



Mobilising
Young People
for a
Human Rights
Based
World Order

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 2022, we concentrated our efforts on supporting children and young people who want to address the many transversal and existential challenges to human rights and democracy.

The Global Campus and the SDGs

Our work focuses primarily on the achievement of



Welcome



Verónica Gómez — President

The Global Campus of Human Rights is pleased to present the highlights of twelve months of active work in capacity building and promoting human rights and democracy in its 2022 Annual Report.

The Report provides insights into the achievements of the Global Campus' hallmark seven regional Master's programmes, their common activities and research outlets, and the continuation of their efforts to build capacity and raise awareness of human rights and democracy around the world. The Report also focuses on the innovative and successful open access courses offered during 2022, in particular the MOOC *Science and Human Rights*, in partnership with UNESCO; the specialised training courses with a

focus on human rights defenders; and the various activities devoted to the promotion of children's rights through education and research, including child-led activities in several regions of the world.

These outcomes were possible thanks to the financial support of the European Union, Right Livelihood and other donors, as well as the co-funding and unwavering commitment of our partner universities and the dedication shown by our staff at headquarters in Venice and at our regional hubs.

As President of the Global Campus, it is an honour for me to share this Annual Report with our partners, network and friends.

Foreword



Manfred Nowak — Secretary General

World War II and the Holocaust constitute the worst crimes in human history: the crimes of aggression and genocide. “To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person” were the two main aims of the founders of the United Nations, as spelled out at the beginning of the Preamble to the UN Charter of 1945. For the first time in history, the threat or use of force against any state’s territorial integrity or political independence was prohibited in Article 2(4) of the Charter. Additionally, for the first time, promoting and encouraging respect for human rights was established as one of the main aims and objectives of the international community. Peace, development and human rights constitute the pillars of the post-WWII architecture and world order. “Never again” is meant to prohibit wars, eradicate poverty and prevent genocide and other gross and systematic violations of human rights and human dignity.

Despite many violations of these noble aims and objectives, much has been achieved during the second half of the 20th century following the idea of “never again”. However, during the first decades of the 21st century, the post-WWII architecture was not only violated, but the very foundations of our world order are being openly challenged and put in question. The invasion of Iraq by the US and UK in 2003 and the recent Russian war against Ukraine constitute the two most blatant violations of the prohibition of the use of military force.

The Global Campus of Human Rights has been directly affected by the Russian war against Ukraine. The Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv is an active member of the Global Campus, especially our Caucasus Master’s Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation. Our colleagues in Kyiv continued to teach human rights to our students despite the dire situation. The war has led to the largest refugee flow in Europe since WWII, and our colleagues at Global Campus universities in Romania, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and other European countries have been actively engaged in providing shelter and other support to many Ukrainian refugees, above all women and children. Various colleagues within the Global Campus are actively involved in investigating war crimes and crimes against humanity currently perpetrated in Ukraine with the ultimate aim of bringing the perpetrators to justice before the International Criminal Court or domestic courts. Other researchers are developing ideas for establishing a special international tribunal to hold the main political and military leaders of the Russian Federation accountable for the international crime of aggression. The Global Campus is also engaged in cooperating with Russian journalists, artists and human rights defenders who risk their lives by publicly protesting against the war and misinformation. Our human rights concert in July was dedicated to the victims of the war in Ukraine, and our Summer School on Cinema, Human Rights and Advocacy in September featured films on this major human rights disaster. Our work and foci make us a key player in mobilising young people against assaults on the human rights-based world order established after WWII.

Thus, it is not surprising that the third Annual Report of the Global Campus, covering the year 2022, strongly focuses on our activities related to the war in Ukraine. This annual report is a collection of highlights, as it would be impossible to report on all our activities across our seven world regions. As the world's largest institution for post-graduate human rights education, we strengthened our commitment and social responsibility as a network of one hundred universities through the context of the Venice School on Human Rights Defenders in cooperation with the European Parliament and Sakharov Fellows and with our emergency support to threatened Afghan human rights scholars and students. We also provided visibility to Right Livelihood Laureates and are developing, in partnership with Right Livelihood, a new multi-year programme aimed at supporting human rights experts and defenders in exile, with a strong focus on Russian and Ukrainian individuals.

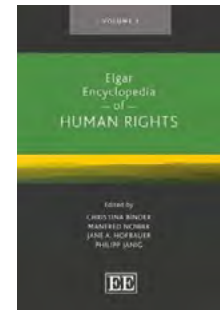
Mainstreaming children's rights in all our activities and supporting children as agents of change remains a key focus with many specific programmes and projects, such as our first child-led Global Campus International Conference on Mental Health, organised by our colleagues at the Kathmandu School of Law, and the establishment of our global Child Leadership Team. The second Venice Conference on the Global State of Human Rights, organised in cooperation with the European Parliament and Right Livelihood, was devoted entirely to children's rights. It focused on significantly reducing the number of children behind bars, addressing the suffering of children in armed conflicts, and supporting the role of children as change-makers in the global climate crisis and other challenges of the 21st century. The Global Campus remains a key player in the dissemination and implementation of the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, underlined at the Global Forum on Justice for Children and Deprivation of Liberty in Mauritania where

progress in the implementation of the Study's recommendations has been assessed over the last three years.

Another highlight was the "Dili Human Rights Education Week" in December, which, as part of the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the independence of Timor Leste, ended a highly successful capacity development project and culminated in the formal handover of our interdisciplinary Human Rights Centre to the National University of Timor Leste. In June, our colleagues at the Human Rights Centre of Pretoria University hosted a highly successful Global Classroom on internal displacement. In July, we strengthened our cooperation with the OSCE Academy in Bishkek by participating in their Summer School on Human Security in Central Asia. The OSCE Academy in Bishkek will be the coordinator of the eighth regional Master of the Global Campus with a focus on Central Asia, starting in autumn 2023 and funded jointly by the EU and OSCE participating states.

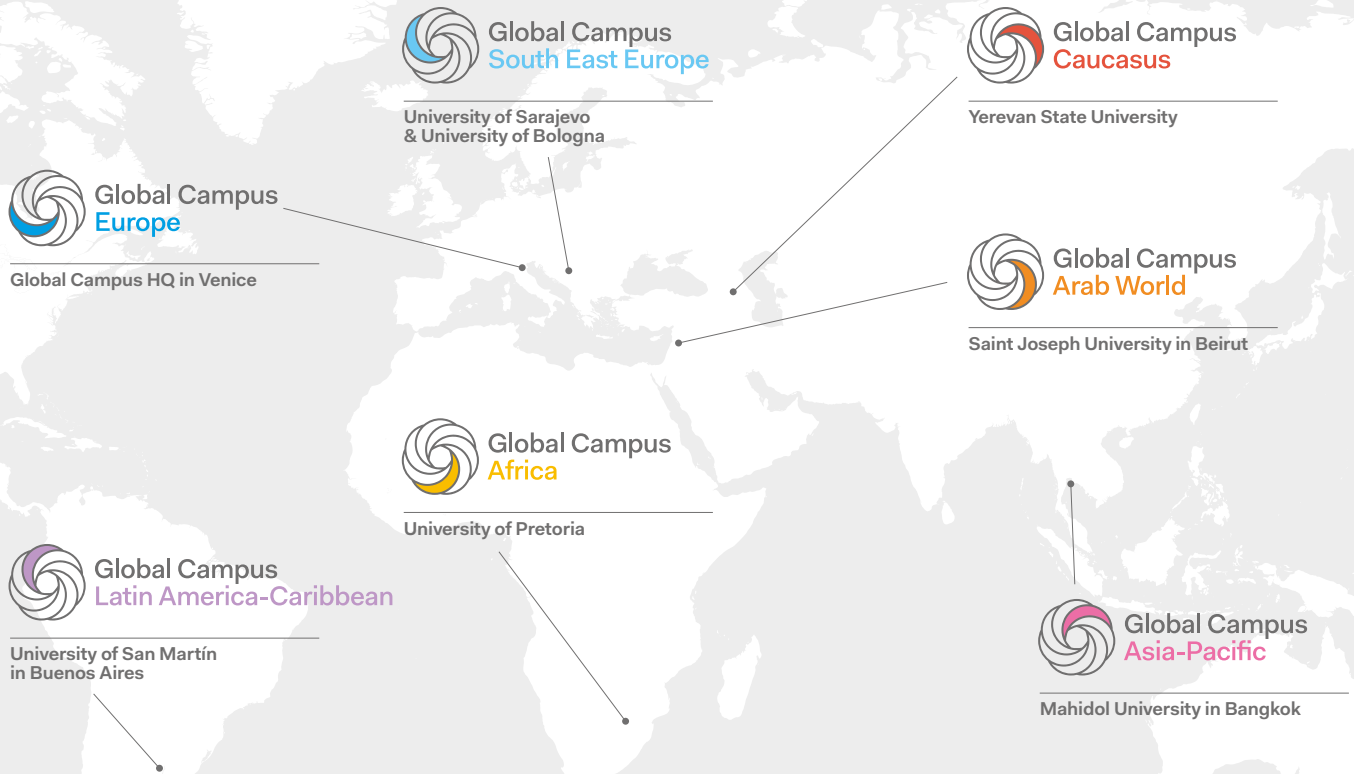
The Annual Report 2022 also highlights a significant increase in our digital activities promoting global human rights education through online teaching, MOOCs, social media and empowering visual media professionals.

Finally, the Report demonstrates how the Global Campus actively links the arts and human rights. This idea was exhibited by our traditional Summer School on Cinema, Human Rights and Advocacy during the Venice Film Festival; our close cooperation with Belgian artist Koen Vanmechelen in organising Cosmocafés aimed at establishing a Human Rights Pavilion at the Venice Art Biennale; the publication of a highly innovative book on "Music and Human Rights" in cooperation with Musicians for Human Rights; and the organisation of a very well received concert of the Human Rights Orchestra at the prestigious Teatro La Fenice in Venice.



Elgar Encyclopedia of Human Rights, published in 2022 and edited by GC Europe faculty Christina Binder, University of Vienna, and Manfred Nowak, GC Secretary General.

The network



The Global Campus of Human Rights, the most extensive network of human rights educators worldwide, draws its unique resource base from almost 100 member universities organised in seven regional hubs: Africa, Arab World, Asia-Pacific, Caucasus, Europe, Latin America-Caribbean and South East Europe. Since the beginning of our adventure in 1997 and with our seven Master's programmes and various training courses, we have trained and prepared over 50,000 human rights defenders and activists in all regions.

Our multi-level identity – global, regional and local – provides a distinctive vantage point and enables us to be innovative, proactive

and responsive to emerging developments. These features are deeply valued by existing and prospective partners who want a global outreach and impact.

The coordination of the network is a complex task that needs to take into account not only different academic traditions and cultures but also multiple regional and local socio-economic and geopolitical factors. We want to thank our tireless members worldwide for their sustained commitment and, in particular, our Council members for helping the Global Campus headquarters in Venice in providing support for the whole network.



Human rights and democracy are at the core of the European External Action Service, the diplomatic service of the European Union. This is why we were invited to Brussels on 15 November to provide training on academic freedom to the Human Rights Focal Points of EU Delegations worldwide. It was a great opportunity to strengthen the collaboration between the GC and the EU delegations.

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

HRDA



People

Frans Viljoen
Ashwane Budoo-Scholtz
Magnus Killander
Johannes Buabeng-Baidoo
Emily Laubscher
Elvis Fokala
Davina Murden

University of Pretoria

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 Western Cape,
South Africa

Makerere University, Uganda

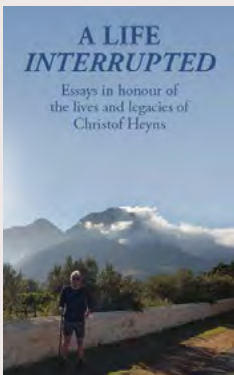
Launched in 2000, the Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa (HRDA) continues to be the most sought-after postgraduate human rights programme on the continent. Run by the Centre for Human Rights of the University of Pretoria, an internationally-recognised institution combining academic excellence and effective activism to advance human rights, HRDA has conferred degrees to over 600 alumni who are currently active in the full spectrum of human rights work: from grassroots, through civil service, to international organisations including the African Union and the United Nations.

The programme emphasises the protection of persons forming part of vulnerable groups such as women, children, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and sexual minorities. The students are offered the opportunity to attend intensive one-week courses on such topics taught by experts in the respective fields and that include practical elements such as moot courts and mock state reporting exercises. HRDA lecturers are advised to mainstream gender issues in their teaching; for instance, during classes on budgeting, emphasis is put on how budgeting affects women's rights.

In May 2022, the Women's Rights Clinic of the Centre for Human Rights hosted a webinar on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (2017) to support gender-responsive climate action in Africa. The aim of the webinar was to highlight the gendered consequences of climate disasters that impact women in Africa and create awareness of the need for the implementation of the Gender Action Plan. The event highlighted the role of civil society organisations and individuals, and the work of African activists advocating for and implementing gender-just climate solutions on the continent was spotlighted in the discussion.



A Life Interrupted: Essays in honour of the lives and legacies of Christof Heyns



In January 2022, the Centre for Human Rights published *A Life Interrupted: Essays in honour of the lives and legacies of Christof Heyns*, edited by Frans Viljoen, Charles Fombad, Dire Tladi, Ann Skelton and Magnus Killander. A book chapter authored by Ademola Oluborode Jegede, Annette Lansink and Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua (GC Africa faculty) reflects on Christof's thinking

that "tertiary education should be transformational and not merely for a small elitist clique or group" and remembers his pioneering work to create an international partnership on human rights, "the main anchor on which continues to rest the current direction of human rights education in tertiary institutions in Africa".

Disinformation and freedom of expression

Addressing mis- and disinformation is a global concern, and the Global Campus has been active in this regard. However, whilst disinformation can pose threats, poorly designed legislative or policy responses to disinformation can, themselves, pose serious risks to human rights – particularly the right to freedom of expression. In May 2022, the Centre for Human Rights and other partner organisations launched *LEXOTA—Laws on Expression Online: Tracker and Analysis*, a new interactive open tool to help human rights defenders track and analyse government responses to online disinformation across Sub-Saharan Africa. The tool is powered by multilingual data and context-sensitive insights from civil society organisations and uses a detailed framework to assess whether government responses to disinformation are respecting human rights. In recent years, governments in Sub-Saharan Africa have increasingly responded to disinformation through content-based restrictions and regulations, which often pose significant risks to individuals' right to freedom of expression. *LEXOTA* was developed to support those working to defend internet freedom and freedom of expression across the region, by making data on these government actions accessible and comparable.

In addition, the Expression, Information and Digital Rights Unit of the Centre for Human Rights in collaboration with the Media Institute of Southern Africa Zimbabwe conducted a workshop on promoting rights-respecting approaches to disinformation for community-based organisations (CBOs) on 17 November in Harare, Zimbabwe. Among the key takeaways of the workshop was understanding the role of CBOs in contributing to a healthy information ecosystem through proactively promoting access to accurate and credible information, and challenging misinformation and disinformation. Through the knowledge and skills gained from the workshop, participants will be better placed to verify and fact check information.

Child participation in development frameworks in Africa

Child participation is not a common theme in African development discourse: a newly published study reports on the challenges faced by states parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Children's Charter in meaningfully involving children in the implementation of development frameworks. Cultural attitudes towards children's agency in decision-making, a lack of systematisation of child participation as an obligatory state-funded democratic process, a lack of adequate platforms for participation, and budgetary constraints are among the key barriers. These impediments should be overcome, and children should be put at the forefront of the agenda, ensuring that they meaningfully exercise their right to express themselves, to participate, and to be heard, as outlined in the African Children's Charter and Agenda 2040 for Children.



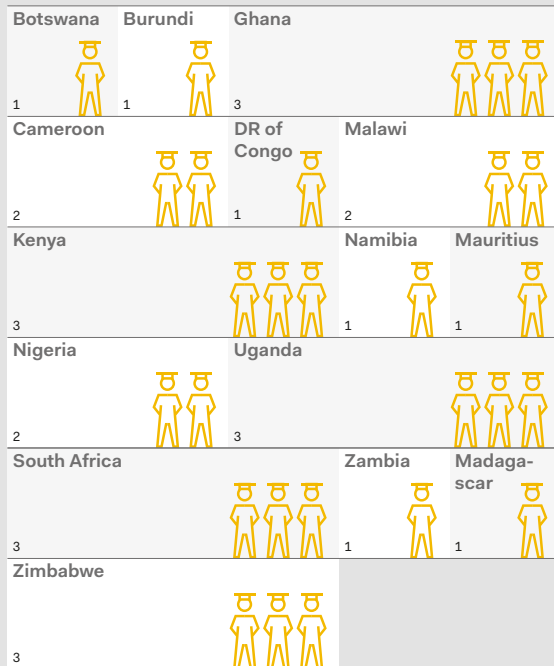
“HRDA provided me with an opportunity to learn about human rights from the African perspective. It has truly broadened my understanding of international human rights law. It also allowed me to develop a keen interest in fighting for children’s rights.”

GC Africa student

The Study also spotlights children's agency and capacity to respond to the challenges that society collectively faces, and to input into development initiatives aimed at securing their well-being.

The Study was prepared with the support of Right Livelihood. This is one among the many publications of the Centre for Human at the University of Pretoria. Their impressive [Annual Report](#) and [webpage](#) feature the academic outputs of its different units.

Countries of origin of graduates



GC Africa in numbers



Member universities



Graduates

83% satisfaction rate



Publications



Training programmes



Internship organisations

The academic programmes of the University of Pretoria run by the calendar year, i.e. they start in January and end in December, while most GC Master's programmes begin in September/October. The graduation ceremony of the GC Africa Programme always coincides with World Human Rights Day, 10 December. At the 2022 ceremony, graduates were challenged to position themselves strategically on the continent as policymakers and human rights activists and were reminded not to be intimidated by their youthful age. On the contrary, considering African demographics, their age makes them relatable to the various constituents their human rights and democratisation expertise targets.

