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MAGAZINE

Global Campus



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Secretary General
of the Global Campus
of Human Rights

The Global Campus of Human Rights is not only an impressive network of 100 universities and more than 6,000 graduates of our seven regional Master programmes, training and e-learning activities, it is also an impressive network of outstanding human rights scholars and practitioners in all regions of the world. On 12 November 2021, our President Veronica Gomez, who coordinates the Latin American Master at the University of San Martin in Buenos Aires, was elected as one of seven judges of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. One of our Vice-Presidents, Frans Viljoen, Director of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Pretoria who heads up the African Master programme, was elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on 11 October 2021. I most warmly congratulate my two colleagues and friends to these highly prestigious and well deserved expert functions in the international human rights community!

As the world's largest human rights network in human rights education, the Global Campus has a particular responsibility in providing future human rights defenders and change makers with excellent knowledge, skills and attitude that are necessary to make the world a better place to live in. However, our responsibility goes far beyond teaching and training. Thanks to our close cooperation with the Sakharov Laureates and Fellowship Programme of the European Parliament during the annual Venice School for Human Rights Defenders, to our partnership with the Right Livelihood and its prestigious "alternative Nobel Prize" Laureates, to our cooperation with the Aurora Prize for present day heroes and with similar initiatives, we support the courageous activities of those who defend human rights and democratic values on the front lines.

Universities specialised in human rights also 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. At a time when these values are under attack in a growing number of countries, we feel the duty to assist scholars and students at risk of being expelled from their universities, persecuted for their intellectual activities or even arrested, tortured or killed. With

the recent takeover of the Taliban in Afghanistan, hundreds of thousands of Afghan human rights defenders, journalists, judges, scholars and students, mostly women and girls and those who worked in close collaboration with the international community, had and still have to fear for their lives. Hundreds of thousands were able to leave the country, often via chaotic evacuation operations, others are still desperately trying to flee their country. When we launched our initiative of providing a safe space for Afghan scholars and students at our universities around the world, we were overwhelmed by the positive response of an impressive number of professors and rectors, students and alumni, individual activists and relevant organisations, such as “Scholars at Risk”, World University Service or the International Association of Women Judges. We are most grateful to the spontaneous reaction of the European Commission (INTPA) of providing us with funds, which were recently doubled by Right Livelihood and supplemented by other donors, such as the Fondazione Venezia and the Kahane Foundation. With these funds and the voluntary work of many members and friends of our network, we are now able to provide Afghan scholars, students and their families with the possibility of finding a safe space for their studies, research or teaching at various universities of our global network. I sincerely 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.

I wish to close by thanking Eamon Gilmore, Michael O’Flaherty, Rob Quinn, Sima Samar, Ruben Vardanyan and others for their thoughtful contributions to this Magazine and for their support of the Global Campus of Human Rights.

Interviews with:

Eamon Gilmore,
EU Special Representative for Human
Rights

Michael O'Flaherty,
Director of the EU Fundamental Rights
Agency (FRA)

Rob Quinn,
Director of the Scholars at Risk (SAR)
Network

Sima Samar,
Right Livelihood Laureate

Ruben Vardanyan,
Co-Founder of the Aurora
Humanitarian Initiatives



Interview with the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, Eamon Gilmore



The Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights had the opportunity to interview the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, Eamon Gilmore, about his views on the most important challenges and topics in the Human Rights agenda of the EU external relations, certain future EU events and the value of our partnership.

Could you tell us more about the 23rd EU-NGO Human Rights Forum and the main objectives of your event?

Engagement of civil society is crucial for the EU human rights policy, and each year, the EU-NGO Forum represents a unique opportunity to strengthen our cooperation, while exchanging views on current, essential, global issues. It gathers hundreds of NGO representatives, human rights defenders, academia, international organisations, EU Member States and European institutions. They share their experiences and ideas to guide EU's actions in this field.

This year's 23rd edition will focus on recovery efforts from the pandemic. As I have said in the past, human rights remain at the core of the fight against COVID-19. The pandemic exacerbated existing human rights challenges and increased pressure on the most vulnerable. Although this battle is not over yet, we need to reflect on how to address the adverse impacts on human rights and fundamental freedoms by the pandemic itself, but also by the formal and informal measures implemented in response to the pandemic. With this perspective in mind, the forum will be structured around three main pillars: (1) ending states of emergency and restrictions on fundamental freedoms; (2) equal access to health care; and (3) reinforcing economic, social and labour rights, corporate accountability, the decent work agenda and social protection in the post-COVID-19 world. In addition, it will provide recommendations on how the EU can further protect civic space worldwide, at a time where it has been particularly restricted, and promote a rights-based recovery through the strengthening of health care and decent work for everyone, in

view of the EU's efforts to reinforce Social Europe.

Personally, I look forward to participating in the discussions on 7-8 December 2021.

Could you give us more details about the Strategic Dialogue that you have launched with Michelle Bachelet?

We are dealing at global level with a group of countries that are challenging the basic principles of international human rights law, international humanitarian law, democracy, and the rule of law, and promoting alternative narratives. In this context, the EU, together with its Member States, developed an assertive policy to strengthen its contribution to a rules-based international order and promote a more efficient multilateralism space, with the UN at its core, as provided by the EU Joint Communication on Multilateralism adopted in February 2021.

The EU-OHCHR Strategic Dialogue is part of this new approach, and aims at enhancing cooperation between the EU and OHCHR on key human rights issues, to anticipate challenges and promote partnerships.

I had the pleasure to co-chair, together with High Commissioner Bachelet, the first Strategic Dialogue on 13 October 2021, in Brussels, during which we touched upon a number of serious human rights issues, such as the protection of the universality and indivisibility of human rights, erosion of the rule of law, shrinking civic space, and deepening inequalities. In particular, we addressed the place of social, economic and cultural rights, human rights in the digital space, and the interface between the environment, climate change and human rights, as well as migration. But our discussion also covered geographic



developments and ongoing country specific situations of concern. We agreed to continue discussing and working on these challenges and committed to enhance cooperation, including at country and regional levels through EU Delegations and OHCHR field presences.

This first edition thus demonstrated that these constructive dialogues not only allow confirm EU's strong support to the OHCHR and its independency, but also provide clear outcomes and generate synergies on which both the EU and the OHCHR will periodically follow-up, on an annual basis at the occasion of these dialogues, and during our regular exchanges.

What is the added value for the EU to continue being a long-term partner of the Global Campus of Human Rights network?

Human Rights, democracy, and rule of law are values shared and promoted by the EU, but they also represent what is at the very core of the EU's foundation: respecting and upholding such universal and indivisible principles is a treaty obligation for the Union and its Member States. Yet, in a world where human rights and humanitarian issues increasingly arise, challenging our capacity to meet our international commitments, being the partner of a network as important as the Global Campus, is not an added value, but rather an essential asset for the EU to achieve its goals and stand up for human rights, at all levels.

As it is indeed underlined in the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024, advancing education and research on human rights is a key tool for raising awareness, defending human rights and promoting peace. With more than 5,500 alumni coming from all over the world, and one hundred member universities, the high quality programme provided by the Global Campus enables its network to advocate on crucial human rights issues, and empowers numerous human rights defenders by giving the necessary technical tools for them to conduct their work. At a time

when general academic freedom is increasingly restricted, the EU is proud to have supported the Global Campus for 24 years, and stands ready to continue playing its part.

In your opinion what are the most important challenges and topics in the Human Rights agenda of the EU external relations? What are your priorities in addressing the current global human rights and democracy challenges?

In the course of the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has undoubtedly imposed its rhythm on the EU's international agenda. This is due to the fact that, from a practical point of view, it obliged us to change the way in which we conduct our daily work and implement our engagements. But above all because it exacerbated the human rights challenges disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable. We had no choice but to adapt our actions in strengthening international cooperation and solidarity. COVID-19 indeed reminded us of our interdependency and of the necessity to adopt a joint and multilateral approach when addressing global crises, by putting human rights at the very centre of the answers we provide.

Yet, many other concerns persist: threats posed by climate change, potential challenges in relation to digital technologies, shrinking space for civil society, growing attacks against human rights defenders and journalists, lack of progress in gender equality, democratic backsliding, and breaches in the rule of law. Moreover, the human rights situation in many countries, driven by armed conflict, state repression, or attacks against minorities, continues to worsen. This includes Afghanistan, Belarus, Myanmar, Ethiopia and the Chinese region of Xinjiang, just to name a few of the most pressing human rights crisis at the moment.

In order to address these issues, I am engaging with relevant authorities, civil society and human rights defenders, and I am raising these issues in multilateral human rights fora to maintain



international attention. Among other initiatives, every year, we launch bilateral consultations, we organise human rights dialogues with partner countries and international organisations, we implement projects to support human rights defenders and civil society organisations, and we observe trials and elections.

We cannot forget that we are also judged for what we do at home. Coherence and consistency of our internal and external actions are indispensable for EU's compliance with human rights standards at all levels. This is why the EU adopted a new internal European Democracy Action Plan, the new internal and external framework on gender equality, the Gender Equality Strategy and the third Gender Action Plan, and of course, the Rule of Law mechanism, which all strengthen and complement our external and internal actions.

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

I have had the honour to participate in two Graduation Ceremonies of the European Master in Human Rights and Democratisation since I became the Special Representative for Human Rights, and I was able to see the value of the Global Campus of Human Rights: its uniqueness relies on its people, and on the solidarity and interconnectivity of its network.

Look, working on human rights is not easy, we are constantly faced with the ugliest part of humanity, governments turning against the people they are supposed to protect, individuals who are deprived of their fundamental freedoms, tortured, murdered for belonging to an ethnic or religious group or for simply being who they are. But at the same time, I see the best humanity has to offer: people who risk their lives to speak for those who have no voice, women human rights defenders from Afghanistan, fearless journalists in Russia, brave environmental and indigenous activists in Latin America, courageous protesters in Belarus.

I also have the opportunity to work with extremely committed and motivated people like you, who believe in human rights, in freedom and in equality. Continue to cultivate your specificity, and keep your enthusiasm high despite the frustrations that may arise given the magnitude of the challenges we must face – challenges in relation to human rights and democracy, but also to professional and personal paths.

Once again, the work conducted by the Global Campus of Human Rights, in terms of education, research, training, or advocacy, is of utmost importance to participate in building more human rights-centred and more sustainable societies. Human rights experts and human rights defenders are still very much needed today, if not more than ever. As expressed before, the EU is proud to be counted among the Global Campus' supporters, and we will continue to support its students, professors, partners and staff.



Interview with the Director of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), Michael O'Flaherty



The Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights had the opportunity to ask the Director of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), Michael O'Flaherty about the recent Fundamental Rights Forum 2021 and our partnership.

Could you tell us more about the Fundamental Rights Forum 2021 and the main objectives of your event?

The goal of the Fundamental Rights Forum 2021 was to build a vision of hope for the protection of human rights across the European Union. The event brought together many diverse voices to discuss the most pressing human rights challenges of today and find new ways to engage and work together on tackling them.

We had two days of stimulating discussions during 145 different sessions in 6 locations. Over 3,000 people joined the Forum in Vienna and online, making it the biggest human rights event in Europe this year.

It gave me the sense that the human rights community is a strong community of determined and passionate people, and that together we can make a difference. It reassured me that my hope for a future built on respect for human rights is entirely justified.

Listening to people from all walks of life and taking part in the many different discussions, I see five main takeaways from the Forum:

First of all, we need to 'wake up' from our complacency and acknowledge that no system or organisation is permanent and infallible, guaranteed to live into the forever future.

Once we wake up, we need to 'join up' and bring everybody who cares about human rights together, to engage and work with each other on our common concerns. This includes bringing those who are normally excluded from decision making into the discussions.

We also have to 'wise up', acknowledge the skills of the adversary and be equally smart. This includes improving our tools, getting better at data gathering and making a business case for our

claims.

At the same time, it is imperative that we 'catch up' with digitalisation and meaningfully engage with new technologies, especially artificial intelligence.

Last but not least, we need to 'listen up' and engage the voices of young people. This requires that we stop working for people and always insist on working with people. They must be our partners in our effort for the promotion and the protection of human rights.

Could you give us more details about the joint efforts of EU FRA with other eight international organisations regarding a new portal to promote global cooperation on Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

Artificial intelligence can be a powerful force for good, but it can also pose a risk to our fundamental rights. There is an urgent need to 'catch up' with the fast-evolving artificial intelligence technologies and ensure they respect and protect our rights.

This is where the globalpolicy.ai portal comes in.

Launched in September by eight international organisations, the portal's main goal is to encourage global cooperation on artificial intelligence.

It provides access to the necessary tools and information, such as projects, research and reports to promote trustworthy and responsible AI that is aligned with human rights at the global, national and local level.

By joining forces with other international organisations, we are speaking with one voice when we call for rights-based approach to artificial intelligence.

Through our network of 100 universities, the EU has helped to fund human rights education and more than 6000 graduates of these universities



are now human rights ambassadors and defenders in international, governmental and civil society organisations. What motivates you as Director of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) to continue being a long-time partner of the Global Campus of Human Rights?

I have known and worked closely with the Global Campus and its predecessors for well over 20 years.

Working as a member of its governing bodies, I have seen first-hand the enormous value it brings for the promotion of human rights education in Europe and globally.

The Global Campus is not only an educational service. It is a laboratory for fresh thinking on how best to promote and protect human rights across the world.

The Fundamental Rights Agency is and will continue to be its close friend in our shared struggle in the service of people at the edges of our societies.

What does EU FRA hope to achieve through the continued support given to our rapidly growing academic network in the coming years and which are the main challenges and topics to be addressed regarding human rights and democracy?

Human rights are at risk in far too many places, not just globally but also in Europe.

By working with academics from your network, we can join up forces and work together on achieving our common goal – to better protect and promote human rights across Europe.

I have reflected on the challenges to human rights in my takeaways from the Fundamental Rights Forum 2021.

When it comes to specific topics, there are far too

many. I would like to name just a few:

First is the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on our rights. The pandemic has laid bare the glaring inequalities in our societies, and we can no longer turn a blind eye on them. It is an opportunity to address these issues and create a fairer, more equal society everyone can take part in. We need to grab it.

Ensuring our rights are respected in a digital age is another important issue, especially with the rise of artificial intelligence and digital platforms. We have some catching up to do in this regard to ensure new technologies promote and protect our human rights. And we have no time to waste.

Migration also needs urgent attention of European as well as national policy makers. We cannot afford to create a lost generation of refugees. Instead, we need to do our best to allow migrants and refugees who have a right to stay in Europe to become full members of our societies. We have to treat everybody with dignity and respect their fundamental rights.

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

I would like to repeat the message of my speech from the graduation ceremony of the Global Campus of Human Rights this September.

And that is: 'Get indignant!'

That means that we need to do our human rights work with indignation. We must first wake up to what is at stake. We must be aware of the need for urgent response. We must never turn away from injustice. And we must be unapologetic in demanding respect for law.



Interview with the Director of the Scholars at Risk (SAR) Network, Rob Quinn



The Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights had the opportunity to ask questions to the Director of the Scholars at Risk (SAR) Network Rob Quinn about the work of the organisation and the possibilities to establish cooperation with our institution regarding initiatives for Afghan scholars.

Could you tell us more about the main objectives of your organisation Scholars at Risk (SAR) Network at the international level?

Our full name is “Scholars at Risk Network”, emphasis on network. Our main objective is to link up higher education institutions, leaders, academics, staff and students in the promotion and defence of academic freedom. Notice I say “link up”. Our project is not about conversion, not about convincing people. We know that there are already people in higher education communities all over the world who believe in academic freedom, and understand why it matters. And we have known from the very beginning that universities have always taken in refugee or exiled colleagues facing threats. Our job at Scholars at Risk is to connect with these organic, local efforts; to link them in the form of a global network; and together to bring support to those in places where colleagues and academic freedom are under the most pressure.

How do you see the situation of academic freedom around the world and how could be improved?

Thinking about threats to academic freedom, there are the chronic and the acute. The chronic are always there, because there is a natural tension between power and ideas. Healthy societies harness that tension for discovery, creativity, and innovation that serves the public good. Unhealthy societies reject that tension, and repress scholars and students rather than embrace change. The chronic pressures are always there, but today they are growing. We see this in the movement toward authoritarianism, illiberalism, and polarisation even in previously fairly healthy democratic states including Hungary, Poland, and the United

States. The chronic threats must be addressed by practicing good hygiene, meaning regularly and publicly discussing the importance of academic freedom, building affirmative practices that implement fundamental values in the daily lives of our institutions, and building vocabularies and cultures of respect that make addressing the inevitable academic freedom disputes easier and more constructive. Then there are the acute crises, which can happen anywhere, in which crisis-level threats emerge and threaten to destroy significant proportions of a higher education community. In recent years these have included Iraq, Syria, Turkey, and now Afghanistan. The acute threats require a massive mobilisation of the international higher education community, to come together in solidarity to support the most threatened colleagues, and in doing so to stand firmly and publicly in support of academic freedom. Such a response is happening now with Afghanistan. And importantly, it is not purely altruistic. If we as a community do not mobilise to respond to these acute crises, we run the risk that they will spread. We can defend academic freedom where it is most at risk today, or we can wait until the risk is closer to home, but by then it will be very late.

Please tell us about the situation of Afghanistan in particular and which were the results and advances regarding the emergency appeal coordinated by SAR?

The situation is still very uncertain. There is limited information, and a great number of decisions have yet to be made by the new authorities. What we know is that the situation for universities, scholars, and students in the country thus far is very difficult, and for women and girls, very grim. We can hope that the Taliban authorities will moderate



their historical and still stated positions that threaten to destroy two decades of investment in Afghan higher education and society. But until we see responsible policies in place, including full security guarantees for staff and students, especially women and girls, then we must assume that the threat will continue for some time. This is why we are so grateful for the extraordinary, but not surprising, response from our global network. We put out a call asking whether institutions would consider hosting Afghan colleagues, and hundreds have come forward to say yes, we want to help. And I believe many more would yet still come forward if we ask. But for now the challenge is in identifying safe and effective pathways for scholars to exit Afghanistan, transit in third countries, and enter countries in Europe, North America, or elsewhere to take up temporary positions arranged through our network or by one of our partner programs. We are hopeful that such pathways will become clearer in the coming weeks and months, in which case we will be able to help many Afghan scholars. And we have a special plea to any institutions in the GCHR network of partners, especially those in the global south: Please let us know if you would consider hosting one or more Afghan colleagues (or perhaps colleagues fleeing Yemen or other acute crisis countries). Knowing that a university or college is interested is the first step in a conversation that can lead to delivering meaningful help to a threatened scholar. But we can't do it without that first step.

In your opinion creating synergies to help Afghan scholars would be a possible first step of cooperation between SAR and the Global Campus of Human Rights?

Yes! We would love to build a working partnership with the GCHR community. It is clear that the values of SAR and the values of the GCHR are the same, so it is only natural to find ways to cooperate on

practical activities. Hosting threatened scholars is one, but there are many other ways. SAR has advocacy programs for faculty and students to engage in human rights advocacy on behalf of scholars in-prison and for academic freedom generally before international human rights bodies like the UN HPR and UNESCO, among others. We also have training, webinars, conferences and publications on academic freedom and promoting higher education values that may be of interest and use to GCHR members. Another option is for SAR and the GCHR to enter a "partner network" arrangement, a cooperative agreement that allows sharing of information and opportunities across our networks. Whatever way works for the GCHR we are happy to explore together-- as I said early, our main objective is to link up.

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

First, I would say congratulations! You have found the GCHR, and you have centred the study and practice of human rights in your intellectual and personal lives! In a world full of injustice and conflict, centring human rights is essential to our personal and collective well-being. Second, I would say do not be discouraged. There is a lot of injustice and conflict. Structural systems that offend human rights are difficult to change. But looking through the long lens, there has never been a better time to work for human rights. We have never been more connected. We have never had greater transparency and awareness of each other's lives and challenges. And we have never had more people engaged together in human rights work. So I say congratulations, and keep going. And let's link up!



Interview with Right Livelihood Laureate, Sima Samar, and the Afghan Voices During the Last Venice School for Human Rights Defenders



The Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights had followed the Venice School for Human Rights Defenders and had the opportunity to ask questions to the participants of the Panel “Voices from Afghanistan”.

Has the work of international organisations such as UNICEF been instrumental for the advancement of women’s conditions in Afghanistan?

In last 20 years, Afghanistan - being a country with ratification of important treaties on human rights, especially women rights - enjoyed significant achievements in terms of policy making and program implementations.

Such kinds of progress would not have been possible if the state did not have the international organisations support in terms of both financial support and technical support

We have witnessed progress in terms of policy developments, government re-structuring, revisions of the laws and a changed gender focus.

In addition to that, women in business at different levels obtained great achievements, with many trading companies being run by women and at the local level, women have been active and were able to create financial independence, and also to contribute to their family’s finances together with their male counterparts.

UNWomen, UNFPA, UNAMA, UNICEF, and many other national and international NGOs and institutions, such as World Bank, European Union, DFID, USAID, have been strong supporters of the state during this period of time.

How important is education for improving the life of young girls and women? Do you think it will be improved under this regime?

The right to education and the importance of education for a nation anywhere in the world is undeniable. Developed and strong nations are measured based on their education and level of knowledge.

For a country like Afghanistan, experiencing war

over last 40 years, education seems to be one of the most recommended solutions to bring peace and solidarity to the country.

Educating women and girls, alongside and equal to men and boys, with quality education helps them to know their own value, and their contribution and significant role within the society.

When it comes to the current regime and de facto government - although it is early to judge and we can only talk of what is apparent, unfortunately the current system is not very supportive of education for women and girls at various levels and in various fields. The challenges faced by females are the closure of schools with western-affected curricula, the prevention of co education at the universities, the wearing of the Hijab for girls, limitations of teaching the opposite sex , like having male teachers for females and female teachers for male students at school and university levels, and many other obstacles

Here again, I can emphasise the role of the international community to put more pressure on the de facto government regarding the importance of female education, considering quality education and at various levels, not only in the fields of medical studies, religious studies and social studies, but also for technological science, politics, and leadership, because at the end of the day, women and girls need to be part not only of social participation but also of decision making.

How did women’s conditions change in Afghanistan during the period when Sima Samar was Minister of Women’s Affairs? How do you think they will change now under the Taliban regime, given the fact that the Ministry has been abolished? Are you optimistic for the future?

I was only Minister for the first six months in which



I was able to bring women into the workforce. The years they lost their jobs under the Taliban regime were counted for their promotions. The women participate in the Emergency Loya jirga.

The situation for women has changed a lot; this affects the number of girls in school, in sports, in the universities and in all fields of society.

I am an optimistic person. I look at the trees that have lost all of their leaves , waiting for the spring to come to give them a new start. Hopefully it will be the same for the Afghan women. I know it is much harder than before, but it is not impossible.



Interview with the Co-Founder of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiatives, Ruben Vardanyan



The Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights attended the Aurora Prize and the Aurora Dialogues in Venice and had the opportunity to interview the Co-Founder of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiatives about the possible cooperation on the field of education, research and promotion of our humanitarian work.

Could you tell us more about the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative and your main objectives?

Back in 2014, as the centennial anniversary of the Armenian Genocide approached, my partners and I wanted to carefully re-think and reflect on the events of the past in the context of the new era. Having suffered tremendous losses and been deprived of its lands and accumulated material wealth, the Armenian nation nevertheless survived. In reflecting on this fact, we arrived at the conclusion that the best symbolic response to the crimes of the past would be life-asserting success, and not just mourning for those who lost their lives. When we examined the history of the Genocide and the horrific events in the lives of our families, we found some truly incredible examples of heroism among individuals and organisations. While there are many accounts of victims and murderers, testimony concerning survivors and saviours is much rarer. We therefore set out to tell the general public about the forgotten heroic deeds of those who saved Armenian lives in the Ottoman Empire, and to express our gratitude to their descendants now living in different countries. Risking their own lives, their great-grandparents saved about 120,000 Armenian children, thereby giving the chance of life to almost one million Armenians living today. We want the theme of humanism, gratitude, selflessness, and the triumph of the human spirit, to become truly pertinent in the modern world.

In 2015, the project 100 LIVES was launched. We created a multi-functional online platform in six languages where we revealed to ourselves and the world Genocide chronicles that had not been previously widely known. This online platform contains many stories about those who were

saved and those who saved them. It kickstarted the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, which was named in honour of Aurora Mardiganian, a woman who pioneered the raising of awareness of the Genocide among the world community through her book *Ravished Armenia* (1918), which describes the horrors that she had gone through. Her book, and the eponymous film in which Aurora played a leading role, spurred millions of Americans to donate money to help Armenians, Greeks, and Assyrians. All in all, 115 million US dollars were collected (2.8 billion in today's dollars).

Originally conceived as an initiative designed to help the nation shed its victim complex, to pay homage to those who perished in the Genocide years, and to express gratitude to the saviours of Armenians, Aurora has evolved into an international humanitarian movement to honour today's heroes and to express our national gratitude through action. We were helped to survive, and today we help those fearless individuals who save the most vulnerable members of society at their own risk. The stories of present-day heroes urge people to go beyond passive sympathy and to move to action. We are glad we have become pioneers in this field: despite the wide scope of the global humanitarian agenda, there is not a single award that recognises those valiant individuals who consistently risk their lives to save others each and every day. The Aurora Prize is also unique in that for the first time these wonderful individuals can not only apply for grants but give grants to others. Each laureate of the annual Aurora Prize is entitled to distribute 90% of the one million US dollars award among three organisations of their choosing.



Could you give us more details about the current activities of Aurora in the conflict zone in Armenia? Is there any campaign that our audiences could support right now?

Our mission begins and ends with Gratitude in Action. All our donors who live in more than 20 countries share one important quality – they believe in the power of gratitude to change the world. Thanks to them, Gratitude in Action has become a global movement. More than 20 projects have been launched or are supported through Aurora Prize funds with the help of more than 20 local partners in over 10 countries: Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, D. R. Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Myanmar, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and others. More information about the Aurora Prize laureates and their designated organisations can be found at auroraprize.com.

In the aftermath of the war in Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh), Aurora has been providing direct aid to the people of Artsakh. Since the launch of the Aurora for Artsakh humanitarian aid program, Aurora has already allocated \$1,740,000 to support 80 projects in Artsakh implemented by both local and international partners and to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the people of Artsakh through the Hayastan All Armenian Fund. Earlier this year the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative announced an adjustment to the structure of its flagship program, the Aurora Prize. From 2022 onwards, half of the Prize award will be directed by the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative to combat one of the worst humanitarian crises where human suffering requires urgent intervention. In addition, this year, considering the acute needs of the people of Artsakh, Aurora recommended the 2021 Aurora Prize Laureate to direct \$250,000 (or 25%) of the award to addressing urgent humanitarian issues in Artsakh. The Aurora Co-Founders, including myself, are committed to matching this

contribution to bring the total amount to \$500,000.

The Aurora for Artsakh program also includes bringing the world's humanitarian leaders to the region to find new opportunities to help the local people, to support Artsakh's international standing, and to ensure effective solutions on the ground.

Starting from October 2020, Aurora has been using the #AraratChallenge to raise funds for humanitarian initiatives helping the people of Artsakh affected by the war. The #AraratChallenge is a global crowdfunding initiative addressing humanitarian needs in Armenia and Armenian communities globally. The crowdfunding campaign is set to increase the impact and reach of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative to combat poverty, improve healthcare and provide education to those in need. Anyone can join this movement and give a second chance to those who need it most.

As COVID-19 began to spread across the globe, the #AraratChallenge movement made a \$120,000 donation to the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia to buy ventilators and to support local health professionals on the front lines. When a huge explosion rocked the capital of Lebanon, Aurora donated \$200,000 to help the citizens of Beirut and called on the global Armenian community for funding.

We urge those fortunate enough to have been rescued and given a new chance on life to express their own gratitude by becoming the next generation of saviours. Thus, the cycle of giving will continue, empathy will replace sympathy and in memory of the survivors, we will embrace all those who believe in our shared humanity.

Please elaborate on your vision as a Co-founder regarding the development of the courses, educational programmes, scholarships and libraries of Aurora.



Answering your question, I would like to specifically mention the Aurora Gratitude Projects. These are humanitarian and educational initiatives which help children, refugees, and other at-risk groups. Through these projects, the descendants of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide symbolically express their gratitude to those individuals who at that time helped their great-grandparents to survive. Besides creating tangible public good, these projects play another important role as well. In today's world they are expanding the constantly narrowing circle of trust by including very different people, regardless of their influence, connections, and financial resources.

Educational projects include The Vartan Gregorian Scholarship (Research Grants) Program that supports early-career researchers of Armenian history in the 20th century and the Young Aurora Program intended to encourage student-driven projects offering sustainable solutions to humanitarian issues. The scholarships covered by Aurora allowed 62 students, all of them representatives of the at-risk and vulnerable youth, to study at the United World Colleges across the world, including Armenia (UWC in Dilijan), and the American University of Armenia. Individual scholarships include those named after Lamyia Haji Bashir (given to Yazidi students), Amal Clooney (given to a female student from Lebanon with a strong interest in human rights) and Charles Aznavour (awarded to students from France and Francophone countries). During the Aurora Dialogues, which are held in different countries and, of course, in Armenia, and which bring together leading humanitarians, philanthropists, academics and journalists, a special platform is provided for young people to discuss humanitarian

issues.

In addition to educational initiatives, Aurora supports programmes aimed at preserving Armenian heritage and history. In accordance with the Memory Act, the Aurora Grants support Armenia's national repository of ancient manuscripts, the Matenadaran, and the Armenian Genocide Museum-institute.

What could be the added value you see in Human Rights Education for helping to prevent and resolve conflicts? How can international academic networks like ours in Venice (a city with a rich Armenian heritage and international reach) contribute to Aurora and their Laureates' humanitarian missions?

Through our annual nomination process for the Aurora Prize, we have gathered over a hundred proven and verified stories of contemporary heroes – remarkable people who risk their lives, health and well-being every day to save others. These people are without question role models, and I believe it is extremely important to speak about as many of them as possible, especially to teenagers who are deciding on their path in life. After all, even in a profession as socially oriented as that of a doctor, there can be forks: you can become a successful and well-paid dentist (nothing wrong with that), or you can, like Dr Tom Catena, endure hardship and carry out your duty among people who have no one else to help them but you.

Our heroes and laureates did not know each other before the award, and I am glad that thanks to Aurora they were able to connect. They are very different, but what unites them is not their common country of origin, religion, organisation and so on, but the choice they have made to help people. As a co-founder of the Aurora Humanitarian



Initiative I admire the laureates of the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity, especially Marguerite Barankitse who saved thousands of children and provided aid to orphans and refugees affected by the civil war in Burundi and Dr Tom Catena, the only surgeon in the rebel-controlled territory in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan, who has saved thousands of lives.

All our finalists and laureates are heroes. Most of them were unknown around the world before the award. That is why I believe that the important mission of Aurora is to make the whole world know about them. After all, everyone knows about Bin Laden, but very few know about Tom Catena or Marguerite Barankitse and the like. It is incredibly difficult to choose the winner of the Aurora Prize. Thank God it's not me, but the distinguished members of the Selection Committee – Nobel Laureates, former presidents, prominent political figures, highly respected humanitarians and well-known human rights activists.

I can see that academic institutions like the Global Campus for Human Rights in Venice can contribute to expanding and deepening the knowledge about these people, learning and analysing their experiences, identifying commonalities and patterns and promoting such role models in society.

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

We have made great leaps in our technological development, but our ethical foundation is largely unchanged since the days of Plato and Aristotle. The world as a whole has come a long way in the fight against infant mortality, illiteracy, poverty and hunger, yet we see that many of the things that

humanity has been trying to defeat for centuries still persist. Nevertheless, this is no reason to give up. Of course, evil is much more visible, but the people we have come to know through Aurora are many in the world, and this gives us the hope and strength to evolve.

For me, whose grandfather was rescued by a Turkish coachman and American missionaries during the Genocide, Gratitude in Action is extremely important: it is not just gratitude – it is a need to continue the cycle of giving.

News & Events

Global Campus Policy Observatory
The 78th International Venice Film
Festival

Ceremony of the Awarding of
Diplomas of the “European Master in
Human Rights and Democratisation”

Prof. Frans Viljoen Elected to the UN
Human Rights Council Advisory
Committee

Véronica Gómez Elected as One of the
Judges of the Inter-American Court of
Human Rights

GC and UNTL Human Rights Centre
Organise Human Rights Section of the
Dili International Film Festival

Digital Teaching Toolkit for Human
Rights Education in Timor-Leste

Online Course for International
Electoral Observers

Venice School for Human Rights
Defenders

GC EMA Awarded Theses 2019/2020
Global Campus Visual Contest 2021/2022
Inter-Ministerial Committee for Human
Rights of the Italian Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation (CIDU)
Lucy Smith Day Organised by the
Ombudsman for Children and the
University of Oslo
2021 Right Livelihood Award
Presentation
UN Global Study Child Friendly
Animated Video



Global Campus Policy Observatory

The Global Campus of Human Rights is glad to announce the publication of the GC Policy Briefs as part of the fourth edition of the Global Campus Policy Observatory (GCPO), a «virtual hub» comprising a team of a Coordinator and seven researchers for the production of a set of policy analyses to provide guidance and expert opinion in response to urgent human rights issues to a broad audience including decision makers, local governments, international and regional organisations and independent researchers.

This year the policy briefs of the GCPO have investigated the overarching issue of the connection between the environment and human rights with a primary focus on the rights of future generations and youth participation. A human rights perspective of the environment allows us to understand the influence the environment has on the enjoyment of our rights. Environment-related issues have always been an important matter of discussion at international as well as national level. This has been echoed in General Comment 36 in Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which states that “environmental degradation, climate change and unsustainable development constitute some of the most pressing and serious threats to the ability of present and future generations to enjoy the right of life”. Principle 3 and 22 of the Rio Declaration takes account the need of the future generations, making a point to include the youth of the world to mobilise a global partnership to ensure a better future for all. Since 1992, when the Rio Declaration was adopted, the appeal to look out for the future generation has only increased with urgency, evident by the attention garnered by Greta Thunberg with her youth climate mobilisation. While the prospect of global participation is sought with urgency to address climate change for the future generations, the young generation have come to the forefront to vocalise its perils. It would be an error not to take account of the perspectives of the youth while tackling the pressing issues of the environment and human rights with urgency concerning policies and legal rules, after all the youth of today is going to lead the world tomorrow.



To better understand the implication of climate change on human rights, the challenges and opportunities for youth mobilisation and action, the following policy briefs have been made available online on the Global Campus Open Knowledge Repository:

- **Climate Justice and Human Rights, in a World in Climate Emergency** by Zoi Aliozi. Global Campus Europe.
<http://doi.org/20.500.11825/2340>
- **Environment and Human Rights in Curriculum: Towards a Strong and Uniform Education Policy in South Asia** by Visalaakshi Annamalai. Global Campus Asia-Pacific.
<http://doi.org/20.500.11825/2339>
- **'Burned by the Sun, Drowned by the Rain': Enhancing Children's Legal Protection Against Climate Change** by Elise Daniaud. Global Campus Arab World.
<http://doi.org/20.500.11825/2338>
- **Climate Change and the Future Generation under the African Human Rights System: Fostering Pathways and Partnerships** by Ademola Oluborode Jegede. Global Campus Africa.
<http://doi.org/20.500.11825/2337>
- **Planet over Profit? A Reality Check of Europe's Aspirational Climate Policies** by Tomáš Jungwirth. Global Campus South East Europe.
<http://doi.org/20.500.11825/2336>
- **Ecosystem Restoration as a Successful Way for Fighting Global Climate Changes** by Marina Rakopyan. Global Campus Caucasus.
<http://doi.org/20.500.11825/2335>
- **Youth Activism and Climate Change in Latin America: Indigenous and Peasant Youth in Defence of their Human Rights and Territories** by Juan Wahren. Global Campus Latin America-Caribbean.
<http://doi.org/20.500.11825/2334>



The 78th International Venice Film Festival

The Press Office of the Global Campus of Human Rights was following the 78th Venice Film Festival this year and also following the screening with the participants of the Cinema, Advocacy and Human Rights Summer School. The CHRA Summer School is a training initiative jointly developed with our partner Picture People. The School is aimed at young professionals wishing to broaden their understanding on the connections between human rights, films, digital media and video advocacy, and to learn how to use film as a tool for social change. The 10-day programme usually provides a safe, culturally rich and collaborative environment where diversity and inclusivity are embraced, original and critical thinking is encouraged, skills are honed, creativity is unleashed and networking with experts from the human rights arena and professionals from the film industry is possible.

More info: gchumanrights.org/chra

The Venezia 78 Jury, chaired by Bong Joon Ho and comprising Saverio Costanzo, Virginie Efira, Cynthia Erivo, Sarah Gadon, Alexander Nanau and Chloé Zhao, having viewed all 21 films in competition, decided as follows:

GOLDEN LION for Best Film to:
L'ÉVÉNEMENT (HAPPENING)
by Audrey Diwan (France)

SILVER LION – GRAND JURY PRIZE to:
È STATA LA MANO DI DIO (THE HAND OF GOD)
by Paolo Sorrentino (Italy)

SILVER LION – AWARD FOR BEST DIRECTOR to:
Jane Campion
for the film THE POWER OF THE DOG (New Zealand, Australia)

COPPA VOLPI
for Best Actress: Penélope Cruz
in the film MADRES PARALELAS (PARALLEL MOTHERS) by Pedro Almodóvar (Spain)

COPPA VOLPI
for Best Actor: John Arcilla
in the film ON THE JOB: THE MISSING 8 by Erik Matti (Philippines)



**MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE
 D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA
 LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA**
 1.09 ————— 11.09 2021



AWARD FOR BEST SCREENPLAY to:
 Maggie Gyllenhaal
 for the film THE LOST DAUGHTER by Maggie
 Gyllenhaal (Greece, USA, UK, Israel)

SPECIAL JURY PRIZE to:
 IL BUCO
 by Michelangelo Frammartino (Italy, France,
 Germany)

MARCELLO MASTROIANNI AWARD
 for Best Young Actor or Actress to:
 Filippo Scotti
 in the film È STATA LA MANO DI DIO (THE HAND
 OF GOD) by Paolo Sorrentino (Italy)

The Orizzonti Jury, chaired by Jasmila Žbanić
 and comprising Mona Fastvold, Shahram Mokri,
 Josh Siegel and Nadia Terranova, after screening
 the 19 feature-length films and 12 short films in
 competition, decided as follows:

ORIZZONTI AWARD FOR BEST FILM to:
 PILGRIMAI (PILGRIMS)
 by Laurynas Bareiša (Lithuania)

ORIZZONTI AWARD FOR BEST DIRECTOR to:
 Éric Gravel
 for the film À PLEIN TEMPS (FULL TIME) (France)

SPECIAL ORIZZONTI JURY PRIZE to:
 EL GRAN MOVIMIENTO
 by Kiro Russo (Bolivia, France, Qatar, Switzerland)

ORIZZONTI AWARD FOR BEST ACTRESS to:
 Laure Calamy
 in the film À PLEIN TEMPS (FULL TIME) by Éric
 Gravel (France)

ORIZZONTI AWARD FOR BEST ACTOR to:
 Piseth Chhun
 in the film BODENG SAR (WHITE BUILDING) by
 Kavich Neang (Cambodia, France, China, Qatar)

ORIZZONTI AWARD FOR BEST SCREENPLAY to:
 Peter Kerekes, Ivan Ostrochovský
 for the film CENZORKA (107 Mothers) by Peter
 Kerekes (Slovak Republic, Czech Republic,
 Ukraine)

ORIZZONTI AWARD FOR BEST SHORT FILM to:
 LOS HUESOS (THE BONES)
 by Cristóbal León, Joaquín Cociña (Chile)

VENICE SHORT FILM NOMINATION FOR THE
 EUROPEAN FILM AWARDS 2021 to:
 FALL OF THE IBIS KING
 by Josh O'Caomh, Mikai Geronimo (Ireland)



Ceremony of the Awarding of Diplomas of the “European Master in Human Rights and Democratisation” academic year 2020/2021

The Ceremony of the Awarding of Diplomas of the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA, Global Campus Europe) for the academic year 2020/2021 and inauguration of the 25th course, academic year 2021/2022, took place on Sunday 26 September at 16.00 at Scuola Grande di San Rocco in Venice (also available in live streaming on the Global Campus social media channels).

Welcoming the graduates, students, professors and partner organisations were Manfred Nowak, Secretary General of the Global Campus of Human Rights, Maria Laura Picchio Forlati, Scuola Grande di San Rocco, and local authorities.

The keynote speakers were Michael O'Flaherty, Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Yetnebersh Nigussie, Disability Rights Activist and Right Livelihood Laureate 2017, and Eamon Gilmore, EU Special Representative for Human Rights; the Ceremony was accompanied by the music played by Interpreti Veneziani.

The Ceremony marked an important moment of recognition and sharing of the accomplishments of the Global Campus of Human Rights, the network composed of 100 universities worldwide specialised in human rights education, of which EMA is the flagship programme in Europe. Participating in the Ceremony were the representatives of the partner universities; rectors and professors of the EMA participating universities; the representatives of some of the international organisations and local government authorities which actively cooperate with the programme, including in particular the European Union - the main supporting institution of the Global Campus of Human Rights- and the Right Livelihood Foundation.

An important moment of the Ceremony was the EMAlumni Award 2021, introduced by Adam Jacobi Møller, President of the EMAlumni Association. The award is a glass sculpture entitled 'Collective Memory' generously donated by artist Koen Vanmechelen and Fondazione Berengo.

Illustrations by the Italian artist Nicola Ferrarese were exhibited during the event to highlight the importance of Human Rights Education with a call to support our institution.

During the ceremony, Covid-19 prevention measures were followed by all of the participants in observance of Italian health regulations.



INSTITUTIONAL MESSAGES:

Manfred Nowak, Secretary General of the Global Campus: «The Global Campus is proud to once again start the academic year of the European Master in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA) and to do so with a higher number of students than last year. It is remarkable that we will welcome among the students and speakers of the Ceremony, many human rights defenders. Their experience is of inspiration to many young people engaged in this particularly difficult historical moment in raising awareness on different international crises».

Elisabetta Noli, Administrative Director of the Global Campus: «Each year, the Graduation Ceremony of the European Master's students renews the welcoming and gratitude 'pact' which the community of students and teachers of the Global Campus annually 'sign' with the city of Venice, a city with which they have established a privileged bond, and which is an ideal location for the development of academic activities on human rights protection and sustainability».



Prof. Frans Viljoen Elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

The Global Campus of Human Rights is glad to announce that Professor Frans Viljoen, Director of the Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria, was appointed to the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee. The appointment was announced on 11 October 2021 at the 48th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Pursuant to the Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, composed of 18 experts, has been established to function as a think-tank for the Council and work at its direction. The Advisory Committee replaces the former Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. The Committee held its first meeting in August 2008. It meets twice a year, for one week in February immediately before the March session of the Council and for one week in August.

The following three experts were elected as members of the Advisory Committee by acclamation: Frans Jacobus Viljoen (South Africa) from the Group of African States; José Augusto Lindgren Alves (Brazil) from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Vassilis Tzevelekos (Greece) from the Group of Western European and other States. Nurah Maziad S. Alamro (Saudi Arabia) was elected by secret ballot as the member from the Group of Asia-Pacific States.

Lloyd Kuvuya, Assistant Director of the Centre for Human Rights congratulated Prof Frans Viljoen on his appointment by the Human Rights Council and said that “this is well deserved recognition for one of Africa’s eminent human rights experts. We wish him well in this exciting role”.

Dr Solomon Dersso, Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights commented: “Congratulations to Prof Frans Viljoen, an exceptional leader in human rights scholarship and advocacy with lasting contributions in the field, particularly in Africa!”.





Verónica Gómez Elected as One of the Judges of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (2022-2027)

Our global network is glad to announce that Verónica Gómez, President of the Global Campus of Human Rights and Director for Education of the International Centre for Political Studies (CIEP) at the National University of San Martín (UNSAM), was elected to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (2022-2027).

The appointment was announced on Friday, 12 November 2021 at the Organisation of American States (OAS) General Assembly.

As an expert with more than 25 years of experience in academia and national and international public service, Verónica Gómez will contribute to the work of the Inter-American Court with her in depth knowledge of international law.

With this candidacy, Argentina contributes to achieving gender parity in the composition of the Inter-American Court.

The Judges are elected in a personal capacity by the States' parties, by secret ballot and by an absolute majority of votes, during the OAS General Assembly immediately prior to the expiration of the mandate of the outgoing Judges.

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights is thus composed: Rodrigo Bittencourt Mudrovitsch (Brazil), Verónica Gómez (Argentina), Nancy Hernández López (Costa Rica), Patricia Pérez Goldbergh (Chile), Joel Hernández García (Mexico), Roberta Clarke (Barbados) and Carlos Bernal Pulido (Colombia).





The Global Campus and UNTL Human Rights Centre Organise Human Rights Section of the Dili International Film Festival

The Global Campus, together with the Human Rights Centre of the National University of Timor-Leste (HRC-UNTL) were glad to join the DIFF-Dili International Film Festival, co-organising the “Human Rights Day” of its 2021 edition, which started on 1 October in the capital city of Timor-Leste.

Under the strong conviction that visual arts are a key tool for the advancement of human rights and democracy, the Global Campus is proud to include cinema in its cooperation work in Timor-Leste and support local creatives and relevant initiatives through the newly established UNTL Human Rights Centre.

The activities of the day included a workshop for young filmmakers and human rights activists, followed by a public screening of the awarded documentary “Aswang” (Philippines, 2019), centred on the violent extrajudicial repression organised by Rodrigo Duterte suspected drug users and street peddlers.

The workshop “Filmmaking for Human Rights: Tools for Documentary Storytelling” was made possible thanks to the expert support of our partner Picture People and the online participation of Nick Danziger and Claudia Modonesi, who will focus on the essentials of human rights documentary filmmaking - how to make ideas a reality, how to approach a topic, how to work with limited crew and equipment.

This activity represents an opportunity for local young filmmakers and activists wishing to learn more about the connections between human rights, films, digital media, and video advocacy, and how to use film as a tool for social change.

The event was supported by the Delegation of the European Union to Timor-Leste.





Digital Teaching Toolkit for Human Rights Education in Timor-Leste

Within the framework of the capacity-building project for the creation of the UNTL Human Rights Centre, together with the National University of Timor-Lorosa'e and the EU Delegation in Dili, we are proud to announce the Digital Learning Initiative (DLI): An Introduction to Human Rights in Southeast Asia, to support the development of human rights education, especially in times of distance learning.

This initiative has been made possible thanks to the support of the European Union. In this regard

EU Ambassador Andrew Jacobs stated that “The Human Rights Centre, which the European Union is proud to support, has made a great contribution to the teaching and understanding of human rights in Timor-Leste. This Digital Learning Initiative will make the study of human rights even more accessible.” The DLI blends e-learning with in-class participation, and includes a new textbook, 30 video-lectures, PPT slides and a glossary created in Tetum and English languages. They are created for UNTL professors and teaching assistants of the Human Rights Centre, and the students of the new transversal course, adopted by UNTL in 2020 and implemented in the current semester as a pilot edition.

According to the UNTL Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Samuel Freitas, “this initiative is a new permanent training and studying tool contributing to the teaching innovation of the National University for the mainstreaming of human rights education through its faculties, starting with the transversal course”.

All materials were developed together with regional scholars of the Global Campus Asia-Pacific and the ASEAN University Network. They were carefully adapted and tested by the Timorese human rights graduates, UNTL professors and alumni trained during the project. Moreover, several human rights organisations in Timor-Leste have collaborated to include local examples and case studies, among them CNC, PDHJ, ALFeLa, ADTL and Lao Hamutuk.

Global Campus Project Manager Adriano Remiddi explains that “the DLI focuses on the basic notions of human rights studies, plus a selection of topics related to the most pressing issues in Timor-Leste. We are proud of this initiative and particularly of the textbook, published as an open source and made available to everyone”.

For this academic year the DLI is available as a beta version to support the pilot edition of the new course. All materials will be finalised and re-published in 2022 after having incorporated students' and teachers' feedback. All human rights education initiatives in Timor-Leste are encouraged to use these materials and provide their valuable inputs.

Access the Digital Learning Initiative here:

<http://www.gchumanrights.org/hrc-untl/digital-learning-initiative>





Online Course for International Electoral Observers

Open and legitimate elections are the 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 onsite courses in Venice Lido. The training has received the patronage of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Italy, Czech Republic and Spain, the support of 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 and continued again this year with a brand new online edition of the course that offers selected participants a very rewarding, engaging and challenging experience in distance learning education.

Courses dates: 15 – 20 November 2021

More information at: gchumanrights.org/oc-ieo





The Venice School for Human Rights Defenders

The Venice School of Human Rights was founded in 2010 with the goal of studying today's challenges in the field of human rights. Human rights defenders play an essential role in the realisation of rights and promotion of equality. Not only do they fight for human rights in situations of oppression and abuse, they also act as monitors, drawing attention both to their respective communities and to the international community to otherwise neglected violations and threats.

They assist victims in claiming their rights and contribute to holding those in power accountable, thereby combatting cultures of impunity, which serve to cloak systematic and repeated breaches of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Furthermore, by linking the local level to the global and the global to the local, human rights defenders contribute to sustaining a circle of empowerment at all levels.

Whether acting individually or as part of an organised group, human rights defenders are often the target of reprisals and may themselves be subject to human rights violations. Because their work is in many contexts systematically hampered, there is an increasing understanding within the international community of the importance of safeguarding and facilitating human rights defenders at national, regional and international level.

The Venice School for Human Rights Defenders allows its participants from all over the world to list these challenges and examine their reasons and possible solutions they can deploy. The Global Campus Venice School combines theory and practice and its faculty includes prominent academics, representatives of leading human rights NGOs, members of the European Parliament and Sakharov Prize Laureates.

Since 2016 the European Parliament's Sakharov Fellowship Programme has offered up to 14 human rights defenders selected from non-EU countries the opportunity to follow a two week intensive training in Brussels and at the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice. Under the Sakharov Fellowship training programme, human rights defenders enhance their knowledge of EU and international human rights frameworks, policies and mechanisms and develop capacities to advocate for and effect positive change to protect human rights.

While the programme in Brussels focuses on EU policies and tools in support of human rights defenders, accessing funding for human rights defenders, developing communications skills, and raising awareness of specific security challenges facing human rights defenders, in Venice, Fellows are enrolled in the Venice School of Human Rights, which combines academic teaching and sharing the Fellow's experiences with an international audience of practitioners in human rights. The aim is to develop knowledge of international human rights law, instruments and mechanisms and how to use these to effect change on the ground. Here below are some of the keynote speakers who took part in the past editions of the Venice School:

VS 2019 - Press Conference with Lorent Saleh, 2017 Sakharov Prize Laureate

VS 2017 - Press Conference with Lamyia Haji Bashar, 2016 Sakharov Prize Laureate

VS 2016 - Opening Lecture by Hauwa Ibrahim, 2005 Sakharov Prize Laureate

This year we had an in-presence format with the participation of the Sakharov Fellows from all over the world from 16 October until 23 October 2021.

More info: gchumanrights.org/venice-school





Global Campus of Human Rights EMA Awarded Theses 2019/2020

Each year the EMA Council of Directors selects five theses, which stand out not only for their formal academic qualities but also for the originality of topic, innovative character of methodology and approach, potential usefulness in raising awareness about neglected issues, and capacity for contributing to the promotion of the values underlying human rights and democracy.

Global Campus Europe / EMA awarded theses 2019/2020 are online and you can find them at our Repository.

In details:

- Caruana, Deborah, **Securitising Children Rights: Victims and Heirs of Terrorism. A Critical Analysis of France's Approach to Children of Foreign Terrorist Fighters.** Supervisor: Heidi Riley, University College Dublin, National University of Ireland, Dublin. <http://doi.org/20.500.11825/2344>
- Catalão, Mariana, **Environmental Justice, Climate Change and Human Rights. Different Contributions, Different Consequences and Different Capabilities Should Equal Different Human Rights Obligations.** Supervisor: Jan Klabbers, University of Helsinki. <http://doi.org/20.500.11825/2345>
- Houssais, Olivia, **Democratic Deficit Theory: A Reversed Approach. Why Radical Political Changes in Member States Affect the Quality of Democracy in the EU.** Supervisor: Anna Unger, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest. <http://doi.org/20.500.11825/2346>
- Monteiro Burkle, Eduardo, **When Forgetting Is Dangerous: Transitional Justice, Collective Remembrance and Brazil's Shift to Far-Right Populism.** Supervisor: Alice Panepinto, Queen's University Belfast. <http://doi.org/20.500.11825/2347>
- Stockhem, Ophélie, **Improving the International Regulation of Cybersex Trafficking of Women and Children through the Use of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence.** Supervisors: Maria López Belloso and Demelsa Beniso Sánchez, University of Deusto, Bilbao. <http://doi.org/20.500.11825/2348>





Global Campus Visual Contest 2021/2022 - Business Activity and Impact on Human Rights: Challenges and Hopes for a Better Future

The Global Campus of Human Rights and the Global Campus Alumni are glad to announce the launch of the sixth edition of the Global Campus Visual Contest, open to photographers, professionals and amateurs, from all over the world. Organised in collaboration with the Right Livelihood, the Contest will be open from 8 November 2021 and will accept submissions through 8 January 2022.

The images will be submitted via the “Apply Section” of the Contest website and posted on Instagram @gchumanrights.

The goal of the contest is to create synergies between academia, Human Rights defenders and artists to reach a wider international public and foster a better understanding of the issues concerning human rights and their protection.

The theme for 2021/2022 is “*Business activity and impact on Human Rights: challenges and hopes for a better future*”. This contest seeks to promote reflection on the multiple impacts of business activity and create hope for a future of trust and collaboration on human rights and sustainable environment.

June 2021 marked the tenth anniversary month since the adoption of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). Over this first decade, there have been important developments: more companies have committed to human rights and more governments in all regions have developed national action plans, demonstrating emerging awareness around the human rights responsibilities of business that did not exist earlier. Despite increased attention on risks and adverse impacts of business operations on human rights, and the development of initiatives and case-law, many challenges and obstacles are still hampering such progress and major challenges still remain. Unfortunately, human rights abuses linked to business activity such as forced and exploited labour, women and children trafficked in the supply chains, displacement of people and endangered environments are still numerous.

The 10th anniversary constituted the perfect moment to start reflecting on how to step up efforts for the coming years in connection also with the launch in October-December by the UN Working Group of a roadmap for implementation over the next decade.

The international jury of the Contest will comprise renowned international photographers such as GMB Akash, as well as communication experts from the GC and Right Livelihood and Alumni representatives from the wide GCA network. The Jury will vote on the basis of subject, originality, and style.

The winner of the best photo will be awarded with financial support to attend a one-to-one workshop with the award-winning Bangladeshi photographer GMB Akash in Dhaka. The most voted images will be selected to create a dedicated online gallery and an itinerant exhibition to be displayed in connection with GC events and educational activities to further the work on human rights issues and increase understanding and international exposure.

You can follow the visual contest through the hashtags #GlobalCampusVisualContest #GCAlumni #BizHumanRights on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

open call photographers

Business activity and impact on Human Rights:
challenges and hopes for a better future





Inter-Ministerial Committee for Human Rights of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (CIDU)

On 15 November 2021, the Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation - CIDU together with the Italian Senate's Human Rights Commission (Commissione straordinaria diritti umani - <https://www.senato.it/1382>) presented the CIDU's Annual Report.

The Global Campus of Human Rights was asked to contribute to the event, and our President Véronica Gómez intervened with a video message.

Chairing the presentation was CIDU's Chairman, Minister Plenipotentiary Fabrizio Petri, and the main topic of the event as **Business and Human Rights** and Italy's implementation of its action plan on the issue, together with presentation of the next plan ahead covering the 2021 – 2027 term.

Also participating in the event were the Undersecretary Benedetto della Vedova, EP Vice president Fabio Castaldo and other experts.

"I wish to reiterate my thanks to the organisers for inviting the Global Campus of Human Rights to this important dialogue. We are happy to accompany the Italian government in promoting the human rights perspective on business practices. As Global Campus, we would like to offer our support to share our input and academic expertise with the Senate Committee's members on developing policies and legislation. We stand ready to participate in further consultations." GC President Véronica Gómez

More info: www.senato.it

For the text of her full speech, please contact: pressoffice@gchumanrights.org

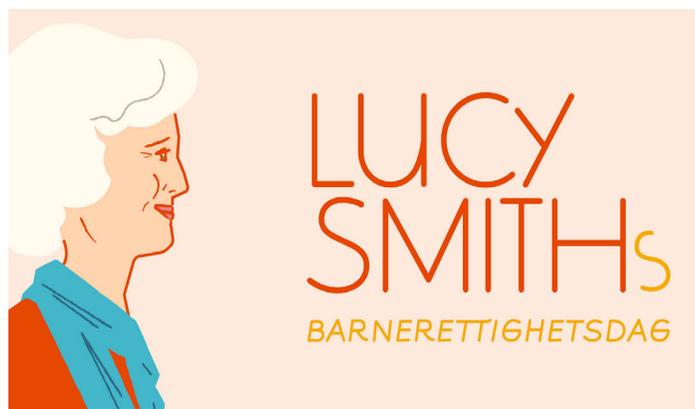




Lucy Smith Day Organised by the Ombudsman for Children and the University of Oslo

The GC Secretary General Manfred Nowak was present at the Lucy Smith Day organised by the Ombudsman for Children and the University of Oslo at the Department of Private Law, the Department of Public Law and the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights.

Among the speakers on the topic of children in conflict with the law were Inga Bejer Engh (Children's Ombudsman), doctoral fellow Thomas Anton Sandoy (University of Oslo/NIPH), Marit Lomudal Saether (partner in the law firm Sulland), Guri Lenth (Attorney General), Rikke Lassen (judge in Oslo District Court), Ingun Fornes (Faculty of Law University of Bergen), Elisabeth Fransson (researcher 1 at KRUS) and Sven-Erik Skotte (University Lecturer).



More info: <https://www.barneombudet.no/vart-arbeid/lucy-smiths-barnerettighetsdag>

2021 Right Livelihood Awards Presentation

The GC partner Right Livelihood Foundation organised an evening celebrating people who are paving the way to a better future for all.

On 1 December 2021, they honoured some of the world's foremost change-makers at Cirkus in Stockholm. On stage were this year's Right Livelihood Laureates:

- Marthe Wandou
- Vladimir Slivyak
- Freda Huson
- LIFE (Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment)

Host: Gina Dirawi

Artists: Loreen, Maxida Märak and more

Learn more about the Presentation at: 2021.rightlivelihood.org





UN Global Study Child Friendly Animated Video

PRESENTATION AT THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS FORUM 2021

The Global Campus of Human Rights has presented the premiere of our child-friendly animated film based on the United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty. The Study was led by Manfred Novak, Independent Expert of the Global Study and Secretary General of the Global Campus. A large team was involved in the creation of the short film, including children and



youths in different regions. This process ensured the film is not only accurate and of high quality, but also engaging for the envisaged target group: young people aged 14-18 years. The film is free and available on the Global Campus of Human Rights You Tube channels in English, Spanish, French and Arabic.

Also, the Global Campus of Human Rights joined the Forum with a session on 'Empowering Digital Citizens of the Future' to facilitate discussions on how to engage youths (under age 18) in becoming empowered agents in combating online mis- and disinformation. The session was built on the lessons learned in creating the first-ever MOOC on children's rights in the digital age.

More info: <https://fundamentalrightsforum.eu/>

THE 2021 WORLD CONGRESS ON JUSTICE WITH CHILDREN

The 2021 World Congress on Justice with Children took place online from the 15 to 20 November. It brought together children, policymakers, legal practitioners, academics, and CSOs to discuss ways to ensure access to justice to all children.

Together with the regional partners, our Secretary General Manfred Nowak and the Global Study Team of the Global Campus of Human Rights presented the Child-friendly Animated Film on the Global Study of Children Deprived of Liberty, followed by panels and workshops with experts to discuss regional trends in Africa, Europe, Mena and South East Asia regions.

More info: <https://justicewithchildren.org/>

Campaigns

The Global Campus Supports the
Afghan Evacuation and Resettlement
Fund



The Global Campus Supports the Afghan Evacuation and Resettlement Fund

The Global Campus of Human Rights is supporting this urgent [fundraising appeal](#) to assist a network of human rights professionals and lawyers in the EU who are helping Afghans with their asylum applications, evacuation and resettlement in other countries (where many of our alumni are also involved).

Many Afghans are under threat of death and are urgently trying to escape Afghanistan. Some of them have been forced from their homes and are in hiding with poor conditions, no heating and running out of food and hope for the future of not only their lives, but for the future of Afghanistan. Furthermore, many of the women are further subject to violence from their family members as some men are sympathising with the newly instilled Taliban Government and others are simply inflicting physical, psychological and emotional violence on the women who can no longer go out for fear of reprisals. Your donation will not only save the lives of these Afghans, but cover costs for the issuance of passports which are now obligatory, (many Afghans especially women and children do not have valid passports) contribution to flights out of Afghanistan, and initial living costs once they arrive in their host country. 100% of these donations will go directly to Afghans and does not include any administrative fees.

Our thoughts go out to all Afghans, their families, their friends and their communities. Since the emergency crisis started, the GC has been involved in helping the scholars and students at risk and also joining many other organisations in their advocacy works to help the situation in Afghanistan. The level of this tragedy is now requiring not only our expression of support, solidarity, advocacy but all our efforts including financial contributions and donations.

The GC is kindly requesting all friends and members of our vast academic network to contribute to this emergency and donate now to support this Afghan evacuation and resettlement fund. With a donation you could be part of our community of donors.

For more information about donations, please contact: fundraising@gchumanrights.org

The GC would like to give particular thanks for the donations by the **Fondazione di Venezia** and **Kahane Foundation**, which are contributing in another of our new initiatives that aims to place Afghan scholars and students at risk at different universities of the GCs network.

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 – Isotta Esposito – Giulia Ballarin
pressoffice@gchumanrights.org



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05. Global Campus of Human Rights Magazine

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Nowak, Manfred

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