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# MAGAZINE

Global Campus







**MANFRED NOWAK**  
Secretary General  
of the Global Campus  
of Human Rights

In my editorial for the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Campus of Human Rights Magazine in November 2021, I stressed that universities specialised in human rights have a particular responsibility to defend academic freedom and the right to stand up for human rights and democracy in their own countries and beyond. I described our special programme to assist students, scholars, female judges and other human rights defenders, who had to flee Afghanistan after the Taliban take over in August 2021, by providing them, with the financial assistance of the European Union, Right Livelihood and other donors, with a safe space at universities in our network. Thanks to the untiring efforts of Imke Steimann, Julia Runte and many professors in our universities, more than hundred Afghan refugees, including family members, have already benefitted from this innovative programme of the Global Campus. In addition, in early February we participated in the Afghan Women Days at the European Parliament in Brussels and in cooperation with the universities of Padua and Ca' Foscari, we organised a High-level Lecture on Human Rights in Afghanistan with Shaharзад Akbar (Chair of the Independent Human Rights Commission in Afghanistan) and Richard Bennet (designated UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Afghanistan), which was held on 11 March in the beautiful Scuola Grande San Giovanni Evangelista.

In my last editorial, I had expressed the hope that “our Afghanistan project is only the beginning of a more ambitious programme to support scholars and students at risk in other countries as well”. When I wrote these lines a few months ago, I could not imagine that we would soon be faced with an unprecedented influx of refugees from within Europe. In the few weeks since Russian President Vladimir Putin started an unprovoked military aggression against the Ukraine, more than two million Ukrainians, above all women and children, have been forced to flee their country and seek protection in Poland, Romania and other European countries. The Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, which is currently under siege by Russian troops, is a member of the Global Campus and its Caucasus Master programme. Many Ukrainian students and graduates of the Caucasus Master are either caught in the middle of this bloody war or have managed to flee their country. Others have been recruited into the Ukrainian army that is desperately defending



their country. Professors and students of our member universities in Poland, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and many other European countries are actively supporting and assisting Ukrainian refugees, thereby underlining the social responsibility of universities and the academic community. The Global Campus is ready to provide a safe space for Ukrainian students and scholars and at the same time supports those Russian intellectuals who publicly condemn and stand up against Putin's war and international crimes.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine marks a turning point in the post-World War II architecture, based on the three interdependent pillars of peace (prohibition of war), development (eradication of poverty) and universal human rights. At the same time, the world stands united against President Putin's war of aggression. In an unprecedented resolution, the UN General Assembly has condemned this blatant violation of international law with an overwhelming majority, leaving the Russian Federation as an isolated pariah State, only supported by Belarus, Syria, Eritrea and North Korea. The UN Human Rights Council has established a High Level Commission of Inquiry. The International Criminal Court has started investigations of Russian war crimes and crimes against humanity, the Council of Europe has suspended Russia's membership, and the EU, US and many other countries have imposed drastic economic sanctions against the Russian Federation, and in particular President Putin himself, together with other leading members of his government and oligarchs supporting him.

These unprecedented and severe reactions by the international community provide a glimpse of hope that President Putin's aggression has not only united the European Union but is also strengthening multilateralism and the resilience of the post-World War II architecture, democracy, the rule of law and human rights. In any case, these tragic events prove that educating future human rights defenders is more important than ever before.

The Global Campus of Human Rights stands ready to contribute to these noble goals by means of education, training and advocacy work.

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Interviews with:

Penny Papaspyropoulou,  
Secretary General of the EMAlumni  
Association

Briana Keogh, Alannah Owens & Beatrijs  
Gelders,

EMA Students' Representatives,  
Carlo Giordanetti,  
CEO of Swatch Management and  
Swatch Art Peace Hotel

Alessandro Ienzi,  
Director of "Teatro Raizes"



## Interview with Penny Papaspyropoulou, Secretary General of the EMAlumni Association



*The Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights had the opportunity to interview the Secretary General of the EMAlumni Association, Penny Papaspyropoulou, about her now role, the 25 years anniversary of the EMA Master and the organisation's main activities.*

**Could you tell us more about yourself and your new role as Secretary General of the EMAlumni Association?**

I graduated from the EMA programme in 2007 and since then, human rights have played a central role in all my activities. As it was my wish to gain diverse experiences in the human rights world, I have been working with civil society, public and private institutions, the EU and the UN on topics like freedom of expression, migrants' education and training, corruption and investigative journalism, child rights and more, from policy making to project development and event coordination. My new role as the Secretary General of the EMAlumni Association is a particularly interesting opportunity to offer my support to a thriving community of over 2000 alumni scattered around the globe, side by side with a highly-skilled team of nine board members. As an Association, we aim at further connecting our members, creating opportunities for knowledge and information sharing, new collaborations and increased impact when it comes to the promotion of democracy and human rights. We support our community of human rights defenders and human rights practitioners and the community supports the association. I am grateful to have been offered the opportunity to fully engage in such creative and meaningful work.

**Which are the most important activities and events of the EMAlumni Association in 2022?**

Every year there are certain established activities and various ad-hoc ones, depending on the initiative and engagement of the alumni community. The EMAlumni Award in June, that celebrates the outstanding work of an alum making a difference in the human rights field and the Career Day in

September, where possible career pathways are presented through live examples, are flagship activities of the association. The Conversations with Alumni, the Wellbeing Webinars, the Ambassadors and Hubs project, and the Info Sessions on the second semester destinations are some of our recurrent activities. All these projects that cover a wide range of human rights issues, are organised thanks to the dedicated work of the association's board members and the interest of the wider alumni community to participate and take up an active role. Recently, we have initiated the Arts and Human Rights Workshop, recognising the need to highlight the different linkages among arts, culture and human rights. What is of the utmost importance in our work is the one-to-one communication between the members of our network, nurturing our bonds and connections on an on-going basis. We share news and updates via our bi-monthly Newsletter and through social media.

**How will the EMA graduates celebrate the 25 year-anniversary of the EMA Master Programme?**

We are excited to celebrate another important anniversary of the EMA Master programme and are in intense consultations over possible events and activities that could take place next September in Venice, highly dependent though on the course of the pandemic in the months to come. One of our ideas is the aspiration to systematically organise and present the History of the EMAlumni Association, a project aiming to bring together and showcase as many of our members as possible and become a promotional tool for human rights and the Master itself. We would be particularly happy to join forces with the Global Campus of Human Rights and the Global Campus Alumni



(GCA) in possible joint activities for the upcoming celebrations.

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

The need for human rights experts to push for change at all levels has always been and still is, urgent. Different parts of the world face different problems, rendering high specialisation necessary to adequately address them. Unfortunately, the pandemic has established a reality, where previously safeguarded rights and freedoms are now at stake. At the same time emerging issues like climate change and environmental degradation, extensive corruption, digital threats, co-exist with social inequalities, conflicts, poverty and hunger. We, the EMA graduates, have a leading role to play by mainstreaming human rights in all our professional and voluntary activities. Human rights education is of the utmost importance and we are eager to support any activity with such a focus. Connecting our older graduates with the younger generations of alumni is one of our main goals, strategically placed around the need to act fast, and in a well-informed, coordinated manner, in a rapidly changing environment. Deep knowledge of societal problems will be the only way to fight against the root causes of human rights violations.

**Do you think there is a way for Venice (as a city where the EMA Master takes place) to become more efficient, attractive and well prepared to host students, professors, experts, and authorities from all over the world?**

Venice is a “gem”, a city that all alumni keep close to their hearts and feel closely connected to. Issues of an ageing population and scarce professional opportunities for young people are well-known. The EMA international guests could be an opportunity for a shift in such dynamics and a push for the city to create visitor-friendly spaces,

for short- or longer-term stay. Local initiatives that focus on creating an attractive environment for remote workers, and ideas on how to take advantage of the numerous empty spaces around the island are already on the table. In this context, an enhanced cooperation with such local initiatives and any possible support by the regional and local authorities is necessary, to create a welcoming environment for the international human capital of the Master. So yes, there is a way, as in all aspects of life, innovative ideas and inspiration, transfer of good practices, good planning and coordination among the various actors, are key to success.

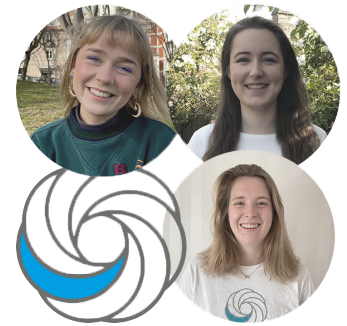
**Could you share a message with the Global Campus of Human Rights Community and members of the Global Campus Alumni Association in particular?**

As EMA graduates, we are grateful to have been born from within the Global Campus of Human Rights, excited to be part of the Global Campus Alumni Association and happy to observe the shared dedication in the promotion of human rights education and the advancement of the network as a whole. Acknowledging the challenges and complexity of such work, our message is that you stay strong and determined to maximize the impact of your work. The EMA Alumni Association, always eager to initiate and support common activities aiming at human rights protection and promotion and the strengthening of our community, welcomes our on-going cooperation and any new, meaningful, common activities.





## Interview with Briana Keogh, Alannah Owens and Beatrijs Gelders, EMA Students' Representatives



*The Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights had the opportunity to ask the EMA Student Representatives Briana Keogh, Alannah Owens and Beatrijs Gelders about their experiences of studying in Venice and at Global Campus Europe.*

Could you tell us more about yourself and your roles as EMA student representatives? Could you describe the experience of studying in Venice during the first semester of the Masters?

As student representatives, our role is to lend an ear and a helping hand to our fellows students, and to communicate any issues or concerns with the EMA team on the campus at the Monastery of San Nicolò. We strive to help everyone feel supported and work actively towards solutions that allow the intense first semester in Venice to run as efficiently and comfortably as possible. Venice has offered us an impressive, unique environment in which to study during this first semester of the Masters. The Monastery of San Nicolò is a beautiful, historical backdrop against which to study the diverse human rights topics that we were exposed to by professors from all over the world, with resources and support of the EMA and GC staff. A special mention goes to the librarian and all the volunteers who helped to make those academic resources available to students. Every corner you turn in the maze of Venetian streets is a guaranteed picturesque surprise and being surrounded by water everywhere lends a magical air to the city. The amazing views, sunsets and *aperitivos* with *spritz* and *cicchetti* made sure we could relax during this busy semester.

What could be a possible future for the city in terms of hospitality for foreign students, academic offers, quality of living and ways to improve the current conditions you have experienced? Do you think there is a way for Venice to become more efficient, innovative, attractive and well-prepared to host important events and course studies? What could students like you need?

Venice is known for grappling with the trifles and treasures of its tourism industry, and therefore life in the city adapts to the tourism. A shift in investment priorities toward more residential activities would be crucial to encourage hospitality for foreign students and people wanting to emigrate and allow people to meet locals, develop friendships and feel more integrated in the city. Encouraging the development of social spaces to host non-tourist oriented activities would be a welcome addition. More support and development of community-based initiatives would be immensely beneficial, in line with the efforts of groups like *Venice Calls* or *We Are Here Venice*, founded in direct response to the lack of opportunities for locals in the city. Additionally, changing the Venice City Libraries Wifi so that you do not require an Italian phone number to connect would greatly improve accessibility by foreign students to these amenities. The city's local sports and leisure clubs could even have recruitment drives for international students to engage with local activities more and bring diversity of nationalities and ages to such local groups. Finally, it may be beneficial to encourage more museums and cultural spaces to be included on the student museum ticket, and for more cultural activities to have a more competitive student rate or student discounts.

Which topics could be interesting to address and related to your human rights and democracy education during and after this COVID-19 emergency? What will the most important challenges be in relation to promoting human rights and democracy in the years to come?

The biggest challenges that we feel will be coming our way in the field of Human Rights will be difficulties relating to the following. Firstly,



globalisation, misinformation & (social) media will be a force to grapple with. Secondly, we will need to understand how to move forward in the context of worldwide vaccine disproportionality and the retreat of the Global North from the issue coupled with the risk of future pandemics. Thirdly, climate change will undoubtedly cause a challenge that human rights will be increasingly called on to address, as through climate justice. Fourthly, human mobility will undoubtedly face and pose challenges for policy, and will require sensitivity to human rights, especially in light of COVID-19 restrictions and procedural and systemic inadequacies highlighted by the pandemic. Finally, the rise of new technologies and artificial intelligence, especially in struggling healthcare settings, will be an area to watch. These are just some of the many realms in which it will be of vital importance to ask questions from a human rights perspective.

**How do you envisage the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) being integrated into the sustainable future of the city of Venice and the Region of Veneto? Do you have any specific concrete ideas? How might EMA students continue to help at local level in the possible sustainable future scenarios?**

In striving towards building a sustainable future for the city of Venice, the motivation and vision of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) may urgently be called upon in the next eight years. It's been made clear to us that Venice has made efforts to integrate the SDGs into the fabric of the city through some of its most well-known features. For example, Venice's iconic Architectural Biennale paid attention this year to the question "How will we live together?" This is such an important question

to have asked at a truly international forum where different countries are represented and can share learning. We would look forward to new and urgent implementation of the goals. Taking the example of Venice's vulnerability to flooding and its complex history with *acqua alta*, a learning centre for climate-change education and management could be developed (SDG 13). This could include an interactive learning experience about the MOSE for the general public, with free admission, accessible and open to all ages to facilitate lifelong learning and even a research centre for the scientific community linked with Venice's colleges and universities (SDGs 4 & 10). We think this could encourage citizen-engagement and spread the immense local knowledge on climate change. In this respect, one valuable resource would be the experience of Venice's more senior residents, who have lived many years without such measures and experienced flooding and its varying intensities pre- and post-MOSE.

Despite the relative tranquillity of Venice in this COVID-19 era, we saw evidence of the over-tourism that has and is predicted to be a challenge for Venice in the abundance of tourist-focused shops, restaurants etc. - with a lack of diverse amenities for locals. Typically tourist activities such as sightseeing from gondolas could be made more inclusive and accessible, with recruitment drives for Gondoliers being run to represent diverse identities and promote the inclusion of women in this workforce. Tours in turn could reflect alternative histories of Venice, emphasising the contributions made by women and minorities. Inter-artisan initiatives could also be encouraged, helping traditional glassmakers, painters, booksellers etc to develop synergies and thus foster more sustainable industry (SDG



9). Investing in improving the quality of the natural environment at municipal level with more widespread placing of trash bins, for example on Lido's beaches, and for the more widespread cleaning of litter from such natural amenities. This year, the EMA students carried out a beach clean on the Lido and we would encourage this tradition in years to come to improve life on land and below water (SDG 14 and 15). Electric bus services on the Lido are a step in the right direction for Venice's transport sustainability, but the next step could be to follow Stockholm's plans for commuting between islands via electric ferry - avoiding spillage of so much fuel into the lagoon.

Could you share a message with the Global Campus of Human Rights Community (professors, experts, alumni, staff) and to their students in particular?

Studying Human Rights is never easy, least of all during this time of global pandemic, but we hope that we can face the issues that we are studying in solidarity. Drawing on the strengths of this amazing network of present and future practitioners, we hope that we may collectively and creatively work to empower our societies around the world to ensure dignity, justice and respect for all. The volume and richness of interactions with both inspiring and inspired people within this program has been a privilege to be a part of, and we are motivated to continue being a source of support throughout our second semester, and look forward to reuniting in September for our graduation ceremony.



## Interview with Carlo Giordanetti, CEO of Swatch Management and Swatch Art Peace Hotel



*The Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights followed the fifth online Global Campus of Human Rights conversation in preparation for the next Human Rights Pavilion Cosmocafer taking place in Venice for the opening days of the Biennale Arte and interviewed one of the guests and CEO of Swatch Management and Swatch Art Peace Hotel, Carlo Giordanetti, about the links between businesses, art and human rights.*

**We know that Swatch has always been interested in Art. How important is investing in Art to help a company build its culture?**

Swatch relationship with artists and their work has been a DNA pillar of the brand since its very early days. This has injected amazing energy and knowledge into the company throughout the years – especially thanks to the strategic choice of offering Swatch as a canvas to artists from many different generations, areas, disciplines and backgrounds. In the true spirit of Swatch, we have invited a true diverse and transversal community to join us on this adventure – and most of the artists have enjoyed the idea of having one of their artworks becoming part of people's daily lives, as Swatch has always kept these projects at a very affordable price level. This is an amazing added value, both for affirmed, famous artists and for the younger generations.

Since 2011 we have had a project in Shanghai that takes the relationship with artists to another dimension: the Swatch Art Peace Hotel has been created to host artists from all over the world, offering them time and space to develop their vision, to experience the Shanghai art scene and culture, to expand their horizon and create freely. A wonderful adventure that has already involved more than 450 artists from 53 countries, and that contributes to nourishing the culture of Swatch as a brand, also thanks to the visibility we give to the artists and their work with our communication activities around the world.

**Could you tell us about the most important results of the ten years cooperation between Swatch and Fondazione La Biennale di Venezia?**

**Any important news about your initiatives in the next 59<sup>th</sup> Biennale?**

On one hand, at every Biennale edition we invite a contemporary artist to create a site specific installation at Giardini – we have had Joana Vasconcelos, Ian Davenport and Joe Tilson creating unforgettable larger than life artworks there, and in 2022 the Thai artist Navin Rawanchaikul will for sure make another strong statement, as his artwork will be a show-stopping installation, based on his observation of Venice as a city of migrants throughout the centuries, and a message to Marco Polo.

On the other hand, at Arsenale, over the years we have developed the “Swatch Faces” concept: we present the work of some of the artists who have been in residence at the Swatch Art Peace Hotel, giving them a unique stage for their work and for sharing their vision and experience. Interesting, attaching, strong and emotional: the ideal key words behind our commitment to supporting artists and their work. In 2022, there will be three Chinese artists, one artist from Korea and one from Brazil, each working with a different technique, all of them bringing original artwork. And in particular, the installation by Marcelot, a Brazilian artist living in Switzerland, is a somehow provocative homage to Venice.

**As you will be participating in the next Human Rights Pavilion Cosmocafer art work, please elaborate on your vision to connect businesses to the world of arts. In particular, what role could the topics of human rights and sustainability play in this historical period?**

In our path, the word responsibility plays an



important role. Through the years, we have been involved in many projects involving arts, business and socially responsible projects. Our support for artists and their work is an ongoing expression of this attitude, and certainly our openness to any kind of culture and background (see the Swatch X You project created around Expo 2020 in Dubai and communicated throughout the world) is the best example of it. Encouraging artistic expression, making it accessible to many, creating a real constructive dialogue and activating a global community around this is how we see our role. And of course, bringing the collaboration with artists to new dimensions, well beyond the product one.

Could you share with us anything about the Swatch Art Peace Hotel and some of the artists and topics involved which could be of interest for our network of 100 Universities around the world?

I think the most interesting topic is the diversity of profiles we continue to host. Many of the artists joining us are interested in exploring the local culture and develop very interesting projects based on observation, confrontation, and inspiration deriving from this process. I believe there could be a way to develop a two-way networking project with 100 Universities around the world.

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

Keep in mind the power of art as a messenger: the emotional power of artwork can be greater than the power of a long speech. Art can speak directly to one's heart – and before hitting the brain, this is where important decisions are made. I believe a work of art can be a game changer.





## Interview with Alessandro Ienzi, Director of “Teatro Raizes”



*The Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights had the opportunity to ask our partner in diverse art activities and Founding Director of Teatro Raizes, Alessandro Ienzi, about our future joint art and human rights activities like Human Freedom 2022.*

Could you tell us more about yourself and your objectives as an artist for 2022?

The objectives of artists are always filtered by sensitivity, by a sixth sense that allows us to observe the world from different perspectives. Therefore, as an artist, I have been focusing for some time on the sense of bewilderment that has gripped us as human beings since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and which has worsened over the course of the pandemic.

However, I hardly focus my artistic production on what is wrong or puts us in difficulty, but on the possible paths of evolution. Where does this bewilderment lead us? Where do we go as human beings? Who do we want to be? And what would we really like to experience? These will be the questions I will focus on in the coming months.

Please elaborate on the partnership with the Global Campus of Human Rights regarding the series of events that are a part of Human Freedom 2021 and your performances at training events like Summer School in Cinema, Human Rights and Advocacy and Venice School for Human Rights Defenders. Could you share the impact of such activities? Will there be a new edition of “Human Freedom” and other similar performances?

The collaboration with Global Campus and Human Freedom 21 has been fruitful and have had a strong impact on the arts and human rights. Our campaigns attracted the attention of the press and civil society, we were guests of the Human Rights Forum in Vienna, and we presented our work, in Barcelona, New York, Paris, and in many Italian cities. Partnerships have grown in quality and quantity. Human Freedom 22 will start in February, this year we will dedicate ourselves to

young people, young people and young leadership, cultural and human rights. Shedding a light on the qualities of the little ones can be a very inspiring journey.

How is human rights education relevant to the art world and achieving the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

Human rights and art are naturally connected and interdependent. Art is a lens through which we can look at ourselves, human beings, at our relationships with each other and with nature. Human rights are a rich interpretation of reality and, from a regulatory point of view, an excellent guide to keep the bar straight towards a world full of life and justice.

Artistic reflection and the strength of art in involving people are fundamental tools for pursuing the objectives of growth and sustainability, creating images, new senses, art can reveal to us as human beings what our shortcomings are and what our power is, to change the conditions of our life and those around us. It can be through the arts that we can imagine first and then build a world of equality, of respect and full of joy and of the best part of humanity: imagination.

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

The greatest challenge that art has to face is the reconstruction of the contact of human beings with themselves. There is a strong sense of loss, an inability to listen to oneself, to face one's fears and to build new worlds and new ideas. The economic crisis first and the health emergency then made us more fragile and anxious. Democracy, rights,



philosophical and civil evolution also depend on our inner state of health. Art can, however, in moments of crisis awaken a certain humanity, because art is based on creativity. It will probably be art that will pull us out of this sense of inadequacy and this struggle between brothers that is filling the world on many levels.

**Do you think there is a way for Venice (as a city hosting the well-known Venice Biennale) to become more efficient, attractive and well prepared to host artists, students, professors, experts, and authorities from all over the world?**

Venice is a wonderful and efficient city, although its structure is not the easiest and most accessible. It is a city accustomed to hosting major events, promoting great cinema and great theatre, the visual arts. It is a city of great patrons. However, what could be improved is the growing relationship between these festivals and public events, their content and civil society. Art and rights must be for everyone, they must be presented to everyone, and we should all have the opportunity to participate in a debate on arts and law. The arts and the law should speak of us, not be above us, they should show us who we are, and they should show it to the rich and the poor, the educated and the uneducated, the young and the old and so on.

**Could you share a message with the Global Campus of Human Rights Community?**

Let's start from ourselves, from our desires and from the shortcomings of the world that we have observed since childhood. Let's recover and raise the memory of our communities and transform them into desires, dreams and then projects. Let's get to work, day after day, to build a world as we have imagined it and as we imagine it together every time we meet on Campus.





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## News & Events

Global Campus Statement on Ukraine  
In Memory of David Sassoli

UNTL, Global Campus of Human Rights  
and the EU Celebrate Human Rights  
Day Together

Online Global Campus of Human Rights  
Conversations: Human Rights Pavilion  
Cosmocafes 2022

Venice Human Rights Film Festival:  
“Film, Art and Human Rights”  
organised by the EMA Students

GC International Conference 2022  
Mental Health: Children’s Perspectives  
on the Challenges and Ways Ahead

Afghan Women Days

High-level Lecture on Human Rights in  
Afghanistan

To the Rightshouse – Podcast Sessions

Training and Webinars about the  
Protection of Human Rights at the ECHR  
Summer School in Cinema, Human  
Rights and Advocacy



## Global Campus Statement on Ukraine

The Global Campus of Human Rights and its network of 100 universities in all world regions is dedicated to post-graduate education in the field of democracy and human rights. We are deeply concerned about the recent military aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The Global Campus is alarmed by massive human rights violations being inflicted on civilians, and concerned about the safety of students, alumni, professors and experts working and studying at our partner universities in Ukraine and Belarus. We share the fears of our colleagues and students at the regional Master programmes based in the Caucasus, South East Europe, and Europe, and in particular in those countries in close proximity to the conflict.

The aggression against Ukraine, a founding member of the United Nations, violates international law, namely the prohibition of the threat or use of force against another state and the respect of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of independent states. The UN Charter foresees that such forms of military aggression will lead to the strongest reaction by the international community, including collective security measures and bringing individual perpetrators of aggression to justice before a Criminal Court.

Living up to our social responsibility as a network of universities specialising in the field of human rights and democracy, we will support these efforts. Further, the Global Campus recently developed a comprehensive emergency scholarship programme to provide a safe space to Afghan students and scholars who had to flee their country. We are deeply saddened to see a similar scenario unfolding in Ukraine, and stand ready to provide our support also in this crisis.

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



## In Memory of David Sassoli

The Global Campus of Human Rights - a network of 100 universities specialised in human rights education worldwide - is deeply saddened by the sudden death of David Maria Sassoli (11 January 2022), President of the European Parliament, who has been a close supporter of the Global Campus.



In the course of his mandate, the cooperation between the Global Campus and the European Parliament - originally developed around the Sakharov Fellowship Programme/Venice School of Human Rights and other long-standing joint activities - has further intensified and culminated in the joint organisation of the first Global State of Human Rights conference organised in Venice in July 2021. During the conference President Sassoli provided the opening keynote speech in which he articulated his vision for a Europe based on human rights and democratic values.

«Respect for human rights and democracy are the fundamental principles that underpin our Union. The founding fathers recognised that only by creating common institutions could we guarantee peace and protect human rights throughout Europe. They had witnessed the atrocities of World War II and saw how easily rights and freedoms could be crushed, and democracies subverted. They wanted to create a system that would ensure this could never happen again. Our union has been a remarkable success in securing peace and protecting human rights. However, as the memory of war fades, we have to be vigilant against complacency. The lessons of the past are not etched permanently on our collective consciousness; it is only through education that we can hope to pass them on to each future generation» David Sassoli stated in an interview for our GC Human Rights Magazine.

During the Presidency of David Sassoli, the Global Campus is proud to have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Parliament in 2020. Thanks to the help from the European Parliament, we were able to develop many activities to spread the importance of human rights education all over the world, such as with the training on international electoral observation, a workshop for exiled Belarussian students, and many online conferences and webinars. The Global Campus is currently planning the second edition of the Global State of Human Rights conference for next July 2022, also honouring the legacy of David Maria Sassoli.



### UNTL, Global Campus of Human Rights and the EU Celebrate Human Rights Day Together with more than 20 Diploma Recipients

The National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL) together with the Global Campus of Human Rights and the support of the EU Delegation to Timor-Leste jointly celebrated International Human Rights Day with the diploma ceremony of the “Human Rights Study & Training Programmes”.

The event was organised in the morning of 10 December at the symbolic premises of *Centro Nacional Chega!* with the participation of former President and Peace Nobel Laureate Dr. José Ramos-Horta, representatives from local institutions such as the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Justice, members of academia, of human rights organisation in Timor-Leste, and of the international community.

The three Programmes are the flagship capacity-building activity of the ongoing project for the creation of the UNTL Human Rights Centre, based at the UNTL Faculty of Social Sciences. Started in 2019, they have successfully trained a team of lecturers, researchers, and managers to become the resource persons for the mainstreaming of human rights education at the University, hence contributing to the promotion of human rights, democracy, and sustainable development for a more equitable and just Timor-Leste. In this regard, EU Chargé d’Affaires Dörthe Wacker stated that “standing up for your rights starts with being aware of having rights. This is not given in any country of the world. Without awareness raising and education on human rights, people cannot contribute to the promotion of human rights and to the creation of a better world. This is why the UNTL Human Rights Centre is so important for the European Union, it empowers young people to become actors for change. We are encouraged by the good results achieved so far and wish UNTL, the Human Rights Centre and the next batch of students all the best for a fruitful continuation of this and new learning activities”.

Thanks to the programmes, six emerging Timorese human rights defenders, fifteen UNTL professors and six UNTL alumni were trained in Dili and in the region by the Global Campus, with the support of international and local experts, also in cooperation with *Provedoria dos Direitos Humanos e Justiça*, *Centro Nacional Chega!* and the ASEAN University Network. Notably, the first group has successfully attended and finalised the Global Campus Asia Pacific “Regional Master Degree on Human Rights and Democratisation” (GC APMA) coordinated by Mahidol University in Bangkok.



The Global Campus Project Manager, Adriano Remiddi, explains that “the expertise of the training participants, 5 of which are now the staff of the UNTL Human Rights Centre, will allow the National University to further develop interdisciplinary human rights courses, research and learning activities, and hopefully become a member of the Global Campus of Human Rights by 2022”.

In fact, after the already established and successfully implemented new introductory course for all first graders, new specialisations are being created with selected Faculties such as in the area of children’s rights. Moreover, plans for postgraduate human rights-based education have also

started, with the UNTL Human Rights Centre to act as a strategic platform of academic development for the University.

The UNTL Rector, Prof. Dr. Joao Soares Martins declared that “the UNTL is proudly housing the Human Rights Centre with the continuous support of the Global Campus of Human Rights, with the main objective of promoting Human Rights in Timor-Leste and globally, through academic work and research”.

The UNTL Human Rights Centre project is currently in its follow up phase for its gradual consolidation. The handover of the Centre to the National University is planned for December 2022.

For more information about the project: [gchumanrights.org/hrc-untl](https://gchumanrights.org/hrc-untl)  
Contact the project manager: [adriano.remiddi@gchumanrights.org](mailto:adriano.remiddi@gchumanrights.org)





## Online Global Campus of Human Rights Conversations: Human Rights Pavilion Cosmocafes 2022 – Updates and Next Steps

The 5<sup>th</sup> online Global Campus of Human Rights Conversation took place on Wednesday 9 March 2022 via zoom and featured the following speakers:

- Koen Vanmechelen, Artist and initiator Human Rights Pavilion;
- Manfred Nowak, Global Campus Secretary General;
- Special guests from the previous editions of the HR Pavilion Cosmocafes;
- Elisabetta Noli, Global Campus Administrative Director
- Live illustrations by Gianluca Costantini



We live in difficult times. The COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating human suffering, widening inequalities, and threatening peoples' livelihoods. The UN Secretary General has described it as not just a health crisis but a human crisis that is fast becoming a human rights crisis. The pandemic is challenging societies at their very core. Moving people further apart, distancing conversations. To face the future in a spirit of hope, investing in the education of young generations, in creativity and in continuous encounters with others will be

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

The Human Rights Pavilion and the Cosmocafes by artist Koen Vanmechelen offer such platforms. Organised together with the Global Campus of Human Rights, Fondazione Berengo and the MOUTH Foundation, they bring together Education, Art and Human Rights as critical driving forces at this particular time. This is especially relevant in the city of Venice, which is this year inaugurating the 59<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition - Biennale Arte 2022 ("The Milk of Dreams").

The online conversation focused on the past and future developments of the Human Rights Pavilion and Cosmocafes, which were inaugurated during the 58th Venice Biennale in 2019 and will be reignited during the upcoming Biennale Arte 2022.

This Conversation also provided an occasion for partners, past Human Rights Pavilion contributors, our staff, professors, alumni and students to actively participate in the discussion about the future development and activities of the Human Rights Pavilion in the city of Venice, which hosts the Headquarters of the Global Campus of Human Rights at the Monastery of San Nicolò in the Lido of Venice.

[www.humanrightspavilion.com](http://www.humanrightspavilion.com)  
[pressoffice@gchumanrights.org](mailto:pressoffice@gchumanrights.org)



## Venice Human Rights Film Festival: “Film, Art and Human Rights” organised by the EMA Students

The Venice Human Rights Film Festival is back, organised by the students of the European Master Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation of the Global Campus of Human Rights. “This edition - say the students - welcomed a wide range of experts in the field of human rights, activists, academics, and filmmakers”. The Festival took place on Friday 10 (Human Rights Day) and Saturday 11 December 2021 at the headquarters of the Global Campus of Human Rights, the Monastery of San Nicolò (Venice-Lido).

The theme was “Film, Arts and Human Rights” and specific attention was paid to women’s rights and freedom of expression. The main films that were presented during the festival were *Beijing Spring* by Andy Cohen, *Caught in the Net* by Barbora Chalupová and Vít Klusák, and *Nasrin* by Jeff Kausman.

*Beijing Spring* encapsulates the scene of underground film-making, radical art, and censorship during the late 70s, still reminiscent of what is happening in Hong Kong during modern times. *Caught in the Net* is a social experiment metamorphosed into an interventionist documentary. The film sheds light on the very delicate issue of child abuse on the web. Nevertheless, *Nasrin* perfectly outlines the story of Nasrin Sotoudeh, the 2012 Sakharov Prize Laureate and Right Livelihood Laureate in 2020, and the remarkably resilient Iranian women’s rights movement. These three works, combined with a series of other films incorporating current human rights issues, create a symbolic symbiosis.

The Film Festival also hosted several artistic performances, in order to once again emphasise the interconnection between arts and human rights. The festival concluded with a ceremony highlighting the advancements made by filmmakers and artists in general with regard to human rights.

More information: [humanrightsfestival2021.wordpress.com](https://humanrightsfestival2021.wordpress.com)





## GC International Conference 2022 Mental Health: Children's Perspectives on the Challenges and Ways Ahead

The principal objectives of the Global Campus International Conference 2022, which took place on 31 January and 1 February 2022 in Kathmandu - Nepal, was to maximise meaningful child participation, promote intergenerational dialogue and stimulate research on children's rights. In this light, between the months of September 2021 and January 2022, the Global Campus of Human Rights embarked on child-led consultations with children from all over the world, with the main aim of identifying what they think are general and specific problems that affect children. At the conference children discussed their findings, as well as adopted a plan of action for the future.

In all, 7 languages were used to consult in 17 sessions with 111 children who come from 9 countries spread across 5 regions, notably Africa (South Africa), the Arab World (Lebanon), Asia (Nepal and India), Caucasus (Armenia), Europe (Italy), and Latin America (Brazil, Chile and Ecuador). The children then chose 17 from among themselves to form the "Global Campus – Children Leadership Team", that went into further action, assembling ideas, selecting the theme and planning activities for the international conference.

Each day of the conference was divided into two sessions: on 31 January the children discussed among themselves what they identified as the most contemporary issue affecting them - the mental health of Children; while on 1 February they adopted a Plan of Action to follow up on the issues discussed.

The experts invited to attend the conference included: the UN Special Rapporteurs on the Rights to Education (Senegal), the UN Special Rapporteur for Mental and Physical Health (South Africa), the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children, a right Livelihood Laureate and children's rights activist, a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, mental health experts and human rights defenders.

This international conference was coordinated by the Kathmandu School of Law and supported by UNICEF South Asia, UNICEF Nepal, the National Child Rights Council of the Government of Nepal (NCRC) as well as the NCPA (National Child Protection Alliance, Nepal).

For more information, please contact: [info@ksl.edu.np](mailto:info@ksl.edu.np)

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the child-led element of the Global Campus International Conference was exclusively online and live-streamed on the social media channels of the Global Campus partners.*



## Afghan Women Days

During the European Parliament's Afghan Women Days, we were proud to present our new scholarship programme for Afghan students & scholars at risk.

Our Secretary General Manfred Nowak took part in the meetings in Brussels, standing up for the social responsibility of universities in times of crisis.

During a panel dedicated to looking forward and identifying perspectives for Afghan women, scholarship programme coordinator Imke Steimann presented the Global Campus initiative to support Afghan human rights defenders through our university network.

We are excited to partner with the European Union, as well as civil society organisations from Afghanistan and around the world, in our efforts to empower Afghan activists in exile.



## High-level Lecture on Human Rights in Afghanistan

The Global Campus of Human Rights organised a High-level Lecture on Human Rights in Afghanistan jointly with the Human Rights Centre at the University of Padua and Ca' Foscari University, which took place on 11 March 2022 at the Scuola Grande San Giovanni Evangelista (Venice).

We were delighted to welcome Shaharazad Akbar (Chair of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission), Richard Bennett (Advisor on Afghanistan at the International Center for Transitional Justice), Niccolò Figà-Talamanca (Secretary General of No Peace Without Justice) and Zahra Ahmadi (Afghan Human Rights Activist and Entrepreneur) for a compelling discussion on the human rights situation in Afghanistan.



For more information, please contact:  
[scholarsatrisk@gchumanrights.org](mailto:scholarsatrisk@gchumanrights.org)

or visit the website:  
[gchumanrights.org/research/projects/afghan-scholarship-programme.html](https://gchumanrights.org/research/projects/afghan-scholarship-programme.html)



## To the Righthouse – Podcast Sessions

Much as a Lighthouse warns of dangers and guides travellers towards safety, our Righthouse alerts to risks for human rights and points towards secure protection. Like the Lighthouse of literary fame, our Righthouse symbolises the difference between what is desirable and what is real, with multiple points of views in between, the longing for something both enlightening and difficult to reach: a destination, stability, a solution.

Modern human rights are born out of dark times, struggles, waves. They are a beacon of encouragement to the world. To the Righthouse takes you to a place where we discuss human rights, moving from scepticism to hope, from utopia to empathy, riding (sound) waves but also signalling where the light is.

### Series 1: Engaging with human rights scepticism

A variety of reasons underpin scepticism vs human rights: from ontological questions about the very notion of rights to culture- and religion-based perceptions of rights as an illegitimate source of external interference; from concerns about pragmatic application to doubts about the political neutrality of Human Rights.

### Why, then, is it important to engage with different expressions of scepticism?

Voices of scepticism resonate widely with decision-makers and members of the public. “How the issues are framed cannot be left to the detractors” says George Ulrich, the podcast host. “Discussing perceived or real weaknesses with antagonists may increase the motivation for further actions. By meaningfully connecting theory to reality, such a mutual exchange of ideas may bring us a step closer towards a vision for the future guided by a deep and resilient understanding of the nature and functions of human rights and their application in a contemporary geopolitical setting.”

Listen on as he explores these ideas with renowned guests.

More information:

[gchumanrights.org/podcast](https://gchumanrights.org/podcast)

[gchumanrights.org/totherighthouse](https://gchumanrights.org/totherighthouse)



TO THE  
**Righthouse**



## Training and Webinars about the Protection of Human Rights at the ECHR

### Introductory and Advanced Courses:

The objective of the ECHR courses organized by the Global Campus of Human Rights on the European Convention on Human Rights is to train Italian lawyers, magistrates and legal practitioners interested in studying the fundamental rights protection mechanisms provided for by the ECHR, with particular attention paid to the individual appeal procedure at the Strasbourg Court.

In the last 6 years, the Global Campus of Human Rights has trained over 500 legal practitioners and legal experts from Italy, or who practise the legal profession in Italy, on the mechanisms for protecting fundamental rights provided for by the ECHR.

The courses are part of the programme of training activities relating to the European Convention on Human Rights organized by the Global Campus of Human Rights.

### The Webinars:

**The exhaustion of the domestic remedies:** The webinar aims to investigate the issue of the exhaustion of domestic remedies, a fundamental expression of the principle of subsidiarity and an essential condition for being able to properly refer the ECtHR.

The theoretical study about the origin, the historical evolution and the rationale of the principle of the exhaustion of internal remedies is accompanied by practical reports aimed at providing participants with the analysis and reasoning tools necessary to govern the principle independently both before the internal courts and before the Strasbourg court.

The course is aimed at both those who are approaching the subject and those who already have basic training, takes place entirely online and is also part of the training programme relating to the European Convention on Human Rights organized by the Global Campus of Human Rights.

The Scientific Responsible of the courses relating to the ECHR is Dr. Roberto Chenal, advocate at the Court of Strasbourg.

[gchumanrights.org/cedu](https://gchumanrights.org/cedu)







## Summer School in Cinema, Human Rights and Advocacy

The 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the Summer School in Cinema, Human Rights and Advocacy is now accepting applications. The training initiative is jointly developed by the Global Campus of Human Rights and Picture People. The school is aimed at professionals wishing to broaden their understanding on the connections between human rights, films, digital media and video advocacy, and wanting to learn how to use film as a tool for social change.

The 10-day programme provides a safe, culturally rich and collaborative environment where diversity and inclusivity are embraced, original and critical thinking are encouraged, skills are honed, creativity is unleashed and networking with experts from the human rights arena and professionals from the film industry at the 79<sup>th</sup> Venice International Film Festival is supported.

The programme has a focus on the rights of children and young people in the broader framework of human rights protection and promotion. The course is designed to appeal to professionals from diverse backgrounds, nationalities and experiences.

Don't miss the unique opportunity to debate with experts and filmmakers from all over the world during the 79<sup>th</sup> Venice International Film Festival!

Deadline for scholarship applicants: 30 April 2022

Deadline for self-funded applicants: 30 May 2022

[gchumanrights.org/chra](https://gchumanrights.org/chra)





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## Campaigns

Looking for Sponsors and Donors for  
the Concert of the Human Rights  
Orchestra at Teatro La Fenice

## Looking for Sponsors and Donors for the Concert of the Human Rights Orchestra at Teatro La Fenice

In partnership with the European Parliament, the Global Campus of Human Rights is hosting a two-day conference in Venice on 15 and 16 July 2022 focused on children's rights issues and at the same time as the Redentore Festival weekend. The speakers and panellists will include prominent members of the European Parliament, the European Commission, directors of NGOs and an array of professors from the Global Campus network of universities and other institutions.

To help illuminate roles that all members of civil society can play in advancing the well-being of individuals, communities and the planet, the Human Rights Orchestra has been invited to present a concert of music and artists that reflect the values and significance of human rights.

The Human Rights Orchestra is a community of musicians from the leading orchestras of the world who donate their services in support of human rights advocacy and organizations. Famed horn player and conductor Alessio Allegrini will lead the orchestra in a programme framed by Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture and Beethoven's Symphony n. 3, "Eroica". Mendelssohn was inspired by the pristine and dramatic beauty of the Scottish coast and the Hebrides Islands – by the natural environment that today is deteriorating as a result of the actions and inactions of governments, businesses, and individuals. Beethoven dedicated his symphony to a pre-imperial Napoleon in 1803, at a time when the composer believed Napoleon embodied democratic ideals. In the context of our concert, Beethoven represents some of the principles undergirding human rights, and Mendelssohn represents one of the pressing challenges of our times.

Our guest soloists include Bosnian accordionist Merima Ključo, Tunisian oud player Ziad Trabelsi, and Vietnamese singer/songwriter/guitarist Mai Khôi. Ms. Ključo fled the Bosnian war and was able to continue her studies in the Netherlands. Mr. Trabelsi was unable to return to Tunisia during conflicts and Italy became his adopted home. Mai Khôi was winner of the 2018 Václav Havel Award for Creative Dissent. These musicians have been beneficiaries of protected and fulfilled human rights, and all three are devoted to advancing the rights of others. During the concert, onstage remarks will be presented by a representative of Musicians For Human Rights (MFHR), the Global Campus of Human Rights, and the European Parliament.

A fortuitous additional feature of the concert and conference will be the public presentation of the forthcoming volume, *Music and Human Rights*, published by Routledge, one of the world's leading academic publishing houses, with Julian Fifer, Angela Impey, Peter Kirchschrager, Manfred Nowak and George Ulrich as co-editors.

We are looking for sponsors and donors to make this concert happen in an exchange of visibility, networking and diverse type of benefits.

Become sponsors and to be part of our community of donors, contact us before 31 May at:

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







You can contribute greatly to the success of the Global Campus in the following ways:

- donations help to fund the everyday functioning of our institution;
- companies, charitable foundations and institutions can sponsor and partner our initiatives, linking their brand to the prestigious academic network of the Global Campus of Human Rights;
- supporting the scholarship programmes helps many qualified students to start their career and enter the job market, in particular through internships and fellowships;
- contributing to the Global Campus of Human Rights research projects.

Your support allows us to go forward in the pursuit of our vision and to make the Global Campus a convener for those who share our goals.

You can also donate your il 5x1000 from IRPEF (CF 94054110278).



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This donation helps fund our everyday functions



#### SPECIFIC DONATION

Support scholarships, internships, fellowships and professorships



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Celebrate a loved one's life by making a donation in their memory

For more information visit:

<https://gchumanrights.org/support-us/join-us/donations.html>

<https://gchumanrights.org/support-us/join-us/partnership-sponsorships.html>

or contact our Fundraising Office at [fundraising@gchumanrights.org](mailto:fundraising@gchumanrights.org)



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



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**Headquarters:**

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

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

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05. Global Campus of Human Rights Magazine

Global Campus of Human Rights Magazine

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Nowak, Manfred

Global Campus of Human Rights

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