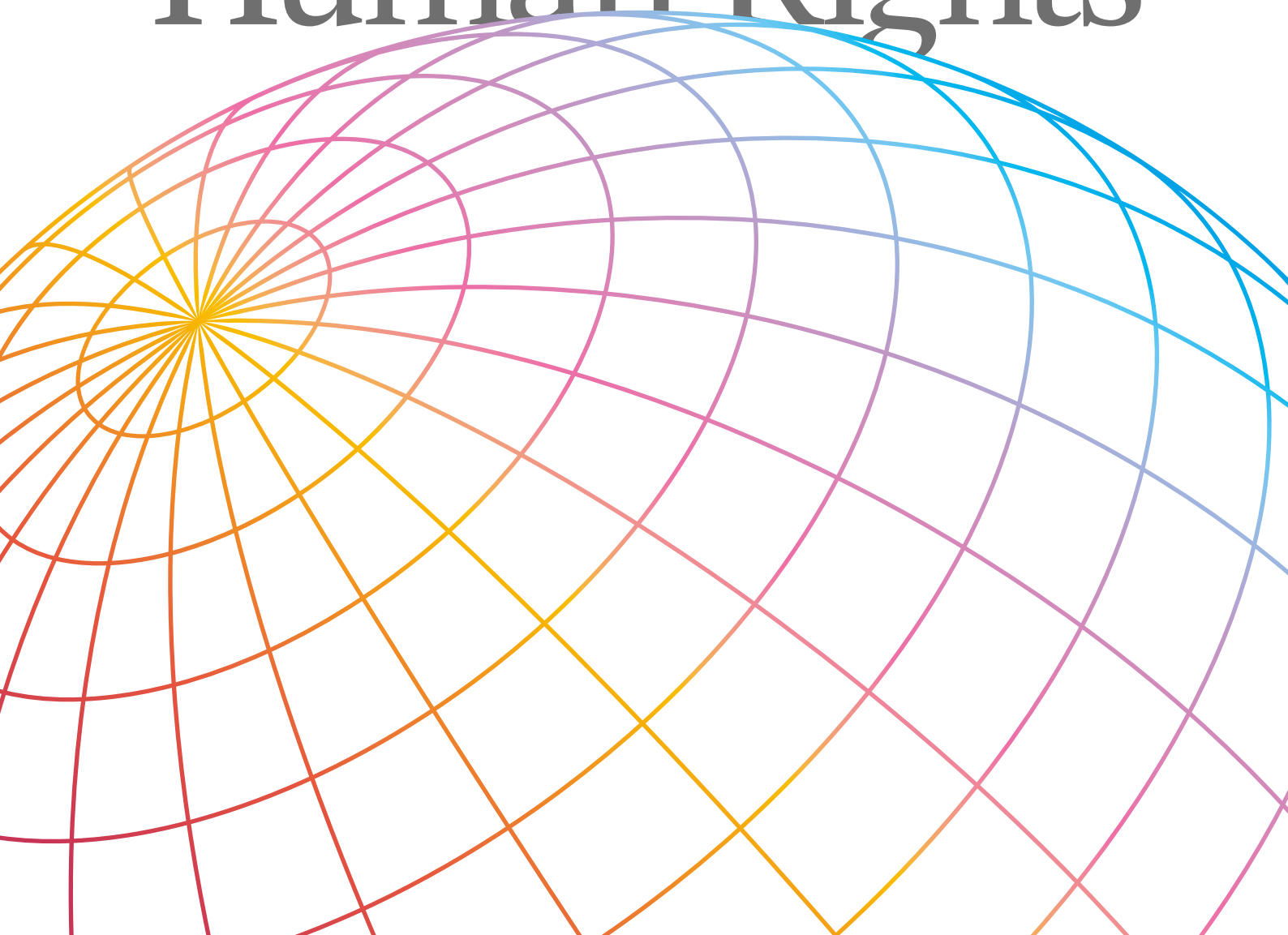




Moving Towards a New Era for Human Rights



The vision of the Global Campus of Human Rights is to foster new generations of human rights defenders able to contribute to a world in which human dignity, equality, freedom, human security, sustainable development, democracy, the rule of law and respect for all human rights are realised.

In 2023, we concentrated our efforts on various activities to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the 30th anniversary of the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights. As eloquently stated by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UDHR “enshrines the rights of all human beings and is a global blueprint for international, national, and local laws and policies and a bedrock of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. As the Global Campus of Human Rights, we did our share to increase knowledge on the universality and indivisibility of human rights, especially among young people.

The Global Campus and the SDGs

Our work focuses primarily on the achievement of



Global Campus of Human Rights
Annual Report 2023

February 2024

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This publication is the result of the work of many members of the GC. Despite our best efforts, it may contain inaccuracies, for which we apologise.



Co-funded by
the European Union

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Welcome



Verónica Gómez — President

As in previous years, the Global Campus of Human Rights is pleased to share a report with news and information on the work carried out in collaboration with our regional hubs and partner institutions around the world and with the coordination of its headquarters at the Monastery of San Nicolò in Venice, in light of its mission and objectives.

In terms of news, one of the highlights of 2023 was the accreditation and inauguration of a new regional hub—coordinated by the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan—with the participation of partner institutions in various countries of Central Asia. This new programme, which has already received a warm welcome from international institutions and states of the international community, seeks to enhance access to education and capacity building in that part of the world in the areas of human rights and sustainability with a regional and interdisciplinary perspective. By strengthening its presence in Central Asia through this programme, the Global Campus has added an eighth regional hub to those already functioning in Europe, South East Europe, Africa, Asia-Pacific, the Caucasus, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Arab World, thus meaningfully expanding the reach and operation of our university network. During this period, the already existing regional programmes have also welcomed new partner universities that have, in turn, joined the Global Campus Assembly. Undoubtedly, 2023 has been a landmark year in terms of institutional strengthening and expansion.

In terms of information, the main objective of this report is to share insights on the Global

Campus' steady trajectory in its efforts to build capacity and raise awareness on human rights and democracy around the world: from the impact of its eight Master's degrees, non-degree trainings, MOOCs, and in-person and hybrid courses and events to the outputs made available through its online repository, policy briefs and blog, among many other vehicles of knowledge and education offered by the regional hubs. The report also shares information on the impact of the Global Campus initiatives that seek to support scholars, academics and human rights defenders in exile due to persecution and risk to their lives and freedom of expression.

The above outputs and initiatives are sensitive to the armed conflicts, humanitarian crises and weaknesses in the rule of law and democracy that have grown in intensity and currently afflict many regions of the world, including those where our vast network is present. Our objectives and efforts are also forward-looking, and our institution continues to develop projects and initiatives designed to face the challenges brought about by new technologies and the climate crisis. The stakeholders of the Global Campus have the unwavering conviction that—in this historical and political context—education, capacity building and promotion are more important than ever.

Lastly, it is vital to remark that this work is possible thanks to the financial support of the European Union, Right Livelihood, and other donors, as well as the co-funding and commitment of our partner universities and the dedication shown by our Venice staff and at our regional hubs.

Foreword



Manfred Nowak — Secretary General

In 2023, the international human rights community was commemorating a number of important anniversaries. 75 years ago, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as normative basis for human rights standard setting in reaction to two world wars, the global financial crisis and the rise of fascism culminating in the Holocaust. Contrary to a widely held narrative, the UDHR is not a Western document but a historical compromise and synthesis between the Western concept of civil and political rights and the Socialist concept of economic, social and cultural rights. These were the two predominant views at that time, which had gradually emerged at the national (constitutional) level as results of various bourgeois and socialist revolutions since the late 18th century. In 1948, most states in Africa and Asia were still under colonial domination and not yet members of the UN, but the representatives of many Latin American states, Egypt, Lebanon, India and China played a significant role during the drafting of the UDHR. Most importantly, the UDHR transposed national human rights concepts to the international level and, thereby, gained the status of an authoritative interpretation of the term “human rights” in the UN Charter. Until the end of WWII, human rights were regarded as an exclusively domestic concept, and any attempt of the international community to stop human rights violations were perceived as undue and illegal interference with national sovereignty. This longstanding principle of international law and international relations was challenged by the barbarity of the Holocaust. For the first time in history, human rights, together with international peace and development, became overriding goals of the

international community, as provided for in the UN Charter and the UDHR.

During the time of the Cold War, human rights were gradually codified in many international and regional human rights treaties, but states still resisted stronger actions of the international community to prevent or stop them from violating human rights. With the end of the Cold War, a historic window of opportunity opened to finally put into practice the promise of Article 28 of the UDHR, namely to establish a new social and international order in which all rights of the UDHR can be fully realised. This new world order was the main goal of the second World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna in June 1993. In 2023, we commemorated the 30th anniversary of the outcome document, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (VDPA), which reaffirmed the universality, equality, interdependence, indivisibility and interrelatedness of all human rights. The VDPA further paved the way for the establishment of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, called for an International Criminal Court and laid down in detail the global human rights agenda for the following decades. Most of the ambitious goals of the VDPA have been implemented in the meantime.

Since standing up for human rights in states with a questionable human rights record became increasingly dangerous, the UN General Assembly in 1998 adopted a Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, which reaffirmed human rights that are instrumental to the defence of human rights, including freedom of expression, information, association and assembly, and many more.



In a world where the wellbeing of humanity is challenged by conflicts, climate change and a threat to the rule of law and democracy, this publication offers “novel and innovative approaches in relation to the interpretation of existing human rights frameworks if the impact of these new threats is to be mitigated”. Our Secretary General Manfred Nowak and Prof. Gerd Oberleitner, GC Europe faculty, are among the editors of the European Yearbook on Human Rights 2023 published by Intersentia.

In monitoring states' compliance with this Declaration, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders provides information on how many individuals in an increasing number of states have been arrested, tortured, killed or disappeared for the simple reason that they defended the human rights of others.

In 2023, the UN and many other inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as academic institutions, including the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI) and the Global Campus of Human Rights, organised many international conferences and events aimed at commemorating the 75th, 30th and 25th anniversaries of these milestone human rights documents. I use the word “commemorating” as there is indeed no reason for celebrations if we look at the dire global state of human rights in 2023. The post-WWII global architecture based on peace, prosperity and human rights seems to be crumbling. We are witnesses of more wars, violence and refugees than ever before since 1945; the economic inequality has reached an alarming level, which undermines the social fabric and coherence of our societies and leads to extreme polarisation, radicalisation and authoritarianism; the triple

planetary crisis threatens the very survival of our children, future generations and the ecosystems of our planet; digitalisation and artificial intelligence pose new risks to human rights and human dignity the extent of which is still difficult to assess; and the number of killed and tortured human rights defenders has reached a peak in 2023.

Nevertheless, it is precisely these enormous and unheard crises and challenges, which could also kindle hope. In history, human rights always gained strength and a new momentum in times of crisis, from the French Revolution until the Holocaust. Human rights remain the only universally recognised value system of our time. The current threats are so existential that they urgently ask for a “new era of human rights”. This idea was the theme of the third Venice Conference on the Global State of Human Rights, which was organised by the Global Campus in partnership with Right Livelihood in July 2023 and assembled the leading voices of human rights in Venice. The participants agreed that now is the time to act. The Venice Statement “Towards a New Era for Human Rights” contains all necessary action points that need to be addressed now. We have no more time to lose!

2023 North-South Prize of the Council of Europe goes to the Global Campus of Human Rights



The North-South Prize of the Council of Europe has been awarded each year since 1995 to two candidates (activists, personalities or organisations) who have stood out for their exceptional commitment to promoting North-South solidarity. The Global Campus was awarded the 2023 Prize “in recognition of its crucial work in ensuring a high-quality accessible human rights education and nurturing a North-South dialogue within a community of

academics, students, lawyers, and experts to support universal human rights and democratic values.” The Global Campus was selected together with Amina Bouayach, President of the Moroccan National Human Rights Council. Previous laureates of the North-South Prize include esteemed figures such as Kofi Annan, Simone Veil, Mary Robinson, Emma Bonino, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Xanana Gusmão, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, and Louise Arbour.



Eamon Gilmore

European Union Special Representative for Human Rights

Throughout my tenure as EU Special Representative for Human Rights, I have worked closely with the Global Campus. Human rights education is critical for the promotion and protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. This

is even more important today, as we face an avalanche of crises and conflicts around the world. I commend the Campus for its tireless work around the world to ensure that human rights remain central to all our actions at global,

regional, national and local level. And I encourage the Campus to continue its efforts to help build a more peaceful and prosperous society, with human rights at its centre.

Eamon Gilmore at the
Global State of Human
Rights conference,
Venice, 14 July 2024.



The unwavering support from the European institutions



In 2023 the European institutions recognised one more time the role of the Global Campus. In the Mid-term Review of the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024 (published in June 2023), the EU Commission declared that “it supported academics at risk, promoted practices to tackle foreign interference in research and innovation, and continued its partnership with the Global Campus of Human Rights, upholding its role not only as an academic network, but also as a global community that promotes and defends human rights and democracy.”

In the European Parliament's annual report 2023 on 'Human rights and democracy in the world and the European Union's policy on the matter', the Parliament “Calls on the Commission to ensure continued high-level support to the Global Campus of Human Rights and Democracy which has provided a safe space for students and scholars who had to flee their countries for defending democracy and human rights, and is a flagship of the EU's support to human rights education worldwide.”

The global network



Elisabetta Noli,
Administrative Director
Giada Ferrarese,
Assistant to Senior
Management

The Global Campus of Human Rights is a community that nowadays builds on over 100 member universities and institutions committed to the tireless promotion and defence of human rights higher education through the most extended coverage worldwide.

2023 was a crucial year for the enlargement of our network, which celebrated the establishment of our new regional hub in Central Asia on 22 September. Coordinated by the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, our eighth hub welcomed the first cohort of the new Master's Programme in Human Rights



European Regional Master's Programme
in Democracy and Human Rights
in South East Europe
ERMA

University of Sarajevo & University of Bologna



European Master's Programme
in Human Rights and Democratisation
EMA

Global Campus HQ in Venice



Master's Programme in Human Rights
and Democratisation in Africa
HRDA

University of Pretoria



Master's Programme in Human Rights
and Democratisation in Latin America
and the Caribbean
LATMA

University of San Martín in Buenos Aires

and Sustainability in Central Asia (MAHRS) this year. The rich geographical representation at the Global Campus was complemented by the recently formalised memberships of three additional universities located in different regions of the globe. After many years of successful collaboration in the context of our capacity development programme, the National University in Timor-Leste and its Human Rights Centre acceded the Global Campus. Similarly, Moldova State University formalised its official accession to the network giving life to a very promising cooperation in the fields of children's rights and climate justice.

And, last but not least, the community was joined by the very first member located in the Dominican Republic: the Universidad Iberoamericana. Together with its expansion, our General Assembly welcomed in September a newly composed Global Campus Council for the period of 2023-2027, formed by representatives of the eight regional Master's programmes and nine representatives elected by the Assembly from its other members. For this new four-year term, Prof. Verónica Gómez, from GC Latin America and the Caribbean was re-elected as Global Campus President.



Global Campus Caucasus

Master's Programme in Human Rights
and Democratisation in the Caucasus
CES

Yerevan State University



Global Campus Central Asia

Master's Programme in Human Rights
and Sustainability in Central Asia
MAHRS

OSCE Academy in Bishkek



Global Campus Arab World

Arab Master's Programme
in Democracy and Human Rights
ARMA

Saint Joseph University in Beirut



Global Campus Asia-Pacific

Master's Programme in Human Rights
and Democratisation in Asia-Pacific
APMA

Mahidol University in Bangkok

Navigating the boundaries: ensuring student safety and well-being in our programmes



Manuela Pegoraro,
Academic Partnerships
Manager
George Ulrich,
Academic Director

In the evolving landscape of human rights education, programmes that cater to future leaders must grapple with multifaceted challenges relating not only to fostering academic excellence but also to student safety and well-being. This is particularly relevant for educators working in overtly repressive political settings but is in fact a concern shared by all Global Campus Master's programmes. The September 2023 meeting of the Global Campus Academic Affairs Committee (AAC), which each month convenes representatives of the eight Global Campus regional programmes to share experience and plan joint activities, was dedicated specifically to an examination of how to react to threats to student safety and how to foster and maintain respectful and conducive classroom dynamics.

Safety concerns, in the experience of Global Campus programme directors and coordinators, relate to threats posed to students who engage in government-critical activities, carry out research in conflict areas and violence-prone social settings, and publish and acknowledge authorship of politically charged research findings. Adverse social media exposure is another risk factor that increasingly demands attention. A related set of challenges confronted by programme coordinators has to do with finding appropriate ways to address nationally or regionally sensitive issues, finding supervisors for 'problematic' thesis topics, and ensuring the safety of students returning to their home country upon completing their degree (a main worry, for example, for the Myanmar, Vietnamese and Chinese students of GC Asia-Pacific).

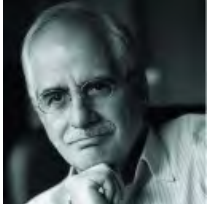
Such considerations present a profound challenge for us as educators as we seek to strike a balance between supporting and encouraging students' commitments—indeed celebrating their courage and visionary leadership—while at the same time protecting them against adverse personal exposure and unwarranted security threats. In a world where vital civic space is shrinking and activists,

including students, are in hiding, jail or fearing retaliation—who should decide on safety measures: the student or the programme? In response to this dilemma, the GC Arab World programme has built a component of risk assessment into the design of research and advocacy projects and, in this way, frames the potential threats posed to students as an integral part of the learning experience. Colleagues in the AAC have flagged this as a best practice and example of how we can draw inspiration from one another in the organisation of regional human rights education.

A related ongoing discussion in the AAC has focused on classroom dynamics. Most, or indeed all, Global Campus programmes have highly diverse student bodies. This brings obvious benefits but also complexities, as the interaction among students—as well as student reactions to programme content and teaching methods—may give rise to charges of (perceived) insensitivity and offensive views/behaviour relating, typically, to gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion and race and, in a wider sense, to geopolitics, privilege and legacies of oppression. Charges of this nature are being encountered with increasing frequency across the Global Campus and have prompted programme organisers to review and reinforce their codes of ethics, organise safeguarding and anti-harassment training, and seek to actively involve students in fostering a conducive learning environment. Additionally, several programmes are stepping up measures to address mental health issues, including by organising workshops and providing personalised support.

In this complex landscape, we are committed to rise to emerging challenges in the educational space while at the same time preserving the core features of established regional programmes, thereby continuing to prepare new generations of human rights professionals for tasks that in the present geopolitical context are more urgently needed than ever.

We applaud the representatives of the eight GC Master's programmes who monthly convene to exchange best practices and challenges and who volunteer their time to support the planning of joint, cross-regional activities: Alina Trkulja (GC South East Europe), Anja Mihr (GC Central Asia), Diego López (GC Latin America-Caribbean), Jihad Nammour (GC Arab World), Kristine Gevorgyan (GC Caucasus), Magnus Killander (GC Africa), Orla Ní Cheallacháin (GC Europe) and Suphatmet Yunyasit (GC Asia-Pacific).



Jorge Taiana

Director of the Centro Internacional de Estudios Políticos, GC Latin America and the Caribbean

In the opening address of the “International Conference on Science and Human Rights” organised by the Global Campus of Human Rights and UNESCO in March 2023 in Buenos Aires, I shared some reflections on a key issue for development: science and technology as tools for the promotion of human rights and the welfare of the population.

Currently, we witness an unprecedented scientific and technological revolution. This revolution is transforming society, culture, economics and politics, and—above all—it is modifying global power relations. For a long time, the countries with a monopoly on scientific knowledge have accumulated power at the global stage, and their efficiency at doing so has widened the inequality gap with countries with little or no access to this kind of strategic resource.

The emergence of an increasingly multipolar world and the great

speed at which knowledge spreads have, in some way, democratised access to scientific innovation and made possible its appropriation at some level by other countries, institutions—among them, universities—and people around the world. Paradoxically, this process also takes place in a context of concentration of economic and financial power.

Public policies that promote investment in science, technology and education ensure the chance for societies to benefit from progress. This chance was evident during the pandemic, when countries developing their own vaccines, thanks to the joint efforts of the public and private sectors, were the first to immunise their populations.

The emergence of a new geopolitical scenario with a growing number of actors and poles of power is also taking place as we face new challenges, such as the development of artificial intelligence and its

foreseeable impact on human rights, ethics, communications and sustainable development. These and other debates are currently ongoing because of the connection between science and human rights. After its International Conference in Buenos Aires, the Global Campus sought to contribute to the debate through other activities carried out in its regional hubs around the world. These joint endeavors between academia, state agencies, international organisations and experts are aimed at promoting access to education and scientific knowledge with a human rights based perspective, gender equality and sustainable development for all.

Jorge Enrique Taiana, sociologist and director of the Centro Internacional de Estudios Políticos (CIEP) at the University of San

Martín, Buenos Aires, is the former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence of Argentina.

Jorge Taiana opening the International Conference on Science and Human Rights in Buenos Aires, 1 March 2023.



Building a strong community of trained experts on case law to affect change



Alberta Rocca,
Elena Battaglia,
Sara Brogliato
and Larisa Barbu,
Training and Project
Department

In 2014, the Training and Project Department and Roberto Chenal, lawyer at the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), had the intuitive idea of devising an educational plan that would professionalise the knowledge and practical use of the values and principles of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) to create a community of experts that would strive to guarantee the respect of the rights set in the Convention through an enlightened and effective application of its case law in their professional activity.

Under the scientific coordination of Chenal, the Global Campus then designed a series of training courses (in short 'CEDU') targeting Italian lawyers, judges and legal practitioners, offering them a unique approach to legal reasoning, practical tools of analysis, updates on the developments on case law, and an inside perspective on latest decisions and judgments of the ECtHR.

Over the years, we have developed trainings as both in-person courses and webinars, as

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law [...].

Article 7, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

well as local workshops developed through partnerships with different Bar Associations in Italy, and they have created a community of like-minded lawyers who meet twice a year in Venice.

Since the early stages of this educational venture, the Global Campus has acknowledged the success and power of the trainings' methodology by witnessing numerous and solid participation, which has today reached more than 800 trained experts, many of whom have attended multiple editions of the courses, thus creating a firm community of loyal professionals.



Participants of the training course on the European Court of Human Rights ('CEDU') in Venice, October 2023.

The relevance of training on the European Court of Human Rights - an interview with Roberto Chenal

What is the success of the Global Campus CEDU trainings, which were able to create an 'addiction' among its users as well as a strong community sharing the same goals?

I believe that what created this connection among the participants is foremost related to the shared values that underpin the ECHR's conception of law and human rights.

As we choose the topics to discuss in seminars, we not only select those that are important for the participants' cultural and legal development, but we also seek to show how the case law of the ECHR can positively affect changes at national level.

Finally, we attempt to use an innovative method, a theoretical-practical approach, which involves participants in the discussion and aims at creating a community where everyone has the tools to participate in and enrich the debate.

Why are the ECHR and the function of the ECtHR still relevant in relation to the human rights challenges and violations that characterise this historical time?

Human rights are widely recognised around the world through constitutional laws or treaties. However, their formal recognition is not enough. Their practical and effective protection, even vis-à-vis well-established democracies, requires a judicial review which, through an evolutive interpretation, ensures an individualised assessment of each case. The main feature of the human rights-based approach stemming from the ECHR system is

the principle of justification of the interferences by public authorities. In this perspective, any individual subjected to the jurisdiction of the ECtHR can directly submit a complaint to the international court regarding acts or omissions committed by the authorities of one of the 46 Member States. Each Member State must justify its choices affecting human rights by demonstrating it has acted in accordance with the principle of legality and that its choices pursue a legitimate aim and are proportionate.

Which are the most groundbreaking cases recently discussed by the ECHR which could have the potential to represent a turning point in the respective domestic system?

The case law of the ECHR is rich and varied. In recent years the ECHR examined relevant cases notably in family law (*Strand Lobben and Others v. Norway*), immigration (*Savran v. Denmark*, *Bivolaru and Moldovan v. France*, *M.S.S. v. Belgium and Greece*), rights of prisoners (*Sy v. Italy*), the principle of legality in criminal law (*Zaja v. Croatia*), privacy (*Big Brother Watch and Others v. the United Kingdom*, *Hurbain v. Belgium*), independence of the judiciary and tribunal established by law (*Walesa v. Poland*, *Guðmundur Andri Ástráðsson v. Iceland*). The principles established in the ECHR's case law had an important impact on the national legal systems and led to structural reforms, increasing the sensitivity of domestic authorities with respect to the importance of implementing the ECHR.

Speakers at the last edition of the CEDU training course in Venice, October 2023. From left to right: Piero De Marzo, Filippo Donati, and Roberto Chenal.



From Timor-Leste to Moldova: new capacity development initiatives



Adriano Remiddi
Head of Capacity
Development Unit

Building upon the successful collaboration with the National University of Timor-Leste between 2019 and 2022, and following an in-depth mapping and consultation phase, the Global Campus launched a comprehensive Capacity Development Programme in 2023. The programme aims to contribute to the affirmation of human rights, democracy and sustainable development in developing countries, countries in transition, emerging democracies, and democracies under pressure. It seeks to establish or enhance human rights education and research activities of universities who are not currently members of the Global Campus or are underrepresented in the 'GC regions'.

Aligned with several strategic objectives of the Global Campus, such as network expansion, digitalisation, and the empowerment of women and youth, capacity development is positioned at the nexus of academia and development cooperation; it offers various support measures and services, such as creating or adapting facilities and IT infrastructure, assisting with curriculum revision to integrate human rights education, providing skills-

building and academic training for lecturers and staff, facilitating internationalisation and mobility schemes, developing or improving library resources and teaching materials (including e-learning tools for digital innovation), and outreach and networking to connect academia with human rights institutions and partners.

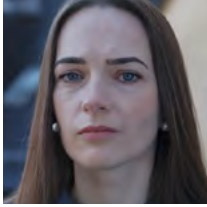
A specific outcome of the stakeholder engagement phase was a new programme designed in partnership with GC Caucasus. Its first aim was to integrate Moldova State University (MSU) and its faculty of law within the GC Caucasus network. More initiatives under this umbrella, including an interdisciplinary Lab for Climate Justice & Human Rights, will be launched in 2024. Finally, the Global Campus Headquarters, in collaboration with GC Asia-Pacific, sustains its commitment to the National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL) through a multi-year cooperation agreement. New initiatives aim to further enhance human rights education and research, also with specialised courses on children's rights education at UNTL's faculties of education, law, and medicine.

Human rights education in higher education: pathways for youth empowerment

Collaborating with stakeholders around the Capacity Development Programme reinforced our partnership with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, particularly its Human Rights Education Unit. Together, we co-hosted a webinar on 13 December, as part of the UN's initiatives for the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Challenges and opportunities in promoting human

rights were discussed, insights from prominent educators and institutions in the field were shared, and inspiring testimonies were brought in by young human rights advocates. Participants included the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, Farida Shaheed and UNESCO Chair, Prof. Felisa Tibbitts. The webinar drew over 150 attendees from around the world, including students from our regional Master's programmes.





Oleksandra Matviichuk

Ukrainian human rights lawyer, Chair of the Center for Civil Liberties and Laureate of the Right Livelihood Award, the Nobel Peace Prize and the Sakharov Award

When the law temporarily fails, and we cannot rely on it, we can still always rely on people. Even if we do not have the political tools, our word and commitments always remain. Ordinary people have much more power than they themselves realise. The voices of millions of people in many countries can change the world faster than any intervention by the United Nations.

Oleksandra Matviichuk, Chairwoman of the Center for Civil Liberties (CCL), is one of the most prominent human rights defenders in Ukraine striving to achieve a full democratic transition and ensure justice. CCL has been instrumental in strengthening Ukrainian civil society and national institutions, while also pushing to further the rule of law and adherence to international law. CCL was awarded the Right Livelihood Award, the Nobel Peace Prize and the Sakharov Award in 2022.

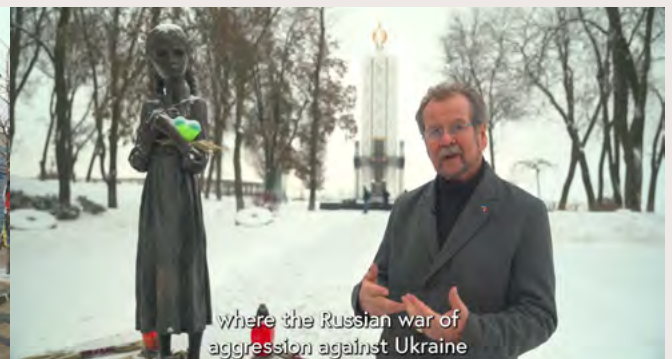
Child abductions in the Russian war on Ukraine

In the context of his mandate as Independent Expert leading the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, GC Secretary General Manfred Nowak was

invited to attend the launch of the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children in Kyiv in December 2023. He became an official member of a related

task force together with other international and Ukrainian experts, working towards the return of children who were forcibly deported from Ukraine to Russia and Belarus.

“I am very grateful to Manfred Nowak for raising the problem of forcibly deported Ukrainian children to Russia.” Oleksandra Matviichuk



Children's rights education across our network



Thobekile Sithole
Children's Rights Manager

Children's rights have come a long way since they were included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed in 1948. The activities carried out within the Global Campus-Right Livelihood partnership have contributed to keeping the 75-year-old promise of universal human rights—and children's rights—alive, especially through the collective efforts of our network in mainstreaming children's rights in the Global Campus Master's programmes. These efforts are a crucial aspect of our commitment to advancing the understanding and application of children's rights principles in human rights education, addressing present-day challenges and contributing to shaping a course of action for a future in which such rights are not only recognised but actively safeguarded.

The mainstreaming of children's rights took place in many ways across the network. For example, GC Europe organised special clusters and weeks on children's rights,

including lectures on child participation in public decision-making focusing on Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Lundy model; GC South East Europe mapped children in decision-making in governmental and non-governmental organisations and developed a policy paper with recommendations; GC Asia-Pacific organised a research seminar on "Child Participation in Research", which resulted in the development of a Children's Rights Research Ethics Training Module that has been incorporated into the mandatory ethics training curricula; GC Africa organised the annual Advanced Human Rights Course on Children's Rights in Africa aimed at empowering professionals across the continent; and GC Arab World integrated children's rights in a regional summer course on the International System for Human Rights Protection, which also included a field visit to Naba'a, a Lebanese NGO serving Palestinian and Lebanese communities.

The Children's Rights Regional Officers team:
Elvis Fokala
GC Africa;
Saara Maaki & Jihad Nammour
GC Arab World;
Fahmina Karim
GC Asia-Pacific;
Mariam Muradyan
GC Caucasus;
Chiara Altafin
GC Europe;
Nejira Pasic
GC South East Europe;
Rocio Comas
GC Latin America and the Caribbean.

Children deprived of liberty in the administration of justice in South Asia

Published in early 2023 and based on the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, the Policy Research on Children Deprived of Liberty in the Administration of Justice in South Asia is the first of its kind. In South Asia, the arrest and detention of children living and working on the streets on the grounds of being a public nuisance or exposed to moral danger are reported time and again. Instead of prevention, states often rely on repressive and punitive policies that lead to excessive criminalisation of children. The juvenile offenders

are often detained for several years and, in some cases, for indeterminate periods. Conditions of detention are generally sub-standard, overcrowded and deny children their rights, such as the right to appropriate health, education and access to parents/guardians. Realising the need for specific research focusing on children deprived of liberty in South Asia, the Kathmandu School of Law, together with researchers from eight South Asian countries, conducted policy research focusing on the detention of children in

police custody, pre-trial detention, and imprisonment in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.



Finally, the Global Campus-Right Livelihood partnership generously funded scholarships (15 in total in academic year 2022-23) for students who wrote their Master's thesis on children's rights, thus playing a vital role in cultivating a cadre of informed and passionate individuals dedicated to advancing the cause of children's rights across various regions and academic disciplines.

Child Leadership Team in Armenia

Originating in the 2022 online child-led conference on mental health, the Armenian GC Child Leadership Team has two leaders, Nane and Lusine, who involved 12 additional peers and organised various activities on mental health. These activities included research among psychologists and children; reaching out to young influencers; and conducting meetings with peer groups, interviews, and public speeches. Children developed an Instagram page and disseminated messages among young influencers. A short reel earning 20,000 views on TikTok was developed by the Armenian influencer Mane Garnikyan who talked about her experience of being bullied

as an adolescent because she has diabetes. On 30 June 2023, the members of the Child Leadership Team were also invited by the national Ombudsman Office to discuss a recent Special Report on Bullying at Schools.

Child-led conference on children's mental health in schools in Africa

On 2 August 2023, moved by the concerning increase in diagnosed mental disorders among children in Africa, the Centre for Human Rights of the University of Pretoria hosted a child-led conference with participants from Cameroon, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, South Africa, Malawi and Zimbabwe. The children joined a panel and shared their experiences, enabling a deeper understanding of the challenges they face concerning mental health. This was reinforced by contributions from experts from South Africa and Kenya on topics including neurodevelopmental learning disorders, stages of development, the impact of the environment when dealing with children's mental health and the intersectionality between children's mental health and substance abuse.

1. Members of the Armenian Child Leadership Team at the Ombudsman Office in Yerevan, 30 June 2023.



2. Participants at the conference on children's mental health in schools in Africa in Pretoria, 2 August 2023.



Children's rights in the digital environment

On 16 June 2023, International Day of the African Child, the Global Campus hosted a webinar on "The Rights of the Child in the Digital Environment". The webinar engaged with both experts (mainly from Africa) and

children about the importance of protecting and promoting child participation and children's rights in light of developments in artificial intelligence and other technological advancements.

Supporting child rights strategic litigation cases against the detention of migrant children



Chiara Altafin
Research Manager

In the framework of the project 'Advancing Child Rights Strategic Litigation' (ACRiSL) and its practice-oriented research activities carried out between 2020 and 2023, the Global Campus provided selected legal practitioners in Asia and Europe with support for legal cases to advance children's rights against migration-related detention through strategic litigation before domestic, regional and international courts and monitoring bodies. Specifically, within the eleven cases that received support (financially or in the form of amicus curiae, third party interventions, written opinions, or technical capacity on argumentation) from the Global Campus, we are proud to report on three emblematic outcomes.

First, the collaboration with a lawyer from Duroo Association for Public Interest Law, based in Seoul, led to the submission of a written opinion by Manfred Nowak and Chiara Altafin to the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Korea in the case *2020HunGa1* concerning an underage Egyptian asylum seeker, imprisoned for two months upon arrival. On 23 March 2023, the Court ruled on the unconstitutionality of Article 63(1) of the National Immigration Act, leading civil society organisations to approach Members of Parliament to discuss related amendments and the adoption of a provision that completely prohibits the immigration detention of children in South Korea.

Second, the collaboration with a lawyer from the Association for Legal Intervention, based

in Warsaw, led to a cassation appeal in the case *II KK 148/22*, concerning the placement of a mother with her child in a guarded centre for foreigners in Poland for approximately 16.5 months. In addition, an amicus curiae brief in support of the appellant was submitted by Dzidek Kedzia, Agata Hauser and Lukasz Szoszkiewicz from the Global Campus network to the Supreme Court of Poland. On 20 June 2023, the Court accepted the cassation appeal concerning compensation for wrongful placement, issuing one of the most important rulings in the area in Poland in recent years.

Third, the collaboration with lawyers from Aditus Foundation and Jesuit Refugee Service Malta, based in Malta, led to file an application *A.D. v. Malta* to the European Court of Human Rights. The case was about an Ivorian minor asylum seeker placed in prolonged detention in terrible living conditions and under various legal regimes with inadequate procedures. A third-party intervention was submitted jointly by the AIRE Centre (Advice on Individual Rights in Europe), the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), the Global Campus of Human Rights (represented by Manfred Nowak and Chiara Altafin who intervened as part of the Global Study component of ACRiSL) and the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE). On 17 October 2023, the Court held Malta accountable for violating Articles 3, 5(1) and 13 of the European Convention of Human Rights, thus shedding light on the deficiencies of Malta's asylum system and the urgent need for systemic reforms.



Marthe Wandou

Cameroonian human rights defender and Right Livelihood Laureate 2021

In the face of significant challenges, we must remain steadfast in our dedication to the rights of vulnerable groups who face severe hardships and are continually left behind. Our organisation, Action Locale pour un Développement Participatif et Autogéré (ALDEPA), was created in 1998 to 'build a just and equitable society with the responsible participation of the population', a holistic approach based on education, and multifaceted assistance to women and children in a context where empowering a woman amounts to empowering the household. The life of the girl-child and women can be challenging, you know!

Of key importance is the collaborative approach we take towards achieving a more comprehensive protection framework with the active involvement of children and their parents, traditional and religious leaders, and local civil authorities. The aim in part is to advance the practice of female and child participation in decision-making within communities.

Equally important is working collaboratively with parents and other primary caregivers, providing them with tools and knowledge to enhance the well-being of their

families—both in schools and the justice system. By fostering open communication and understanding, we strengthen the protective shield around children and empower parents who are in the first line of defence.

Community leaders play a significant role in fostering understanding and support for survivors. Our active collaboration with them raises awareness, eliminating stigma and creating environments that support survivors on their journey to healing and reintegration.

For over 20 years, ALDEPA has been providing shelter for women and girls who are victims of climate disaster, Islamist radicalisation and obnoxious cultural practices, lending them material and psychosocial support and facilitating their reintegration. Recognising that safeguarding the most vulnerable requires a joint effort, we empower the youngest members of our society through their active participation. This approach is fundamental to creating a world where their rights are respected and protected.

Dear Global Campus of Human Rights, your commitment to shaping a world founded on democratic principles aligns seamlessly with

our vision for enhanced protection and participation. ALDEPA and the Global Campus both recognise the existential threats caused by the climate disaster. As a champion for human and environmental rights, I underscore the crucial link between the collaborative involvement of ALDEPA in academic research carried out by students of the Global Campus network and our active involvement at GC-organised events that usually tackle human rights issues at a global scale.

In recognising the complexity of human rights challenges, I extend support for your mission. Your work is instrumental in creating a world where Right Livelihood laureates such as myself can connect activism to academia to give a new facelift to the work we do in communities towards healing and understanding.

Jurist Marthe Wandou is a Cameroonian gender and peace activist who has worked to prevent and fight sexual violence against children, particularly girls, as well as care for survivors of such violence since the 1990s. Through her organisation, ALDEPA,

she has supported the well-being of girls with a holistic approach based on education, psychosocial care and legal assistance. More than 50,000 girls have benefited so far from ALDEPA's work.

Third Global State of Human Rights Conference: towards a new era for human rights



Imke Steimann
Head of Office of the
Secretary General

“With this Venice Statement we declare our commitment to forge a new era of human rights”—our outcome document captured the spirit of the third annual high-level conference on the Global State of Human Rights, which we held at our Global Campus headquarters in Venice on 14-15 July 2023.

Once more, together with our close partner Right Livelihood, we convened some of the most important voices on human rights worldwide, from international organisations, civil society and academia. Over two days of intense discussion, we strategised on approaches to the most pressing human rights challenges: accountability, climate justice, artificial intelligence, and building a resilient international human rights architecture.

2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the 30th anniversary of the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, proving an important moment for us to reflect both on

the past achievements of the global human rights system and how we need to readjust for the future. Inspired by the high-level group of conferences attendees, including representatives from the United Nations, the European Commission and the European Parliament, the Council of Europe and European Court of Human Rights, laureates of the Right Livelihood Award and members of the Global Campus academic community, Global Campus students and alumni, we mapped a pathway and call for action in our Venice Statement. This Statement, with the title “Towards a New Era for Human Rights”, captures six core messages which stood out from the conference and underlines the urgency of immediate and collective action to protect human rights and create a sustainable and peaceful world for present and future generations. The conference discussions were followed by famous journalist and Right Livelihood laureate Amy Goodman, who reported on the event on DemocracyNow!.



Venice Statement: Towards a New Era for Human Rights

We call on members of the global human rights community to use their individual and collective agency to help build momentum for this new era of human rights so that we can rise to the challenges ahead and build a more equitable, sustainable, just, and peaceful future.

Jointly authored by
the Global Campus
and Right Livelihood
with input from many
conference participants.
For the full text, [please
see our website](#).

1. Now is the time for action.
2. Collective and inclusive action underpinned by strong institutions is required.
3. Education, and particularly human rights education, is a fundamental part of the solution.
4. Human rights communication needs to be reimagined, rearticulated and responsive to a changing world.
5. Global commitment to accountability and justice needs a renewal.
6. The human rights architecture needs more resources to be effective and timely.



Volker Türk

UN High Commissioner
for Human Rights

Many thanks for the invitation to be here, among so many distinguished speakers and guests, and in such a beautiful, ancient setting. This weekend we are looking at the future, and at the global state of human rights. We face a huge set of challenges.

Threats to peace and security are tugging the world away from a shared search for solutions and back into hostile blocs. From the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine to the bitter violence in Sudan, Myanmar and elsewhere, civilians are paying the price for leaders' power grabs, and impunity is widespread. Climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss already threaten every place on earth, with massive human rights impact. And this will only get worse. The rights of women, of many ethnic minorities, and of LGBTIQ+ people are being called into question. Civil society and the civic space are

increasingly restricted. And our human rights and personal security are imperilled by digital challenges. Even as new technologies offer tremendous potential for humankind, artificial intelligence and deep fakes fuel polarization – and together with bioengineering, they are moving so quickly that government regulations are hard pressed to keep up. [...]

But while human rights may be under attack, they are also the solution, pointing the way out of today's turmoil. [...]

The Universal Declaration has inspired decades of vibrant, creative, powerful activism and solidarity, empowering people to claim their rights and to engage actively in their communities and societies. Its promises bring hope to millions of people, and the certitude that things could be different. We need that spirit now. [...]

Advancing human rights is the way to combat despair, and it is the path to ensuring solutions to our challenges today, and for generations to come. Despair is often born out of the sense that your life and lives of people you care for count for nothing; that your voice, if you raise it, will be ignored or shut down.

If I have a message to give to you, make sure that human rights is everywhere, in all aspects of our lives, in all aspects of your professions, in all aspects of politics, in all aspects of governance."

Volker Türk was one of the high-level speakers at the third Conference on the State of Human Rights held on 14-15 July in Venice.

This is an excerpt of the opening speech he delivered in our Headquarters, the Monastery of San Nicolò.

Volker Türk with Ravi Prakash Vyas (GC Council Member) and Margot Wallström (former Swedish Foreign Minister and EU Commissioner) at the third Global State of Human Rights Conference in Venice, 15 July 2023.





Margot Wallström

**Former Swedish Foreign Minister
and EU Commissioner**

Since I am looking forward to having a new grandchild born this autumn, I am thinking about what kind of life she will have in thirty years' time. I really think that we need to keep the discussion about human rights alive. There has to be also political leadership and responsibility placed

on governments and political leaders around the world. We have to help and support the human rights defenders who live under very tough pressure in many countries around the world. [The Global State of Human Rights Conference organised by the Global Campus]

is a chance to inspire each other and hopefully also be able to come up with some ideas about how to refresh and renew the institutions we have and look at whether new rights have to be included in the list of international human rights.



Dunja Mijatović

**Council of Europe Commissioner
for Human Rights**

I am very happy to be here with so many colleagues — with so many friends who are champions of human rights and the fight for human rights. But, I think it is also important in relation to my work at the Council of Europe, as Commissioner for Human Rights, to talk about the regional approach to challenges, main priorities, and also solutions for the future.

My message would always be directed to new generations, to young people, to all that are actually looking at us not only today but looking at the international organisations and looking at so many places where there is an expectation that we do more — that we win hearts and minds on issues related to the environment, to artificial intelligence, but also basic

human rights. What we need is a re-commitment by member states, by governments, by people in power. We need more courage from them in addressing human rights. And we need to deliver this to young generations in order to make sure that there is peace, justice and ordinary normal life, nothing more.

Music, arts and human rights

Living and working in one of the world's cultural capitals, and within the framework of the annual high-level conference on the Global State of Human Rights, the Global Campus joined forces with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, located in Venice, for a high-level public debate followed by a lively concert of the Human Rights Band in UNESCO's beautiful courtyard on 14 July 2023.

Linking the arts and human rights, we also used the occasion to turn the cloister of our Monastery of San Nicolò into an exhibition space. Global Campus alumni showed their inspiring photographic works: "Departed" by Christian Vium on the hardships of crossing borders and seeking refuge, and "Lebanon: In a State of Unrest", showing different lives and stories from the Middle East, by Stephanie de la Barra, Rebecca Steinbichler and Marwa Boushji.

The Human Rights Band playing for the guests of our high-level conference on the Global State of Human Rights, 14 July 2023, Venice.



The photo exhibit "Lebanon: In a State of Unrest" shows thirty stories. "The people tell their own stories in their own words. Different realities are shown that exist side by side. With this project, we emphasise on the region of the Middle East and on Lebanon especially. Thanks to everyone who has made it possible for us to bring all of these perspectives here." Stephanie & Rebecca from the Artist Collective Lechesis, 15 July 2023, Venice.



Let's not take democracy for granted: a MOOC on transitology



Angela Melchiorre,
E-learning Manager
Daniela La Mattina,
E-learning Executive
Officer

Promoting, protecting and fulfilling human rights and fundamental freedoms goes hand in hand with ensuring respect for the rule of law and the will of the people as “the basis of the authority of government” (UDHR, Article 21). In this light, analysing democratic political transformation and regime changes in various parts of the world becomes essential to uphold the universal values of human rights and democracy. This needed analysis is why we decided to run our MOOC on “[Transitology: Pathways to and from Democracy](#)” (20 February – 26 March 2023). Led by Anja Mihr (GC Central Asia) and building strongly on our capacity for global analysis, our first specific MOOC in the area of democratisation also included renowned external guests such as Pippa Norris, Wolfgang Merkel and Leonardo Morlino. From within our network, we were pleased to host live webinars with Damir Kapidžić from the University of Sarajevo and Thomas Millar from the European Commission. Among other highlights, participants appreciated the testimonies of Mozn Hassan and Jacqueline Moudeina, both Right Livelihood Laureates.



Starting with general theories of democratisation, transition and political regime change, the course analysed concepts of political and societal transition and change of regimes (democratisation). It also highlighted different modes of governance. The democratic transformation and consolidation of political regimes and institutions were seen as democracy in action, therefore giving MOOC participants much food for thought for their work.

“This course helped me to understand the principles of illiberal populism, which describes better the way African leaders and some leaders in some part of the world behave towards their population and what democracy means to them. This will help me definitely in my work to know how to avoid problems and to better adapt my organisation activities in such countries for my message to be more impactful.” MOOC participant

In fact, also deemed inspiring for well-versed attendees (11% from governmental and intergovernmental institutions), the course was considered by many as a toolkit for understanding contemporary challenges and enhancing practitioners' knowledge, which is significant as 24% of participants worked in non-governmental organisations. In a world where there is a general lack of awareness of the role that the transition to and from democracy can play in upholding human rights standards, or how human rights can facilitate such transition, our MOOC offered a free space for relevant and impactful discussions. In the words of one participant: “I see this course as a wake-up call for citizens to not take democracy for granted.” Relevant information and analyses of participant feedback can be found in our [digital report](#).

“As a political science student with an interest in political analysis, the analysis of democracy and everything regarding the transition and/or backsliding of it is very up my alley, and I honestly think this course has taught me things that the curriculum in my university courses isn't able to fully get into.” MOOC participant

Doctor Gino Strada, late Right Livelihood Laureate

In 2015, Gino Strada was awarded the Right Livelihood Award “for his great humanity and skill in providing extraordinary medical and surgical services to the victims of conflict and injustice, while fearlessly addressing the causes of war”. Dr. Strada (1948-2021) was an Italian surgeon and outstanding humanitarian who provided high-quality medical and surgical services to victims of war

“I appeal to all of you: working together for a world without war is the best we can do for the generations to come.” Gino Strada

for two decades. Emergency, the organisation which he co-founded in 1994, runs over 60 hospitals, clinics and first-aid posts from Afghanistan to Sudan, often collaborating with local governments and operating to transfer medical knowledge and expertise to local health service professionals. Strada and

Emergency have also campaigned forcefully against the root causes of war and human suffering, speaking out against Italian military involvement in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and playing a leading role in the successful campaign that resulted in Italy banning the production and use of antipersonnel landmines in 1997.

With the dramatic rise of armed conflicts worldwide and the disproportional impact that they increasingly have on children, especially on their rights to a dignified life, access to health and education, the Global Campus decided to commemorate 2023 World Children's Day with a communication campaign in memoriam of Doctor Gino Strada. The video animation, based on his moving and inspirational acceptance speech of the Right Livelihood Award delivered in Stockholm on 30 November 2015, is a powerful testament that stirs the soul and must not be forgotten after his untimely passing.



Fostering democracy through principles and practices of electoral processes



Alberta Rocca,
Elena Battaglia,
Sara Brogliato
and Larisa Barbu,
Training and Project
Department

Democratisation is a complex process that requires long-term engagement and commitment to democratic values by national stakeholders and international partners alike. Regular, inclusive, transparent and legitimate elections are the indispensable foundation for sustainable development and effective democracy. However, additional actions to support effective follow-up on election observation mission recommendations are needed to help build and shape a shared process that aims to strengthen the system of governance of a given country through technical assistance.

Enlightened and inspired by these virtuous principles, we have collaborated with election expert Demetrio Lazagna since 2012 in designing a series of training courses channelling his expertise into an educational offer that has trained almost 600 future election officials and experts in election monitoring and technical assistance methodologies. With the support of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Italy, the Czech Republic and Spain, the European External Action Service, and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, these training programmes have their historical and structural basis in international legal instruments such as the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers (2005).

Along with reporting procedures that are the basic elements every observer must master, there is also the need of an ever-updated overview of current and future challenges. As this vastly changes over time, the newest trends that have lately impacted elections consist in the employment of New Technologies of Information and Communication (NTIC) in various phases of the electoral cycle. Concrete examples of NTIC are electronic voting, the use of biometrics, deep fake imagery, social networks and artificial intelligence.

The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 21, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The GC training programmes have, therefore, been enriched in space and resources with dedicated sessions on the study of these topics and with the guidance of experts and professionals who help develop critical reasoning on the role of NTIC, which have dual and contrasting outcomes. On the one hand, they have in fact the potential to assist election and post-election management efforts; on the other hand, they may undermine electoral integrity and democratic accountability.

Only a well-trained community of practitioners can represent a solution to such challenges. Giving our trainees the knowledge and tools to anticipate and recognise these challenges in their context and efficiently address them represents a concrete step towards sustaining peace and security, preventing conflict, and strengthening democratic processes.



Participants practising
at the training course
held in Venice,
November 2023.

How the Global Campus continues to support defenders in exile



Imke Steimann and
Julia Runte,
Programme for
Threatened Students
and Scholars

2023 marked another important human rights anniversary: It was 25 years ago that the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders was adopted, not only underlining the crucial role of human rights defenders (HRDs) but calling on each one of us to realise that we are part of a global human rights movement which needs our constant advocacy and support. It is in this spirit that the Global Campus put a focus on supporting HRDs, especially those who are forced into exile due to conflict or repressive and authoritarian regimes.

The Global Campus scholarship programme for threatened Afghan students and scholars continued in 2023, benefitting 26 recipients and 47 dependents.. Current and past recipients regularly update us about what they are doing, and they have continued to amaze us—showing how important this programme has been for many at a critical moment in their lives. We hear about conference presentations, papers being published and speaking engagements at important convenings, such as the UN Human Rights Council.

We held our Afghanistan Symposium on 31 March 2023 in Venice, where we hosted many of our scholarship recipients in person at the Global Campus headquarters. We discussed the human rights situation in Afghanistan and heard many personal stories, both from our scholarship recipients and expert speakers. It was an emotional day for all, discussing the

country they love and have needed to leave, and meeting face-to-face for the first time. On the day after, we held our second Nowruz (Afghan New Year's) celebration with a sunny day of Afghan music, dancing, and food. We were also excited to see Afghanistan feature strongly at the EMA Graduation Ceremony in September. Sima Samar, Right Livelihood Laureate and former President of the Afghan Human Rights Commission, held a keynote speech. Charlemagne Gomez, EMA alumna and founder of the Afghans in Crisis Network, received the prestigious EMAlumni Award for her outstanding work in Afghanistan and galvanising the EMA network for this purpose.

Building on our work related to Afghan HRDs, we started a new project with our close partner Right Livelihood on “Reconceptualising Exile”. This programme supports 10 human rights experts and defenders from different corners of the world who are unable to carry out their human rights work in their countries of origin because of a repressive environment and, therefore, have decided to leave to continue advancing their causes in exile. Instead of allowing repressive governments to silence their voices, the programme strives to create transnational support structures and mechanisms for HRDs to have a continued impact, both in their home and host communities. We look forward to many exciting developments in 2024.

“I’d like to thank you Global Campus for helping scholars, and I request them kindly to continue supporting Afghanistan, particularly to the scholars. They are the main group who can help Afghanistan in the future.”

Scholarship recipient and PhD student at Mahidol University Bangkok



Hope is the way forward: a new podcast series



Angela Melchiorre,
E-learning Manager
Weronika Grelow,
E-learning Executive
Officer

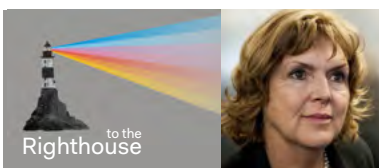
Ever since its adoption on 10 December 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) has been seen as a beacon of hope for humanity or “the light that shines and guides how we relate to each other” (Michelle Bachelet, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights). After 75 years, it seemed to us not only appropriate but also extremely fitting to reverberate that message in our podcast “To the Righthouse”—symbolised by a lighthouse—and devoted to hope in its second series.

For the series “Hope-based human rights”, we started from a simple question: current human rights-related issues, such as the fragility of democracy or refugee and environmental emergencies, lend themselves to negative prospects and a sense of hopelessness. How much would all this change if we were to take a new approach, a new narrative focused on solutions, visualising the goal rather than highlighting the obstacles?

With this question in mind, we wanted people to see ‘moments for action’ not ‘crises’, to think and talk about authentic stories of individuals embodying ‘power, determination and dignity’. We wanted our listeners to discover that human rights do, in fact, work and to concentrate on positive lived experiences and not only on negative feelings of suffering. Inspired by the spirit of the UDHR and the numerous achievements flowing from it, we moved away from ‘crisis narratives’ or human rights discourses focused on denouncing the wrongs and instead argued that hope, empathy and solidarity are more effective frames to talk about human rights.

To fulfill this idea, our host Graham Finlay from University College Dublin invited five guests who discussed a different theme each week where hope is a game-changer: from the need to stress positive human rights achievements (Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders) to the power of telling a human story (award-winning author Andrew Leon Hanna). We also focused on ways to prompt positive and engaged reactions to human rights issues (George Ulrich, GC Academic Director) and provided intimate testimonies from remote areas showing the perseverance of human rights defenders (GC Caucasus alumna and award-winning documentarist Marina Shupac). The final episode helped us reflect on practicing hope and the picture of the world we want to see (GC Europe alumnus Thomas Coombes, founder of Hope-based Communications).

The fact that podcast followers have so far come from 85 countries and have demonstrated consistent engagement, including thousands of impressions on social media, shows the worldwide thirst for such a hopeful approach. The way forward is clear to us. By amplifying positive vibrations, voices and experiences, we can create a new vision of welcoming, open behaviour. To bring about this vision is not only the role of media, politicians and human rights experts: each and every person has the great power to influence our daily realities through single, individual, positive actions. Hope can unite us in the call for cooperation, connection and solidarity.



Hope is like the fuel that allows human rights defenders to think something will be better, something has to be better.

Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders



Felipe Gomez Isa

Pedro Arrupe Human Rights Institute,
University of Deusto and
Global Campus Council Member

In the context of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1998), also known as the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI) organised an International Conference at the University of Deusto (Bilbao) in September 2023. It was an opportunity for academics, human rights activists, governmental officials and some international organisations to gather to collectively reflect about the situation that HRDs face worldwide. The adoption of the Declaration on HRDs 25 years ago marked a turning point, emphasising the right to defend human rights together with many other rights necessary for HRDs in their work to promote all rights for everyone. The Declaration has paved the way for significant legal, institutional and jurisprudential developments for the protection of the work of HRDs. The most recent legal development is the adoption of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation

and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (the Escazú Agreement, 2018), the first international treaty that establishes specific protections for environmental defenders. Additionally, some relevant institutions have been created to support the work of HRDs, such as the UN Special Rapporteur on HRDs (2000), the Special Rapporteur on HRDs created by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (2004), and the Special Rapporteur mandated by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (2011) to protect HRDs and give greater visibility to their work. These mechanisms have contributed immensely to the implementation of the Declaration on HRDs.

In spite of these very relevant developments, the truth is that HRDs face unprecedented restrictions and attacks that include intimidation, threats, killings, disappearances, torture and ill-treatment, arbitrary detention, surveillance, stigmatisation and criminalisation by States and by non-State actors.

Manfred Nowak, Secretary General of the Global Campus of Human Rights, made a presentation in the AHRI Conference on the role that

the Global Campus is playing in the support to HRDs. He emphasised the Venice School for Human Rights Defenders that every year, in cooperation with the European Parliament, offers a space for discussion and reflection to HRDs from different parts of the world. Similarly, the Global Campus has participated in a project sponsored by the European Union to host Afghan scholars and human rights activists in universities of the network of the Global Campus. This project has supported 39 scholars to increase their capacities to continue working in the field of human rights.

The AHRI Conference finished with the adoption of the Bilbao Declaration on HRDs, where the members of AHRI made a call "on the international community, international organisations, States, regional and local governments, non-State actors and academia to take responsibility for effective measures to protect HRDs, to support their activities, and to create and secure an enabling environment conducive to the full exercise of their rights, their effective protection, and their vital contribution to society".

Prof. Felipe Gomez Isa is
GC Europe faculty, GC
Council Member and
former Vice-President

of the Global Campus.
He is also a member
of the AHRI Executive
Committee.

A sample of events and programmes organised by the Global Campus and in collaboration with our partners

JANUARY	• Talk <i>Myanmar Opposition on the Border</i>, Bangkok (GC Asia-Pacific) • Seminar <i>Failed Democracy in the Asia-Pacific</i>, Bangkok (GC Asia-Pacific)	• Kick-off event of the programme <i>Promoting Human and Children's Rights Education at Moldova State University</i>, Chisinau
FEBRUARY	• Webinar on the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, online	• MOOC <i>Transitology – Pathways to and from Democracy</i>, online
MARCH	• <i>Human Rights Week and International Conference on Science and Human Rights</i>, Buenos Aires (GC Latin America and the Caribbean) • Publication of the Volume 6.1 of the Global Campus Human Rights Journal	• Training course on the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, Venice • <i>Afghanistan Symposium</i> and second Nowruz Celebration under the <i>Threatened Afghan Students and Scholars Programme</i>, Venice
APRIL	• Presentation of the results of the research <i>Education Preparedness Index in Covid-19</i>, Yerevan (GC Caucasus) • Strategic litigation workshop <i>Human Rights, Climate Emergency and Methane</i>, Buenos Aires (GC Latin America and the Caribbean)	• Training course <i>Strengthening Political Processes Through Technical Assistance</i>, Venice • Spring School <i>Human Rights in Central Asia</i>, Issyk Kul (GC Central Asia)
MAY	• Webinar on the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, online • Event <i>Education in Emergency</i>, Yerevan (GC Caucasus)	• Webinar <i>New media and the fight for human rights and democracy</i>, online (GC South East Europe)
JUNE	• Launch of <i>Hope-based Human Rights</i>, second series of the podcast 'To The Righthouse', online • <i>Venice School for Human Rights Defenders</i>, Venice • Webinar <i>The Rights of the Child in the Digital Environment</i> to commemorate the International Day of the African Child, online	• End-of-Project event on <i>Advancing Child Rights Strategic Litigation: Ways Forward</i>, Nottingham • Presentation of the <i>UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty</i>, Chisinau • <i>Thulani Maseko Memorial Lecture</i>, Pretoria (GC Africa)



JULY	• <i>Third High-Level Conference on the Global State of Human Rights</i>, Venice • <i>15th Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition</i>, Geneva (GC Africa)	• Summer course <i>Introduction to the international human rights system</i>, Beirut (GC Arab World)
AUGUST	• <i>Summer School on Cinema, Human Rights and Advocacy</i>, Venice	• Publication of the Global Campus awarded theses 2021/2022
SEPTEMBER	• Opening of the regional Master's programme in Human Rights and Sustainability in Central Asia (MAHRS), Bishkek (GC Central Asia)	• EMA Graduation Ceremony, Venice (GC Europe) • Presentation of the Engaged Activist Award, Venice
OCTOBER	• ERMA Graduation Ceremony, Sarajevo (GC South East Europe) • MOOC <i>Children's Mental Health: Rights and Perspectives</i>, online	• Publication of the Volume 6.2 of the Global Campus Human Rights Journal • Launch of the <i>Threatened Afghan Students and Scholars Monthly Speaker Series</i>, online • Advanced seminar on the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, Venice
NOVEMBER	• Webinar <i>Protection of Children in Gaza from International Crime</i>, online (GC Arab World) • Launch of the video in memoriam of the late Right Livelihood Laureate Gino Strada, online • Award Presentation by Right Livelihood, Stockholm	• Training course for international electoral observers (IEO), Venice • <i>Global Child Leadership Team Event</i> to commemorate the World Children's Day, online
DECEMBER	• GC-OHCHR webinar <i>Human Rights Education in Higher Education: Pathways for Youth Empowerment</i>, online	



Elisa Aquino
Communications
and PR Manager

To celebrate 75 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Global Campus launched the Joint Annual Engaged Artist Award on Atrocity Prevention and Human Rights, organised in partnership with the Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities and the Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention at Binghamton University. The purpose of the award is to recognise the work of Artists (artist-activists), highlighting the original ways in which they respond creatively to large-scale identity-based violence and mass atrocity in varying conflict contexts and geographic regions across the globe.

The concept of “Art as Atrocity Prevention” is related to the role of the arts in mitigating risk factors associated with genocide, other mass atrocities and identity-based violence, as well as the use of the arts as a powerful tool to contribute to the transformation of post-atrocity societies. Among other things, artistic interventions can be seen as preventive when they contribute to improving the human rights of groups of people who have been marginalised, call attention to violence or discrimination against groups of people, demand justice for past human rights violations, or depict visions for a different future where identity-based violence is less likely to occur.

The award emphasises the ways in which Artists around the world are working directly to mitigate atrocity risk factors, as well as the importance of art as an effective tool in the processes of healing, reconciliation and reparations. It encourages engaged artists to reflect on their role in the prevention of identity-based violence and the promotion of human rights by taking action, choosing a human rights issue and using art as a tool for effective communication.

The winner of the first edition was Zahara Gómez Lucini, a Spanish-Argentinian photographer currently based in Mexico City, and her work focused on the victims of forced disappearance, forensic work and clandestine graves in Latin America. Zahara received a Murano glass art prize created by the Venetian designer Eleonora Vaccari and was honoured during the graduation ceremony of the European Master's in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA) in the Scuola Grande di San Rocco in Venice in September 2023, where the artist's selected work was displayed.

The second call for applications is ongoing and will be awarded at the 2024 EMA graduation ceremony. In addition to a stipend, the selected Artists benefit from a year-long residency at both the GC HQ in Venice and Binghamton University in New York, as well as visits to one of the offices of the Auschwitz Institute in either New York, Buenos Aires, Kampala, Bucharest, or Oświęcim (Auschwitz).



Artist Zahara Gómez Lucini and Dr. Tibi Galis, Executive Director of the Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities, 24 September 2023, Venice.

“Education is a human right
with immense power to transform.
On its foundation rest
the cornerstones of freedom,
democracy and sustainable
human development.”

Kofi Annan

The Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa

HRDA



Global Campus
Africa

People

Frans Viljoen
Michelle Maziwisa
Magnus Killander
Rotondwa Mashige
Emily Laubscher
Elvis Fokala
Davina Murden

Regional Network

University of Pretoria,
South Africa — *coordinator*

Université d'Abomey-Calavi,
Benin

Université Catholique
d'Afrique Centrale, Cameroon

Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

University of Ghana, Ghana

University of Nairobi, Kenya

University of Mauritius,
Mauritius

Universidade Eduardo Mondlane,
Mozambique

University of Lagos, Nigeria

Université Gaston Berger
de Saint Louis, Senegal

University of Venda, South Africa

University of the Western Cape,
South Africa

Makerere University, Uganda

GC Africa, coordinated by the Centre for Human Rights at the Law Faculty of the University of Pretoria, continued to deliver a very successful programme jointly with 13 African partners. The Centre, founded in 1986 as part of domestic efforts against the apartheid system of the time, prides itself in its tradition of training outstanding human rights experts, who go on to take various roles across the continent and beyond to advance human rights. Each year, nearly 400 students submit applications. From this pool, approximately 80 are shortlisted and asked to compose a brief essay on a human rights topic. As in previous years, the 2022-23 selection process focused on upholding very high standards while promoting diversity. Concretely, in targeting specific countries when admitting students, GC Africa strives to further empower civil society to play a stronger role in sensitive areas, such as human rights defenders and torture, where they are most at risk, such as in Eritrea, Eswatini and Uganda.

The selected top 27 students resided on the Future Africa Residence of the University of Pretoria during the first semester. Similar to

other GC programmes, GC Africa introduced workshops on sexual harassment and cultural adaptation in 2023, with the aim to assist students in managing expectations and fostering mutual respect despite their diverse backgrounds.

The inaugural Christof Heyns Memorial Lecture

On 28 July 2023, the Centre held its first Lecture in memory of late Christof Heyns and his vision for the involvement of the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria in the Global Campus network. The event featured a panel discussion titled "Human Rights at a Crossroads", in line with Christof's values of inclusion and collaboration, in which key questions were explored: Are we at a crossroads as the global human rights project faces increasing challenges in its 75th year since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? How did we reach this point, and where do we go from here? The event attracted approximately 150 in-person attendees, and around 50 participants online.

From left to right: Justice Albie Sachs; Hon. Yvonne Dausab; Justice Mumba Malila; Prof Frans Viljoen, Pretoria, July 2023.



Thulani Maseko Memorial Lecture



On 21 June 2023, GC Africa honoured its alumnus Thulani Rudolf Maseko, assassinated five months before in what appeared deliberate silencing of the lawyer

and human rights defender. The inaugural lecture was held in partnership with the University of Eswatini Faculty of Law, Law Society of Eswatini and CANGO.

Alumni Networking Roundtable

The Centre organized an HRDA Alumni Networking Roundtable on July 27-28, 2023, which functioned as both an academic conference and a networking event. This event was designed to facilitate the exchange of ideas, information, and methods among a regional network of human rights experts who are alumni, promote intergenerational dialogue, and support personal and career network building among these alumni. It also aimed to encourage alumni to reinvest in the GC Africa programme by serving as lecturers

and facilitators for professional placements and internships. Additionally, the event sought to improve employability and identify specific needs and gaps in the human rights field across the region through interaction with alumni who occupy roles that current students aspire to. During the event, thirty-five alumni presented on current human rights issues across Africa, covering a wide range of topics including democracy, judicial independence, climate change, conflict, women's rights, disability rights, and the rights of sexual minorities.



The 32nd edition of the Christof Heyns African Human Rights Moot Court Competition brought together 47 teams from 14 African countries in Kumasi, Ghana, on 3-9 September 2023, the biggest gathering since before COVID-19.



GC Africa Alumni attending the Alumni Networking Roundtable, Pretoria, July 2023.

Vera Chirwa Award

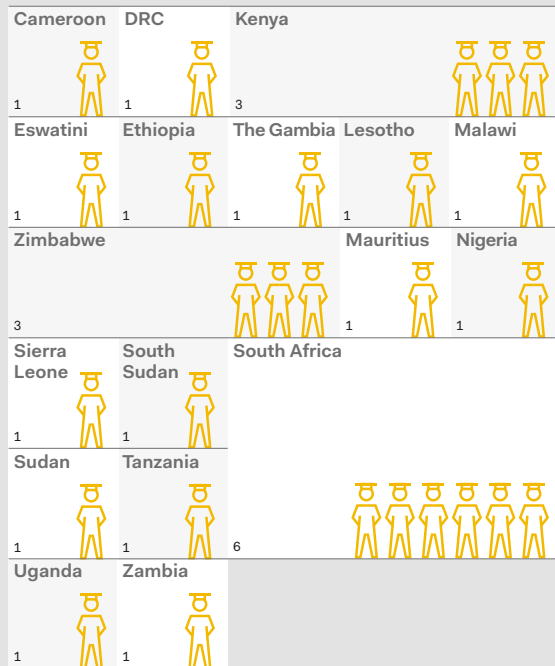


Ms. Grace Wakio Kakai, the Deputy Registrar of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, was honored with the Vera Chirwa Award for her significant contributions to the advancement of human rights in Africa. Her efforts in strengthening

the African Court's institutional systems, jurisprudence, and the mentorship of human rights advocates were particularly recognized. In her acceptance speech, Ms. Kakai highlighted the award's importance, stating it underscores the privilege and

duty of advocating for justice and human rights. She dedicated the award to the collective efforts of the African Court's Judges and staff, emphasizing their shared commitment to a better Africa where human rights, justice, and the rule of law prevail.

Countries of origin of graduates



GC Africa in numbers

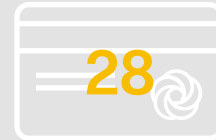


Member universities



Graduates

92% satisfaction rate



Scholarships



Professional courses

open to external audience

“I truly appreciated the opportunity to engage directly with African human rights experts. Transitioning from reading their work to engaging in face-to-face discussions was extremely invaluable: I gained insights about the practical application and the challenges of operating in environments where political support for human rights is lacking.” GC Africa student

GC Africa students graduated officially on 8 December 2023 at the campus of the University of Pretoria. After a competitive and rigorous selection process, three of them were chosen to undertake a prestigious internship at three of the African Union human rights bodies.



The Arab Master's Programme in Democracy and Human Rights

ARMA



Global Campus
Arab World

People

Sami Nader
Jihad Nammour
Mayada Abdallah
Louise Lagarde
Rania Salem
Hazem Mizyed
Sara Makki
Lien Arits
Omar Shareqi

Regional Network

Saint Joseph University
of Beirut, Lebanon — *coordinator*

University of Carthage, Tunisia

International University of Rabat,
Morocco

Birzeit University, Palestine

University of Southern Denmark,
Denmark

Danish Institute for Human Rights,
Denmark

With the participation of academics from:

Cairo University, Egypt
University of Jordan, Jordan

The GC Arab World, coordinated by Saint Joseph University of Beirut, has been steadily broadening its reach and solidifying its role as a key player in human rights education across the Arab world, thus evolving into a stronger regional hub that connects universities and organisations dedicated to human rights education. In 2023, ArMA collaborated with the UN Training and Documentation Centre to conduct a regional course on the International Human Rights System. Additionally, it launched a student exchange program with other postgraduate programmes in Human Rights across the Arab world, enabling students to spend a semester in Beirut.

The GC Arab World was also involved in two cross regional activities: "Representing the absence: creative and educational practices towards transitional justice and a shared memory in a post conflictual environment", with the University of Bologna; and "Paths of Peace", a study trip in Lebanon around the implementation of the Agenda 'Women Peace and Security', in collaboration with the University of Padova (both Italian universities are GC members).

Through the GC Capacity Building Programme, collaboration was attempted with Sana'a University in Yemen, which had shown interest in joining the Arab World network for some time. Unfortunately, progress has been halted due to the current security situation.

Summer Academy on Human Rights

In 2023, ArMA launched its first Summer Academy on Human Rights, featuring three short courses and a workshop. This initiative was developed in collaboration with several partners: the UN Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (OHCHR), Terre des Hommes (Switzerland), the MENA Prison Forum (Germany/Lebanon), the Tom Lantos Institute, and with support from the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues. The Academy's curriculum included a short course on children's rights, an introductory course on the international human rights system in the region tailored for Arab youth, a short course on Minority Issues and Rights, and a workshop titled "Arab Prisons: Human Rights and the Issue of Justice through the Arts." These educational offerings attracted over 60 students from 13 different Arab countries.

“The diverse perspectives of both lecturers and classmates broadened my understanding of global issues. ArMA has equipped me with the skills and mindset necessary to make a meaningful contribution in the field of human rights, and help vulnerable people who aren't able to speak up.” GC Arab World student

On 6 June 2023, Beirut's Laban Theatre, an art-pacification organisation that uses improv and the dramatic arts as tools to foster peace and community, partnered with the University of Bologna in Italy and GC Arab World to develop a training day on the use of interactive theatre techniques and their impact on communities. The day concluded with a playback theatre performance.



Curricular internships

For the academic year 2022-23, GC Arab World placed a special emphasis on internships for its students, with placements in local, national, regional and international organisations: the Tunisian Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, the Arab Institute for Human Rights, Access to Information Authority, Legal Agenda and the Danish Institute for Human Rights (in Tunisia), Desarrollo y Consultoría Pro-Mundis (in Jordan), AL-LAMI Mamoon (in Iraq), Act of the Disappeared, the Institute of Palestine Studies, Women's Programs Association, WeWorldGVC Lebanon, Besme International Group for Humanitarian Assistance, the Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering, Janah Center, Lebanon of Tomorrow, Nation Station, Sworld Research Hub and War Child Holland (in Lebanon).

Focus on children's rights

The 2023 student-led research project was linked to child rights: during the month of January, students carried out field visits, conducted interviews, organised focus groups and collected survey responses in all regions of Lebanon, engaging with pupils, parents, teachers and school directors. The data collected formed the foundation for the study "Enrolment in Private and Semi-Private Schools in Lebanon," which was published in collaboration with the Educational Centre for Research and Development of the Lebanese Ministry of Education. Within the Human Rights Project Design course, students developed, implemented and assessed three projects related to children's rights:

- Seeds of Good, whose objective is to make a community place child-friendly through equipping the space with toys, books, games, art supplies and outdoor furniture, as well as enacting a child protection policy.
- Little Authors, which seeks to empower children who are victims of the Beirut explosion to explore their imagination, express feelings, and relieve traumatic experiences to a self-healing state.
- Psychosocial Art Therapy Intervention in Ouzai and Karantina, which aims to provide children with access to psychosocial art therapy and improve their wellbeing and mental health.

In addition, and with the support of Right Livelihood, GC Arab World has developed activities throughout 2023 to enhance children's rights in the Arab region through research, education and capacity building. Among these activities, and inspired by the work of the Centre for Human Rights of the University of Pretoria (GC Africa), a short course on children's rights was offered to students from other Lebanese universities, and included a seminar on contemporary child justice and a Child Rights Clinic. Finally, partnerships have been initiated with the Lebanese NGOs Naba'a, whose mission is to empower marginalised communities so they uphold the rights of children, and Manara Network for Child Rights, a coalition of volunteer organisations, associations and civil Arab networks.

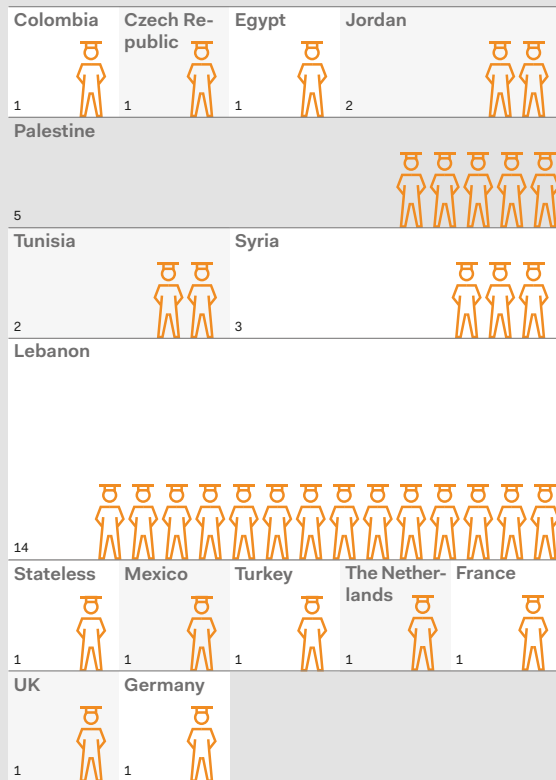


In the context of the 75th anniversary of the UDHR, GC Arab World and the UN Center for Training and Documentation held a summer course on the International Human Rights System, 17-21 July, Beirut.



GC Arab World organised several seminars on the war on Gaza such as "International Law Perspective on the Israel-Hamas War" and "Protecting Children in Gaza from International Crimes" with experts from the region, including Hajer Gueldich, professor at Carthage University and Dana Farraj, researcher from Birzeit University.

Countries of origin of students



GC Arab World in numbers



Participating universities



Graduates

95% satisfaction rate



Curricular internships



Outreach events



Training programmes



Scholarships

“These days some people say it's useless to study or talk about human rights while the whole world is watching what is happening in Gaza, and do nothing about it. But the worst thing would be not knowing what are our rights, how important to advocate and fight for them! This is the most important thing I have learned during the ArMA programme.”

GC Arab World student

In September 2023, ArMA graduating students and students from the 2023-24 cohort jointly participated in a trip to the Chouf region of Lebanon located south-east of Beirut. They explored the former capital of Mount Lebanon, Deir el Qamar, and visited various sites, including the Palace of Emir Youssef Chehab, which now houses the municipal council.



The Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (Asia-Pacific)

APMA



Global Campus
Asia-Pacific

People

Mike Hayes
Suphatmet Yunyasit
Fahmina Karim
Arinkorn Kittisirachad
Thepsuda Boonjue

Regional Network

Mahidol University,
Thailand — *coordinator*

Universitas Gadjah Mada,
Indonesia

Kathmandu School of Law,
Nepal

Ateneo de Manila University,
the Philippines

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Associate member:

Universidade Nacional
Timor Lorosa'e, Timor-Leste

In the academic year 2022-23 GC Asia-Pacific, coordinated by the Institute for Human Rights and Peace Studies at Mahidol University, welcomed a return to normalcy with on-campus education after two years of COVID-19 closures. There were some challenges with teaching on campus, as travel was difficult for some, which delayed the start of the semester. The political situation in Myanmar caused difficulty for some students to travel, and the political troubles in Sri Lanka caused severe problems for the second semester as riots stopping students from accessing the campus, and the economic collapse made living difficult for the students.

Nevertheless, having students experience the benefits of in-person classes after two years and the opportunity to physically interact with their classmates, professors, and guest lecturers increased the quality of the programme. As GC Asia-Pacific selects students from marginalised backgrounds (indigenous groups, sexual minorities, and human rights defenders who are in countries without access to quality higher education in human rights), they often do not have the basic academic skills of students from more developed countries. Working with these students to develop their knowledge is far more successful in the classroom rather than online. Face-to-face engagement deepened their academic connections and provided a sense of belonging within our academic community.

In 2023, support to Myanmar students and faculty was again a top priority. The Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies welcomed 30 new Myanmar students across all programmes (12 registered specifically in the GC Asia-Pacific Master's programme) and renewed its engagement in Myanmar research and assistance, including supporting lectures on the Civil Disobedience Movement in Myanmar, an ongoing resistance movement which is considered one of the key pillars of Myanmar's Spring Revolution that started in February 2021.

Practical skills in human rights protection: students design campaigns

In celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, GC Asia-Pacific hosted a student-organised Human Rights Festival on 22 November 2023. The festival drew in hundreds of students and university personnel and featured a diverse array of campaigns, each uniquely designed to shed light on different topics of human rights. Through engaging activities such as quizzes, surveys, music, and social media interaction, the organisers aimed to foster a sense of social responsibility and active participation among attendees.

“Thanks to APMA, I've learned to stay grounded in the value of human rights and am equipped with human rights-centred eyes on social problems. Also, the programme provided an incredible environment, a hub for knowledge exchange and networking, immersing me in diverse perspectives and connecting to the solidary human rights community that is essential to sail the human rights journey.” GC Asia-Pacific student

GC Asia-Pacific students at the Human Rights Festival, Bangkok, 22 November 2023.



Selected publications

Among the many publications of GC Asia-Pacific faculty from 2023, Duanghathai Buranajaroenkij's "Civil Society and Gender Advancement in Thailand" (in the *Routledge Handbook of Civil and Uncivil Society in Southeast Asia*) provides a contemporary overview of women's initiatives in gender advancement and examines women's political activism in civil society in Thailand. It highlights enabling factors and obstacles to the advancement of women in politics during the recent two coups d'état in 2006 and 2014 and the ways in which authoritarian governments used women's rights and organisations to legitimise their rule and enhance their control over civil society, for instance, in Thailand's conflict-prone deep south. The chapter illustrates how both protracted political conflicts (between the pro-democracy and royalist movements and also the deadly ethno-political conflict between the Malay-Muslim resistance movement and the government in the south of Thailand) have resulted in a significant expansion of the political spaces available to women to advance their causes for social and gender justice. Although political polarisation has often resulted in human rights violations and sexism, a young feminist movement in the current environment is attempting to politicise their gender agenda and challenge the patriarchal values embedded in social and political institutions.

Mark P. Capaldi's "Fact or Fiction? Deconstructing the Death Penalty as a Deterrent to Crime in ASEAN" (in *Unpacking the Death Penalty in ASEAN*) is a review of the global literature and research on the effectiveness of the death penalty as a deterrent and shows that both sides of the argument can come to varying conclusions. Based upon an in-depth literature review of secondary data, the paper looks at the various

theories of deterrence for capital crimes and deconstructs them within the context of ASEAN. It argues that the theories and assumptions popular in the region in support of capital punishment are on shaky ground and that the crime rates for a number of offences in ASEAN retentionist countries suggest a much weaker prospect for effective deterrence.

Field trip on the border with Myanmar

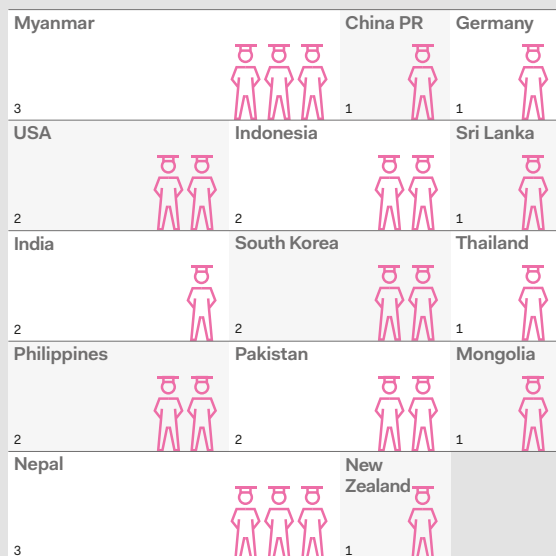


Students of the Asia-Pacific Master's programme learn about Southeast Asia's struggle for better democracy, the trends and trajectories of democratisation in the region, and the crucial impacts of failed democracy. In this context, the political crisis in Myanmar can be seen as one of the best examples of 'failed democracy'. This is why in January 2023 students spent five days in Mae Sot, Tak (on the border between Thailand and Myanmar) to learn first-hand the factors contributing to the state of failed and fragile democracy in Myanmar, and the impact it has on the people and the society. They engaged in a panel discussion with experts and practitioners and visited the offices of some national and international agencies that are working hard to relieve social and economic impacts since before and after Myanmar's coup on 1 February 2021.



On 12 and 13 January 2023, the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies organised the seminar "Failed democracies in Asia-Pacific" with guest speakers from the five GC Asia-Pacific partner universities. The seminar aimed to provide participants with a comprehensive perspective on human rights and democratisation in the region and its very diverse countries. Through expert speaker sessions, interactive discussions, and cross-cultural exchanges, the seminar promoted a deeper understanding of democracy in Asia-Pacific, its challenges and complexities.

Countries of origin of graduates



GC Asia-Pacific in numbers



Member universities

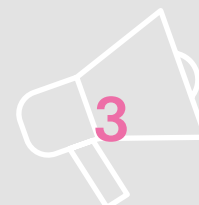


Graduates*

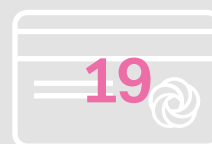
90% satisfaction rate



Internships



Outreach activities



Scholarships

“Thanks to APMA's unique learning environment I had the opportunity to discuss and learn alongside scholars and fellow human rights defenders from Asia-Pacific. As a human rights defender from a developing country, I felt seen and heard equally. In a decolonised and de-Westernised learning environment, we, as human rights defenders, had the opportunity to develop our own understanding of human rights and our vision for democratic movements.”

GC Asia-Pacific student

* including from previous cohorts

Capacity development in Timor-Leste

Global Campus' capacity development support to the National University of Timor-Leste and its Human Rights Centre in Dili continued thanks to a multi-year cooperation agreement and new joint projects funded by USAID (research on women's access to transitional justice) and Right Livelihood (mainstreaming children's rights education).



The Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in the Caucasus

CES



Global Campus
Caucasus

People

Artur Ghazinyan
Vladimir Martirosyan
Kristine Gevorgyan
Lilit Mirzoyan
Arusyak Aleksanyan
Lilit Karapetyan
Mariam Muradyan

Yerevan State
University

Regional Network

Yerevan State University,
Armenia — *coordinator*

Ivane Javakhishvili
Tbilisi State University,
Georgia

American University
in Central Asia,
Kyrgyzstan

Moldova State University,
Moldova

Taras Shevchenko National
University of Kyiv,
Ukraine

Associate partner:

Belarusian State University,
Belarus

The geopolitical situation in the region continues to pose challenges for the implementation of the Master's programme and other educational activities carried out by the GC Caucasus regional network. Challenges include a wide range of political, economic, social and security issues; the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine; complicated relationships between Ukraine and Belarus; the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan; a backsliding of human rights and democratic institutions; restrictions on free speech; corruption; and the negative impact of sanctions on exchange rates, the banking system and travel. As a result of these challenges, fewer students enrolled in the 2022-23 edition of the Master's programme. Nonetheless, this cohort represented one of the most geographically diverse groups in the history of GC Caucasus. Despite all of this, the regional network was expanded by welcoming a new member, Moldova State

University; successfully implementing various vocational training courses for professionals; adding an appreciative (and appreciated) new destination for the mobility semester, the American University in Central Asia, which is a recent member of the network; and deepening the cooperation with state bodies, international organisations and institutes.

Education Preparedness

The Education Preparedness Index in COVID-19 (EPIC) is one of the outputs of the project "Education for All", which involved 60 primary schools in Armenia, including 420 teachers and 780 students aged 6-14. The study's index was developed with the purpose of assessing the resources and capacities, as well as the know-how in the field of education to understand the feasibility to create low-tech or no-tech remote learning programmes for urban and rural communities. The study, which started at the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, provides a comprehensive methodology for states and smaller entities engaged in planning, management and delivery of compulsory education for children to assess the level of readiness and resilience

“Being a student of Global Campus Caucasus not only gave me a chance to enlarge my knowledge but also to challenge myself as student and a professional.” GC Caucasus student

1. In February 2023, GC Caucasus started a partnership with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and its Armenian office. In December 2023, Hanna Johnsson, director of the RWI Armenia Programme in Yerevan, was invited as a guest lecturer and engaged GC Caucasus students with real-world examples, case studies and practical scenarios.

2. In cooperation with the Armenian Ministry of Justice, the Centre for European Studies (CES) at Yerevan State University continues its commitment to vocational training for prison staff. In May 2023, GC Caucasus faculty held a session at CES to enhance the capacity of Armenian officials to detect and prevent ill-treatment cases.



in provision of education to school children. According to EPIC, Armenia is classified as a country with an "average preparedness" education system in emergency situations.

The book's editors are Mariam Muradyan, GC Caucasus alumna and Children's Rights Regional Officer, and Arusyak Aleksanyan, Associate Professor at the Center for European Studies, Yerevan State University. The results of the research were presented by the authors during an event on Education in Emergency organised in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung that brought together representatives of academia, civil society, state bodies, experts and practitioners.

Promoting human rights education at Moldova State University

The Global Campus HQ and GC Caucasus have proudly initiated a cooperation with Moldova State University (MSU) as part of the GC Capacity Development Programme. This new partnership was officially kicked off in Chisinau on 1 February with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to foster the promotion and protection of human rights, democracy and sustainable development in the Republic of Moldova through innovative human rights education activities, with a special attention to the rights of children, youth

“The involvement of Moldova State University not only will enhance the GC Caucasus programme through the inclusion of a new partner university, but it will also boost the promotion of human and child rights in Moldova, strengthen cooperation between regional universities and stimulate internationalisation processes.”

Kristine Gevorgyan, GC Caucasus Coordinator at Yerevan State University

and future generations. With the backing of the Ministry of Education, and in line with the university's priorities, a first project was kicked off during 2023 for the development of two new curricular courses (Human Rights & IT Regulation; European Standards of Children's Rights) involving a team of eight lecturers and teaching assistants. This initiative is the initial step for the integration of MSU within the GC network during the academic year 2024/25, when the first cohort of GC Caucasus students are expected to have their mobility semester at the Faculty of Law in Chisinau.

The collaboration will be then expanded in 2024 thanks to the support of the EU Delegation which will allow to develop a specific focus on climate justice and human rights education and the creation of an interdisciplinary lab between the faculties of Law and Biology, and a cross-regional spring school as its flagship activity.



Prof. Igor Sarov, Rector of Moldova State University, Kristine Gevorgyan, Yerevan State University (GC Caucasus) and Adriano Remiddi (Global Campus HQ) at the ceremony for the signing of the trilateral Memorandum of Understanding in Chisinau, January 2023.

Countries of origin of graduates



GC Caucasus in numbers



Member and partner universities



Graduates

92% satisfaction rate



Outreach events



Vocational courses



Internships

“The Programme has broadened my horizons in the field of human rights and democratisation: I have supported the monitoring of four elections in my country to contribute to the electoral system in my community, because choosing the right candidate affects the lives of people and my life too. It has been the best programme to learn about human rights, values, and dignity.”

GC Caucasus student

A group of the GC Caucasus students who graduated in November 2023 at the Center for European Studies, Yerevan State University.



The Master's Programme in Human Rights and Sustainability in Central Asia

MAHRS



Global Campus
Central Asia

People

Anja Mihr
Karlygach Nurmanbetova
Victoria Orazova
Cholpon Osmonalieva

Regional Network

OSCE Academy in Bishkek,
Kyrgyzstan — *coordinator*

American University
in Central Asia,
Kyrgyzstan

University of World Economy
and Diplomacy,
Uzbekistan

National University of Mongolia,
Mongolia

KIMEP International University,
Kazakhstan

Karagandy State University
named after E. A. Buketov,
Kazakhstan

The first human rights Master's programme in the region

The Master's Programme of Liberal Arts in Human Rights and Sustainability (MAHRS) is the first interdisciplinary programme of its kind in Central Asia, based at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Several other universities from Mongolia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have already joined this programme with a focus on regional matters and socio-economic and political challenges.

The GC Central Asia programme is located in a region that is currently at the crossroads between Europe and Asia and faces specific challenges also for human rights education in higher education. This region is where this 8th regional programme for human rights aims to make a difference when focusing on applying international human rights norms and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) locally. In September 2023, the OSCE Academy welcomed the first student cohort. Students joined from Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.



In September 2023, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the Global Campus celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and inaugurated the MAHRS Programme in Central Asia. Prof. Veronica Gómez also delivered a master class on the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights.

The 2023-2025 student cohort attended the orientation day at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek on 1 September 2023.



International Award in Human Rights in Higher Education



On 7 December 2023, Anja Mihr, GC Central Asia Programme Supervisor, received the Human Rights in Higher Education International Award for her work in teaching and training young academics in human rights. Issued

by the Universities and College Consortium for Human Rights Education based in New York, it is the first international award in human rights education, and it promotes work that embodies human rights principles and

practices in teaching, learning, research, policies and practices. The award recognises an individual, organisation, initiative or publication for its outstanding contribution to human rights education.

The European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation

EMA



Global Campus
Europe

People

Thérèse Murphy
Orla Ní Cheallacháin
George Ulrich
Zoi Aliozi
Chiara Altafin
Elisabetta Zennaro
Martina Urbinati
Stefania Saccarola

Global Campus Headquarters

Regional Network

University of Graz, Austria
University of Vienna, Austria
KU Leuven, Belgium
Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Belgium
Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski, Bulgaria
University of Zagreb, Croatia
University of Cyprus, Cyprus
Masaryk University of Brno, Czech Republic
University of Southern Denmark / Danish Institute for Human Rights, Denmark
University of Tartu, Estonia
Åbo Akademi University, Finland
University of Helsinki, Finland
Université de Strasbourg, France
Université de Montpellier, France
Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany
University of Hamburg, Germany
Bundeswehr University Munich, Germany
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
Panteion University Athens, Greece
Eotvos Lorand University Budapest, Hungary
University of Galway, Ireland
University College Dublin, Ireland

University of Padua, Italy
Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy
University of Latvia, Latvia
University of Vilnius, Lithuania
Université du Luxembourg, Luxembourg
University of Malta, Malta
Maastricht University, the Netherlands
Utrecht University, the Netherlands
Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland
University of Coimbra, Portugal
New University of Lisbon, Portugal
University of Bucharest, Romania
Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia
University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
University of Deusto, Bilbao, Spain
University of Seville, Spain
Lund University, Sweden
Uppsala University, Sweden
University of Lucerne
(Institute of Social Ethics), Switzerland
University of Nottingham, United Kingdom
Queen's University Belfast, United Kingdom

In the academic year 2022-23, GC Europe students were taught by 78 professors and experts from 56 institutions, including EMA member universities as well as institutions such as the Council of Europe, the Court of Justice of the EU, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, the European Court of Human Rights, the OHCHR Office in Moldova, the OSCE Academy Bishkek and Human Rights Watch. The end of COVID-19 restrictions in September 2022 allowed full in-person class participation in key practical skills building components of the first semester, including moot courts, negotiation, mediation and dialogue exercises and human rights in the field exercises.

“My experience was profoundly shaped by the interactive learning environment with rich discussion among students from diverse backgrounds; the expertise and dedication of the lecturers played a pivotal role in enhancing my understanding of human rights issues and their global implications.” GC Europe student

The first semester ended with a field trip to Kosovo in which students had meetings with the Council of Europe Kosovo, EULEX, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, IOM, UNICEF, UN Women, the UNHCR Mission in Kosovo and UNMIK. Students also met with members

of the Kosovo government, assembly, and constitutional court and a wide range of civil society actors representing all communities within Kosovo. In addition, by staying with host families, students were able to build personal connections in Kosovo and gain personal insight into Kosovo society.

In the second semester, students were hosted by 38 EMA participating universities across Europe, and 86 students graduated on Sunday, 24 September. In this light, the academic year 2022-23 can be considered a success. Indeed, this was confirmed by the End of Year Survey, in which 80% of respondents reported that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their year studying in the EMA programme.

To date, the EMA programme has conferred the Master's degree upon 2,057 graduates. Combining the academic research and expertise with practical skills building training, EMA facilitates internships, networking and access to professional careers for its graduates. These graduates have firm bonds from their shared time at the Global Campus Headquarters on the Lido and their interactions with the EMA Alumni Association. These bonds have created a strong community of human rights professionals located all over the world, evidenced by the classes of 2013 and 2003 both returning to Venice to celebrate their 10th and 20th anniversaries in September 2023.

Week 4 of the European Master's in Human Rights and Democratisation is all about civil and political rights and a moot court: on 14 October, the students argued imaginary cases for practice including some peaceful protests in the room.



The GC Europe Governing Bodies have established a working group to conduct an in-depth review of the EMA first semester curriculum to ensure its continued relevance in the 21st century, and steps have been taken to link this review to a research project on human rights education at the postgraduate level. These initiatives reflect an active and engaged community that have the continued development of the programme at the heart of its activities.

Finally, the EMA programme received an application from the Universität der Bundeswehr München in the spring of 2023. This application was considered by the governing bodies and was accepted in September 2023 on the basis that the university brings considerable practical experience to the programme, particularly in relation to international humanitarian law.

Student-led Human Rights Festival

On 8 and 9 December 2023, the 13th edition of the EMA Human Rights Film Festival took place at the European Cultural Centre in Venice, under the theme "Generations of Hope". This is a free annual festival organised by GC Europe students. The aim was to delve into the theme of children's rights – as the title suggests, "generations of hope" – through the lens of cinema and films. Each year, the EMA festival strives to raise awareness about contemporary human rights issues through an engaging and inclusive programme, traditionally held in mid-December to honour International Human Rights Day on 10 December. In order to make the events accessible, the students curated a selection of mostly dialogue-free animated films for children, with diverse offerings in terms of the geographical origins of the films (India, Benin, Chile, Uganda, Hong Kong, Jordan, etc.).

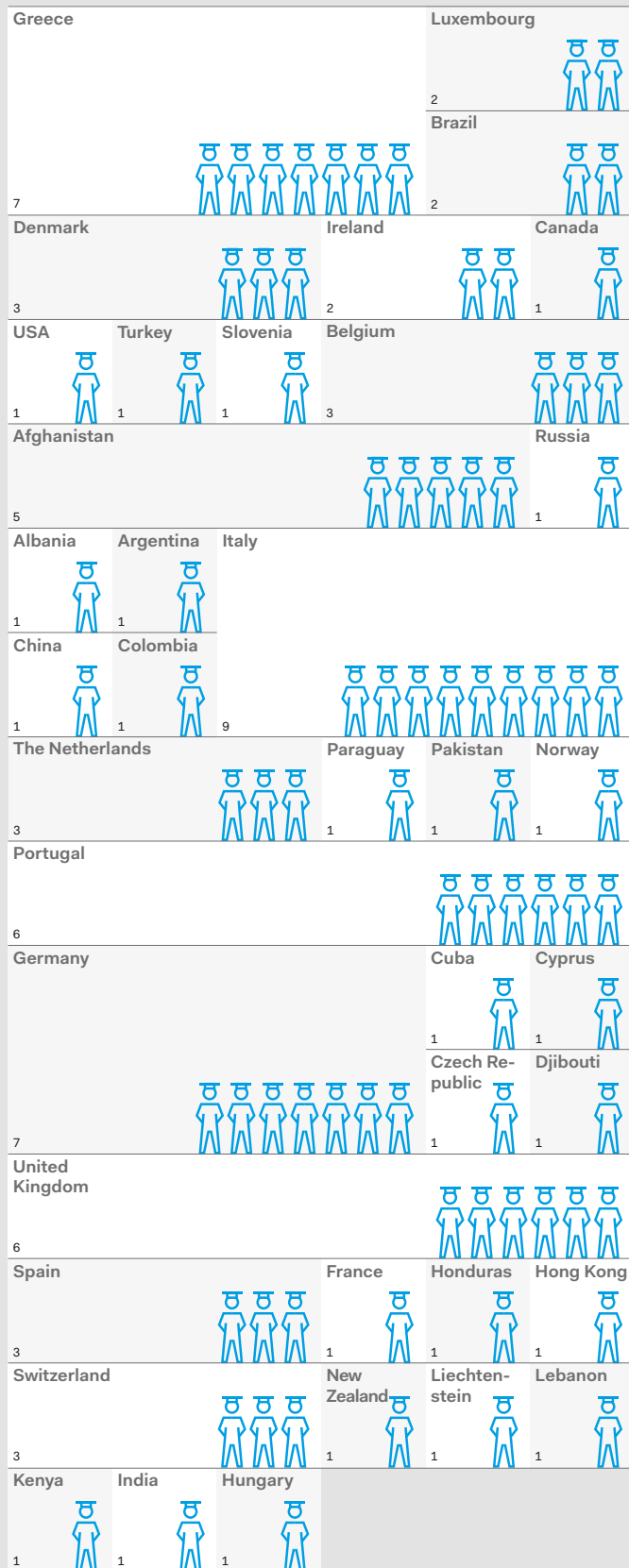
“The programme facilitated meaningful interactions with experts from UN bodies, CSOs, INGOs & NGOs, offering unique insights and networking opportunities.” GC Europe student



GC Europe organisers of the 13th edition of the EMA Human Rights Film Festival in Venice, December 2023.



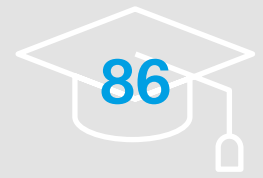
Countries of origin of graduates



GC Europe in numbers



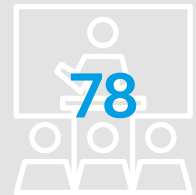
43
Member
universities



86
Graduates
80% satisfaction rate



17
Internships



78
Lecturers

“EMA changed my life, personally and professionally. I have never been a part of such an amazing community before. I will forever cherish this experience of teachings and common values.”

GC Europe student



Once more, the graduation ceremony took place in September in the stunning Scuola Grande di San Rocco, which is considered the Sistine chapel of Venice. Many students invited parents and friends who joined from all over the world.

The Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Latin America and the Caribbean

LATMA



Global Campus
Latin America-Caribbean

People

Jorge Taiana
Héctor Mazzei
Marina Pecar
Verónica Gómez
Jorge Migliore
Diego López
Claudia Couso
Angel Zapata
Melina García Bartolini
Rocio Comas
Melina Barreto
Carolina Scarfo
Augusto Trelles
Rocío Comas

Regional Network

Universidad Nacional de San
Martín, Argentina — *coordinator*

Universidad Mayor
de San Andrés, Bolivia

Universidade Federal
do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Universidad Nacional de Chile,
Chile

Universidad de San Francisco
de Quito, Ecuador

Universidad Rafael Landívar,
Guatemala

Facultad Latinoamericana
de Ciencias Sociales FLACSO,
Mexico

Universidad del Pacífico, Peru

Universidad de la República, Uruguay

Universidad Nacional
de Buenos Aires,
Facultad de Ciencias Sociales,
Argentina

Universidad Nacional de General
Sarmiento, Argentina

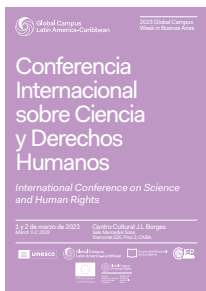
Universidad Nacional de Lanús,
Argentina

Universidad Nacional
de Mar del Plata, Argentina

Universidad Nacional de Quilmes,
Argentina

Universidad Nacional
de Villa María, Argentina

Universidad Iberoamericana UNIBE,
Dominican Republic



Organised by CIEP (Centro Internacional de Estudios Políticos - Universidad Nacional de San Martín) in collaboration with UNESCO, the International Conference on Science and Human Rights was opened by former Minister of Defence Jorge Taiana and former Minister of Science and Technology Daniel Filmus.

In the academic year 2022-23 GC Latin America and the Caribbean and its Master's programme in Human Rights and Democracy resumed with a full in-person format, which was enriched using digital platforms as well as other strategies developed during the two online cycles offered during the COVID-19 pandemic. An updated version of the curriculum was approved by the University of San Martín in September 2022 and included updated objectives and a structure to increase flexibility to address current and emerging human rights issues in the region. The new study plan enables a variety of pedagogical formats, including seminars, workshops, athenaeums and forums, and strengthens professional development in three areas: promotion, strategic litigation, and public policies. Students—based on professional interest—are divided into three groups to pursue three parallel projects, each one based on the three aforementioned lines of professional activity. In parallel, the 2022-23 cohort had the opportunity to hold active exchanges with officials from state agencies, human rights non-governmental organisations and human rights treaty bodies engaged in the design of public policies, strategic litigation and human rights campaigns.

International Conference on Science and Human Rights

On 1-2 March, GC Latin America and the Caribbean hosted the 2023 GC International Conference at the Jorge Luis Borges Cultural Centre in Buenos Aires. The conference was an opportunity to raise awareness of the links between human rights, the right to science, and scientific freedom and responsibility; strengthen the dialogue on the relationship between human rights, ethics and law in the field of science; highlight the link between science and human rights with intersectional approaches, including gender equality, in accelerating progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and promote a Spanish-language version of the MOOC on Science and Human Rights, which aims to empower scientists, science students, policy-makers and the general public through education on the human rights-based approach to scientific freedom and responsibility.

“Studying at LATMA has been the best academic and professional decision I could have made because it has given me a complete experience in my training on the protection of human rights and democratisation in the region.”

GC Latin America and the Caribbean student

Panelist and participants at the International Conference on Science and Human Rights at the Jorge Luis Borges Cultural Centre in Buenos Aires, 1 March 2023.



Speakers and delegates alike drew out the reasons why it is crucial to consider and concretise the connections between science and human rights. The conference showcased local and regional expertise and engagement alongside issues and questions arising at international institutions and across the world, such as the promotion of open and people-centered science to ensure the right to science; the need for establishing interfaces

between science, politics and society to promote science-based decision-making and responsible citizenship; the importance of mainstreaming the 'One Health' approach; and the questions arising from the relationship between access and use of scientific knowledge, corporate interests and public policies. In this way, it put the local in the global and the global in the local.

“It has also been the greatest personal experience I have had by getting to know the diverse contexts, customs and cultures of Latin American nations through my classmates, friends and brothers I made within the Master's programme, who now form a network of support, cooperation and friendship that is united thanks to the passion for human rights.” GC Latin America and the Caribbean student



Starting with academic year 2022-23, the curricular structure of LATMA has been divided into six areas: 1) Foundations and Contemporary Human Rights Issues; 2) International Mechanisms for the Protection of Human Rights; 3) Recognition and Access to Human Rights; 4) State, Public Policy and Human Rights; 5) Professional Development; and 6) Epistemology, Methodology and Research Techniques.

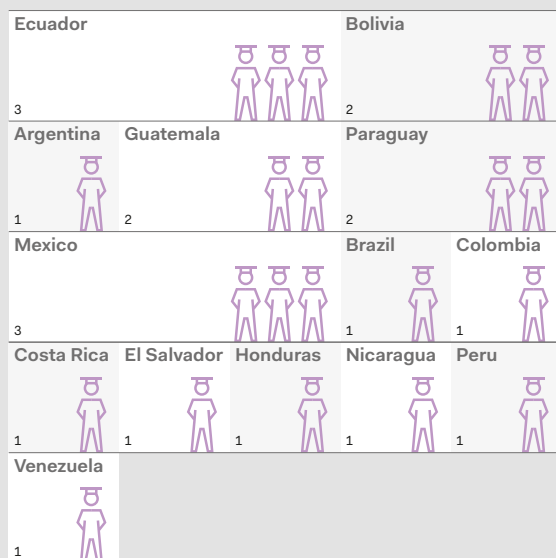
MOOC on access to justice for persons with disabilities

A new online training course on the exchange of best practices on access to justice for persons with disabilities was developed in 2023. It is intended for officials of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Argentina as part of

the implementation of a friendly settlement agreement reached in a case (*Cardozo Subia v. Argentina*) pending before the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This MOOC involved the participation of experts and

officials from the Public Defender's Office of Argentina, the Human Rights Secretariat of Argentina, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and various Latin American universities and civil society organisations.

Countries of origin of graduates



GC Latin America-Caribbean in numbers



Member universities

30 partner organisations



Graduates

77% satisfaction rate



Outreach activities



Awarded theses



21 LATMA students from the 2022-23 cohort and two LATMA students from the previous cohort successfully defended their theses on 7-18 August 2023. Almost half of the students come from households without a university degrees and/or from vulnerable and marginalised communities.

Inspiring encounter with high school students

On 1 March 2023, a GC delegation visited the facilities of UNSAM's Technical High School located in a settlement in the Reconquista area in the Province of Buenos Aires. The settlement is close to three landfills and urban waste treatment plants that receive 14,000 tonnes of waste per day and produce methane emissions visible from space. The GC delegation held an exchange

with the secondary school students regarding the impact of pollution, social exclusion and violence in that area and how education ensured access to opportunities. UNSAM's Technical High School is an expression of the university's social responsibility and commitment to equality and justice vis-à-vis socio-educational needs in the Reconquista area.



European Regional Master's Programme in Democracy and Human Rights in South East Europe

ERMA



Global Campus
South East Europe

People

Asim Mujkić
Marco Borraccetti
Mariana Hadzijusufović
Alina Trkulja
Aida Salihović-Gušić
Marija Ivanović
Mileva Piralić
Nejira Pasić

University of Sarajevo,
University of Bologna

Regional Network

University of Sarajevo,
Bosnia and Herzegovina
— *coordinator*

University of Bologna,
Italy — *coordinator*

University of Graz, Austria

New Bulgarian University,
Bulgaria

University of Zagreb, Croatia

Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany

University of Peloponnese, Greece

University of Prishtina, Kosovo

University Ss. Cyril and
Methodius, North Macedonia

University of Belgrade, Serbia

University of Banja Luka, Bosnia
and Herzegovina

For over 20 years, the European Regional Master's Programme in Democracy and Human Rights in South East Europe (ERMA), jointly coordinated by the University of Sarajevo and the University of Bologna, has remained a leading force in human rights and democratisation education within the region. With more than 650 graduates, the programme has imparted knowledge on the importance of human rights and democracy in addressing the complex challenges of South East Europe. These graduates actively contribute to the promotion of democracy and the realisation of human rights across various sectors, including activist movements, international and non-governmental organisations, and academia. A key focus of the programme is on EU integration and democratisation in the South East European region, recognising these processes as significant social and political developments within the region.

“For some time, I've been aspiring to work on youth issues within the Regional Cooperation Council. Landing this opportunity feels like a significant step toward my future career goals. None of this would have been possible without the support of ERMA, which helped me align my passion with practical experience. Following the internship, I continued working with the organization, and it's been an invaluable learning journey for me.”

GC South East Europe student

Focus on practical experience

ERMA includes a vital six-week internship for all students, an integral component of the curriculum aimed at directly enhancing their professional development. During this internship period, students immerse themselves in the activities of international and national organisations, fostering connections, honing professional skills through training sessions, and gaining insights through daily work experiences. Additionally, they participate in conferences, summer schools, and similar events organised by their internship hosts, enriching their knowledge base. This engagement serves as a platform for numerous organisations to become acquainted with the Master's programme, leading them to prioritise graduates when recruiting for their vacancies. In 2023, 24 students successfully completed their internships and documented their experiences and contributions in detailed reports, with many expressing overwhelmingly positive feedback and highlighting the meaningful relationships they forged with the organisations. Some students even extended their involvement beyond the conclusion of their internships.

The role of new media in the fight for human rights

New technologies are paving the way for large and instant outreach and communication. Going beyond “regular reporting” and “passive receipt of news”, new media brings innovative and engaging practices to the audience. Modern concepts of storytelling, solution-

In May, 24 ERMA students have successfully completed their first term, with lectures by Prof. Manfred Nowak on Understanding Torture and Understanding Enforced Disappearance and also a special visit from the International Commission for Missing Persons (ICMP).



oriented journalism, citizen journalism, social media, podcasts, mobile apps, online newsletters, blogs, vlogs, and many others are the ways how we receive and interact with the news. On 3 May 2023, in commemoration of World Press Freedom Day, the regional alumni association of GC South East Europe hosted an online discussion titled "New Media and the Fight for Human Rights and Democracy". This event explored the potential of new media strategies in advocating for human rights and

democracy. It offered insights into how these approaches can be leveraged to support the most vulnerable populations, identified potential challenges, and discussed the role of regulatory frameworks. Alumni speakers represented various organisations specialising in press freedom and related issues, including the Thomson Foundation, Media Center Sarajevo, Zašto ne/Why not, and USAID.



GC South East Europe is particularly proud of its consistent integration of theoretical learning with practical application. On 31 March 2023, students concluded a week of migration lectures by visiting the International Organization for Migration in Sarajevo. This organisation also serves as one of the programme's internship hosts.

“My internship at the IOM was highly beneficial for my research. The organization offered essential contacts, resources, and facilities that facilitated the collection of relevant data. During my internship, I conducted interviews and gathered data primarily from partner organizations present in Temporary Reception Centers, where I focused on my assigned tasks. This experience expanded my knowledge and fueled my enthusiasm for future work in the field of migration.” GC South East Europe student

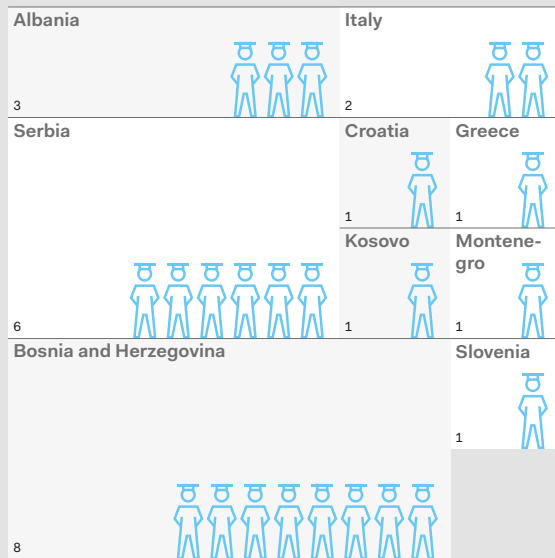
Learning about the EU's role in promoting human rights and democratisation

Each year, students visit the EU delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and meet with EU officials responsible for promoting democracy, human rights, and EU integration in the country: it is a tremendous opportunity to gain insights into the role of the EU in promoting democratic values and human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including with targeted policies and initiatives, and to learn about the challenges that the country faces in this regard. Students can benefit from

exposure to international diplomacy, learn about the role of the EU as a regional and global actor in promoting democracy and human rights, and gain very valuable networking opportunities with EU officials and other stakeholders who work on democracy and human rights issues. Such connections can be valuable for future academic and professional pursuits, as well as for gaining further insights into the field of democracy and human rights.



Countries of origin of graduates



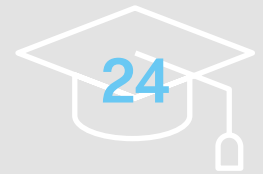
“ERMA's broad thematic scope didn't detract from its regional emphasis; instead, it made studying human rights both engaging and practical. Although the programme demanded intensive commitment and interdisciplinary thinking, the full-time staff offered valuable support in navigating these challenges. As a result, I left ERMA with a clearer sense of direction for my future.”

GC South East Europe student

GC South East Europe in numbers

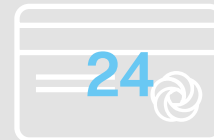


Member universities



Graduates

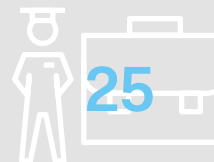
90% satisfaction rate



Scholarships



Events



Internship hosting organisations

On 28 October 2023, the 23 students of the 22nd generation of GC South East Europe celebrated their graduation at the University of Sarajevo. Since its inception, the programme has graduated over 650 students.



Together for human rights... across the globe!





Revitalising the Global Campus Alumni network: a year of renewal



Hazem Mizyed
Global Campus
Alumni coordinator

2023 was a very energising year for the Global Campus Alumni (GCA) community. A new team was established and a full-time coordinator hired, focusing specifically on graduates. Alumni featured in various programmes and events, starting with our very successful Global Internships Programme. This programme stands as a transformative opportunity for recent graduates, offering a unique path to professional growth. Approximately twenty alumni are chosen each year for six-month internships with renowned organisations worldwide, such as the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, EU

delegations, and the International Labour Organization. In 2023, internship supervisors consistently expressed gratitude for the competence, loyalty, commitment and willingness to go the extra mile displayed by GC interns, with many expressing a desire for continued collaboration, emphasising the interns' significant impact on their work. Simultaneously, interns appreciated the collaborative and supportive work environments, along with unparalleled networking experiences offered by host organisations.

Global Campus graduates were also invited to various high-level events in 2023, such as the UN Human Rights 75 Youth Dialogue

“As EU, we have been supporting the [EMA] Masters’ for 25 years now, and I am really very happy to see the regional networks working together. Alumni are doing great work: it is essential to keep alumni networks from the eight GC programmes working together, exchanging ideas and thoughts and experiences, because they are the foundation of what will be the multilateral world of tomorrow.”

Erica Gerretsen, Director for Human Development, Migration, Governance and Peace, European Commission



1. Global Campus alumni at the UN Human Rights 75 Youth Dialogue: Amplifying the HR75 initiative among young people, 11 December 2023, Palais des Nations in Geneva.

2. Hussienatou Manjang, GC Africa alumna, interned with the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) in Maseru, Lesotho. ACERWC is an organ of the African Union mandated to monitor the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child as well as promote and protect children's rights in Africa.

(Geneva), the EU-NGO Forum on Human Rights (Brussels), the 29th Lisbon Forum of the Council of Europe (Lisbon), and a conference on Youth and Civil Society for a Global Treaty on Business and Human Rights (organised by the European Parliament in Brussels). Attending these events not only puts our graduates in important institutional settings but also offers valuable networking opportunities.

The Global Campus Alumni Network is a network of seven alumni regional associations gathering over 4,000 experts, activists and professionals spread throughout the world. In 2023, we started to re-energise the regional associations, especially thanks to a programme titled Climate Justice and the

Rights of Future Generations developed in partnership with Right Livelihood. A taskforce was brought together, with one representative from each alumni association. They met in Venice in July during the Global State of Human Rights conference and started brainstorming about activities that could be implemented in each of the seven 'Global Campus regions. Coming from Pretoria, Manila, Buenos Aires, Beirut, Sarajevo, Athens and Groningen, the seven alumni committed to design and implement advocacy, educational and research projects—virtually and on the ground—with the plan to meet again in 2024 to present their work, exchange best practices and contribute to awareness raising and mainstreaming of a hot, multidimensional topic: intergenerational climate justice.

The alumni task force on Climate Justice and the Rights of Future Generations with Ole von Uexküll, Executive Director of Right Livelihood; Nnimmo Bassey, Right Livelihood Laureate 2010; and Neshan Gunasekera, legacy holder of late Right Livelihood Laureate Judge Christopher Weeramantry, in Venice on 16 July 2023.



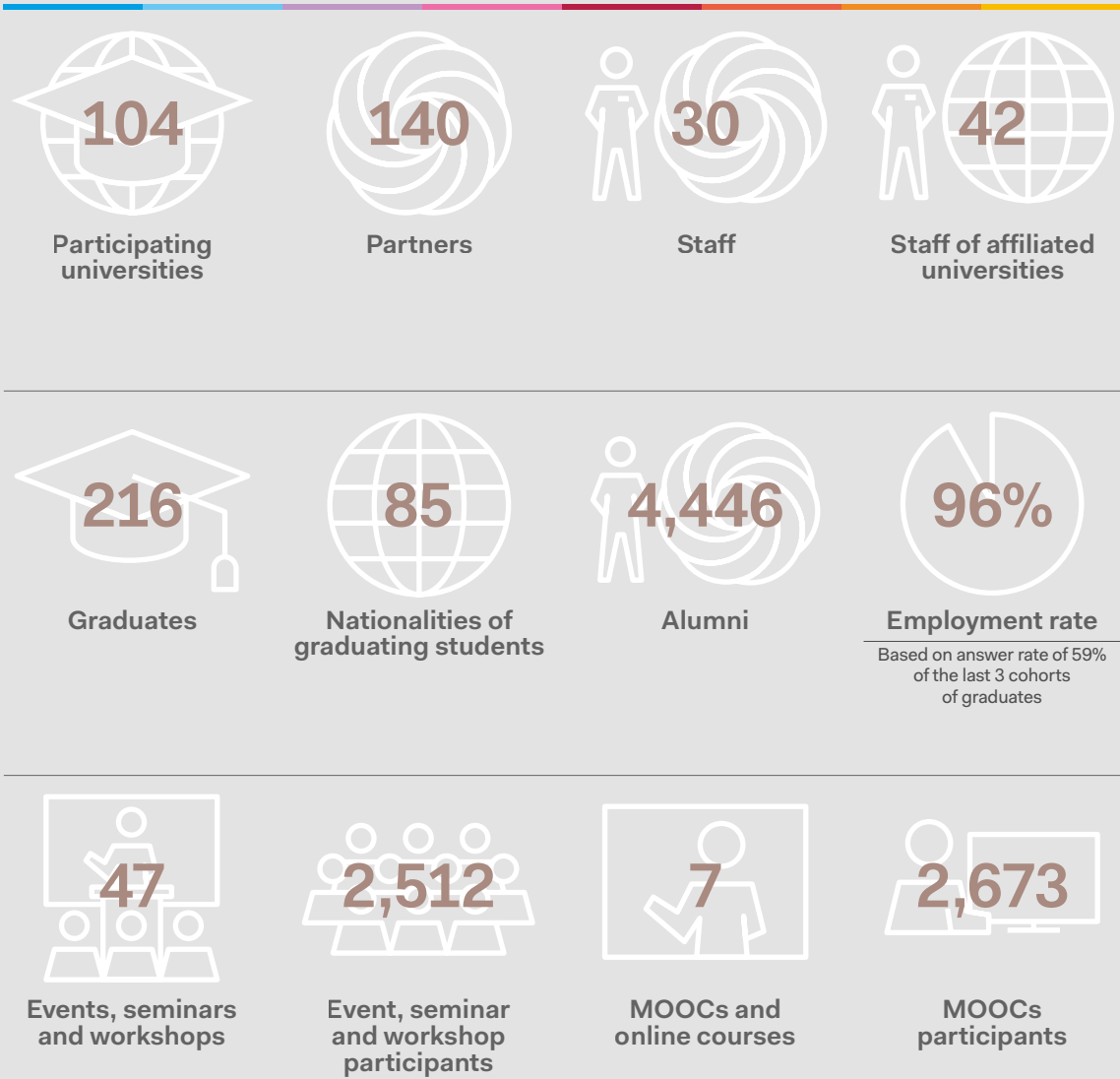
Virtual networking and promotion

As our alumni network connects graduates from across the globe, communication becomes very important, alongside giving alumni visibility. This year saw the birth of the #GCASStories, a social media campaign giving alumni the

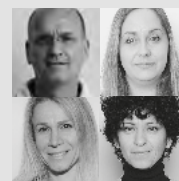
space to showcase their work and experience, while encouraging them to connect with each other through social media. See an example which is part of a GCA story on the side of this page.



The Global Campus in numbers



Finances

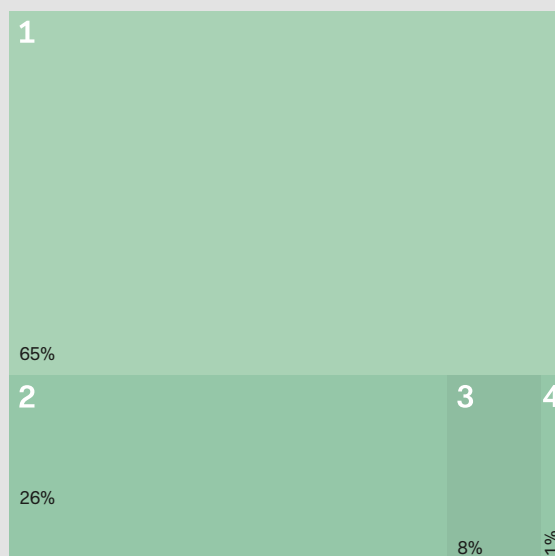


Paolo Rech,
Finance Manager

Giulia Vallata,
Dania Ferrarese,
Isabella Vianello,
Finance Officers

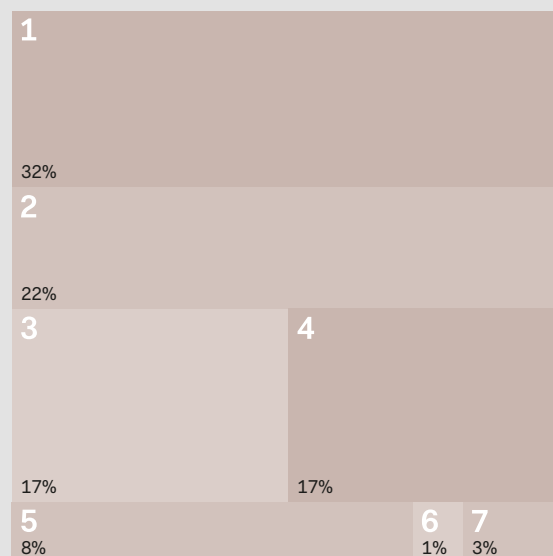
Period of reference: August 2022 — July 2023

Income **€ 8,054,773**



1	EU grant	€ 5,280,217
2	Right Livelihood grant	€ 2,138,827
3	Fee-based activities	€ 617,590
4	Other contributions	€ 18,139

Expenses **€ 7,922,893**



1	Regional Master's programmes	€ 2,514,896
2	Human resources	€ 1,769,035
3	Operational costs	€ 1,321,335
4	Children's Rights projects	€ 1,386,603
5	Afghanistan Programme	€ 609,775
6	Training Seminars	€ 120,252
7	Capacity building Timor Leste	€ 200,997

We wish to thank our generous partners for their in-kind donations: the city of Venice for the free rental of our headquarters, the Monastery of San Nicolò in Lido, Venice;

and the member universities that host students during the second semester and put at disposal faculty and staff.

Sneak Peek at 2024...

Events & Trainings

JANUARY	• ERMA alumni lecture <i>Memory Work: Perspectives from Below</i>, Sarajevo (GC South East Europe)
FEBRUARY	• Webinar on the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, online • 7th edition of the Human Rights Conversations, online • MOOC <i>The Right to Education for Children in Armed Conflict</i>, online • Panel discussion <i>The EU as a Geopolitical Actor in the Western Balkans: An Assessment</i>, Sarajevo (GC South East Europe) • Global Internships Programme for recent GC graduates, various locations
MARCH	• International Conference <i>Inclusion through Arts</i>, and International workshop for the GC Children's Rights Regional Officers, Yerevan • Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa, Pretoria (GC Africa) • <i>Venice School for Human Rights Defenders</i>, Venice • New GC Alumni career service programme, online • Certificate Course <i>Human Rights and Peace for Myanmar University Students</i>, online (GC Asia-Pacific) • Workshop <i>The digitalisation of education systems and its impact on human rights, with particular attention to the right to education</i>, Venice
APRIL	• Alumni gathering on <i>Climate Justice and the Rights of Future Generations</i>, Athens • Training course on the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, Venice • Skills transfer programme between Right Livelihood Laureates and Alumni, online • Presentation of the book <i>Women's Access to Transitional Justice in Timor-Leste</i>, Dili
MAY	• Cross-regional Spring School <i>Climate Justice for Human Rights</i>, Chisinau (GC Caucasus) • Reimagining politics through human rights, 3rd series of the podcast 'To the Righthouse', online • <i>Helen Kanzira Memorial Lecture</i>, Addis Ababa (GC Africa) • 4th edition of the <i>Global State of Human Rights Conference</i>, Venice • Workshop <i>Human Rights and Peace Studies for the Young Generation</i>, Bangkok (GC Asia-Pacific) • Summer School <i>Human Dignity and AI</i> with EUPHUR, Toblach/Dobbiaco • Publication of Policy Briefs on the digitalisation of education systems and its impact on human rights, online



JUNE	• <i>International Students Conference</i>, Bishkek (GC Central Asia) • Training course <i>Strengthening Political Processes Through Technical Assistance</i>, Venice • Online course <i>Authoring Justice</i> with Andrew Leon Hanna, online • <i>Christof Heyns Memorial Lecture</i>, Pretoria (GC Africa)
JULY	• <i>Summer Academy on Human Rights</i> and course <i>Sexual Rights and Minorities</i>, Beirut (GC Arab World) • <i>16th Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition</i>, Geneva (GC Africa) • Publication of the Global Campus awarded theses 2022/2023
AUGUST	• Summer school <i>Cinema, Human Rights and Advocacy</i>, Venice • <i>32nd Human Rights and Peoples' Diplomacy Training Programme</i>, Dili
SEPTEMBER	• Graduation of EMA student cohort 2023/2024 and inauguration of the 2024/2025 EMA Academic Year, Venice • Short course <i>Minority Issues and Rights in the Arab World</i>, Beirut, GC Arab World • <i>Third Joint Annual Engaged Artist Award on Atrocity Prevention and Human Rights</i>, Venice • Graduation of ArMA student cohort 2023/2024 and Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Arab Master's Programme in Democracy and Human Rights, Beirut (GC Arab World)
OCTOBER	• Advanced Seminar on the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, Venice • MOOC <i>Women at the forefront of democratic change</i>, online
NOVEMBER	• Training course for international electoral observers (IEO), Venice
DECEMBER	• <i>Human Rights Film Festival</i>, Venice (GC Europe) • Survivor movements for justice, 4th series of the podcast 'To the Righthouse', online

Visit us in our Venice Headquarters

Nestled between the lagoon and the beach on the Lido of Venice, the 14th century Monastery of San Nicolò is home to the Global Campus of Human Rights Headquarters. It was generously provided to us for free by the city of Venice over 20 years ago, after its former inhabitants, a small group of Franciscan monks, relocated to another monastery on the idyllic island of San Francesco del Deserto. In our beautiful premises, we host the first semester of the GC Europe Master's programme; our specialised human rights library; the Venice School for Human Rights Defenders; and the Cinema, Human Rights and Advocacy Summer School — along with many other projects and activities. With our Memorandum of Understanding with the city of Venice, as well as with other partners, we host additional external events and activities within our classrooms and sun-lit courtyard. The monastery has thus also been the location of beautiful classical concerts, art exhibitions, and even features in a 1970s James Bond movie!



Nowadays, our charming historic grounds have office space, meeting rooms and classrooms, and are easily accessed by public transportation or by walking along the lagoon. Should you want to visit us to see the monastery and meet with our staff, please contact us at info@gchumanrights.org or +39 041 2720911.





Global Campus of Human Rights

Europe	Central Asia
South East Europe	Caucasus
Latin America-Caribbean	Arab World
Asia-Pacific	Africa

The Global Campus of Human Rights

is an international association of over 100 universities organised in eight regional hubs and dedicated to the promotion and advancement of human rights education, research, outreach and advocacy. Established on the foundation of the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (founded in 2002), the Global Campus has evolved into a network of academic institutions committed to empower individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect human rights and democratisation across the globe.

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