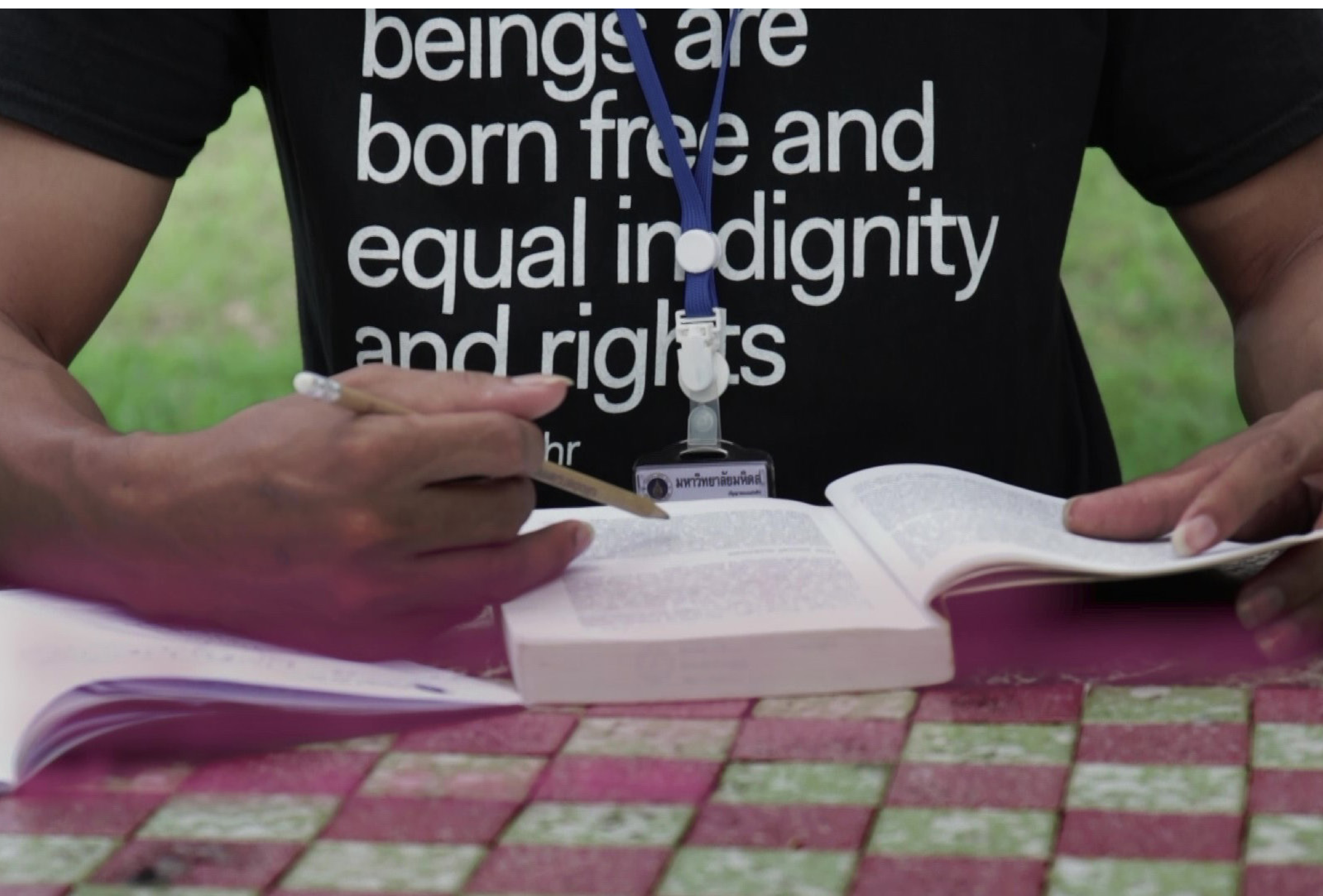


Human Rights Education in Higher Education: Pathways for Youth Empowerment

A webinar organised by
the Global Campus of Human Rights
and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

13 December 2023
13:00 - 14:30 (CET)

Register at: <https://bit.ly/47ktu1z>



Background

Human rights education (HRE) is a human right in itself, as recognised in international law¹. Human rights education develops the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to protect and promote human rights in daily life.

UN fora have highlighted that higher education institutions, through their core functions (research, teaching, and service to the community), have the social responsibility to educate ethical citizens committed to the construction of peace, the defence of human rights, and the values of democracy². Yet, out of the about 30,000 universities worldwide, a mere fraction offers human rights courses.

Human rights education still too often faces resistance, in view of its great transformative power as a value-driven discipline promoting critical thinking and mobilisation. Eventually, human rights education can backslide even where it has already affirmed itself. It is in this context that human rights educators play a crucial role, at the very crossroads between teaching and advocacy, acting as quiet, but powerful agents of change.

The 75th anniversary of the UDHR provides an occasion to reflect upon the challenges and opportunities of promoting human rights through the inspiring work of educators and institutions at the forefront.

1 See the web resource "[The right to human rights education: a compilation of international and regional instruments dealing with human rights education](#)".

2 See Plan of Action for the second phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, para. 21, referring to the final document of the 2009 UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education, preamble and paras. 2-4.

Agenda

Opening and moderation

Adriano Remiddi, Global Campus of Human Rights

Short address

Chiara Adamo, European Commission - DG INTPA

Farida Shaheed, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education

Manfred Nowak, GC Secretary General

Panel

[Video testimony: Aizat Ruslanova \(Kyrgyzstan\)](#)

George Ulrich, Global Campus of Human Rights

"Human rights education in higher education: global trends"

[Video testimony: Andrés Allán Sánchez Osorio \(Mexico\)](#)

Felisa Tibbitts, Utrecht University/UNESCO Chair

"The role of higher education institutions in developing a community of human rights educators"

[Video testimony: Senhorina M. dos Santos \(Timor-Leste\)](#)

Mike Hayes, Mahidol University/GC Asia Pacific

"Good human rights education practices from South-East Asia"

[Video testimony: Aishwarya Sridhar \(India\)](#)

Eduardo Kapapelo, University of Pretoria/GC Africa

"Engaging young students through competitions: the Nelson Mandela Moot Court"

Q&A

Discussion with the students' representatives from the 8 GC regional MA programmes, and participating audience

Wrap up and closing

Elena Ippoliti, OHCHR

MODERATOR



Adriano Remiddi is a development cooperation practitioner, focusing on democracy and human rights education in transitional societies. With over ten years of experience in South East Europe and Asia-Pacific, he is currently managing the Global Campus Capacity Development programme. Adriano has led the project to establish the Human Rights Centre of the National University of Timor-Leste in 2019/2022.

SPEAKERS



Chiara Adamo, Head of Unit Gender Equality, Human Rights and Democratic Governance at the European Commission Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA). Since joining the Commission, in 2000, she has been working in the Justice and Home Affairs area, as head of sector in charge of inter-institutional relations (European Parliament, Council, CdR and EESC) in the Justice and Home Affairs Directorate General.



Farida Shaheed was appointed UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education in 2022. She is the Executive Director of Pakistan's leading gender justice organisation, Shirkat Gah - Women's Resource Centre. She served as a member of Pakistan's National Commission on the Status of Women, and as the first Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights from 2009 to 2015.



Manfred Nowak, Secretary General of the Global Campus of Human Rights, is a longstanding Professor of Human Rights and Director of the Vienna Master of Arts in Applied Human Rights at the University of Applied Arts. He has served as the UN expert on enforced disappearances, torture, and as an Independent Expert leading the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty. Prof. Nowak has published over 600 publications in public and international law and human rights.

PANELLISTS



George Ulrich, Academic Director of the Global Campus of Human Rights, is a senior human rights scholar and has held various positions at the GC, including Programme Director, Secretary General and Academic Coordinator. In between these appointments, he held the position of Rector and Professor of Human Rights at the Riga Graduate School of Law. Prof. Ulrich's research interests include human rights history, development cooperation, health, and ethics.



Felisa Tibbitts is a renowned human rights education expert, currently UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Higher Education and Chair in Human Rights Education, Utrecht University (Netherlands), as well as Adjunct Assistant Professor at Columbia University. She has extensively published on curriculum policy, critical pedagogy, education and social movements, and human rights and higher education transformation. She has also co-founded the NGO Human Rights Education Associates (HREA) and has held adjunct faculty positions at Harvard and Nelson Mandela University.



Mike Hayes, Director of the GC Asia-Pacific Programme, he is a senior scholar at the Institute for Human Rights and Peace Studies at Mahidol University, specialises in non-citizen rights and human rights and migration. He offers professional training in the Rights Based Approach and human rights advocacy. Hayes also works on developing Southeast Asian lecturers' capacity to teach and research human rights, including the PhD and regional master's programs.



Eduardo Kapapelo, is a Researcher, and the Project Coordinator of the Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition which is organised by the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria. With a focus on a variety of critical topics, Eduardo is currently working on issues relating to climate justice and human rights.



Elena Ippoliti coordinates the Human Rights Education and Training Unit of the Methodology, Education and Training Section at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva. Her responsibilities include designing and organising human rights training programmes, developing educational materials and assisting United Nations initiatives in the area of human rights education, in cooperation or partnership with governmental and civil society actors.

TESTIMONIALS



Aizat Ruslanova, Executive Director of IDEA Central Asia, is a Kyrgyz Republic civil activist and member of the Council for the Rights of Women and Children. She promotes women's rights in education and has implemented initiatives addressing gender-based violence. Her multidimensional installation, "Hands," combines academic art, audio, and video elements to address sexism and victim-blaming.



Andrés Allán Sánchez Osorio is the honorary President and Founder of Fundación Efecto Valores, promoting human rights education and participation for children and adolescents in high-violence areas in Mexico. He uses documentary film to reduce stigma and criminalisation, train young people, and develop short documentary films. With over 10 years of experience, Allán was awarded the Youth Prize in Human Rights in 2018.



Senhorina Madalena dos Santos is a teaching assistant and project officer at the Human Rights Centre of the National University of Timor-Leste. She is a youth activist engaged for social justice, ecology and sustainable development. She is currently undergoing her human rights postgraduate's specialisation at Mahidol University.



Aishwarya Sridhar is a law student at the National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS) in Koci (India). Together with Akhila Vijayan she is the winner of the 15th edition of the Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition in 2023.

This event is jointly organised by GC and OHCHR as part of the UN initiatives for the 75th UDHR commemorations (December HR75 spotlight: Human rights education for youth). It takes place in the framework of the GC Capacity Development programme, and is powered by the GC E-learning Department.

Organising committee

Adriano Remiddi (GC), Angela Melchiorre (GC), Giacomo Ottonello (GC), Elena Ippoliti (OHCHR), Mina Ahmed (OHCHR), Oran No (OHCHR).