sarajevo/Bologna, it offers Master’s Programmes, training, and research aimed at fostering new generations of human rights defenders. The Global Campus is supported by the European Union and works in strategic partnership with various international organisations to protect democracy and the rule of law.

### Follow the Global Campus of Human Rights

[GC](#) on the web, [GC](#) on Facebook, [GC](#) on LinkedIn, [GC](#) on Instagram, [GC](#) on X, [GC](#) on Youtube, [GC](#) on Spotify

Media Contact:

Elisa Aquino – Isotta Esposito

Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights

[pressoffice@gchumanrights.org](mailto:pressoffice@gchumanrights.org)

### About the Centre for Sport and Human Rights

Launched in June 2018, CSHR works towards a world of sport that fully respects human rights by sharing knowledge, building capacity, and strengthening the accountability of all actors in the sport ecosystem through collective action.

Through the Advisory Council, CSHR brings together an unprecedented alliance of intergovernmental organisations, governments, sports bodies, athletes, hosts, sponsors, broadcasters, civil society representatives, trade unions and employers. These organisations have come together united in the understanding that there is a generation of work to be done to fully align the world of sport with the fundamental principles of human dignity, human rights, and labour rights. All participants in the Advisory Council endorse and commit to promoting the [Sporting Chance Principles](#).

CSHR’s Honorary Chair is Dr. Epsy Campbell Barr, former Vice President of Costa Rica. CSHR’s First Patron is Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

### Follow the Centre for Sport and Human Rights

[CSHR](#) Website, [CSHR](#) on LinkedIn, [@sportandrights](#) on Instagram, [@sportandrights.bsky.social](#) on Bluesky, [Sport and Rights](#) Podcast, [CSHR](#) on Youtube

Media Contact:

Matt Stone

Head of Communications

Centre for Sport and Human Rights

[matt.stone@sporthumanrights.org](mailto:matt.stone@sporthumanrights.org)



### Fostering intergenerational dialogue and youth leadership: an international Children's Rights workshop in Sarajevo

What can meaningful child and youth participation look like in practice? From 30 March to 3 April, the Global Campus International Children's Rights Workshop in Sarajevo explored a range of approaches shaped by different regional experiences.

Bringing together Child Rights Regional and Thematic Experts, Youth Advisory Group (YAG) representatives and members of the South East Europe Child Leadership Team (CLT – ERMA), the International Children's Rights Workshop became a space where collaboration across regions and generations was not just discussed — but lived.

This approach was embedded from the very beginning. Child and youth participants, alongside child rights experts, were actively involved in shaping the workshop itself—from co-developing the programme and agreeing on priorities, to moderating discussions and giving presentations, to now contributing to the follow-up and next steps emerging from the meeting.

Over three days, participants worked side by side to exchange experiences, reflect on projects and lessons learned, and discuss future joint initiatives. Children, young people and adults engaged as partners in dialogue, contributing perspectives from different contexts, and building a shared understanding of both challenges and opportunities in advancing children's rights.

Child and youth leadership was visible throughout. YAG members helped drive conversations on priorities and governance, while the CLT brought insights from concrete projects they are involved in—for example on cyberbullying or the impact of climate change on children's right to education. A highlight of the workshop was a presentation by YAG members on the ongoing student protests in Serbia—highlighting how young people are actively shaping civic space and advocating for

change. The workshop also created space for connection and reflection beyond formal sessions, including a visit to the [War Childhood Museum](#), deepening discussions on children's lived experiences in conflict and post-conflict settings.

More than a meeting, Sarajevo was a reminder that participation and cross-regional collaboration are not abstract principles, but the foundation of the child rights work developed by the Global Campus in partnership with [Right Livelihood](#)—bringing people together to learn from one another and to act together for children's rights.



### A Vibrant Community of Italian Legal Professionals Exploring the European Convention on Human Rights – Venice, 12th Edition

The course programme is coordinated by Roberto Chenal, Italian jurist at the Court and scientific supervisor of all the Global Campus training initiatives on the ECHR since 2014.

The 12th edition of the Course on the European Convention on Human Rights took place at the Venice Headquarters [from 9 to 12 April 2026](#).

Organised since 2014 by the Training and Project Department, the course targets Italian lawyers, judges, and legal practitioners, aiming to professionalise their knowledge and practical application of the values and principles of the Convention.

Year after year, we have created a community of experts committed to ensuring respect for the enshrined in the Convention through the informed and effective application of its jurisprudence in their professional practice.

The course foresaw a division in two parallel modules: the first one designed for those who are approaching the Convention and its principles for the first time, and the second one for those with an advanced knowledge of the subject and the practicalities of the proceedings before the Court, and willing to further study and analyse case laws and procedures as well as remain updated on the most recent judgements.

#### Meetings and exchanges with judges of the ECHR

Participants in both modules had the occasion [to meet and exchange](#) with [4 judges of the European Court of Human Rights](#): Vice President Ivana Jelić, together with judges Davor Derenčinović, Gilberto Felici and Ioannis Ktistakis.

The dialogue between Courts was joined by the Vice President of [the Italian Constitutional Court](#), Prof. Francesco Viganò and Judge Giuseppe De Marzo, from the [Italian Court of Cassation](#).

Judges were invited to present and exchange with the [65 participants about selected recent judgements](#) of the Strasbourg Court, right to a fair trial ([Yüksel Yalçinkaya v. Turkey](#)); the issues of protection of public demonstration and use of force by the police ([Tsaava and others v. Georgia](#)), freedom of expression within the judiciary ([Danilet v. Romania](#)), rights of the asylum seekers to be accommodated in the country where they requested for asylum ([Camara v. Belgium](#)).

[Since the Course's inception in 2014](#), the Global Campus has played a crucial role in promoting and defending fundamental rights, training [over 1,000 legal practitioners and professionals](#) in Italy through the general and advanced courses, as well as refresher seminars, webinars, and workshops held nationwide.

Each year, members of this [community](#) of experts meet at our headquarters in Venice to update themselves on the jurisprudence of the ECHR. These meetings offer an important opportunity for exchanging ideas, allowing participants to discuss recent legal developments and landmark cases handled by the Court. Furthermore, they foster the creation of a strong professional network among practitioners, helping to provide a system of support and collaboration essential for the defence and promotion of human rights.

Training and [professional networking](#) are key tools to ensure that the principles enshrined in the ECHR are not only understood but also effectively applied in the daily work of lawyers and legal experts, thus contributing to a more equitable legal system that respects the rights of all.

[The second appointment of the year](#) on the ECHR jurisprudence is the Advanced Seminar, this year at its 6th edition, and that will be held at our premises from 23 to 25 October 2026.



### Global Campus and Moldova State University Present the Results of the Three-Year Cooperation

From 2023 to 2025, the Global Campus of Human Rights and the Moldova State University, together with the Global Campus Caucasus programme, joined forces to strengthen human rights education in Moldova through institutional development, curriculum innovation, and academic cooperation.

**“I am convinced that only through such partnerships we can contribute to a better present and future, where democracy and human rights remain essential pillars of our societies.”**

**Igor Sarov**

Rector of Moldova State University (2020-2025)

The initiatives focused on emerging and pressing areas such as environmental rights and climate justice, the rights of children, youth, and future generations, while also promoting participatory learning methodologies and international academic exchange.

Implemented through the GC Capacity Development programme and thanks to the support of Right Livelihood and the European Union Delegation in Moldova, the cooperation also supported the country's EU integration process and the broader green transition efforts.

As a result of this partnership, Moldova State University has become a full member of

the Global Campus and joined the activities of the regional GC Caucasus Master's programme coordinated by Yerevan State University – Centre for European Studies, marking an important step in the strategic enlargement of the network.

The report “Development of Human Rights Education at the Moldova State University 2023-2025” presents the main results of the cooperation, combining data, reflections, and testimonies. It provides insight into the project's objectives, its implementation, and the lessons learned, offering a valuable resource for future initiatives in the field of human rights education.

The publication is complemented by a video and two factsheets that provide concise, accessible summaries of key components of the projects.

Together, these outputs reflect a successful collaboration that not only strengthened institutional capacity but also contributed to ongoing efforts to promote human rights and sustainable development in the Caucasus and Eastern Partnership region. By sharing these results, the project aims to inspire further cooperation, research, and action in advancing human rights education.

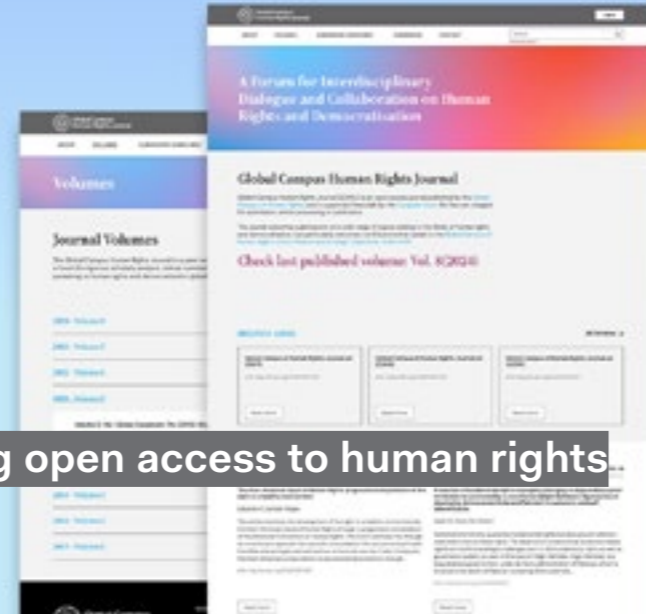
Read the report Development of Human Rights Education at the Moldova State University 2023-2025 in our Repository and in a flipbook viewer.

Explore the factsheets:

- Project Factsheet – Promoting Human Rights and Children's Rights Education at Moldova State University
- Project Factsheet – Development of Climate Justice and Human Rights Education at the Moldova State University

*This activity is part of the GC Capacity Development programme. For more information, contact Adriano Remiddi – programme manager, Vukašin Pajović, and Larisa Barbu – programme officers at [capacity.development@gchumanrights.org](mailto:capacity.development@gchumanrights.org)*

## GCHRJ indexed in DOAJ: advancing open access to human rights scholarship



**This recognition confirms the journal's adherence to high standards of quality, transparency, and openness in scholarly publishing.**

The Global Campus Human Rights Journal (GCHRJ) has been officially indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), marking an important step in enhancing the visibility and accessibility of its academic contents at the international level.

For more information about DOAJ visit: <https://doaj.org/>.

The inclusion in DOAJ strengthens the commitment of the Global Campus of Human Rights to the dissemination of knowledge in the fields of human rights and democratisation at the local, national, regional and global levels. By ensuring that all its articles are freely accessible online, GCHRJ contributes to removing barriers to information and fosters a more inclusive interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration between stakeholders. Furthermore, the e-journal's content is persistently accessible thanks to Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) generated through the Global Campus Open Knowledge Repository, which is built on an open-source software. This infrastructure guarantees long-term preservation, reliable citation, and continuous availability of research outputs.

The recent achievement about DOAJ reflects our broader vision to promote open accessibility as a cornerstone of academic collaboration and societal impact as part of human rights documentation and advocacy. By combining international indexing with sustainable digital tools, the Global Campus of Human Rights reinforces its role in supporting the circulation of knowledge across borders, disciplines, and

communities, ultimately contributing to more informed human rights practices and policies worldwide.



### From Yerevan to Africa: Centering Children in Climate Justice

From 15 to 17 April 2026, GC Caucasus hosted the international conference 'Climate Change, Justice and Human Rights', bringing together representatives from academia, civil society, policy institutions and international organisations to examine the links between climate change, justice, human rights and security.

Organised within the framework of the Global Campus – Right Livelihood project *Climate and Conflicts: Redress and Prevention* by the Global Campus Caucasus (Centre for European Studies, Yerevan State University), in cooperation with Global Campus Central Asia and the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (DeHuRiS), the conference also brought together Global Campus faculty, students and alumni for a cross-regional exchange on some of the most urgent questions facing human rights today.

Among the participants was **Fenot Mekonen Hailu**, Deputy Director and Lead for Partnerships and External Representation at *HALE-Human Rights and Inclusion Network* (H-HRIN) and a Global Campus alumna from the LLM in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa at the University of Pretoria. Her contribution focused on *the place of children in climate justice debates*. Her poster presentation, *Children at the Frontlines of Climate Injustice in Africa: A Critical Assessment of the African Human Rights System's Response*, and examined the gaps in regional responses to the disproportionate impact of climate change on children in Africa. Presented in a diverse and expert setting, the research prompted constructive discussion and reinforced the urgency of centring children in climate justice frameworks.

Across three days, the conference addressed questions of *climate justice, global inequality, environmental degradation, intergenerational justice*, and *the links between climate change, conflict and security*. Particularly powerful moments of the conference were the video address by **Mary Robinson** (Ireland's first female President and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights), who spoke about the need for global solidarity and *shared responsibility*; the speeches by **Joan Carling** (Filipino indigenous activist and Right Livelihood Laureate 2024), **Ritwick Dutta**, from the India-based *Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment* (Right Livelihood Laureate 2021), and our Secretary General **Manfred Nowak**, who reflected on legal accountability and *global disparities*; and the lecture by **Fons Coomans**, Professor Emeritus at Maastricht University, on *intergenerational justice*, which prompted deeper reflection on the rights of future generations and the long-term consequences of decisions taken today.

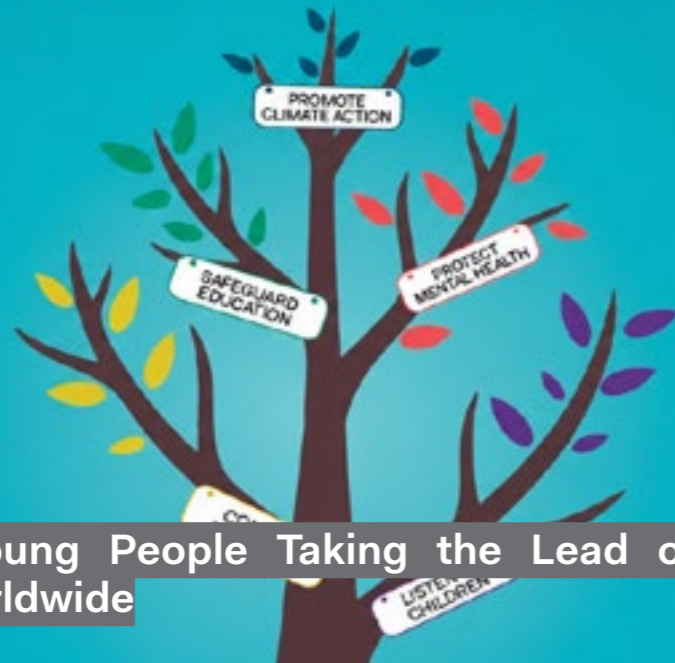
The second day stood out for its focus on the connections between *climate, conflict and security*, as well as *environmental challenges* such as water scarcity. Discussions on *genuine youth participation*—young people as active participants in shaping climate responses—, and the presence of young voices (*the Armenian Child Leadership Team and Youth Advisory Group*) throughout the conference, added a crucial dimension to these exchanges. For a researcher like Fenot working on children and climate injustice, this was one of the most significant aspects of the conference: a reminder that children must not only be protected, but heard and included in shaping responses.

On the third day, discussions shifted towards *climate activism, governance, diplomacy and resilience*. These sessions offered important insight into how policy, institutions and international cooperation can work together to respond to climate challenges. Across all three days, the conference made clear how closely environmental issues and human rights are now connected, and how this is shaping new legal and accountability frameworks.

For Fenot, one of the strongest takeaways was the insistence that *climate justice cannot be approached in isolation*. Across panels and discussions, environmental harm emerged not only as an ecological issue, but as one *deeply entangled with inequality, displacement, governance and intergenerational responsibility*. The conference reinforced the need to approach climate change through human rights frameworks capable of addressing both immediate harms and long-term structural injustice.

*Written by Fenot Mekonen Hailu, HRDA Alumna*

## Strengthening Child and Youth Leadership Worldwide



### Children and Young People Taking the Lead on Rights and Participation Worldwide

The Global Campus of Human Rights has released a new publication highlighting how children and young people across multiple regions are shaping human rights work through the Global Campus Child Leadership Team (CLT) and Youth Advisory Group (YAG).

Titled *Child Participation at the Global Campus: Strengthening Child and Youth Leadership Worldwide*, the publication documents a growing body of **child-led initiatives on mental health, climate justice, education, digital safety and democratic participation** across Africa, Asia-Pacific, the Caucasus, Central Asia, Europe, Southeast Europe and Latin America & the Caribbean.

Developed within the framework of the longstanding [partnership between the Global Campus and Right Livelihood](#), the publication reflects a shared commitment to moving beyond symbolic participation and recognising children and young people as **active rights-holders, researchers, advocates and community leaders**. As noted in the foreword by Jon Warmington-Lundström (Right Livelihood), meaningful youth participation requires “a redistribution of power, resources and trust.”

The publication traces **the evolution of the Child Leadership Team since 2022**, when children participating in an international child-led conference on mental health decided they wanted to remain connected and continue working together after the event ended. Since then, national and regional CLTs have developed into a global network of children aged 12–17 identifying priorities, designing projects and advocating for change in their communities and beyond.

The publication features **29 projects**, many of which could inspire others interested in promoting **genuine child participation and leadership**: from a reels contest in Kyrgyzstan and child-led climate justice initiatives in India, to a toolkit developed

in Armenia to promote inclusion through the arts; digital self-defence workshops in Southeast Europe; children’s perspectives on the impact of waste disposal on education in Buenos Aires; a child-led conference on mental health in schools in Africa; and collaborations between Bhutanese children and university law students.

The publication also foregrounds the **reflections of children and young people** themselves. “We have been part of the creation,” writes Nina Gavrilović (former CLT and current YAG member), describing how children were involved from the beginning in shaping the CLT model rather than simply being invited into a pre-existing structure.

A key aspect of the initiative has been the work of the Global Campus [Child Rights Regional Experts](#) from across the Global Campus regions (i.e. those hosting our regional Master’s programmes), who **accompany and support child-led processes** across the network. Through this publication, we wish to recognise their role in sustaining the CLT across different regional contexts and in creating the conditions for meaningful participation and growth.

*Child Participation at the Global Campus: Strengthening Child and Youth Leadership Worldwide* is available at:

<https://doi.org/10.25330/3139> (pdf version)

<https://my.visme.co/v/4k9j74oy-6k96y6> (as flipbook)

## GC Europe (EMA) awarded theses 2024/2025 published: advancing research on contemporary human rights challenges

We are pleased to announce the publication of the EMA awarded theses, showcasing innovative research developed within the Global Campus Europe programme. These master's theses, completed in the 2024–2025 academic cycle, address pressing human rights challenges at local, regional, and international levels, contributing to ongoing academic and policy debates.

The awarded theses cover a wide range of topics. At the Université de Montpellier, **Hebe Bourne** examined the role of subtle media discourse in normalising anti-migrant sentiment in the lead-up to the 2024 United Kingdom riots. At Université Libre de Bruxelles, **María Dulce Ramírez** inquired about the right to private property in the age of the socio ecological crisis. At the University of Ljubljana, **Ben Lyons** explored the marginalisation of minority language rights in peacebuilding processes in the North of Ireland and Euskal Herria. At the Université du Luxembourg, **Itziar Murillas García** analysed the relationship between EU security policies and civic space in Morocco. Finally, at Queen's University Belfast, **Clara Castro** investigated the implications of AI-powered neurotechnology for personal identity.

Supervised by leading scholars, these master's theses reflect the strength of interdisciplinary research. By engaging with issues such as migration, environmental justice, minority rights, democratic governance, and emerging technologies, they highlight the importance of critical scholarship in addressing contemporary human rights challenges.

The EMA awarded theses of the academic year 2024/2025 are:

Bourne, Hebe, *Between the Lines: Subtle Media Discourse and the Normalisation of Anti-Migrant Sentiment in the Run Up to the United Kingdom 2024 Riots*. Supervisor: Katarzyna Blay Grabarczyk, Université de Montpellier.

<https://doi.org/10.25330/3105>

Dulce Ramírez, María. *The Right to Own or the Right to Live? Re-examining the Human Right to Private Property in the Age of the Socio ecological Crisis through Indigenous and South Sámi Knowledge and Struggles*. Supervisors: Julien Pieret, Oona Le Meur, Université Libre de Bruxelles. This thesis will remain unpublished in accordance with the author's wishes.

Lyons, Ben, *Lost for Words. The Silence of Peacebuilding on Minority Language Rights in the North of Ireland and Euskal Herria*. Supervisor: Faris Kočan, University of Ljubljana.

<https://doi.org/10.25330/3106>

Murillas García, Itziar, *The Security – Democracy Trade-Off? EU Policies and Civic Space in Morocco*. Supervisor: Harlan Koff, Université du Luxembourg.

<https://doi.org/10.25330/3107>

Nogueira de Sá Rosas de Castro, Clara, *To Be or Not to Be Neuroenhanced? To Be or Not to Be Neuroenhanced? Personal Identity under Siege in the Age of AI-powered Neurotechnology*. Supervisor: Thérèse Murphy, Queen's University Belfast.

<https://doi.org/10.25330/3108>



### Reflecting on Shared Priorities and Youth Leadership: Steering Group Meeting in Venice

**Conversations on youth leadership, movement building, and the importance of engaging people and institutions beyond traditional human rights networks were at the centre of this year's Steering Group meeting of the Global Campus – Right Livelihood Child Rights Cooperation, held in Venice on 21–22 May 2026. The gathering brought together Steering Group members, colleagues, and young representatives from Nepal for two days of reflection, exchange, and collaborative discussion.**

On 21–22 May 2026, the Steering Group of the Global Campus – Right Livelihood Child Rights Cooperation gathered in Venice for two days of discussions, reflection, and exchange on the future of the partnership and the role of youth leadership in advancing human rights and social justice. Held annually, the Steering Group meeting provides strategic guidance and advice for the child rights cooperation between the Global Campus and Right Livelihood.

The meeting brought together Steering Group members, colleagues from Right Livelihood and the Global Campus, and young representatives from Nepal connected to the Child Leadership Team (CLT) and Youth Advisory Group (YAG), accompanied by their national coordinator and the Asia-Pacific Regional Child Rights Expert.

A central highlight of the first day was hearing directly from the CLT and YAG members from Nepal. Through panel discussions and informal conversations, they shared their experiences as young human rights advocates, reflecting on both the opportunities

and challenges of youth participation in social movements. Their perspectives on recent political and social developments in Nepal prompted rich discussions about the role of young people in shaping political change, and about how movements across different regions can learn from one another.

The conversations also explored how institutions and international networks can meaningfully support youth-led initiatives while respecting their autonomy and leadership. Discussions on movements for human rights and climate justice encouraged participants to think collectively about how the cooperation between Global Campus and Right Livelihood can continue to accompany emerging forms of civic engagement and movement building in the years ahead.

Alongside these exchanges, the Steering Group received updates on ongoing cooperation projects and reflected on future priorities for the partnership. Participants discussed Right Livelihood's broader strategic outlook for 2026–2031, as well as opportunities for continued collaboration across regional and thematic networks. The atmosphere throughout the meeting was constructive and collaborative, with many conversations returning to the importance of long-term relationships, solidarity, and shared learning.


The meeting also provided an opportunity to reflect on wider global developments relevant to the cooperation, including recent legal and political processes linked to climate justice and human rights advocacy. These conversations highlighted both the challenges facing human rights work globally and the importance of maintaining spaces for dialogue and collective reflection.

The programme concluded with a visit to the island of Poveglia, where participants learned about the successful grassroots mobilization that helped protect the island as a public and community-oriented space. The visit offered a fitting closing moment for the meeting: a practical example of civic participation, collective action, and long-term community engagement in practice. Participants also had the opportunity to hear more about the association's ongoing plans and vision for the island's future.

Overall, the Steering Group meeting offered a valuable chance not only to discuss strategy and cooperation priorities, but also to strengthen relationships across networks and generations. The presence and contributions of the young participants from Nepal were especially appreciated and served as an important reminder of the energy, insight, and commitment that young leaders continue to bring to human rights work around the world.



# Promotion



## Global Campus Partner Koen Vanmechelen Brings Arts and Human Rights to Venice with Youssou N'Dour

Since 2017, the Global Campus has been promoting the intersection of human rights education, science, artistic research with the contemporary arts with diverse international institutions. One of our long-time collaborators is Belgian artist Koen Vanmechelen whose visionary work powerfully resonates with our commitment to human dignity, diversity, and intercultural dialogue.

Internationally acclaimed for his artistic exploration of identity, biocultural diversity, and the interconnectedness of humanity, Vanmechelen's work reflects a shared belief in the transformative power of art, education, and global engagement to inspire more inclusive, just, and humane societies. In 2017, Vanmechelen created a marble sculpture at the Global Campus of an ancient Greek statue of a child, sitting on the Encyclopedia of Human Rights, entitled *Collective Memory*, to honour the importance of human rights.

Now Vanmechelen returns to Venice to present *We Thought We Were Alone*, his first solo sculptural exhibition coinciding with the Biennial of Venice at Palazzo Rota Ivancich. The [exhibition](#), curated by the UK independent curator and writer [James Putnam](#), features 40 new sculptures and installations, created specifically for the occasion. Moving beyond human-centred perspectives, it explores the dynamic relationship between living organisms and the inorganic environment. Moving beyond traditional sculpture, the exhibition positions art as a positive

force capable of inspiring social and biological transformation. [Palazzo Rota Ivancich](#) not only functions as a backdrop but as a structural part of the exhibition: a layered interior where rooms become thresholds, with the building's own history of repair and reinvention echoing the show's central theme, reflecting further the interconnectedness of human beings and nature.

Moving across three floors, the visitor experiences the palazzo as a 'cocoon' – a space where forms loosen, reconfigure, and return changed. Materials including bronze, marble, glass, photography, and video are brought together to create a dialogue between past and future, a tension between the individual and the collective, matter and form, inheritance and transformation. Classical statuary is reinterpreted amid a diverse menagerie of animal forms, while the works interconnect biology and culture, the local and the global, solitude and solidarity.

**Manfred Nowak** says: **“For the survival of humanity, we need to broaden the concept of human rights to the rights of future generations, the rights of other species, and the rights of nature, forests, rivers and the ecosystem as a whole. We thought we were alone and that only human beings were endowed with dignity and rights. Now we understand that other species and nature have dignity as well and need to be protected in their own rights. We will only survive as human species if we live in harmony with other species and nature. It is late but not too late. We need to move from major keys to minor keys, slow reflection, resilience, healing, solace, care and restoration. In his creative and innovative work, Koen Vanmechelen has always combined the arts with human rights, animal rights and rights of nature”.**

**Koen Vanmechelen** says: **“For centuries we thought we were alone. We imagined ourselves at the centre of all things – the measure of progress, the author of peace, the keeper of paradise, and the pinnacle of evolution. As the exhibition unfolds, the animals reveal themselves, not as metaphors or relics, but as messengers of a different truth. In their gaze, we confront the price of our domestication – how we tamed the world and, in doing so, lost our own wildness. This is not nostalgia for a lost Eden, but a**

**confrontation with the limits of human exceptionalism. Nature does not need our pity, only our willingness to coexist. The minor key of survival is not conquest, but reciprocity and hybridity.”**

In dialogue with the Venice Biennale theme, *In Minor Keys*, the exhibition features a dedicated room exploring *Wild Gene Festival*, a collaborative project between Koen Vanmechelen and celebrated Senegalese musician Youssou N'Dour.

At the Palazzo, the room presents two videos highlighting the community that brought the festival to life, creating a shared space of music, ritual, and collective creativity. Originally staged on 1 August 2025 at LABIOMISTA Vanmechelens studio and 24h park in Genk (BE), the festival transformed the site into an open-air stage, delivering a [co-performance of live music played by Youssou N'Dour and Le Super Étoile de Dakar](#), which intertwined with Vanmechelen painting a monumental nine-metre canvas in real time.

This nine-metre canvas with the [Collective Memory](#) sculptures series are being now exhibited at the headquarters of the Global Campus of Human Rights located at the [Monastery of San Nicolò in Venice](#) during the opening days of the Biennial. A catalogue will be published by LANNOO in line with *We Thought We Were Alone* in early September 2026 with a special contribution by our Secretary General, Manfred Nowak.

**Youssou N'Dour** says: **“The Wild Gene Festival installation in Venice transforms the Palazzo into a place where art and music combine, inviting visitors to experience and celebrate the rhythms of creativity and connection through this sonic architecture, bringing sound, gesture, and colour together to reflect identity, community, and the living dialogue between humans and nature.”**

Curator **James Putnam** says: **“Vanmechelen's work goes beyond the idea of interconnected life and engineers conditions in which it becomes visibly unveiled. By staging hybrids, thresholds and fragile systems across the palazzo, he turns a familiar premise into a physical experience: a continuous negotiation between form and transformation.”**

For further information, please contact:

At the Global Campus of Human

Rights: [pressoffice@gchumanrights.org](mailto:pressoffice@gchumanrights.org)

At the exhibitions: Julia Safe [julia.safe@flint-culture.com](mailto:julia.safe@flint-culture.com) +44 7837 098 985

Estelle Bolon [estelle.bolon@flint-culture.com](mailto:estelle.bolon@flint-culture.com) +44 7707 807 441

Address: Palazzo Rota Ivancich, Calle del Remedio, 4421, Castello, Venice

Nearest vaporetto stop: San Zaccaria

9 May – 22 November 2026

(Preview dates 6 – 8 May)

Opening hours:

Monday – Closed

11am–7pm (May–September)

10am–6pm (October–November)

Free admission

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The 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, *In Minor Keys* by Koyo Kouoh, – which will run from Saturday 9 May to Sunday 22 November 2026 at the Giardini, the Arsenale and in various locations around Venice. The pre-opening will take place on May 6, 7, and 8, while the awards ceremony and inauguration will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2026.

Punctually, as with every edition, the Global Campus of Human Rights Press Office is invited and will participate in the preview days of the opening of the Biennale Arte and its collateral events.

After the premature passing of **Koyo Kouoh** in May 2025, with the full support of her family, **La Biennale di Venezia** decided to carry out her Exhibition, with the purpose of preserving, enhancing and widely disseminating her ideas and the work she pursued with such dedication to the very end. **Koyo Kouoh**, nominated as the Artistic Director of the Visual Arts Department in November 2024, already developed the curatorial project, defining its theoretical framework, selecting the artists and the artworks, designating the authors of the catalogue, determining the graphic identity of the Exhibition and the architecture of the exhibition spaces, and establishing a dialogue with the artists invited to participate.

**In Minor Keys** is the title chosen by Koyo Kouoh for the 61st International Art

Exhibition, as specified in the curatorial text, which was sent to the President of La Biennale on 8 April 2025. The Exhibition will be realised with the contribution of the team selected by Koyo: [Gabe Beckhurst Feijoo](#), [Marie Hélène Pereira](#) and [Rasha Salti](#) (advisors); [Siddhartha Mitter](#) (editor-in-chief); and [Rory Tsapayi](#) (research assistant).

During the presentation in Venice, at Ca' Giustinian, headquarters of the La Biennale di Venezia, they were the ones who [outlined the work carried out together with Koyo for the 61st International Art Exhibition](#). This work culminated in a significant meeting held in Dakar in April 2025 at RAW Material Company — the cultural center founded by Kouoh — and led by the Curator herself. That experience remains emblematic of the way she conceived curatorial practice: grounded in relationships and open to the unexpected.

“The joy of authentic art, which so faithfully resembles real life” – the President of La Biennale di Venezia [Pietrangelo Buttafuoco](#) commented.

**“The pages of *In Minor Keys*, which Koyo sent to La Biennale almost a year ago, offer a striking insight into her curatorial practice and spell out a crystal-clear notion of her own concept of an exhibition. Koyo presents us with this concept through the very idea of sowing seeds, and it is through her teachings that her team and La Biennale di Venezia now offer it to the world. It is an exhibition permeated with spirit, with a sacredness that puts the person, the human being, back at the heart of things, rediscovering the sense of being in the world by reacquiring a sense of proportion with respect to all earthly elements, and by looking to the sky once more. Koyo Kouoh’s journey is one that reappraises human relationships, starting from people’s own backyards. The little things, which are also great ones. The human dimension, the benchmark of everything, which a part of the world, yet one the most opulent and overdeveloped world – identified in the name ‘West’ – has long since lost sight of, misplaced. Thus, from the powerhouse of Africa, and from one of its leading voices, comes a whisper that leads us back to authenticity, acknowledging that the greatest happiness lies in the use of our own hands – a revelation that brings us back to the Earth, to our bodies and our senses. To a humility towards what is greater than us and what cannot be**

**explained but merely intuited”.**

The [61st International Art Exhibition – In Minor Keys](#) by Koyo Kouoh – organised by [La Biennale di Venezia](#), will be accompanied by [100 National Participations](#) and [31 Collateral Events](#). Participating [for the first time: the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, the Republic of Nauru, Qatar, the Republic of Sierra Leone, Federal Republic of Somalia, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and El Salvador](#).

[La Biennale di Venezia](#) has decided that the [Awards Ceremony](#) of the [61st International Art Exhibition](#) will take place at the end on [Sunday 22 November](#), the last day open to the public, as occurred in the past in other exceptional circumstances (the 2021 edition of the International Architecture Exhibition, due to Covid). [La Biennale di Venezia](#) has therefore decided to establish for the [61st International Art Exhibition](#) two [Visitors’ Lions](#) to be awarded:

- to the [Best Participant in the 61st Exhibition In Minor Keys](#) by Koyo Kouoh
- to the [Best National Participation](#) in the 61st Exhibition

Visitors eligible to vote for the [Visitors’ Lions](#) are ticket holders who have visited both Exhibition venues during the opening period of the 61st Exhibition, from May 9 to November 22. Visits to both venues will be verified through the ticketing system’s tracking. Each ticket holder may cast one vote for each of the two awards, in one single session. Artist collectives will be identified as single participants, according to the list of participants in the Exhibition In Minor Keys.

There are [110 invited participants](#) of this exhibition – among them, individual artists, collaborative duos, collectives, and artist-led organisations – hail from many geographies and regions selected by Koyo Kouoh with particular attention to resonances, affinity, and possible convergences between practices, even when far apart. In looking to artists working in Salvador, Dakar, San Juan, Beirut, Paris, or Nashville, for example, Koyo sought to envision how their ingenuity, breadth of material experimentation, and visionary ideas bear connections to other artists and movements in simultaneity. In this spirit, *In Minor Keys* [expands upon Koyo’s relational geography of encounters with artists over her lifetime](#).

For more info, please contact [communications@gchumanrights.org](mailto:communications@gchumanrights.org)

Visit: [www.labiennale.org](http://www.labiennale.org)



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

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



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