

March 2021



MAGAZINE

Global Campus

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Secretary General
of the Global Campus
of Human Rights

In 1982, Antonio Papisca and Marco Mascia founded the Human Rights Centre at the University of Padua. It was one of the first university-based human rights teaching and research centres in the world. In 1988, Veneto was the first region in Italy to adopt a regional bill to promote a culture of human rights, peace and development. Since that time, the Veneto Region has employed a councillor with a special mandate to implement the bill. This important role is currently entrusted to Cristiano Corazzari. In 1998, the Veneto Region adopted another bill aimed at providing regular support to the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA), which had just been founded by the University of Padua on the initiative of the European Union, and in cooperation with other universities in EU member States. The EMA also received financial support from the Veneto Region and soon found its home at the beautiful Monastery of San Nicolò thanks to the City of Venice's generous offer. It also became the first of seven regional inter-disciplinary Master's Programmes and the flagship site for the Global Campus of Human Rights. Even under the difficult circumstances resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic, the EMA team made sure its students could complete their first semester in person at the Monastery of San Nicolò in January 2021. The interviews with Councillor Corazzari and Professor Mascia shed a light on the long, successful and close cooperation between the Veneto Region, the University of Padua, the EMA programme and the Global Campus of Human Rights. We are delighted to participate in the Veneto Region's Human Rights Defenders programme by providing shelter to human rights defenders belonging to the academic community who are under attack in their home countries.

The interviews with Jane da Mosto (We are here Venice) and Carlotta Giordani (EMA Ambassador in Venice) underline the need for Venice to resist over-tourism and large cruise ships and to change its image from a mass-tourism destination to a sustainable human rights city that is attractive to students, professors, artists, scientists, and the wider global academic community. This requires the City of Venice to make fundamental changes to its environmental, housing and tourism policies, inspired by UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 (global citizenship education), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 13 (climate action), and 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions). The Global Campus of Human Rights – a network of 100 prestigious universities in regions all over the world – is ready to advise and support the City of Venice in its aspirations to become a successful and sustainable human rights city of the twenty-first century.

Interviews with:

Cristiano Corazzari,
Councillor — Region of Veneto,
with mandate on Culture,
Human Rights, and Territory

Marco Mascia,
UNESCO Chair on Human
Rights, Democracy and Peace,
“Antonio Papisca — Human
Rights Centre”

Jane Da Mosto,
We are here Venice

Carlotta Giordani,
GC Europe EMA, 2012-13
Human rights lawyer and
activist

Interview with Cristiano Corazzari Councillor — Region of Veneto, with mandate on Culture, Human Rights, and Territory



The Press Office for the Global Campus of Human Rights had the opportunity to interview Cristiano Corazzari about the current challenges in education and human rights. Corazzari is a Councillor of the Region of Veneto, with mandate on Culture, Human Rights, and Territory.

What do you think the relationship between the Veneto Region, the Municipality of Venice, and its local universities will look like over the next few years?

The institutional relationship between the regional bodies and research institutions in Veneto has always been based on the principles of loyalty and decency, especially when it comes to pressing issues such as defending human rights. The City of Venice is one of the main vehicles for raising international awareness of the local area, which is one of the reasons why Veneto is so well-known around the world. On the other hand, the scientific traditions of the universities located in this region – which are world-renowned centres of knowledge – are key to the success of the model implemented in the Veneto Region, which is one based on interaction between the production model and high culture.

The Global Campus of Human Rights has been collaborating with the Veneto Region and the University of Padua for some time. In what specific ways will universities and academic institutions in the Veneto Region be able to build their network with city institutions over the next few years?

There are many opportunities to further collaboration between the Region and the universities. Let's not forget that the Region has invited universities to a number

of technical and consultative discussions so that they may make relevant scientific contributions. I would say that there is no relevant sector in which collaboration is not already underway, including from regional management to health care, and from international relations to training. And of course, when it comes to education and research, the centres of knowledge assist us by providing guidance. When it comes to opportunities over the coming years, I must mention the Next Generation Fund, and in the future, we will need to steer consolidated collaboration from this perspective. It's important to emphasise that universities in Venice have been well-oriented towards this new collaborative model for several years, and I'd go as far as to say that there's no relevant sector in which the Region's institutional role has not developed in collaboration with the universities' scientific role.

The Global Campus of Human Rights has collaborated with the European Union for twenty years, bringing some of Europe's most important institutional offices to the Veneto Region, along with students from all over the world. How could the Region become even more welcoming and hospitable in the future?

This year, for the first time in a while, the Region's human rights program will focus on objectives and content that are

consistent with those represented by the Global Campus of Human Rights. In particular, the experiences of Human Rights Defenders will be promoted at a regional level. The term Human Rights Defender (HRD) is used to describe people who either individually or collaboratively promote or protect human rights in a non-violent way. HRDs address human rights issues that may concern summary executions, torture, arbitrary arrests and detentions, female genital mutilation, discrimination, employment problems, forced evictions, access to health care, toxic waste, and their impact. In response to these phenomena, a good initiative currently being implemented at a local level is the Cities of Refuge Network. This network comprises protection programmes promoted by local authorities and civil society organisations to provide temporary accommodation to HRDs outside their country, and to provide them with a period of respite before they resume their non-violent struggle for human rights once threats have ceased. During 2018, a few municipalities in the Veneto Region, including the Municipalities of Padua, Ponte San Nicolò, Rubano, Noventa Padovana and Cadoneghe publicly announced their commitment to join this initiative, acknowledging the important contribution that local authorities can make to the protection of HRDs around the world. The Centre for Human Rights at the University of Padua is a key player in the development of this regional hub, providing scientific support to the initiative and monitoring the situation and countries of origin of Human Rights Defenders.

We also want to support projects that train lawyers and public officials in the legal sector so that we have access to the best knowledge when applying a culture

of human rights and distributing the main regulatory instruments and international documents providing protection. Paying particular reference to the global forum, we're hoping to promote an online event on the subject with the participation of people who live in the Veneto Region and operate on an international level.

Do you believe in a sustainable Veneto? How do you view the City of Venice within this context, after 1600 years of history and international relations?

The Veneto Region is actively engaged in developing its sustainable development strategy – one of the first in Italy – and has a regional programme aimed at achieving its macro objectives by 2050. It is a complex challenge for a productive region but, as the question suggests, Venice has transformed itself many times over the past 1600 years, and the challenge of sustainability will be the next field in which we will measure ourselves.

What are the most important challenges in terms of promoting human rights and democratisation during this period of crisis and the pandemic? (Two of the most important topics on the Veneto Region's agenda).

Two central themes:

1. the relationship between economic development and human rights, and in particular, guaranteeing agricultural workers employment rights, in addition to workers in sectors most severely affected by the pandemic. Although Veneto is not considered an at-risk region from this point of view, we must work with employers and trade union representatives to ensure that both

employment and human rights are protected

2. the second issue in which the Region is investing is the defence of women's rights, and in particular, the fight against gender violence. This year the Anti-Violence Network, which comprises 43 shelters and anti-violence centres, will receive €2.3 millions in funding, partly by means of direct regional funds. The pandemic has highlighted instances of domestic violence, and we've done a lot of work on the topic, but we need to invest more in younger generations in order to eradicate approaches to and ideas about the opposite sex that are often – even if unintentionally – very wrong.

Do you have a final message for teachers, graduates, students and employees of the Global Campus of Human Rights?

Let's really commit to making sure 2021 is a year of open discussion and partnership between the different entities dealing with human rights issues in the region (i.e., universities, the Veneto Region, municipalities, the Global Campus, and professional associations.). Our institutions will make sure we take on board suggestions and implement a proper strategy to defend human rights.

Interview with Marco Mascia UNESCO Chair on Human Rights, Democracy and Peace, “Antonio Papisca — Human Rights Centre”, University of Padua



The Press Office for the Global Campus of Human Rights had the opportunity to ask Professor Marco Mascia – UNESCO Chair on Human Rights, Democracy and Peace and member of the “Antonio Papisca Human Rights Centre” at our partner university (Padua) – to share his impressions on the current challenges facing human rights education at the institution he represents.

The Global Campus of Human Rights has been collaborating with the University of Padua for more than twenty years. How do you see the relations between the University of Padua and the Veneto Region developing in terms of promoting human rights and peace?

With its Human Rights Centre, the University of Padua was one of the first universities to offer the European Master’s Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation as part of the Global Campus of Human Rights. In late 1996, the Head of the Unit on Human Rights and Democratisation for the European Commission came to the University of Padua’s Human Rights Centre (founded in 1982) to exchange ideas on potential initiatives for human rights education at a post-graduate level. We came up with a structural investment in the form of a European Master’s Degree. We were approaching the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the European Commission wanted to mark the celebration with a long-term initiative that could educate new generations of young people through a human rights mindset.

In 1998, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration, the European Council adopted a solemn declaration, in which explicit reference was made to the European Master’s Programme. At

the same time, the Legislative Assembly of the Veneto Region unanimously endorsed a dedicated bill to ensure substantial support was provided to the EMA on a regular basis (Law No. 33 of 28 December 1998, “European Master’s Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation”).

It’s worth remembering that the Veneto was the first region in Italy to adopt a Regional Bill in 1988 (Law No. 18 of 30 March 1988, “Regional Intervention for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace”) to promote a culture of human rights, peace, development and co-operation. Article 1 of the Regional Bill reads:

1. The Region of Veneto recognises peace and development as fundamental rights of human beings and people, in accordance with the principles of the Italian Constitution and the International Law for the promotion and protection of human rights and the rights of people, of democratic liberties, and of international co-operation by means of initiatives relating to information, research, education, de-centralised co-operation and humanitarian aid. 2. For the purpose of paragraph 1, the Region promotes human rights, a culture of peace, and development co-operation.

The law has been particularly fruitful in helping develop a culture of peace in its own wake, i.e., human rights and

education in legality, non-violence, active citizenship, dialogue, and solidarity. It is important to emphasise that the pioneering Law 18/1988 set a precedent for similar laws that were subsequently adopted by other Italian regions.

The Veneto Region has had a councillor dedicated to human rights since 1988, in addition to a budget official devoted to implementing the Bill. The current councillor is Cristiano Corazzari.

Future collaboration with the Veneto Region will develop in the fields of human rights education and training, capacity building, empowerment of the local civil society, and the promotion of active and democratic citizenship. A significant moment in this ongoing collaboration will be the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the Human Rights Center at the University of Padua (1982 - 2022).

What are some of the best results to come out of the University of Padua's cooperation with the Veneto Region?

The Veneto Region has always been fond of the Human Rights Centre and has supported its activities, nurturing a fertile and increasingly organic collaboration over the years. The Centre owes much of what it has become to the local region, and gives back by helping to organise training and information courses for teachers, local administrators, and volunteers from civil society organisations and community-based organisations.

Thanks to the support of the Region, the Human Rights Centre has been allowed to carry out educational and research activities both in the Veneto, but also at a national, European and international level. Among other things, we lobbied the Ministry of Education, University and Research

to extend the teaching of human rights to the entire Italian university system. Nowadays, the subject of human rights, peace and development cooperation is the focus of dedicated Bachelor's and Master's programmes. Among these is the European Master's in Human Rights and Democratization.

The main project carried out by the Region and the Centre is the Pace e Diritti Umani Regional Archive (Peace and Human Rights Archive). It was established in 1988 under Law No. 18/1988. The archive is one of the main tools used by the Veneto Region to promote a culture of human rights, peace, cooperation, development and solidarity. The archive collects, expands and makes available its collection of documents, themed databases and informational resources on regional law to the public. The archive also manages a database of associations and NGOs in the Veneto Region. During 2020, the archive website recorded over 323.000 unique visitors (users). A total of over 638.424 pages were consulted, and user numbers increased by almost 90.000 compared to the previous year, demonstrating the website's excellent accessibility.

I want to mention three exemplary initiatives carried out in collaboration with the Veneto Region in the early 1990s.

The first initiative involved the diffusion of a proposal drawn up by the Human Rights Centre of Padua among local municipalities and provinces in Veneto to include the "human rights peace norm" in new statutes. The text for said norm reproduces Article 1 of Law No. 18/88. The proposal has spread rapidly from Veneto to the rest of Italy. There are now thousands of municipal and provincial statutes containing the aforementioned norm. The number of

departments and offices with specific mandates on the subject has also multiplied.

The second initiative was carried out in the aftermath of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The Centre and the Region organised the first major international Helsinki Citizens Assembly (HCA) conference in Venice, established on the initiative of President Václav Havel and other human rights activists belonging to Charta 77. It was an important opportunity for civil society organisations from countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the European Union to meet.

The third initiative refers to the diffusion of the culture of “institutional civic defence” in Italy. Seminars and conferences are organised with the participation of the first regional ombudsmen. The strategic objective is to contribute to placing this new institutional figure at the Ombudsman within a context that is innate to it, that of the non-judicial method of promoting and protecting human rights.

Since 2000, the Region and the Centre have organised a series of training courses on active citizenship, human rights, solidarity, and intercultural dialogue, with the involvement of hundreds of teachers from Veneto’s seven provinces. The initiative has involved coaching educators, or rather, qualified groups of teachers and tutors in connection with a broader project run by the Ministry of Education.

The Region also supports two publications released by the Centre: The Italian Yearbook of Human Rights and the Peace Human Rights Governance (PHRG) academic journal. The Italian Yearbook intends to take stock of how the international human rights monitoring system assesses

Italy’s performance on an annual basis in order to provoke an informed and open debate on this fundamental aspect of public life.

Would a closer collaboration between universities and academic networks be possible or useful in relation to the main regional events involving universities and the most pertinent topics right now? For example, additional on-site courses such as the European Master’s in Human Rights (EMA), and events related to human rights, sustainability and the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Padua.

Networking is a fundamental tool when it comes to tackling the challenges of our time. It has become a structural characteristic of university action. Several university networks are making unmistakably positive, creative, concrete, scientifically significant, project-oriented contributions to the current debate on human rights and the rights of people. Such networks include the Global Campus of Human Rights, the UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights and Peace, and the Jean Monnet Chairs.

There is a clear awareness that networking and shared actions constitute a fundamental resource for influencing relations with other actors in international politics, and in terms of state-centric relations, in particular. Such awareness stems from the fact that networking strengthens and develops the capacity of universities to organise and manage their activities independently, as well as to influence the behaviour of governmental and intergovernmental power centres by means of a detailed referral to

the principles and values expressed in international human rights law. It also allows them to come up with new concepts, principles, and programmes for action, promoting their acceptance by national and international governmental institutions. Lastly, it sensitises global public opinion and helps people to exercise their rights as citizens at every level of social and political life. “From the city to the UN”, as Professor Antonio Papisca once said.

From this perspective, it is essential to promote an even closer collaboration between the Veneto Region, the Human Rights Centre, and the Global Campus of Human Rights if we want to make a substantial contribution to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in the Veneto Region, focusing on Target 4.7 of the 2030 Agenda in particular: “By 2030, we must ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.”

What can we ask young people to do in the future in terms of promoting human rights and democratisation? What are the most important and urgent challenges in this field?

Human rights constitute the core of legality in a world that is frantically searching for human and ecologically sustainable

governability. They represent the legal, political and moral compass with which we face the great planetary crisis that is affecting hundreds of millions of people and threatening the survival of all humanity.

The logic of human rights focuses on the centrality of the human person, equality and non-discrimination. It is a logic that sees past borders, and therefore, it is the logic of inclusion. Everyone must be able to exercise equal rights of citizenship, be them civil, political, economic, social, or cultural.

The culture of human rights teaches us that we must take care not only of ourselves and others, but of our democratic institutions, the environment, and common goods. Covid-19 has forced us to encourage participation and solidarity. We need to give young people the following messages:

1. human rights have not always existed; we must continue to promote them and defend them
2. human rights are human rights, be them civil, political, economic, social or cultural. Rule of law and welfare state are two sides of the same coin. We must rekindle the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as stated by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
3. the internationalisation of human rights was facilitated by the multilateral international organisation. We must fight to democratise the multilateral system of international relations because international law and democracy represent the road to world peace
4. there are no rights without responsibilities. Responsibility does not only

imply knowledge of the rules and compliance with one's duties but also the will and ability to personally implement the constitutional and universal principles of solidarity, justice and equality. It is not enough to claim rights, we have to accept our personal and collective responsibilities. We all have responsibilities, as people and as institutions.

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

Human rights education is the main way to build a more just, equitable, democratic and inclusive world. The Global Campus of Human Rights is the largest and most prestigious global network in the field of human rights education and training. Teachers, alumni, students and staff of the GCHR are human rights defenders. As Antonio Papisca once said, you are “a living community of expert and committed people, which I like to call the civil servants of the human family.”

Interview with Jane Da Mosto

We are here Venice



The Press Office for the Global Campus of Human Rights had the opportunity to ask Jane Da Mosto, from the non-profit organisation We are here Venice, about her views on possible sustainable futures for Venice and the Veneto Region.

Could you tell us more about We are here Venice?

We are here Venice is an NGO that exists to address the fundamental challenge facing Venice: to remain a living city. Our mission is based on acknowledging that the city and the lagoon are inseparable elements of a single system, and our work highlights the interplay between the natural environment and human activities. We are here Venice advocates evidence-based approaches to policy making, operating both as a think tank and as an activist platform, strengthening connections between stakeholders and the best available information.

Our work is organised across three action areas:

- Venice and the lagoon, which concerns biodiversity protection, environmental restoration, and resisting overtourism and large cruise ships with alternative propositions linked to Venice's natural capital and associated economic opportunities
- Language of value, focused on finding better ways to understand trends and changes in Venice and collecting information and data from various sources
- Exchange of knowledge, seeking to establish international networks of best practice, skills and deepening our understanding of issues via fresh insights from engaging with others

We believe that Venice's unique circumstances offer huge potential as a laboratory for exploring innovative approaches to community resilience.

How could Venice become more efficient, attractive and prepared to host students, professors, experts, and authorities from all over the world?

Firstly, let's remember that Venice is already very attractive to students, professors, and indeed everyone "from all over the world". More could and should be done to highlight this and connect all these types of people more intimately to the everyday life of the city.

Housing, we all know, is a problem. Much of the residential fabric of the city has been allocated to the tourist market, thus rental prices are beyond the reach of many academics and students, as well as people who would like to settle in Venice forever. This issue also impacts upon visiting academics and students.

Overtourism has been making Venice an increasingly difficult place to live for longer term residents. We would love to see more investment in a sustainable future for the city that is not entirely economically reliant on tourism. Measures are needed to promote the diversification of productive activities, as well as good jobs and better housing so that more students who study

here might stay on to build a life. This formula has worked in the revitalisation of other towns and cities elsewhere in the world.

With its 1600-year anniversary coming up, how do you view relations with the academic network in Venice, the Veneto Region, the EU and the world, and could they be strengthened with new ideas and contributions regarding possible future scenarios for the city? Do you have any specific ideas?

It is very important to connect and consolidate the relationship between our institutions, especially during this difficult time, which is potentially an opportunity for positive change for all. We are trying to radically change perceptions of Venice and its potential to be a city of the future rather than a showcase for global problems like rising sea levels and suffocation due to the harmful consequences of unmanaged mass tourism. It was very gratifying for us to be invited via contacts at Ca' Foscari to participate in a couple of exciting proposals for the latest round of Horizon 2020 under the umbrella of the European New Green Deal.

Meanwhile, in a limited context, We are here Venice is planning, in collaboration with the Global Campus of Human Rights, a series of inspirational talks associated with "orientation exercises" around the city that participants are encouraged to do independently. The intention is to encourage positive thinking and offer young people (university as well as high school students, who have been among the worst affected by the limitations imposed by measures to limit the spread of Covid-19) the stimulus to observe Venice closely and from new perspectives, in its various dimensions as

a living city, focusing on a specific theme with each talk or action. The inspirational talks will cover the following macro-themes applied to the city: nature and the environment, culture and productive activities.

How is human rights education relevant to the achievement of the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the creation of what we call a "Veneto Sostenibile"?

Human rights are integral to wellbeing, as are the UN's SDGs. Social, economic and environmental states cannot be disentangled, as we all are experiencing directly during the Covid-19 pandemic, throughout the world.

The ambition to build a sustainable society together (from the micro to the macro scale), as described by both the UN and the Veneto Region, depends on everyone making binding commitments and ensuring that no one is left behind due to the lack of civil awareness where they live.

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

We are delighted to be associated with the Global Campus and look forward to getting to know you better and exploring some of the specific issues that We are here Venice is engaging with. Together, we would like to extend the human rights perspective to non-human life within the context of the existential symbiosis on which the continued existence of Venice and the lagoon system depends.

Interview with Carlotta Giordani GC Europe EMA, 2012-13 Human rights lawyer and activist



The Press Office for the Global Campus of Human Rights had the opportunity to ask Carlotta Giordani, from the EMA Alumni Association, about her views on possible sustainable futures for Venice and the Veneto Region.

Could you tell us more about yourself and your role as an EMA Ambassador in the city of Venice?

My name is Carlotta Giordani (EMA 2012-13) and I have a degree in Law and European and Transnational Law (LLB and LLM from the University of Trento in Italy). I am a human rights lawyer and activist, specialised in the protection of vulnerable groups, migration and governance. I have worked in Palestine, China, France, Belgium and am now working on anti-discrimination and migration in Italy. I have also been a consultant for the Veneto Observatory on migration and anti-discrimination, focusing in particular on public policies on civil society empowerment, as well as for Italy's Ministry of the Interior on the EU cooperation system on asylum. During the past four years I have also been engaged with grassroots human rights associations monitoring the Adriatic area (Italy and Greece), within the framework of the Adriatic Sea-ports Network. I was born and grew up in Venice, where I dedicate some of my time to human rights. When I moved back to the city, I decided to become an EMA Ambassador of Venice as I wanted to share my knowledge of the city with new students, in addition to suggestions and my extremely positive experience with the EMA Programme. My first year as an ambassador was 2020, so I have not yet had the chance to fully develop my role, but I hope to do so

as the global situation improves.

As an alumna, how do you envisage the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) being integrated into the sustainable future of the city of Venice and the Region?

The UN SDGs are a powerful guide to create a better world by 2030, and the urgency of their concrete implementation is reflected by the current global situation, which was caustically summarised by the title of the 2018 Venice Art Biennale, *May You Live in Interesting Times*. The same urgency applies to Venice, a city that, despite my own personal bias, has been taken for granted for too long. In particular, I would like to address three of the UN's SDGs, whose relevance I particularly associate with the city.

GOAL NUMBER 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Venice should become a more inclusive and sustainable city, something that has unfortunately stopped being the case in recent years due to the lack of intervention in the housing market, insufficient investment in housing incentives, and the lack of rent caps, not to mention the dismantling of residential housing due to the lack of controlled management of tourism. Airbnb and the administrative changes to building use (which are being converted into hotels) are two specific examples.

GOAL NUMBER 13: CLIMATE ACTION

Venice is a fragile city and is certainly more exposed than others to the impact of climate change on a global level. It's important that we create a junction between universities and institutions to turn the city into an experimental hub for green policies, through the creation of research institutes and avant-garde green infrastructures that can trial practices to be replicated in other cities. This would also create new jobs and facilitate the link between universities and the green economy labour market.

GOAL NUMBER 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

We are facing injustice and abuse almost everywhere in the world. Venice is by nature a border city, by land, by air (it's home to the third largest airport in Italy) and, of course, by sea. Considering the role that borders are playing during this historical era, we would be remiss to exclude Venice. Institutions are taking positive action and implementing good practices, such as the Regional Observatory on Migration and Anti-Discrimination. That being said, human rights are at risk. For almost four years, a group of Italian organisations – including two grassroots associations from Venice – have been developing a network to monitor and report on migrant push-backs, human rights violations and violence in the ports along the Adriatic Sea, including in Venice, as part of the Adriatic route. Civil society, which is active in Venice thanks to the grassroots work of many associations, is tasked with keeping a close eye on these situations and addressing public policies

and institutions relating to these issues at a local level as well. It goes without saying that the institutions and Academy have a duty to intervene and collaborate on these issues.

Do you think there is a way for Venice to become more efficient, attractive and well-prepared to host students, professors, experts, and authorities from all over the world?

Venice is an efficient city in terms of services and attractiveness, given its worldwide renown. Venice needs to change from being an excellent showcase for events and initiatives into a place where people decide to stay, and this could be achieved through the creation of jobs, internships and other activities (not only related to tourism) that create a deep link with the fabric of the city and are not merely transitional. All too often there is a lack of investment from institutions or organisations carrying out activities in Venice in terms of creating sustainable and long-lasting relations with the city.

With its 1600-year anniversary coming up, how do you view relations with the academic network in Venice, the Veneto Region, the EU and the world, and could they be strengthened with new ideas and contributions regarding possible future scenarios for the city? Do you have any specific ideas?

Is not in my place to come up with solutions, but as I have already said, the potential and the basis are there to continue working towards making the city a global

hub for the green economy and for the development and promotion of human rights and culture, considering the rich history the city already has in relation to these issues (quick fact: the first woman graduate in the world was the Venetian Lucrezia Cornaro in the seventeenth century).

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?

In my opinion, the main future challenges both globally and in Venice will continue to be climate change, gender equality, and social justice. EMA graduates are motivated people who are interested in being part of global change and progress. The enthusiasm and intelligence of students and their ideas can result in extremely valuable suggestions that can turn into concrete actions. It would be nice to have working groups on topics that also look at the city's perspective.

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

Global struggles are interconnected. Achieving change as isolated individuals is difficult. I believe that the Alumni Association can play an important role in strengthening relationships between people with a shared vision by promoting a culture of respect for human rights.

News & Events

Second Online Global Campus of Human Rights Conversation
Call for Applications “European Master in Human Rights and Democratisation” academic year 2021/2022

The Global Campus of Human Rights Continues to Support the Development of Human Rights Education in Timor-Leste

MOOC — Business and Human Rights

MOOC — Children’s Rights and Technology in the Digital Age

Dzidek Kedzia Receives the Medal of Honour of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Poland

Online Course for International Electoral Observers

Media Partnerships with ELSA Italy and IAPSS



Second Online Global Campus of Human Rights Conversation

We live in difficult times. We are facing a global health crisis unlike any experienced in the recent past. 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. This is because it is attacking societies at their very core.

In this situation, a focus on investing in the education of young generations should be a non-negotiable requirement if we are to look to the future with a spirit of hope. Education will be at the core of a sustainable future for the City of Venice, too, which is inaugurating celebrations for its 1600-year anniversary, and become one of the driving forces in the middle of this pandemic, both at a local and global community level.

The Global Campus of Human Rights wishes to provide a space for people to exchange views on the possible future of Venice, and will be hosting a series of online events under the umbrella "Global Campus of Human Rights Conversations: Possible Futures for Venice".

Our second edition featured the following speakers, who talked about the relationship between the Veneto Region and its academic institutions and universities:

Marco Mascia, Professor of the Department of Political Science, Law and International Studies at the University of Padua - Antonio Papisca Human Rights Centre

Cristiano Corazzari, Councillor for the Veneto Region with a mandate on Culture, Human Rights, and Territory

Jane Da Mosto, We are here Venice (WahV)

Carlotta Giordani, Representative of the EMAlumni Association

Manfred Nowak, Secretary General of the Global Campus

Elisabetta Noli, Administrative Director of the Global Campus (moderator of the Conversation)



This conversation series has provided an occasion for local partners, staff members, professors, alumni and students to actively participate in a discussion about the future development of the City of Venice, which hosts the Headquarters of the Global Campus of Human Rights at the Monastery of San Nicolò in Lido.

The second conversation took place via Zoom on 17 February at 11:00 (CET) in compliance with anti Covid-19 legislation.

Save the date: the third conversation will be held during the week of the Festa della Sensa (10 to 16 May 2021).

The event is organised by the Press Office for the Global Campus of Human Rights. For more information, please contact: pressoffice@gchumanrights.org

Call for Applications “European Master in Human Rights and Democratisation” academic year 2021/2022

Admissions to the 2021-22 European Master’s Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation are open! Application deadline for non-EU and scholarship applicants: 15 February 2021, EU and self-funded applicants: 18 April 2021. EMA was created with the support of the European Union and 42 universities from all EU member states, plus the UK and Switzerland.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

EMA is a one-year course that provides a practice and policy-oriented approach to learning that combines legal, political, historical, anthropological, and philosophical perspectives of Human Rights and Democratisation with skill building activities and a field trip exercise. Students are taught by leading academics from participating universities, experts and representatives of international organisations and NGOs while studying in a multicultural environment. The curriculum prepares participants to work for national, international, governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as for research institutions dealing with human rights and democratisation.

COURSE PROGRAMME:

EMA is both a residential and an exchange programme. The first semester runs from 16 September 2021 to 31 January 2022 and is taught at the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice. The second semester runs from 1 February to July 2022 and is taught at one of the 42 participating universities located throughout the European Union and in the UK and Switzerland. The programme syllabus will cover about 975 hours of classroom lectures and 525 hours of individual study. Classroom lectures in the first semester usually run from Monday to Friday.



HOW TO APPLY:

EMA is open to a maximum of 90 candidates from EU and non-EU countries each year. Candidates must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Have at least a three-year university degree or equivalent. Students expecting to graduate before 31 August 2021 are also eligible to apply for the programme
- Have a certified knowledge of English at level B2 or above

DIPLOMA AWARDED

The programme runs until the end of September 2022 and upon its completion, students will receive a post-graduate diploma jointly awarded by three or seven universities. Each awarding university will indicate on the diploma the equivalent national value of the degree conferred. The EMA Programme awards 60 ECTS.

More info can be found at gchumanrights.org/ema

The Global Campus of Human Rights Continues to Support the Development of Human Rights Education in Timor-Leste

The Global Campus of Human Rights is particularly proud to announce the signing of a new contract with the European Union for the “Furthering of Human Rights Education and Research at the National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL).”

We are proud to continue our partnership with the Global Campus of Human Rights and UNTL in this endeavour to promote human rights education in Timor-Leste.

H. E. Andrew Jacobs, Ambassador of the EU to Timor-Leste

Following the success of the ongoing capacity building action, which has entered its final phase, from January 2021 the Global Campus will continue supporting the development of human rights higher education in Timor-Leste through the consolidation of the new UNTL Human Rights Centre.

In a young country like Timor-Leste, it is essential that all people know their human rights and help others to realise “all human rights for all,” The Human Rights Centre at the UNTL, which was established with the assistance of the EU and the GC, provides professional human rights education, training and awareness to students, professors and the public at large. It plays an essential role in developing Timor-Leste into a modern society, in full compliance with international human rights standards.

Professor Manfred Nowak, Secretary General of the Global Campus of Human Rights

The main objectives of the 18-month follow-up project are the full integration of the Centre into the UNTL structure, the mainstreaming of the newly adopted human rights transversal courses through all faculties, and the Centre’s establishment as one of the key human rights stakeholders in the country. This transitional phase will prepare UNTL’s future membership within the Global Campus network, and eventually place Timor-Leste at the vanguard of human rights higher education in the Asia-Pacific region.



According to the UNTL Rector Professor Francisco Miguel Martins, “the Human Rights Centre UNTL is an example of productive and collaborative engagement between the UNTL, the Global Campus and the EU, putting in evidence a substantial evolvement of UNTL in one of the most critical areas of scientific knowledge: Human Rights and Democratisation.”

The project will continue to be implemented by the Global Campus under the lead of the Project Manager Adriano Remiddi, with the support of the GC Asia Pacific Programme coordinated by Mahidol University (Thailand), and in close cooperation with the Delegation of the European Union in Dili.

For more information about the project:

Visit the website gchumanrights.org/hrc-untl

Follow the project on Facebook: @UNT.L.HumanRightsCentre

Contact the project manager: adriano.remiddi@gchumanrights.org

MOOC

Business and Human Rights

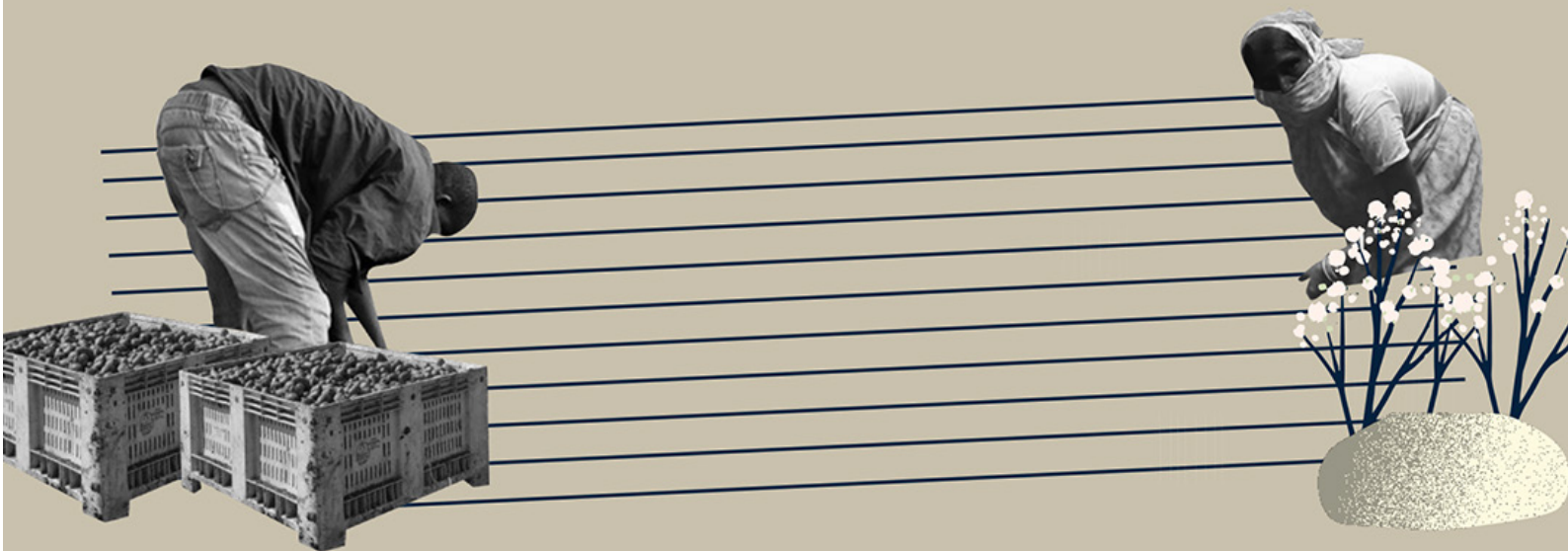
I call on you – individually through your firms, and collectively through your business associations – to embrace, support and enact a set of core values in the areas of human rights, labor standards, and environmental practices.

Kofi Annan.

When Kofi Annan initiated the United Nations (UN) Global Compact with business leaders, he aspired to “give a human face to the global market.” It was the turn of the Millennium and the call was to make a conscious choice between words and deeds, poverty and profit, social justice and social inequalities.

Much has changed since. In 2005, a Special Representative of the Secretary General was appointed to identify and clarify issues surrounding corporate responsibility and accountability vis-à-vis human rights. In 2011, the UN Human Rights Council endorsed the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), proposing the Protect, Respect and Remedy Framework. Subsequent initiatives and mechanisms at a UN level have included working groups, expert fora, treaty bodies’ general comments, and joint initiatives with regional organisations. At a national level, a number of states have announced or introduced legislative proposals for mandatory human rights due diligence by companies, which adds explicit legal duties to the “smart mix” of measures recommended in the UNGPs. Within this context, the EU Parliament’s interest in human rights due diligence legislation and options for the EU is to be noted. Last but not least, various lawsuits addressing human rights violations related to labor conditions or environmental impact have been part of advances in this area worldwide.

Despite increased attention on risks and adverse impacts of business operations on human rights, and the development of guidelines, initiatives and case-law, many challenges and obstacles are still hampering desired progress on the choices to be made. Examples of workers in terribly risky environments, women trafficked in supply chains, or migrants exploited for profit are still numerous. In addition, there are other ways in which businesses harm human rights. In the last five years, over 2.000 attacks have taken place against human rights defenders working



on businesses-related abuses; in 2018, more than three people were murdered each week for defending their land and our environment; today, about 108 million defenceless children still work in the agricultural sector, often in dangerous conditions and under limited socially responsible regulation by enterprises.

In this light, business and human rights are still often in opposition, and companies tend not to value the human toll of their profitable production. Governments often fail to protect business-related human rights defenders. But responsible businesses can prevent potential damages and offer space for accountability and redress. State regulations and policies can shape business behaviour and help ensure human rights protection. Recent promising initiatives can foster transformation. If business and human rights actors better understood how they could support each other, change would be more feasible.

The Global Campus of Human Rights MOOC is a contribution to such understanding. It looks at international standards and principles, as well as regional and national practices. In particular, it focuses on the links between business and human rights defenders, case-law, due diligence, and children's rights protection in this area. It aims to be relevant for businesses themselves, state representatives, grassroots organisations working on business-related issues, workers and ordinary citizens who wish to inspire a transformation in the way business and human rights relate to each other.

Course dates ran from 18 January to 21 February 2021
More information at: gchumanrights.org/mooc-bhr

MOOC

Children's Rights and Technology in the Digital Age

Digital technologies such as artificial intelligence software, biometric recognition systems, and algorithmic information silos have already shifted the dynamic of many homes, classrooms, and multimedia platforms, but are the best interests of children central to these experiences? How does technology shape the minds and behaviours of future generations? Due to the rapid evolution of technologies, it is vital to continually analyse and hypothesise the impacts they are having or will have on children. This MOOC takes a deep dive into how often children are exposed to these futuristic, and sometimes problematic, technological developments. Through a human rights approach, the course will play a role in promoting a more ethical, human-centric, and accessible tech-infused future.

THE PROGRAMME

The course is divided into five modules:

Module 1 introduces the main concepts in children's rights, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and biometrics and how they impact children in unprecedented ways.

Module 2 focuses on legal instruments, international recommendations, and examples of children's rights to privacy and data protection.

Module 3 delves into the linkages between early-childhood development and new technologies and examines the right to play in the digital age.

Module 4 explores the meaning of the right to education in the digital era and the role of educational technology in preparing children for the future workplace. Module 5 investigates developments in the field of new technologies and the rights of children to health and safety, with a focus on digital health and child online exploitation.

LECTURERS AND EXPERTS

Coordinated by a team of researchers from GC Europe, the course features relevant actors from a multitude of perspectives on the topic, ranging from legal experts on privacy and data protection for children to researchers studying technology's effects on child development, policy experts, and activists working for civil society organisations. Contributors include, among many others: Emma Day, Human Rights Lawyer and Child Protection Consultant; Marianne Díaz Hernández, human rights activist and policy analyst for Derechos Digitales; Neha



Gauchan, Program Officer of ChildSafeNet Nepal; Andrew McStay, Professor of Digital Life, Emotional AI Lab at Bangor University; Bertalan Meskó, Director, The Medical Futurist Institute; Edward Snowden, President of the Freedom of the Press Foundation and Right Livelihood Laureate.

INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED?

We have designed this course for participants (students, researchers, educators, children, parents, tech developers/experts/companies, concerned citizens, politicians, media professionals, and governmental/inter-governmental/non-governmental actors) around the world who are actively interested and engaged in children's rights and how they are considered in relation to technologies.

This course runs from **1 March to 4 April 2021**

For more information and to enrol, visit www.gchumanrights.org/mooc-crda
or contact: e-learning@gchumanrights.org

Dzidek Kedzia Receives the Medal of Honour of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Poland

The Honorary President of the Global Campus of Human Rights Dzidek Kedzia has been awarded the Medal of Honour of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Poland for his services to the protection of human rights.

It is an honourable distinction for special achievements in the field of human rights protection, and is awarded to citizens of the Republic of Poland, citizens of foreign countries, as well as organisations and institutions.

The Ombudsman Dr Adam Bodnar enjoys national and international recognition as a steadfast defender of human rights, the rule of law, and democracy at a time when these values are facing serious challenges in Poland.

Dzidek Kedzia played a very important role as a member of the EIUC Board and later as President of EIUC/GC during the transitional period of the Global Campus of Human Rights. He founded the Poznan Human Rights Centre, which was the first centre in a Communist country and survived the dictatorship of General Jaruzelski during the early 1980s.

During the 1990s, Dzidek Kedzia was instrumental in adopting the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 1993 and in building up the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, serving as special advisor to Mary Robinson.





Online Course for International Electoral Observers

Open and legitimate elections are an indispensable foundation for sustainable development and effective democracy. Actions supporting the right to participate in genuine elections can play a major role in sustaining peace, security and conflict prevention. Support takes the form of electoral assistance projects and election observation missions. This requires skilled and trained observers.

Since 2012, the Global Campus has trained more than 400 short-term observers through its on-site courses in Venice Lido. The training programme has received the patronage of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Italy, Czech Republic and Spain, in addition to support from the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), thus reinforcing its already well-established international recognition, and validating its value for actual field work.

We have designed a brand-new online edition of the course offering selected participants a very rewarding, engaging and challenging experience in distance-learning education.

Courses dates ran from 22 February to 5 March 2021
More information at: gchumanrights.org/oc-ieo





Media Partnerships with ELSA Italy and IAPSS

The Global Campus of Human Rights has established a media partnership with the European Law Students' Association (ELSA), the local chapter of the world's largest independent, non-political and non-profit law students' association, with more than 60.000 members in 44 European countries. The aim of the partnership is to communicate and promote activities that are of mutual interest to both institutions. The first step in the partnership will be to promote the ELSA National Moot Court Competition 2021.

More information about the event can be found at www.elsa-italy.org

The Global Campus of Human Rights has also established a media partnership with the International Association for Political Science Students (a network of political science students and junior faculty from over 70 countries) in order to communicate and promote activities that are of mutual interest to both institutions. IAPSS aims to enhance and support political science students in every part of the world by creating opportunities to research and connect.

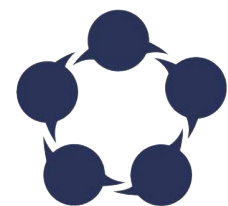
You can read more information about our new media partner at www.iapss.org

The Global Campus of Human Rights' partnerships support the implementation of the 2030 UN Agenda.



The European Law Students' Association

ITALIA



IAPSS

The International Association
For Political Science Students

Campaigns

Art 4 Human Rights

Crowdfunding Campaign

The Lifebrain Group Donates

Molecular Tests for

RNA SARS-CoV-2

Art 4 Human Rights Crowdfunding Campaign

Giving Tuesday kicked off a season of togetherness and giving – fitting timing for the launch of our campaign. We invited audiences to support our Art 4 Human Rights seasonal campaign through donations and with shared hope for a new beginning. Art can only flourish in an atmosphere that is free of fear, violence and repression. Democratic societies based on human rights provide the best institutional framework for arts to thrive and for artists to be protected from repression and persecution.

At the same time, the universal language of the arts – which attracts and empowers human beings around the globe more than any other means of communication – is the most powerful and joyful medium through which to promote the universal values of human rights. And yet, human rights and democracy remain under stress.

The new year began under quite difficult circumstances due to Covid-19, and online art activities continued to remain a key way to unite people. By supporting our campaign, our followers provided more opportunities for artists, activists and members of our vast network to express themselves.

For me, it is very important for art to enter physical reality. When I create a drawing and see someone holding it in their hands, I realise that the drawing is linked to them... And only then have I achieved my goal. Seeing my illustrations as manifestations, being used by activists around the world, means that my art is right. It reaches beyond the art world and into people's everyday lives. It's the kind of art that makes them think and act.

Gianluca Costantini, Italian artist and activist

For more information on #Art4HumanRights' seasonal online events, please contact our Fundraising Office: fundraising@gchumanrights.org (Elisa Aquino - Giulia Ballarin)

Along with many organisations, we share a willingness to support the implementation of the UN's Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG Goal 4, which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

For more information, visit gchumanrights.org/support-us



Donation of molecular tests for RNA SARS-CoV-2 by Lifebrain Group

The Global Campus of Human Rights is proud to receive another donation of molecular tests for SARS-CoV-2 RNA today from our institutional donor the Lifebrain Group, represented by Professor Michael Havel. This kind gesture will help staff members, EMA faculty and students at our Venice Headquarters to commence in-person activities planned for 2021 with more security during this pandemic.

The Global Campus of Human Rights extends its gratitude to Lifebrain's administrative and medical personnel working in laboratories in Padua and Mestre, who have overseen all organisational and medical operations in order to make more tests available.

Founded in 2013 by Professor Michael Havel and Dr Bernard Auer, Lifebrain is the largest provider of laboratory clinical analysis in the fields of clinical chemistry, haematology, immunochemistry, microbiology, molecular biology, cytology and pathology. Professor Havel is the co-founder and CEO of the Lifebrain Group and has successfully finalised more than 120 acquisitions in the last five years. Past successes have included the founding of FutureLAB (2004-2009), which was the result of a merger between two groups of Austrian laboratories, and involved the acquisition of forty small and medium-sized laboratories in Austria and in six European countries.

Prior to this endeavour, Professor Havel worked in the hospital division at the University of Vienna as a professor of surgery (1992-2001), focusing on heart, thoracic and vascular surgery. In this role, he published more than 350 academic papers and was an esteemed speaker at national and international congresses. Professor Havel has gained extensive experience in business management, mainly through the financing and management of private companies.

In 2013, he founded Lifebrain AG with his previous management team and has been the CEO of Lifebrain ever since. In 2019, the Lifebrain Group strengthened its presence in 16 regions with more than 300 laboratories. Thanks to its vast network, expert professional skills and state-of-the-art technologies, Lifebrain is now the fastest growing group of laboratories in Europe.

Read more about Lifebrain on www.lifebrain.it



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).



GENERAL DONATION

This donation helps fund our everyday functions



SPECIFIC DONATION

Support scholarships, internships, fellowships and professorships



IN MEMORIAM

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

For more information, contact the
Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights
Elisa Aquino – Alice D'Este – Giulia Ballarin
pressoffice@gchumanrights.org



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This project is co-funded by the European Union

