

24 May 2024 Palazzo Zorzi, UNESCO, Castello 4930, Fondamenta San Severo

25 May 2024 Monastery of San Nicolò, Riviera S. Nicolò 26, Venice-Lido

---

# High-level Venice Conference on *The Global State of Human Rights*



Global Campus  
of Human Rights

Right  
Livelihood





# Friday, 24 May 2024

Palazzo Zorzi, UNESCO, Castello 4930, Fondamenta San Severo

---

**16.45 – 17.00**

Registration at UNESCO Venice, Palazzo Zorzi

**17.00 – 18.45**

Welcome Words

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

Roundtable Discussion

Moderator

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

Panelists

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, Neil Akenzua and Vernon Chatlein

**19.15 – 21.00**

Reception and light dinner

Co-organised by



# Saturday, 25 May 2024

Monastery of San Nicolò, Riviera S. Nicolò 26, Venice-Lido

---

**08.30 – 09.00**

Registration at the Monastery of San Nicolò, Venice Lido

**09.00 – 09.10**

Welcome Message (online)

Veronica Gomez, President of the Global Campus of Human Rights and Judge at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

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”

Testimonials

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

Moderator

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

Speakers

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

Co-organised by



# Saturday, 25 May 2024

Monastery of San Nicolò, Riviera S. Nicolò 26, Venice-Lido

---

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”

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 (GC CLT)

Una Balta & Marta Milosavljević, Members of the GC CLT South East Europe

Co-organised by



# Saturday, 25 May 2024

Monastery of San Nicolò, Riviera S. Nicolò 26, Venice-Lido

---

**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

Moderator

Orla Ní Cheallacháin, European Programme Director at the Global Campus of Human Rights

**15.00 – 16.45**

## Roundtable on “Using Human Rights to Prevent Environmental Disasters”

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 and Indigenous Rights Activist

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

Luisa Neubauer, Fridays for Future Germany

**16.45 – 17.15**

Coffee break

**17.15 – 17.45**

## Conversation on “Human Rights Work Outside the Box”

Askold Kurov, Award-winning Filmmaker and Exile Fellow

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

Co-organised by



# Saturday, 25 May 2024

Monastery of San Nicolò, Riviera S. Nicolò 26, Venice-Lido

---

**17.45 – 18.00**

## Conclusions and Closing Remarks

George Ulrich, Academic Director of the Global Campus of Human Rights  
Gunilla Hallonsten, Chair of Board at Right Livelihood

**18.00 – 18.45**

Reception

**18.45 – 19.00**

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

**From 19.00**

Dinner at the cloister of the Monastery of San Nicolò

Global Campus of Human Rights  
Headquarter

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

VeniceHRConference@gchumanrights.org

Co-organised by  
 Global Campus  
of Human Rights **Right  
Livelihood**