



Global Campus
of Human Rights

24 May *Palazzo Zorzi, UNESCO, Castello 4930,
Fondamenta San Severo*
25 May *Monastery of San Nicolò, Riviera S. Nicolò
26, Venice-Lido*

High-level Conference on the Global State of Human Rights



Right
Livelihood



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Friday, 24 May

Co-organisers
 Global Campus
of Human Rights **Right
Livelihood**

17.00 – 18.45

Public Opening Roundtable hosted by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe at Palazzo Zorzi in Venice

Welcome Words:

Manfred Nowak, Secretary General of the Global Campus of Human Rights
Gunilla Hallonsten, Chair of Board at Right Livelihood
Representative from UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

Moderator:

Thérèse Murphy, Professor at Queen's University Belfast and Raoul Wallenberg Visiting Chair at Lund University

Speakers:

Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders
Michael O'Flaherty, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
Olof Skoog, EU Special Representative for Human Rights
Matteo Mecacci, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)
Chiara Adamo, Head of Unit "Gender, Human Rights and Democratic Governance" at DG International Partnerships of the European Commission
Mozn Hassan, Egyptian Women's Rights Activist, Exile Fellow and Right Livelihood Laureate 2016

Closing Speech:

Koen Vanmechelen, Internationally renowned Artist exhibiting at the Venice Biennale 2024

18.45 – 19.15

Poetry and Music Performance by Lisette Ma Neza

19.00 – 21.00

Reception and light dinner



08.30 – 09.00

Registration at the Monastery of San Nicolò, Venice Lido

09.00 – 09.10

Welcome Words

Manfred Nowak, Secretary General of the Global Campus of Human Rights
Ole von Uexküll, Executive Director of Right Livelihood

09.10 – 09.30

Opening Speeches

Olof Skoog, EU Special Representative for Human Rights
Heidi Hautala, Vice-President of the European Parliament
Peggy Hicks, Director of the Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and
Right to Development Division at UN Human Rights

09.30 – 11.15

Roundtable on “Reconceptualising Exile for Human Rights Defenders”

Human rights defenders (HRDs) are important pillars of upholding human rights and a democratic culture of participation. Yet, they are increasingly under pressure in many countries around the world because of shrinking civil space, increasing conflict and persecution. Countless HRDs find themselves forced into exile, many of them trying to continue their human rights work outside their home country. In response to this, there is a strong need to work on increasing civic space globally, creating an enabling environment for human rights defenders and support those in exile to effectively continue their work and mobilise communities abroad.

Guiding Questions: What are the main factors limiting civil space for human rights defenders at a global scale? How can we contribute to building an enabling environment for human rights defenders in exile to continue their work both as individuals and as part of their communities?

Testimonials:

Name Withheld, Iranian Women’s Rights Activist and Exile Fellow
Helen Mack Chang, Guatemalan Human Rights Activist, Right Livelihood
Laureate 1992 and Exile Fellow



Moderator:

Felipe Gomez, Professor at the University of Deusto and GC Council Member

Speakers:

Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights
Defenders

Wolfgang Kaleck, General Secretary of the European Centre for Constitutional
and Human Rights

Alice Nah, Associate Professor at Durham University and Chair of the Global
Board of Directors of Protection International

Mozn Hassan, Egyptian Women's Rights Activist, Exile Fellow and Right
Livelihood Laureate 2016

Mike Hayes, Director of Global Campus Asia-Pacific and Professor at Mahidol
University Bangkok

Viacheslav Samonov, Human Rights Lawyer at QueerBase and Exile Fellow

Anexa Cunningham, Nicaraguan Indigenous Rights Defender and Member of
the UN Expert Mechanism on Indigenous Peoples

11.15 – 11.45

Coffee break

11.45 – 13.30

Roundtable on “Defending Human Rights During Times of War and Conflict”

Already before wars and violence in Ukraine and Israel/Palestine, the global number of conflict-related deaths was increasing steeply. Following the war in Ukraine, 2022 became the deadliest year in the context of armed conflict since 1994 and the Rwandan genocide. Previously frozen conflict situations are heating up in many places around the globe. Human rights are typically severely violated in conflict situations despite the international human rights and humanitarian law protection regime. In a scenario where conflicts are increasing and are sending shock waves on a global scale, we need to better prepare the international human rights protection system to prevent, as well as to respond effectively to conflict situations.

Guiding Questions: How effective are our current mechanisms to prevent human rights violations in conflict? How can human rights be strengthened to prevent conflict as such? How effective are our tools to respond to human rights violations in conflict and hold perpetrators accountable?



Testimonials:

Abdelkhalig Shaib, Sudanese Attorney and Founding Member of the Arab Association of Constitutional Law

Moderator:

Jasmin Lilian Diab, Director of the Institute for Migration Studies at the Lebanese American University and GC Arab World Alumna

Speakers:

Michael O'Flaherty, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

Matteo Mecacci, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Raji Sourani, Director of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights and Right Livelihood Laureate 2013

Eamon Gilmore, former EU Special Representative for Human Rights

Natallia Satsunkevich, Member of the Interim Board of Viasna Human Rights Centre Belarus

Babatunde Fagbayibo, Professor of International Law at University of Pretoria

Jamila Raqib, Executive Director of the Albert Einstein Institute

13.30 – 14.30

Lunch break

14.30 – 14.45

Presentation by the Global Campus Child Leadership Team Members of the Global Campus South East Europe Child Leadership Team

14.45 – 15.00

Afternoon Opening Conversation

Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders

Sirpa Rautio, Director of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency

15.00 – 16.45

Roundtable on “Using Human Rights to Prevent Environmental Disasters”

The triple planetary crisis is fuelling massive human rights violations which today and in the decades to come will have an effect on the lives, realities and opportunities of every member of the world's population. Pollution and waste,



loss of biodiversity and climate change trigger violations of many human rights, including the right to life, to health, to adequate housing, to a healthy and sustainable environment, which will only increase in severity in the future. However, the language of human rights, including those of future generations, can also serve as a blueprint for environmental and climate action on a local, national, regional and global scale.

Guiding Questions: How can human rights language facilitate climate and environmental action? Which tools do we have available, which ones need to be adapted or revised, and which ones do we yet need to develop? How can we build international networks and strengthen global momentum for joint environmental climate action?

Testimonial:

Phanya Phay, Member of Mother Nature Cambodia and Right Livelihood Laureate 2023

Moderator:

Neshan Gunasekera (Exile Fellow, Raoul Wallenberg Institute at Lund University)

Speakers:

Aoife Nolan, President of the European Committee of Social Rights and Project Lead ACRiSL

Ritwick Dutta, Environmental Lawyer, Managing Trustee for Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE) and Right Livelihood Laureate 2022

Lotte Leicht, Advocacy Director of Climate Rights International

Name withheld, Nicaraguan Environmentalist, Indigenous Rights Activist and Right Livelihood Laureate 2022

Luisa Neubauer, Fridays for Future Germany

Hannes Tretter, Vienna Forum for Human Rights and Democracy

16.45 - 17.15

Coffee break

17.15 - 17.35

Testimonial on “Human Rights Work Outside the Box”

Askold Kurov, Filmmaker and Exile Fellow



Co-organisers



Andra Matei, Founding Director of Avantgarde Lawyers and GC Europe Alumna

17.35 - 17.45

Conclusions and Closing Remarks

George Ulrich, Academic Director at Global Campus of Human Rights

Gunilla Hallonsten, Chair of Board at Right Livelihood

From 19.30

**Dance Performance by Iskra Daskalova, choreographed by Kosta Karakashyan
(GC Alumnus)**

Reception and Dinner in the Cloister of the Monastery of San Nicolò

Global Campus of Human Rights
Headquarter

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