

2019 Annual Activity Report



**THE GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE**

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Foreword

The Annual Report highlights some of our major achievements in the course of 2019. The Geneva Centre's thematic research and publications, high-level panel discussions and debates, interactive training sessions and workshops, statements on human rights events and issues, participation in the Human Rights Council meetings, UPR sessions and international conferences, will all be succinctly and graphically presented in the report.

I take this opportunity, in my capacity as the new Executive Director of the Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue, to announce that, following a year of renewal and recruitment, the new team is on board – and committed to writing a fresh chapter of the Centre's endeavours.

An ambitious and innovative Strategic Framework for 2020 and beyond was adopted by the Geneva Centre's Board during its first meeting last November. The Board members, who come from diverse professional backgrounds and geographic regions, unanimously agreed that the Centre's priority will remain the promotion of a value-driven human rights system, through fostering international consensus – anchored in the principles of equity, non-discrimination, inclusiveness and solidarity. In the course of this year, the Centre intends to lay particular emphasis on the integration of new perspectives and dynamics, within the framework of its fundamental mission and the four pillars of its mandate: enhancing global dialogue, conducting research, raising awareness, and strengthening national capacities in human rights. We have consequently identified several salient issues which the Geneva Centre will address as a matter of priority in 2020.

Interreligious and intercultural dialogue will remain at the core of the Centre's work. To counter the rapid rise in phenomena such as extremism, xenophobia and islamophobia among others, we will continue to vigorously emphasize the extensive commonalities and convergence which exist between the world's major religions, with regard to fundamental human values.

Recognizing that leadership is crucial to success, in the year of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the cradle of modern multilateralism,

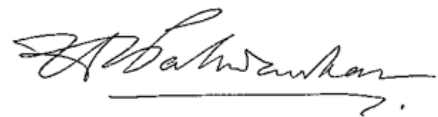
the Centre will join the largest interactive dialogue initiated by the UN on the role of global cooperation and effective multilateralism in moving towards the building of peaceful and inclusive societies.

The Centre will strive to integrate in all its efforts the promotion and implementation of respect for gender equality. In view of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, we reaffirm our commitment to advance empowerment of women and girls at all levels: within families, local communities, and society at large.

In 2020, the Centre will also address the critical issue of the detrimental impact of armed conflicts and their aftermath on human rights through environmental damage. We foresee convening, in collaboration with our partners, an international conference to emphasize how conflicts can lead to significant environmental destruction, thereby amplifying human hardships and vulnerabilities, and seek durable solutions.

On behalf of the new Geneva Centre's team and Board, I thank you for standing by us last year and trust your unfailing support will continue in the years to come. In collaboration with our network of strategic partners, we will work relentlessly to achieve the Geneva Centre's Vision of enhancing global dialogue to promote the celebration of diversity and ensure dignity for all people.

Dr Umesh Palwankar,
Executive Director



What makes the Geneva Centre unique?

- A **think-tank** which provides **policy recommendations** for the promotion and implementation of human rights driven by values that emphasize tolerance, empathy and celebration of diversity.
- Independent centre, renowned for its experience of **establishing and maintaining intercultural, interreligious and inter-civilizational dialogue** between the Global North and the Global South.
- **Located in Geneva**, the human rights capital of the world, and the centre of multilateral humanitarian diplomacy.

About Us

The **Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue** is a think-tank dedicated to the promotion of human rights through cross-cultural and inter-religious dialogue, as well as through the training of the upcoming generations of stakeholders, in particular in the Arab region, including government officials, civil society representatives and national human rights institutions. The Centre promotes a value-driven human rights system, avoiding politicisation, and aims to build bridges between the different narratives of the Global North and of the Global South.

The Geneva Centre, as an independent research and advocacy body, was granted special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 26 July 2017.

Three key achievements of 2019

- Issued **seven publications** that offer a depoliticized and objective view of human rights issues concerning, among others, migration, women's rights, and access to justice.
- Convened a **Global Assembly on Racism** as a follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action – in the presence of more than 150 representatives of Permanent Missions, UN staff, civil society and academics – as well as **5 other panel discussions** at the United Nations Office in Geneva.
- Co-organized an **International Conference in Vienna** “*From Interfaith and Inter-Civilizational Cooperation to Human Solidarity*”, and adopted an outcome **Vienna Declaration**.

Realising our Vision: 4 pillars

Enhancing Global Dialogue

Conducting Research

Capacity Building

Raising Awareness



Enhancing Global Dialogue

Our goal

To promote respect for human rights, mutual understanding and harmonious and enriching relations across cultures by bringing together the United Nations, intergovernmental organizations, Permanent Missions in Geneva, civil society, academia, independent human rights actors, private sector and general public.

How we get there

The Geneva Centre organizes a number of conferences, symposia, side-events, round tables, cultural events and workshops. Our events address the most pressing human rights issues, including those examined by the United Nations human rights structures and mechanisms.

What have we achieved?

In 2019, the Geneva Centre continued working on the topics of access to justice, women empowerment, migration and human solidarity. The Centre also organized a unique event through the convening of an Emergency Assembly on the rise of global racism.

In total, the Centre hosted 6 panel discussion at the United Nations Office in Geneva, and co-sponsored 2 joint in-country international conferences. This contributed to placing the Geneva Centre among the most prominent NGOs in the field of human rights not only in Geneva, but also in Vienna (Austria) and Baku (Azerbaijan).

2019 conferences and events

Geneva Centre events:

- Book Presentation ***"Muslim women between stereotypes and reality: an objective narrative"*** Geneva, 7 March 2019
- Book Presentation ***"Migration and human solidarity"*** Geneva, 25 April 2019
- Panel Discussion ***"Emergency Assembly on the rise of global racism"*** Geneva, 9 May 2019
- Panel Discussion ***"Celebration of diversity: beyond tolerance the path towards empathy"*** Geneva, 21 March 2019
- Panel Discussion ***"Enhancing access to justice for children in the United Arab Emirates"*** Geneva, 18 September 2019
- Breakdown Conference for the Fifth World Forum on intercultural dialogue ***"Greater spiritual convergence for equal citizenship rights"*** Baku (Azerbaijan), 2-3 May 2019

Co-organized events:

- Panel Discussion ***"Leadership in modern multilateralism"*** with the UNOG Library, Geneva, 12 March 2019
- International Conference ***"From interfaith and inter-civilizational cooperation to human solidarity"*** with the Baku International Centre for Interfaith and Inter-Civilizational Cooperation (BCIC), the KAICIID International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, and the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Republic of Austria. Vienna (Austria), 19 June 2019



"ENHANCING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES"

Geneva, 18 September 2019
Held at the United Nations Office in Geneva



Opening Remarks

HE Mr **Obaid Salem Al Zaabi**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Moderator

Dr **Umesh Palwankar**, Executive Director *ad interim* of the Geneva Centre

Panellists

Ms **Fatma Ghulam Murad**, Head of Section of the Department of Child and Woman Protection, General Department of Human Resources, Dubai Police

Professor **Velina Todorova**, Vice-Chairperson and Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

Ms **Beate Andrees**, Chief, Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch, ILO

Mr **Phenny Kakama**, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

The purpose of the conference, held on the margins of the 42nd regular session of the Human Rights Council, was to raise awareness about the need to protect the rights of children in vulnerable situations and to gain deeper understanding of the root causes and risk factors of child abuse and neglect. In this connection, the conference took stock of the progress achieved in the UAE to enhance the legal empowerment of children, and identified areas of improvement in line with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international legal frameworks.

The panel discussion also benefited from the participation of the Dubai Police's "Safety Ambassadors" programme that was implemented as a result of the UAE's National Strategy for Motherhood and Childhood. Four Safety Ambassadors who attended the event shared the positive outcomes of addressing violations of child rights in schools and providing remedies to such injustices.



Read More: http://bit.ly/article_children_2019

Watch Video: http://bit.ly/video_children_2019



Mr **Phenny Kakama**,
UNICEF

"It is of utmost importance to strengthen accountability mechanisms, enhance transparency and collaboration across sectors that will ensure the full realisation of all the rights of children." Mr **Phenny Kakama**

"The rule of law when children are concerned should mean making the proper balance between the principles of the supremacy of the best interests of the child and the principles of fair trial." Professor **Velina Todorova**



Prof. **Velina Todorova**,
Committee on the Rights
of the Child



"CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY: BEYOND TOLERANCE THE PATH TOWARDS EMPATHY"

Panel Discussion

Geneva, 21 March 2019.
Held at the United Nations Office
in Geneva

Held on the occasion of the 2019 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the event aimed to give new impetus to ongoing efforts to counter the rise of extremism and xenophobia in all its forms and to cultivate the harmonious and equitable integration of diversity in the context of equal citizenship rights. It referred to two recent pronouncements that reiterated the importance of harnessing the collective energy of religions and faiths to promote tolerant and inclusive societies.

- On the one hand, it considered the Outcome Declaration *"Moving Towards Greater Spiritual Convergence Worldwide In Support of Equal Citizenship Rights"* adopted by the World Conference on "Religions, Creeds and Value-Systems: Joining Forces to Enhance Equal Citizenship Rights" on 25 June 2018.
- On the other hand, it addressed a Joint Document *"Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together"*, adopted on 4 February 2019 by His Holiness Pope Francis and the Great Imam of Al-Azhar His Eminence Sheikh Ahmad Al-Tayyib, pursuant to the historic visit of His Holiness Pope Francis to the UAE

Opening Remarks

HE Mr **Obaid Salem Al Zaabi**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Mr **Alexander Mejia**, Director of Division for People and Social Inclusion, UNITAR

Moderator

Ambassador **Idriss Jazairy**, former Executive Director of the Geneva Centre

Panellists

Dr **Farouk Hamada**, Spiritual Advisor to the Court of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi

HE Ms **Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann**, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the Sovereign Order of Malta

Reverend **Dr Peniel Rajkumar**, Programme Executive for Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation, World Council of Churches



Read More: http://bit.ly/article_empathy

Watch Video: http://bit.ly/video_empathy



Mr **Alexander Mejia**,
UNITAR

"I do hope that we can find concrete ways to tap in the immense mobilizing potential of religion, and implement effective progress that allows to restore tolerance, to live in a celebration of diversity and to focus on acceptance." Mr **Alexander Mejia**

"An underlying factor remains the sway of neo-liberalism, with its emphasis on competition rather than solidarity. Such an approach has shaped the present form of globalization, which has thus lacked a moral compass, resulting in social stratification, elitism, discrimination, and galloping inequality." **Geneva Centre**

"Tolerance is a matter of respect – and our aim should be for diversity to include tolerance naturally, thereby entailing full respect of the dignity of each person."

HE Ms **Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann**

"EMERGENCY ASSEMBLY ON THE RISE OF GLOBAL RACISM"

with support of **World Against Racism Network**, and **Global Coalition for the International Decade for People of African Descent**

Geneva, 9 May 2019

Held at the United Nations Office in Geneva

Opening Remarks

Ambassador **Idriss Jazairy**, former Executive Director of the Geneva Centre
Mr **Jan Lönn**, Secretary, World Against Racism Network

Keynote Speakers

HE Mr **Ajay Kumar Bramdeo**, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations Office in Geneva
HE Mr **Refiloe Litjobo**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Lesotho to the United Nations Office in Geneva and Chair of the Intergovernmental Working Group for DDPA implementation

Moderator

Ms **Corinne Momal-Vanian**, Director of the Division of Conference Management at the United Nations Office in Geneva

Panellists

Dr **Ahmed Reid**, Chair of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent
Ms **Edna Roland**, Chair of the Group of Independent Eminent Experts on the DDPA
Ms **Isabel Apawo Phiri**, Deputy Secretary General World Council of Churches
Dr **Barry Biekman**, Chair, National Forum Civil Society of People of African Descent, Netherlands
HM **Dòwoti Désir-Hounon Houna II**, Chair of NGO Committee for the Elimination of Racism, Afrophobia & Colorism –New York (by video-message)
Mr **Levi Bautista**, UN Representative, United Methodist Church and President of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN (by video-message)

"No country can claim to be free of racism. Racism is a global concern, and tackling it should be a universal effort." Ambassador **Bramdeo**

Antisemitism
Segregation
Persecution
Apartheid
Racism
Afrophobia
Slavery
Inequality
Injustice
Islamophobia
Refoulement
Xenophobia
Antiziganism
Christianophobia

The Emergency Assembly was organized strategically in-between two important events at the United Nations Office in Geneva. On 6-9 May 2019, the Group of Independent Eminent Experts discussed the continued relevance of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), commemorating its 20th anniversary and developing a multiyear outreach programme for DDPA information and public mobilisation.

On 10 May 2019, OHCHR organized a consultation on people of African Descent and a Permanent Forum on People of African descent to consider it as an integral part of the full and effective implementation of the DDPA.

The Emergency Assembly therefore represented a public platform to energize international action against racism, and provided strategic guidance on measures to be taken by the UN member States to facilitate the implementation of the provisions set forth in the DDPA.



Read More: http://bit.ly/article_racism

Watch Video: http://bit.ly/video_racism

"The betterment of the position of people of African descent can only be achieved by changing negative mind-sets on all levels and by collectively focusing on inclusivity of the multiple perspectives present in the multicultural society."

Dr **Barry Biekman**



Dr **Barry Biekman**,
National Forum Civil Society
of People of African Descent,
Netherlands

"GREATER SPIRITUAL CONVERGENCE FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS"

Baku (Azerbaijan), 3 May 2019
Held at Baku Congress Center

The 5th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, organized by UNESCO and a number of international organizations, was held from 2 to 3 May 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Under its motto '*Building dialogue into action against discrimination, inequality and violent conflict*', the 5th edition of the Forum sought to serve as an inclusive platform and an instrument for addressing some of the pressing challenges of our time, including rising discrimination, growing inequalities and increasingly prevalent violent conflict.

During the Forum, the Geneva Centre held its breakdown session entitled "*Greater Spiritual Convergence for Equal Citizenship Rights*" as a follow-up to the 25 June 2018 World Conference on religions and equal citizenship rights. The purpose of the event, attended by high-level officials from different countries, was to highlight that the collective energy of religions, creeds and value systems is increasingly important in times when religions are often considered as a source of hatred and division.

 Read More: http://bit.ly/article_spiritual

Opening Remarks

Ambassador **Idriss Jazairy**, former Executive Director of the Geneva Centre

Moderator

Ms **Corinne Momal-Vanian**, Director of the Division of Conference Management at the United Nations Office in Geneva

Panellists

Mr **Gunduz Ismayilov**, the Deputy Chairman of the State Committee on Religious Associations of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Ambassador **Nabil Al Sharif**, the Executive Director of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for Dialogue between Cultures

Mr **Syed Munir Khasru**, the Chairman of the Institute for Policy, Advocacy and Governance

Dr **Azza Karam**, the Coordinator of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Development and UNFPA Senior Advisor

Reverend **Peniel Rajkumar**, Programme Executive for Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation at the World Council of Churches



Reverend **Peniel Rajkumar**,
World Council of Churches

"It is no secret that there are spiritual resources within different religious traditions that remind their followers both of the interrelatedness of the entire humanity and the need to ensure the wellbeing of the 'other'." Reverend **Peniel Rajkumar**

"The present declaration appeals to decision-makers to unite in a common endeavour for the preservation of dignity, to contribute to the realization of human rights and to promote the effective enjoyment of equal citizenship rights." former Executive Director Ambassador **Idriss Jazairy**, presenting the Outcome Declaration to the World Conference "Moving Towards Greater Spiritual Convergence Worldwide in Support of Equal Citizenship Rights"

"MIGRATION AND HUMAN SOLIDARITY"

Geneva, 25 April 2019
Held at the United Nations Office in Geneva



Moderator

Ambassador **Idriss Jazairy**, former Executive Director of the Geneva Centre

Panellists

Msgr **Robert J. Vitillo**, Secretary General of the International Catholic Migration Commission

Mr **José Benavente**, President of the French Association Pilotes Volontaires

Ms **Julie Melichar**, Citizen Mobilisation & Communication Officer at SOS Méditerranée

Ms **Camille Pagella**, journalist at L'Illustré, joint recipient of the first ACANU (Association of Accredited Correspondents at the United Nations) Prize for Reporting on Human Rights Issues

Mr **Adrià Budry Carbó**, journalist at Le Temps, joint recipient of the first ACANU Prize for Reporting on Human Rights Issues

Organized on the occasion of the official launch of its new two-volume publication, entitled *The Unprecedented Rise of People on the Move in the 21st Century*, the discussion expanded on the themes of the two volumes of the publication, namely, *Migration and human solidarity, a challenge and an opportunity for Europe and the MENA region*, and *Protecting people on the move: IDPs in the context of the refugee and migrant crisis*.

The panel discussion benefited from the presence of panellists with first-hand experience in the migrant and refugee crisis, who highlighted concrete problems observed during their work on the ground. In addition, the debate focused on the following points:

- the increasing hostility towards migrants and refugees in European societies;
- the growing penalisation of migration and of solidarity in the context of today's crisis;
- the role of civil society in addressing the plight of people on the move; and
- the importance of multilateralism and international cooperation, particularly in light of the adoption of the Global Compacts.



Read More: http://bit.ly/article_migration

Watch Video: http://bit.ly/video_migration

"Paradoxical situation: civil humanitarian ships, who conduct legal search and rescue operations and respond to the duty to deliver assistance, are being criminalised by States who do not uphold anymore the treaties and conventions that they have ratified."

Ms **Julie Melichar**

"All human beings long for a better and more prosperous life, and the challenge of migration cannot be met with a mindset of violence and indifference, nor by offering merely partial solutions." Msgr **Robert J. Vitillo**



Ms **Julie Melichar**,
SOS Méditerranée

"MUSLIM WOMEN BETWEEN STEREOTYPES AND REALITY: AN OBJECTIVE NARRATIVE"

Geneva, 7 March 2019.
Held at the United Nations Office
in Geneva



Organized on the occasion of the launch of two Geneva Centre's new publications on topics related to women's rights and gender equality, and in order to mark International Women's Day, celebrated on the 8th of March, the event focused on the status of women's rights and gender equality in the Arab region and across the world. It also addressed a number of important point, such as:

- persistence of gender-based violence, inequality in the labour market, discriminatory legislation, prevalence of negative gender norms;
- emergence of a movement of women's rights activists in the Arab region fighting to roll back stereotypes and discriminatory depictions of Arab and Muslim women;
- the common history of the headscarf at the crossroads of Christianity, Judaism and Islam, and the questioning of the headscarf on the Western political scene;
- the need to deconstruct stereotypes and myths with regard to Arab women and to facilitate public access to nonbiased information.



Read More: http://bit.ly/article_women

Watch Video: http://bit.ly/video_women

Moderator

Ambassador **Idriss Jazairy**, former Executive Director of the Geneva Centre

Panellists

HE Ms **Nassima Baghli**, Ambassador, Permanent Observer of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Dr **Elisa Banfi**, Research assistant at the Institute of Citizenship Studies (InCite) at the Department of Political Science, University of Geneva

Dr **Amir Dziri**, Director of the Swiss Centre for Islam and Society at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland

"One of the most challenging issues faced by pluralistic societies in Europe nowadays is precisely the acceptance of visible diversity." Dr **Amir Dziri**

"The institutionalisation of Islamophobia is strictly related to a process of cross-fertilisation across concepts of race, nation and gender." Dr **Elisa Banfi**

"The negative stereotypes conveyed by the media contribute to perceiving Muslim women as in need of salvation, victimized and weak, and lacking free will." HE Ms **Nassima Baghli**



Dr **Amir Dziri**,
University of Fribourg



Opening Remarks

Mr **Michael Møller**, former Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva

Ambassador **Idriss Jazairy**, former Executive Director of the Geneva Centre

Moderator

Ms **Corinne Momal-Vanien**, Director of the Division of Conference Management at the United Nations Office in Geneva

Panellists

Mr **Roberto Savio**, Author, Journalist, President Emeritus of Inter Press Service (IPS) and Chairman of IPS Board of Trustees

Professor **Thomas Biersteker**, Professor of International Security and Director of Policy Research, Graduate Institute

HE Ms **Hala Hameed**, Ambassador & Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva

"LEADERSHIP IN MODERN MULTILATERALISM"

Co-organized with **the UNOG Library**

Geneva, 12 March 2019

Held at the United Nations Office in Geneva

The effectiveness of global institutions and of global policymaking is constantly questioned whilst alliances are fraying. Against this background, the timely debate, organized on the occasion of the Centenary of the founding of the League of Nations and celebration of the 100-year Anniversary of Multilateral Diplomacy in Geneva, discussed multilateralism as the most logical approach to the challenges the world is facing in our time of fast-paced globalisation.

The panellists explored the principles and ideas underpinning multilateralism against a complex background of climate change, the rise of technology and the future of the global economy.



Read More: http://bit.ly/article_multilateralism

Watch Video: http://bit.ly/video_multilateralism

"Multilateral climate had suffered a change of direction that exacerbated inequality and opened the way to nationalist, populist and extremist political movements. The two engines of history are greed and fear." Mr **Roberto Savio**

"It is imperative to address the crisis of confidence affecting international institutions, and to better define the roles of international organizations, of nation-states, of the private sector and of civil society organizations in the leadership of multilateralism." Mr **Michael Møller**



Mr **Roberto Savio**,
Inter Press Service




“FROM INTERFAITH AND INTER-CIVILIZATIONAL COOPERATION TO HUMAN SOLIDARITY”

co-organized with **the Baku International Centre for Interfaith and Inter-Civilizational Cooperation, the KAICIID International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, and the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Republic of Austria.**

Vienna, Austria, 19 June 2019. Held at the Hofburg Palace.

The International Conference sought to give new impetus to ongoing efforts to harness the collective energy of religions, creeds and value systems in the pursuit of a world living in peace and harmony as well as to eliminate any form of practice that impedes the realization of equal citizenship rights in societies worldwide. The conference brought together eminent dignitaries, faith leaders, political figures and opinion-makers from Europe, America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East who reiterated their common stand against challenges to peace and prosperity, especially, conflicts on the religious grounds.

At the conclusion of the event, the participants of the International Conference adopted the **Vienna Declaration** as a final document of the Conference.

 **Read More:** http://bit.ly/article_multilateralism
Vienna Declaration: http://bit.ly/declaration_vienna

Opening Remarks

Ambassador **Idriss Jazairy**, former Executive Director of the Geneva Centre

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan **Ilham Aliyev**, via a letter which was read out to conference participants

Keynote Speech

Mr **Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, the UN Under-Secretary-General, the High-Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

Mr **Rashid Khalikov**, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Partnerships with the Middle East and Central Asia

Moderator

Ms **Corinne Momal-Vanien**, Director of the Division of Conference Management at the United Nations Office in Geneva

Panellists

Sheikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazadeh, the Chairman of the Caucasus Muslims' Board, Secretary General of BCIC – head of the Azerbaijani delegation

Mr **Ali Hasanov**, the Assistant to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

“Discussions and suggestions of the Conference will serve to enhance the promotion of interfaith dialogue, strengthen intercultural harmony, contribute to peace and mutual understanding over the World”. President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, **Ilham Aliyev**

“One of the greatest paradoxes of the contemporary world is that major world faiths and creeds that all preach human fraternity are being perverted to justify hatred and exclusion.”

Geneva Centre



Conducting Research

Our goal

To provide academically sound and objective analyses on relevant human rights-related issues. To identify areas where existing mechanisms are not equipped to promote, protect, or respect human rights, and to focus our research efforts where they are most valuable.

How we get there

The Geneva Centre's research and advocacy policy strives to be needs-directed, open-minded and objective. We place a special focus on systematic human rights weaknesses in the Middle East and North Africa region, and use the findings of regional and international human rights mechanisms to identify areas for further research, as well as to propose country-specific recommendations.

What have we achieved?

To date, the Geneva Centre has to its credit 17 major publications of recognized high quality.

7 comprehensive publications on the topics related to migration, women's rights, religions, and access to justice were produced in 2019.

The Geneva Centre's 2019 publications

1. February 2019: **The Unprecedented Rise of People on the Move in the 21st Century**

Volume I: Migration and Human Solidarity, a Challenge and an Opportunity for Europe and the MENA Region

Volume II: Protecting People on the Move. IDPs in the Context of the Refugee and Migrant Crisis

2. February 2019: **Women's Rights in the Arab Region: Between Myth and Reality**

3. February 2019: **Veiling/Unveiling: The Headscarf in Christianity, Judaism and Islam**

4. May 2019: **Migration & Human Solidarity**

5. July 2019: **Improving Access to Justice for Workers: The Case of the UAE**

6. December 2019: **World Conference on Religions, Creeds and Value Systems: Joining Forces to Enhance Equal Citizenship Rights**

Volume I: A Global Vision to Promote Equal Citizenship Rights

Volume II: Verbatim and Working Papers

7. December 2019: **Enhancing Access to Justice for Children**



2019 Flagship Publication

“World Conference – Religions, Creeds and Value Systems: Joining Forces to Enhance Equal Citizenship Rights”



The publication, which constitutes a follow-up to the World Conference organized by the Geneva Centre and held on 25 June 2018, is comprised of two volumes.

- *Volume I* offers a comprehensive assessment of the enriching debates and the innovative solutions proposed by eminent dignitaries to eliminate all forms of practices impeding the enjoyment of equal and inclusive citizenship rights. It likewise includes an intellectual think piece identifying the lessons learned from the World Conference, and how lay and religious leaders can harness their collective energy in the pursuit of equal citizenship rights. It then presents the summary records of all sessions, as well as the text of the World Conference Outcome Declaration, and a comprehensive study highlighting areas of convergence

between religions, creeds and value systems in the promotion of joint values, principles and beliefs.

- *Volume II* includes a number of preparatory papers on various aspects of equal citizenship rights and their realization throughout the world, as well as the transcribed versions of the statements and talking points as delivered by the eminent dignitaries and keynote speakers during the World Conference. It also includes a selection of the extensive international media articles generated after the World Conference in major media outlets worldwide.

 Read the Outcome Declaration: <http://bit.ly/Outcome-Declaration>

The official launch of the publication is announced for February 2020

2019 Publications on Access to Justice

“Enhancing Access to Justice for Children”

The publication constitutes a follow-up to an eponymous panel discussion organized by the Geneva Centre on 18 September 2019, in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates. The publication is also an occasion to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, celebrated in 2019. The book seeks to summarize the rich panel proceedings and presentations made by the experts from UNICEF, Committee on the Rights of the Child, International Labour Organization, and Department of Child and Woman Protection of the Dubai Police.

It also includes a think piece on the lessons learned from the panel debate, identifying the main challenges and the way forward for achieving equitable and universal access to justice for all children.

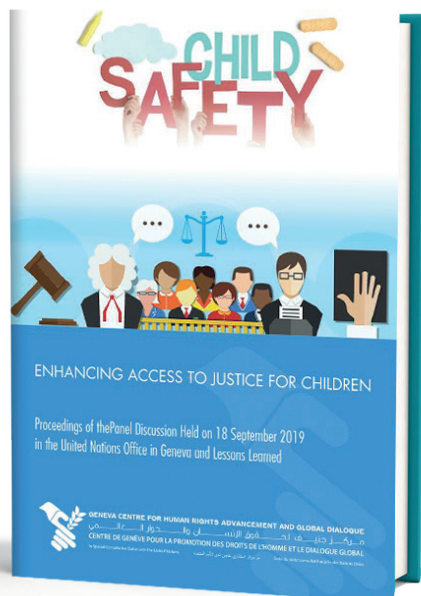
Find out more at: http://bit.ly/publication_children

“Improving Access to Justice for Workers: The Case of the UAE”

The publication is an outcome of a panel discussion held on 20 March 2018 addressing the same subject. It aims to review the most innovative features of labour reforms implemented in the United Arab Emirates and their possible replication in Gulf Cooperation Council countries. UAE was chosen as a case study in view of the fact that the country has the highest proportion of international migrants in the world and has recently implemented numerous innovative measures to enhance access to justice for migrant workers.

The first part of the publication summarizes the panel proceedings of the statements provided by labour migration specialists, while the second part includes an intellectual think piece on the process of reform, which has been initiated in the UAE with respect to foreign labour.

Find out more at: http://bit.ly/publication_workers



2019 Publications on Women's Rights



“Women's Rights in the Arab Region: Between Myth and Reality”

Despite the efforts of the international community, and the comprehensive international legal framework on women's rights, major setbacks persist all around the world. This publication features the proceedings of the eponymous panel discussion organized by the Geneva Centre on 15 September 2017, and seeks to review the remaining challenges and to deconstruct the existing myths regarding women in the Arab region.

Apart from written contributions from the renowned panellists that participated in the side-event, the study also contains a think-piece signed by Ambassador Naela Gabr and edited by Ambassador Idriss Jazairy, former Executive Director of the Geneva Centre, which underscores the lessons learned from the debate and broadens the discussion on intersecting forms of discrimination to other regions of the world.

Find out more at: http://bit.ly/publication_women1

“Veiling/Unveiling: The Headscarf in Christianity, Islam and Judaism”

Against the background of a heightened fear of ‘the other’, with societies turning inwards and moving away from tolerance, the headscarf has become outrageously politicised. The aim of this publication, which constitutes a follow-up to the panel discussion and an art exhibition organized by the Geneva Centre and the Permanent Mission of Algeria on 23 February 2018, is to counter misconceptions, deconstruct stereotypes and to show the role of the headscarf as a bridge between cultures and religions.

In the first part of the publication, the reader is provided with an analysis of the topic from the standpoint of each religion discussed, while the second part provides a graphic illustration of the catalogue of the exhibition.



Find out more at: http://bit.ly/publication_women2

2019 Publications on Migration

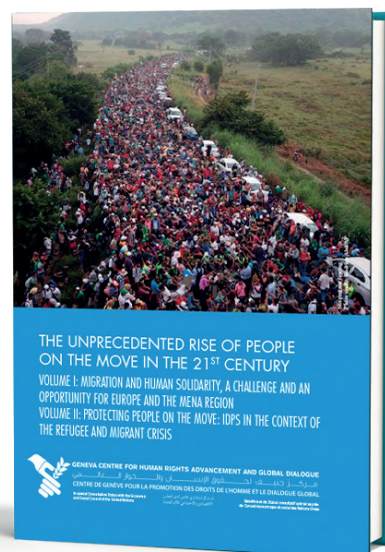
“The Unprecedented Rise of People on the Move”

The first volume of the publication, *“Migration and human solidarity, a challenge and an opportunity for Europe and the MENA region”*, which is an outcome of a panel debate organized by the Geneva Centre on 14 December 2017, explores the adverse impact of cross-border movement resulting from war-related insecurity as well as from economic push factors.

The second part, *“Protecting people on the move: IDPs in the context of the refugee and migrant crisis”*, summarizes the panel proceedings of the 21 March 2018 panel debate, and examines the causes and consequences of internal displacement in the context of the migrant and refugee crisis. It demonstrates that the push and pull factors of forced displacement of internally displaced persons in the Arab region exacerbate migrant and refugee inflows to Europe.

Upon examination of the predicaments of IDPs in Syria, Iraq and Azerbaijan, the study demonstrates that prolonged internal displacement results in long-term adverse impact on societies from economic, social and political standpoints.

Find out more at: http://bit.ly/publication_move



“Migration and Human Solidarity”

The brochure contains a summary of the presentations that took place during the panel event organized by the Geneva Centre on 25 April 2019. The panellists provided vivid, first-hand accounts of their experiences, and difficulties they encountered in rescue operations in the Mediterranean Sea. They shared stories of sufferings and dashed hopes of people who desperately tried to flee to what they view as safety but very often were doomed in what has become the world's largest liquid graveyard.

The panel presentations, reflected in the publication, underlined the vital importance of shared responsibility and dialogue to address root causes of this crisis, to facilitate rescue operations, to avoid criminalization of compassion, and to recall the urgent need for states to respect their international obligations under human rights and maritime law.

Find out more at: http://bit.ly/publication_migration



Capacity Building



Our goal

To build the capacities of young professionals, in particular from the Arab region in the field of human rights and international affairs. To provide the beneficiaries with a unique first-hand experience of the proceedings at the UN Human Rights Council. To enable these stakeholders to promote effective implementation of human rights in their respective regions.



How we get there

The training programmes offered by the Geneva Centre take place several times a year, concomitantly with the sessions of the UN Human Rights Council. Regular lectures and workshops on multilateralism and in particular, on the Human Rights mechanisms, are delivered by the staff and by partners of the Geneva Centre, notably from the UN, international NGOs and academia.



What have we achieved?

In the course of 2019, the Geneva Centre welcomed a number of trainees. Our capacity building activities mainly focused on training programmes, workshops and study visits aimed at offering participants an exposure to human-rights based international organizations in Geneva, including through active participation in the regular sessions of the Human Rights Council and reporting on the meetings attended.

The Geneva Centre's 2019 trainings and educational programmes

- 7 January – 29 March 2019: a 3-month **in-depth training** specifically designed for the Geneva Centre's new long-term trainee.
- March 2019: a **study visit** by a delegation of officials and graduate students from the United Arab Emirates as part of the *International Leadership Programme* jointly organized by UNITAR and Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University.
- September 2019: a **training programme** "*Human rights in a multilateral context*" for students of Zayed University, Dubai (UAE) majoring in Political Science.
- September 2019: a study visit for 4 students – participants of Dubai Police *Safety Ambassadors programme* – during the 42nd session of the Human Rights Council.
- November 2019: the Geneva Centre hosted a **workshop** entitled *Mediation Techniques and Tools* which was organized and conducted by the Geneva Academy for Peace and Mediation.



“Human rights in a multilateral context” a training programme for students of Zayed University, Dubai (UAE)



In the period 2-30 September 2019, the Geneva Centre received three trainees – female students coming from the Zayed University, Dubai.

The trainees underwent a 4-week training programme entitled “Human rights in a multilateral context”. The programme included lectures delivered by the Geneva Centre’s Executive Director *ad interim*, Dr **Umesh Palwankar**, and by the Centre’s staff, on the history, role and mission of the United Nations, functioning and role of the UN Human Rights Council, Introduction to International Human Rights Law, and the role of communication in the field of human rights.

Furthermore, the three trainees benefited from special lectures from guest partners of the Geneva Centre, including, **Ms Shahida Mohamed**, Founder and Director of Geneva Academy for Peace & Mediation who spoke on “Human Rights in Peace and Conflict”, and **Ms Marianne Ejdersten**, Director of Communications at the World Council of Churches who delivered a lecture on “Religion, Dialogue and Inter-Cultural Cooperation”. The trainees visited the premises of the World Council of Churches, and were also received by the **HE Obaid Salem Al Zaabi**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations Office in Geneva at the Permanent Mission’s headquarters.

Additionally, the trainees actively participated in the 42nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council, which took place from 9 to 27 September 2019. The Geneva Centre trainees attended and reported on the relevant sessions of the Council, particularly the interactive dialogues with the UN Special Rapporteurs and with UN Commissions

of Inquiry on countries from the Arab region, as well as the Annual Discussion on the integration of a gender perspective. They also assisted in preparation of the Geneva Centre’s Side-Event “Enhancing Access to Justice for Children in the United Arab Emirates” which took place on 18 September 2019 at the United Nations Office in Geneva.

“ I would like to have international experience in the field of human rights so as to prepare myself for a career with the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs. ”

A 21-year-old Political Science student

“ I would like to pursue a career with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the UAE, and specialize in the field of refugee protection and the enhancement of women’s rights in the Arab region in general. ”

A 24-year-old Political Science student

“ I would like to work in the field of human rights and conflict management, and to become a peacemaker. ”

A 23-year-old International Relations student

Individual training

From 7 January to 29 March 2019, the Geneva Centre welcomed a long-term trainee who took part in two different programmes “*Human rights and international relations*” and “*Communication in the 21st century*”. The programmes included lectures delivered by the former Geneva Centre’s Executive Director, Ambassador Idriss Jazairy, and by the Centre’s staff as well as by a number of renowned external experts. Furthermore, in the context of the 40th Session of the UN Human Rights Council, which took place from 25 February to 22 March 2019, the trainee attended and reported on the relevant meetings of the Council, particularly the interactive dialogues with the UN Special Rapporteurs and with UN Commissions of Inquiry on countries from the Arab region, as well as the Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child and Debate on countering nationalist populism.

“International Leadership Programme” a study visit by a delegation of officials and graduate students from the United Arab Emirates



Jointly organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University, *International Leadership Programme* visit took place on 29 March 2019. The delegation from the United Arab Emirates was welcomed by the former Executive Director of the Geneva Centre Ambassador **Idriss Jazairy** who delivered a lecture on international human rights law and the functions of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms. Staff of the Geneva Centre gave an in-depth presentation about the Centre’s endeavours to promote and advance human rights in the Arab region and to enhance inter-faith dialogue and religious harmony in multicultural societies.

“ One of the core objectives of the Geneva Centre is to promote human rights awareness among the general Arab and broader Muslim public. We felt honoured and privileged to have hosted students from the International Leadership Programme at our premises.” – **the Geneva Centre**

“Mediation Techniques and Tools” a workshop by the Geneva Academy for Peace and Mediation



On 7 November 2019, on the occasion of Geneva Peace Week 2019, the Geneva Centre hosted a half-day workshop entitled “Mediation Techniques and

Tools”, organized by one of the Centre’s partner organizations – the Geneva Academy for Peace & Mediation. The workshop focused on the challenges and benefits of mediation and emphasized the importance of developing a relationship of trust and confidence between the parties. It also explored some of the techniques and tools a mediator can use to create a safe environment and guide the process in a constructive direction. The workshop was moderated by **Ms Shahida M. Mohamed** and **Ms Sibylle Rupprecht**, co-directors of the Geneva Academy for Peace and Mediation, who offered their valuable insights and new perspectives on how to help stakeholders develop the skills required to negotiate across cultures and contexts. The workshop was attended by 14 participants from different backgrounds.

Geneva Centre staff were able to take part in the activity, and were actively engaged in discussions and practical exercises. **Dr Umesh Palwankar**, the Geneva Centre’s Executive Director *ad interim*, welcomed the participants, presenting the Geneva Centre, its activities and the Centre’s publications in line with the topic of the workshop.

“Safety Ambassadors” a study visit of Dubai high-school students



From 17 to 19 September 2019, the Geneva Centre welcomed four high-school students for a 3-day study visit, during which they received a short training on the UN human rights mechanisms and the role and functions of the UN Human Rights Council.

The students were able to attend selected UN Human Rights Council meetings, and gave a short presentation on their role of Safety Ambassadors in Dubai schools during the Geneva Centre’s Side Event “Enhancing Access to Justice for Children in the United Arab Emirates” that took place on 18 September 2019.



Raising Awareness

Our goal

Human rights should be essential drivers of national policy in every nation in the world, and the Geneva Centre recognizes that increased awareness about the importance of human rights is the first and most important step we can take in this direction.

How we get there

The Centre follows and participates in the United Nations meetings, where it delivers oral statements and engages in advocacy activities.

To raise awareness about human rights and promote global dialogue, the Geneva Centre regularly publishes its newsletter "*Human Rights Without Prejudice*".

The Centre also produces written statements on the occasion of international commemorative days, issues press releases, and regularly shares articles and visual materials (including short videos of its past events) on its social network accounts.

Awareness-raising activities in 2019

- Produced **two** "*Human Rights without Prejudice*" Newsletters – Issue 4 and Issue 5.
- Published **ten** written statements on the occasion of the United Nations Commemorative Days, and **eight** statements on other topics of critical importance.
- Issued **13** Press Releases, and **34** short news articles on its webpage.
- Produced **9** short professional videos with a summary of our panel debates.
- Increased our number of followers, reaching



11,552 followers on Facebook,



4,363 on Twitter, and



893 on LinkedIn.



Newsletters



Issue 4 (February 2019)

Issue 4 of the Newsletter featured the outcome of the deliberations of the 10 December 2018 panel debate entitled “Education for Peace in a Multi-Religious Context” organized by the Geneva Centre and the World Council of Churches. The periodical likewise reported on the Geneva Centre’s participation in the informal consultation sessions on the long-term efficiency of the Human Rights Council held at the United Nations Office in Geneva.

 **Download Issue 4:** http://bit.ly/download_newsletter_4

Issue 5 (August 2019)

Issue 5 of the Newsletter included a summary of the outcome of six conferences and panel debates organized by the Geneva Centre in cooperation with its partner institutions from February to August 2019. A visit by a delegation of officials and graduate students from the United Arab Emirates held in the context of the “International Leadership Programme” jointly organized by UNITAR and the Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University received special mention in the newsletter. Finally, the newsletter contained Geneva Centre’s oral statements presented during the 40th regular session of the Human Rights Council.

 **Download Issue 5:** http://bit.ly/download_newsletter_5



 **Visit our website** <https://www.gchragd.org/en> to join our mailing list.



On 15 March 2019, The Geneva Centre strongly condemned the terrorist acts killing innocent men, women and children who were gathered for the Friday prayers in Christchurch, New Zealand. In a letter addressed to the country’s Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, the Geneva Centre stressed that “We must face up to the divisions blighting our world. We must all work together to defeat hatred and give hope. [...] These terrible attacks must not be allowed to feed the hateful inhumanity

of the few. Rather, these images of death and destruction must strengthen our compassion and elevate our common humanity. Instead of retribution and prolonged vitriolic responses, let us call now for peace and decency, standing together as one.”

Participation in the United Nations human-rights meetings

Our goal

The Geneva Centre actively participates in the Geneva-based and other international human rights meetings.

We lay particular emphasis on closely following the Human Rights Council and Universal Periodic Review by attending their regular sessions, submitting written- and making oral statements, holding side events, and participating in informal consultations.

The Geneva Centre also attends a number of relevant conferences that take place outside the United Nations, in the premises of other international organizations, NGOs and academic institutions..

Participation in 2019 meetings

- **Human Rights Council**
 - 40th regular session (*February-March*)
 - 41st regular session (*June-July*)
 - 42nd regular session (*September*)
- 2021/2026 review of the status of the Human Rights Council
- 8th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights
- 2nd Human Rights Council intersessional meeting on human rights and the 2030 Agenda
- Organizational session for the 14th cycle of the Council
- **Universal Periodic Review**
 - 32nd Session, 33rd Session, 34th Session
- **Young Activists Summit** held on the occasion of Human Rights Day, "*Women and Girls Driving Progress*"
- **Commemorative Conference** to mark 30 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **UN Commemoration** of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
- **Special Procedures Coordination Committee:** Meeting with Member States, Civil Society and Other Stakeholders

Oral Statements:

At the 40th regular session of the UN Human Rights Council, the Geneva Centre presented two oral statements with regard to Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

In the first, the Centre congratulated **Saudi Arabia** for having adopted the Global Compact for Migration. The Geneva Centre also encouraged Saudi Arabia to ratify the International Covenants on civil and political rights and on economic, social and cultural rights, the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, and to apply a moratorium on the death penalty. Furthermore, it invited Saudi Arabia to set a date for a visit by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.

On **Jordan**, the Geneva Centre welcomed its endeavours to comply with the recommendations put forward by UN member States. In particular, it took note of the measures adopted with regard to enhancing women's rights, promoting the right to work and advancing the right to education. The Geneva Centre encouraged Jordan to implement the remaining recommendations it had approved, particularly in relation to strengthening the independence of the judiciary system, enhancing capacity building for law enforcement agencies and combatting trafficking in persons. It likewise appealed to Jordan to ratify other human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party.

The Geneva Centre also took part in the first informal exchange of views on the issue of **the 2021/2026 review of the status of the Human Rights Council**. In its statement, the Geneva Centre recommended that the Council should continue to remain a subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly as the elevation of its status to a main body would have adverse impacts on the functioning of the Council.

The Geneva Centre remained an active participant of the enhancing Human Rights Council efficiency informal meetings, and took part in two further sessions on 20 November and on 4 December 2019.

2019 in Numbers



Side Events
and Panel
Debates

8

Trainings and
Workshops

5

48

External
Speakers

7

Books
Published

63

News and
Statements
on our Web

Geneva Statements on International Commemorative Days

World Children's Day, 20 November – *"The Centre reiterates its steady commitment to promote children's rights, and will continue to raise awareness about the problems that children face in the MENA region and globally".*

International Day for Tolerance, 16 November – *"Safeguarding common humanity and shared values, raising voices in support of multicultural communities and mutual understanding must remain a driving force reconciling and enriching a world society with diversity and empathy for 'the Other'".*

World Refugee Day, 20 June – *"The refugee crisis is man-made, mainly triggered by decades of violence, conflict and war, and should be acknowledged as such".*

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, 21 May – *"We need to move beyond mere tolerance and towards empathy to truly celebrate cultural diversity".*

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21 March – *"As global citizens, we cannot turn a blind eye to the increasing spread of hatred and intolerance".*

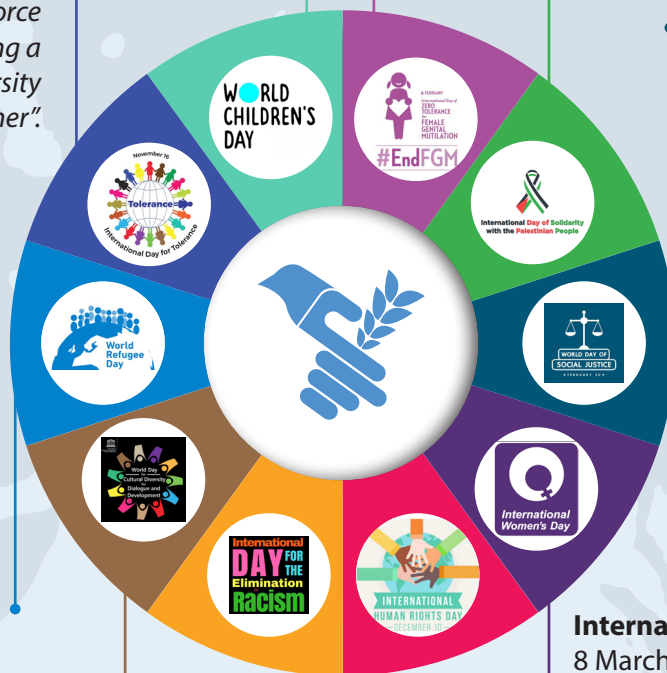
International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, 6 February – *"The Geneva Centre strongly calls for prohibition and full eradication of this woeful practice, in line with Target 5.3 of Sustainable Goal 5 on Gender Equality".*

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, 20 November – *"The cruel practices should never become the norm, and no peace, security and justice are possible under occupation".*

World Day of Social Justice, 20 February – *"There can be no social justice without promoting peace and enhancing equality".*

International Women's Day, 8 March – *"There is an urgent need to intensify efforts towards achieving gender equality in all spheres of society, eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, and promoting women's political and economic empowerment".*

Human Rights Day, 10 December – *"Ideologies anchored in hate and prejudice continue to undermine human rights worldwide and attack our shared humanity".*



2019 Timeline

- **Publication** *The Unprecedented Rise of People on the Move*
- **Publication** *Women's Rights in the Arab Region: Between Myth and Reality*
- **Publication** *Veiling/Unveiling: The Headscarf in Christianity, Judaism and Islam*
- **Side Event** *Celebration of Diversity: Beyond Tolerance, the Path Towards Empathy*
- **Newsletter** "Human Rights Without Prejudice" (Issue 4)

Book Launch Event
Migration and Human Solidarity.

- Geneva Centre participates in the **41st session of the Human Rights Council**
- Geneva Centre co-organizes an **International Conference From Interfaith And Inter-Civilizational Cooperation To Human Solidarity** (Vienna, Austria)

January

Geneva Centre participates in the **32nd UPR session**

February

- Geneva Centre participates in the **40th session of the Human Rights Council**
- Geneva Centre presents **oral statements** on the UPR outcomes
- **Book Launch Event** *Muslim Women between Stereotypes and Reality*
- **Side Event** *Leadership in Modern Multilateralism* (with the UN Library)
- A **study visit** by a delegation of officials and graduate students from the Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University (UAE)

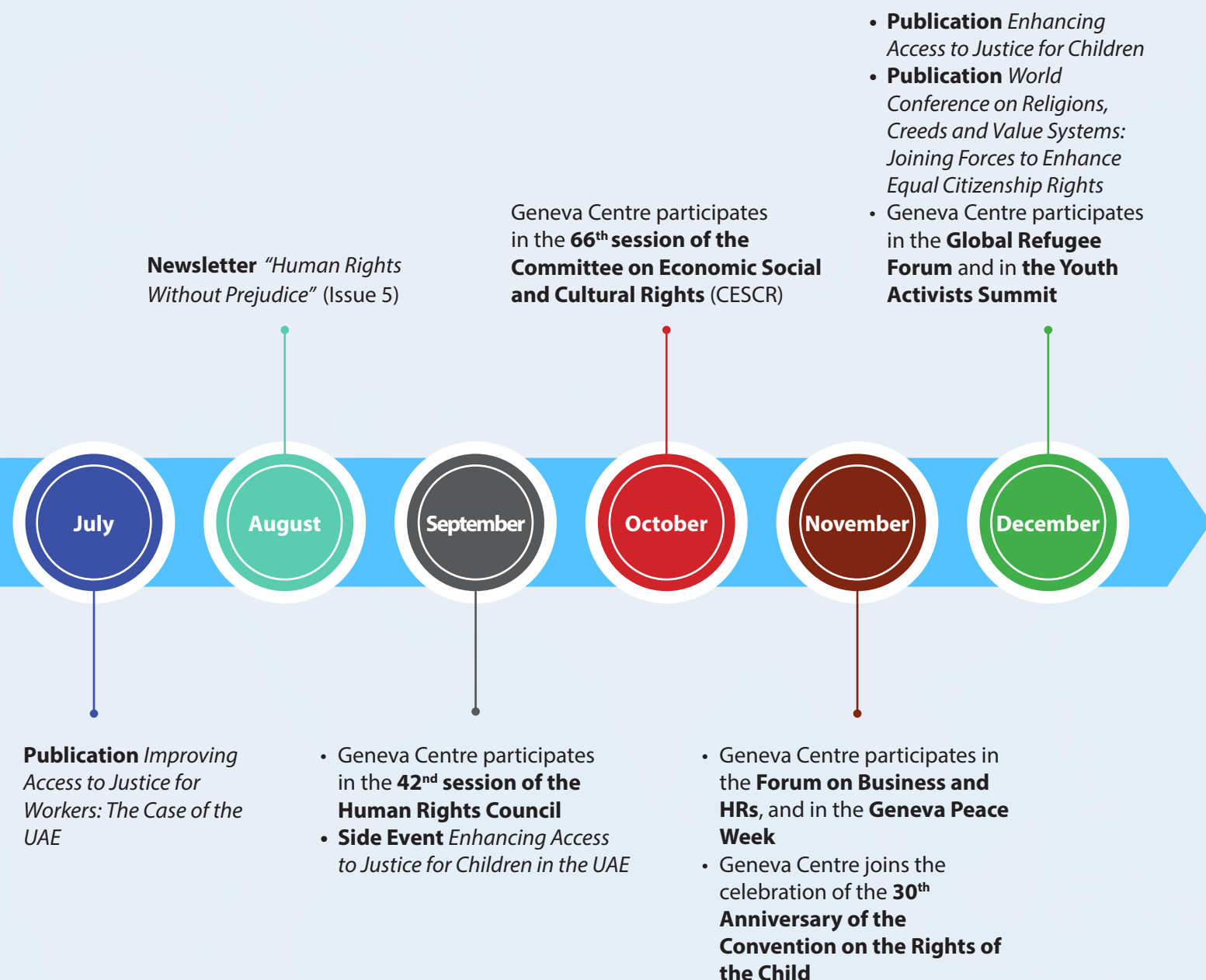
March

April

- Geneva Centre participates in the **Fifth World Forum** on Intercultural Dialogue (Baku, Azerbaijan)
- **Side Event** *Greater Spiritual Convergence for Equal Citizenship Rights*
- **Side Event** *Emergency Assembly on the Rise of Global Racism*
- **Publication** *Migration and Human Solidarity*
- Geneva Centre participates in the **33rd UPR session**

May

June





STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS: 2019 AND BEYOND

Over the years, the Geneva Centre has developed strategic, diversified and close institutional partnerships and working relationships with a number of relevant stakeholders in Geneva and internationally. To date, the Centre has **18 existing Memoranda of Understanding**, including with the following organizations:

- Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies
- Geneva Academy for Peace and Mediation
- Rencontre Africaine pour La Défense des Droits de l'Homme

During 2019, the Geneva Centre also concluded the following agreements:

- Memorandum of Understanding with **European Centre for Peace and Development (ECPD) – UN University for Peace**.
- Memorandum of Understanding with **International Eurasia Press Fund**.

- Strategic partnerships with **civil society organizations and national human rights commissions in Azerbaijan**, concluded during the Fifth World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Baku.
- Agreement on collaboration with **Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies & Research**.
- Agreement with the **United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)** on partial funding of the World Conference publication and organization of joint events.

Apart from this, in December 2019, the Geneva Centre became a member of the long-established **Geneva Press Club** (*Club Suisse De la Presse*), and joined the prestigious **Diplomatic Club of Geneva** (*Club Diplomatique de Genève*) in order to intensify its advocacy efforts and visibility.

Looking into 2020



The Geneva Centre will organize a major international conference

The Geneva Centre plans to convene a high-level conference on the impact of armed conflicts on human rights through the environmental damage and destruction. The Geneva Centre will partner with several international organizations and ensure presence of leading experts in the field. To this end, in December 2019, the Geneva Centre began a dialogue with *Nadia's Initiative* and envisages hosting Ms Nadia Murad, Nobel Peace Prize winner 2018, as a guest speaker.



The Geneva Centre will join celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the UN

To mark its 75th anniversary in 2020, the United Nations will launch the biggest-ever "global conversation on the role of global cooperation in building the future we want". The Geneva Centre will participate extensively in the dialogue, projecting its vision of the importance of global dialogue and cooperation across borders, actors and generations for building more inclusive and tolerant societies.



The Geneva Centre will be present internationally

As part of its Strategic Objectives, the Geneva Centre will ensure its presence and active participation during the key international human rights related meetings, in Geneva, New York and Dubai.



The Geneva Centre will strive to promote the Sustainable Development Goals

The Centre will contribute to international efforts in various domains in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in relation to Target 4 *Quality Education*, Target 5 *Gender Equality*, Target 10 *Reduced Inequalities* and Target 16 *Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions*.



The Geneva Centre will continue empowering young professionals

The Geneva Centre plans to conduct more training activities for students and young professionals, offering them access to expert knowledge and an exposure to international organizations in Geneva, particularly the UN, through active participation in the sessions of the UN Human Rights Council.






Our Team

	Dr Umesh Palwankar (Switzerland)	Executive Director
	Ms Tiziana Loschi (France)	Executive Assistant
	Ms Maryna Yazianok (Belarus)	Project and Information Officer
	Mr Florian Fiquet (France)	Project and Information Officer

New Board

The Board of the Geneva Centre is responsible for overseeing the policies and activities of the organization. The Geneva Centre's Board of Management meets at least thrice a year to discuss the strategic direction of the organization.

As of the latest Board meeting held on 14 November 2019, the Board of the Geneva Centre is constituted of the following members:

Chairman of the Board of Management	Ambassador Ghazi Jomaa (Tunisia)	
Treasurer	Dr Mohammed Butti Thani Tarish Al Shamsi (United Arab Emirates)	
General-Secretary	Mr Vincent Hornung (Switzerland)	
Board Member	Prof. Paola Todini (Italy)	
Board Member	Dr Judge Mohammad Al Tarawneh (Jordan)	

Former Team

- **Ambassador Idriss Jazairy**, Executive Director
- **Ms Homeyra Jazairy**, Executive Assistant
- **Ms Teodora Popa-Spataru**, Project Officer on Gender and other Discrimination Issues
- **Mr Blerim Mustafa**, Project and Information Officer



THE GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

Promoting human rights since 2014

*We are looking forward to 2020 and we hope to
interact and collaborate with you in this noble
endeavour*

OUR NETWORK

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Permanent Missions



United Arab Emirates



Maldives



Lesotho



Azerbaijan



Sovereign
Order of Malta



Organization of
Islamic Cooperation



African Union

Academia



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Faith-based organizations



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