

Newsletter, Issue No. 1 2019

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CENTRE DE GENÈVE POUR LA PROMOTION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET LE DIALOGUE GLOBAL

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GENEVA CENTRE



Dr. Hanif Hassan Ali Al Qassim

Chairman of the Geneva Centre for Human Rights
Advancement and Global Dialogue

Dear readers,

I am pleased to announce the fourth edition of the Geneva Centre's "Human Rights Without Prejudice" newsletter. The present edition reports on the Centre's further endeavours to enhance mutual understanding and cooperative relations between peoples and societies. These noble goals remain at the very heart of our efforts to promote a more tolerant and peaceful world society.

The first part of the newsletter provides you with information about how the Geneva Centre promotes a value-driven human rights system. On 10 December 2018 at the United Nations Office in Geneva, the Geneva Centre organized a conference on the theme of "Education for Peace in a Multi-Religious Context" in partnership with The World Council of Churches (WCC). The panellists offered their compelling insights on how Education for Peace can engage different stakeholders to counter violent extremist narratives, build peaceful and inclusive societies as well as promote universally shared values upheld in diverse faiths and creeds. In this regard, I would like to enlighten our readers with a "Words of Wisdom" table that the Geneva Centre has put together. This table highlights some essential remarks that were made by the panellists on how education itself can be made transformative so as to enhance sustainable development, peace and global citizenship. I felt it therefore appropriate to share with the readers of the present newsletter the outcome of the deliberations of this significant event.

The present issue likewise reports on the Centre's endeavours to promote greater understanding of human rights through cross-cultural, religious and cross-civilization dialogue. In this connection, the Geneva Centre participated in the informal consultation sessions on the long-term efficiency of the Human Rights Council held at the United Nations Office in Geneva. Initiated by the Secretariat of the Human Rights

Council under the leadership of its previous President - the Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the UN Geneva Ambassador Vojislav Šuc - these sessions offered the Centre an opportunity to contribute to the long-term enhancement of the efficiency of UN human rights bodies. Other initiatives have likewise received special mention in this newsletter: On 26 October 2018, the European Centre for Peace and Development – UN University for Peace endorsed a resolution entitled "Moving Towards Greater Spiritual Convergence in Support of Equal Citizenship Rights" adopted at the 25 June 2018 World Conference on "Religions, Creeds and Value Systems: Joining Forces to Enhance Equal Citizenship Rights." In addition, HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the WCC's General Secretary Reverend Dr Olav Fykse Tveit and the Geneva Centre's Executive Director Ambassador Idriss Jazairy appealed to the UN Secretary-General António Guterres to contribute to the peaceful resolution of the matter concerning the Pakistani Christian national Asia Bibi. The outcomes of these initiatives are referred to in this newsletter. Other developments related to the Centre's activities – including the observance of the UN International Commemorative Days – are likewise presented to our readers.

Finally, the present version of the newsletter contains books reviews of our new publications addressing the unprecedented rise of people on the move in Europe and in the Arab region, women's rights in Arab countries as well as on the headscarf as a connecting thread and an element of convergence in Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hanif', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.



HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal
of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

"We unite our voices today to promote education as a vector for enabling diversity to be understood as an asset wherein minds meet into shared aspirations at the national level and beyond as a gateway to peace."



Ambassador Idriss Jazairy
Executive Director of the Geneva Centre

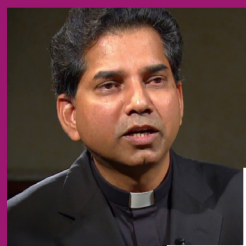
"Education stands out as fertile ground to sow and grow, in the minds of the upcoming generations, the seeds of human rights and of equal citizenship rights."



Reverend Dr Olav Fykse Tveit
Secretary General of the World Council of Churches

"In the language of our faith, we must make our pilgrimage toward justice and peace a time of transformation towards more justice and more peace in all in our communities."

Panel debate
Education for Peace in a Multi-Religious Context
10 December 2018, 14:00 – 17:00
Room XXV, United Nations Office in Geneva



Monsignor Indunil Janakaratne

Undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue

"Only by changing education can we change the world. Therefore, promoting a culture of peace for all depends on a culture of encounter and respect."

Professor Anantanand Rambachan

Professor of Religion at St Olaf College

"There is no positive peace without accurate and empathetic understanding of each other's traditions and, most important, deep friendship in the midst of our diversity."



Professor Majeda Omar

Associate Professor of Contemporary Western Philosophy at the University of Jordan.

"The teachings of Islam can offer a basis upon which education for peace can be a driving force to enhance efforts to address radicalization."

Dr Debbie Weissman

Former President of the International Council of Christians and Jews

"Our goal is unity, not uniformity. Unity can come out of the celebration of diversity. We have many commonalities, but we must also respect our differences."



Panel debate
Education for Peace in a Multi-Religious Context
10 December 2018, 14:00 – 17:00
Room XXV, United Nations Office in Geneva

Panel statements



Ms Maria Lucia Uribe

Director of Arigatou International Geneva - Ethics Education for Children

"Education about ethics is something all religions and societies can do independently; what is unique about this initiative is that it is done inter-religiously and inter-culturally."

Ms Beris Gwynne

Founder and Managing Director of Incitare

"Strategic foresight I recommend to you because we know that if we adopt the mind-sets of approaches that have brought us to this point, we are unlikely to make the step change that is needed to re-imagine education and what that means for the generations who will follow."



Mr Jan-Wilhelm Bult

Head of Children & Youth Media and Chief Editor of WADADA News for Kids

"Children at the centre is the concept of my work that I launched in 1999. It is built on a strong belief in the autonomy of children as well as their capacity and will to discover, learn and create."

Mr Renato Opertti

Senior Programme Specialist,
IBE-UNESCO

"It is not only about learning, it is about educating and synergizing the content with the theological nature of the learning. This is critical for us to have in mind."



Panel debate

Education for Peace in a Multi-Religious Context

10 December 2018, 14:00 – 17:00

Room XXV, United Nations Office in Geneva

PROMOTING A VALUE-DRIVEN HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM ON THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE AND SOLIDARITY



HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, General Secretary of World Council of Churches and Executive Director of the Geneva Centre address the UN Secretary-General regarding situation of Asia Bibi

In a letter to the UN Secretary-General António Guterres signed by HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches Reverend Dr Olav Fykse Tveit and the Executive Director of the Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue Ambassador Idriss Jazairy, the co-signatories appealed to the UN Secretary-General to contribute to the peaceful resolution of the matter concerning the Pakistani Christian woman Asia Bibi.

However, they also expressed their concerns about calls from extremist and radical groups to overturn the decision of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and to reinstate the death penalty following her acquittal.

In this regard, the co-signatories stated that this ominous situation violates article 3 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights stating that *"Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."* It was in this context that the co-signatories appealed to the UN Secretary-General to support *"our appeal to the international community, as well as to the authorities and people of Pakistan to comply with article 3 of the UDHR."*

The letter can be downloaded at: <https://www.gchragd.org/en/article/hrh-prince-el-hassan-bin-talal-jordan-general-secretary-world-council-churches-and-executive>

"Respect for the Other lies at the heart of peace education," say panelists at UN debate

On 10 December 2018, the Geneva Centre and the World Council of Churches organized a conference in the format of a panel debate entitled "Education for Peace in a multi-religious world." The conference was held on the 2018 World Human Rights Day at the United Nations Office in Geneva. The aim of the conference was to assess the impact of peace education to promote mutual understanding and cooperative relations between people and societies. The conference focused on how education for peace can engage different stakeholders to counter violent, extremist narratives, build peaceful and inclusive societies as well as to promote universally shared values upheld in diverse



faiths and creeds. It offered an opportunity to identify more broadly commonalities and potential for mutual enhancement of world faiths and creeds in the pursuit of tolerance as a gateway to inter-religious empathy and in the promotion of a culture of peace. For an overview of keynote statements made by the panellists, kindly consult section three of the present newsletter.

Read the full version of the article at: <http://www.gchragd.org/en/article/%E2%80%98respect-other%E2%80%99-lies-heart-peace-education-say-panelists-un-debate>



The Geneva Centre participates in informal consultations on the long-term efficiency of the work of the UN Human Rights Council

As part of the informal consultation meetings on the long-term efficiency process of the Human Rights Council held from May until December 2018, the Geneva Centre was invited by the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council to participate in these sessions. In total, there were six informal consultation sessions organized at the United Nations Office at Geneva that were attended by Permanent Missions, national institutions, international organizations, NGOs and human rights bodies.

The informal consultation sessions addressed three themes of relevance to the long-term efficiency of the Human Rights. Firstly, the conversations began with discussions on how to improve the annual programme of work of the HRC. This was followed by discussions on rationalization of resolutions and initiatives of the UN human rights body. The last theme was dedicated to the use of information technology to enhance the

facilitation of information and raise awareness about the activities of the HRC. The Geneva Centre made concrete proposals in relation to these three times and on how to enhance the long-term efficiency of the Council, as set forth in UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251 of 3 April 2006 entitled "Human Rights Council" and in the Institution Building Package as set forth in UN Human Rights Resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007 entitled "Institution-building of the United Nations Human Rights Council."

The position papers that were presented by the Geneva Centre during the informal consultations sessions on the long-term efficiency of the Council can be accessed on the Centre's website: <http://www.gchragd.org/en/publications/informal-consultation-sessions-long-term-efficiency-human-rights-council>



European Centre for Peace and Development – UN University for Peace adopts resolution endorsing the Declaration on "Moving Towards Greater Spiritual Convergence Worldwide in Support of Equal Citizenship Rights"

The Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue signs MoU with the Geneva Academy for Peace and Mediation



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Geneva Centre and the Geneva Academy for Peace and Mediation. The agreement was signed on 18 December by the Geneva Centre's Executive Director Ambassador Idriss Jazairy and the Founder and Director of the Geneva Academy for Peace and Mediation Ms. Sibylle Rupprecht. The partnership between the Geneva Centre and the Geneva Academy for Peace and Mediation marks a step forward in the

development of both Centres' ambitions to promote a value-driven human rights system as well as cooperative relations between peoples and societies through peace education in recognition of the fact that human rights advancement is a gateway to peace.

To find out more, please click on the following link:

<http://www.gchragd.org/en/article/geneva-centre-human-rights-advancement-and-global-dialogue-signs-mou-geneva-academy-peace>

At the XIV International Conference on "A New Human Concept for Security" held on 26 October 2018 in Belgrade by the European Centre for Peace and Development – UN University for Peace, a resolution was unanimously adopted by the participants endorsing the Declaration "Moving Towards Greater Spiritual Convergence Worldwide in Support of Equal Citizenship Rights." The latter was adopted as an outcome to the 25 June 2018 World Conference – organized by the Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue – entitled "Religions, Creeds and Value-Systems: Joining Forces to Enhance Equal Citizenship Rights" which was held at UN Geneva under the Patronage of HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Through the adoption of the resolution endorsing the World Conference outcome Declaration, the participants called on all member States of the UN to sign and endorse it and to support the implementation of its provisions as well as follow-up actions.

Find out more at: <http://www.gchragd.org/en/article/european-centre-peace-and-development-%E2%80%93-un-university-peace-adopts-resolution-endorsing>

Executive Director of the Geneva Centre visits the South Centre to discuss joint initiatives to strengthen the voice of the Global South



On 27 November 2018, the Executive Director of the Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue, Ambassador Idriss Jazairy, paid a visit to the South Centre where he was received by its Executive Director, Dr. Carlos María Correa. The purpose of the meeting – held at the South Centre's Headquarters in Geneva – was to explore the possibility of undertaking joint initiatives between both Centres to strengthen the voice of developing countries on matters related to the enhancement of human rights, economic development and promoting a value-driven human rights system. In this connection, both parties agreed to explore the opportunity of organizing joint initiatives so as to promote the voice of the Global South in human rights and economic discourses at the United Nations Office in Geneva.

Read more at: <https://www.gchragd.org/en/article/executive-director-geneva-centre-visits-south-centre-discuss-joint-initiatives-strengthen>



Promotion of Arabic language and culture is key to harnessing unity in diversity

On the occasion of the 2018 World Arabic Language Day observed on 10 December, the Geneva Centre stated that the increased use of the Arabic language worldwide will enhance intercultural understanding between Arabs and non-Arabs. In this connection, it was highlighted that Arabic literary scripts during the Islamic medieval age contributed greatly to the social, cultural and civic evolution of today's modern societies. It established – it was argued – “bridges of communications among nations and cultures along the Silk Road and greatly contributed to enriching human civilization.” The statement was concluded with an appeal for increased cross-cultural dialogue between societies and peoples worldwide: “We need to learn more about one another so as to break down the walls of ignorance and prejudice that have insulated societies. The promotion of the Arabic language and culture is key to harnessing unity in diversity.”

Read more at: <https://www.gchragd.org/en/article/promotion-arabic-language-and-culture-key-harnessing-unity-diversity-says-chairman-geneva>

Education promotes unity in diversity and contributes to the enhancement of human rights

Peace education is a vector for the promotion of unity and contributes to the enhancement of human rights, stressed the Geneva Centre, in its statement commemorating the 2018 International Human Rights Day observed on 10 December. “Education constitutes an important building block to enhance inter-faith dialogue, break down social barriers and to overcome the fear of the Other. It lays the foundation of a society where diversity becomes the cement of cohesion, equal citizenship rights and respect for human rights,” it was emphasized in the statement. In conclusion, it was highlighted that the “strong impact of citizenship and human rights values in national curricula, as well as in other areas of education, is crucial to promoting over the longer term, equal citizenship rights, social cohesion, citizenship responsibility and respect for diversity.”

Find out more at: <https://www.gchragd.org/en/article/chairman-geneva-centre-education-promotes-unity-diversity-and-contributes-enhancement-human>

The Geneva Centre reiterates the importance of eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls for the achievement of gender equality

On the occasion of the observance of the 2018 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women held on 8 March, the Geneva Centre reiterated the urgent need to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, as a sine qua non condition for the achievement of gender equality worldwide. In order to improve the status of women in the Arab region, the Geneva Centre appealed to Arab governments to address all challenges impeding the full realization of Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this connection, he noted that the advancement of women's rights and the enhancement of gender equality constitute the pillars of an inclusive and harmonious society. Decision-makers must remain committed to taking concrete measures for the elimination of gender discrimination and violence, as well as for lifting the barriers that hinder the empowerment of women, it was concluded.

Read more at: <https://www.gchragd.org/en/article/geneva-centre-reiterates-importance-eliminating-all-forms-violence-against-women-and-girls>

The UN has gone beyond maintaining world peace

In commemoration of the 2018 United Nations Day, observed annually on 24 October, the Geneva Centre reflected on the achievements of the UN and its endeavours to maintain world peace, promote human rights and enhance social progress. *"As we commemorate today the 73rd anniversary of the ratification and adoption of the Charter of the UN, we reflect on the progress world society has made in realizing the vision of the founders of the UN to promote international peace and prosperity, strengthen international cooperation and develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principles of equal rights and sovereign equality,"* it was underlined in the statement. In conclusion, the Geneva Centre warned that the threats of extremism and the rise of political populism could replace multilateralism and consensus-building by unilateralism and protectionism that would undermine the long-term efficiency of the UN. In this connection, the Centre appealed to *"States and international decision-makers to resort to dialogue and alliance-building so as to identify a path that preserves the irreplaceable bounty of the planet which is in jeopardy. This calls for resolute decision-making by the UN."*

The full statement is available at: <https://www.gchragd.org/en/article/%E2%80%9Cun-has-promoted-peace-and-justice-every-corner-world%E2%80%9D-says-geneva-centre%E2%80%99s-chairman>

Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence remains a source of guidance for bringing peace to the Arab region

In honour of the legacy of the Founder of Modern India Mahatma Gandhi, the Geneva Centre honoured the great Statesman of the Global South's legacy of non-violence. A statement was issued by the Geneva Centre in commemoration of the 2018 International Day of Non-Violence – observed annually on 2 October – to international media outlets. In the said statement, the Geneva Centre asserted that the commemoration of the International Day of Non-Violence is a timely opportunity for world society to commemorate the non-violent ideology of a world Statesman who believed in promoting peace and justice through acts of kindness and compassion. *"Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence Satyagraha, remains a source of guidance for bringing peace to the Arab region,"* it was concluded.

Find out more at: <https://www.gchragd.org/en/article/dr-hanif-hassan-ali-al-qassim-gandhi%E2%80%99s-philosophy-non-violence-remains-source-guidance>

Islamic teachings consider it a duty to respect and embrace elders

On the occasion of the 2018 International Day of Older Persons – commemorated on 1 October -, the Geneva Centre recalled the Islamic teachings against the exclusion and rejection of elders in modern societies. In this statement, the Geneva Centre referred to Surah 14, Verses 23-24, of the Holy Quran stating that elders must be treated with respect and compassion. This vision – it was noted – is practiced in Arabic societies where elders gain more respect and admiration from other social components the older they get. *"Elders are embraced for having contributed to the success and progressive development of Arab societies. Their legacy guides the present generation in their endeavours to promote a more hopeful future,"* it was emphasized. In conclusion, the Geneva Centre stated that society's success lies on its *"ability to recognise*

the rights of elders, enable them to have a voice in society and to embrace them as agents of sustainable development. A society that forgets the legacy of its elders, is a society headed towards failure and societal decline."

Find out more at: <https://www.gchragd.org/en/article/%E2%80%9CIslamic-teachings-consider-it-duty-respect-and-embrace-elders%E2%80%9D-says-chairman-geneva-centre>

World Conference outcome declaration contributes to the realization of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The 25 June 2018 World Conference outcome declaration entitled *"Moving towards greater spiritual convergence worldwide in support of equal citizenship rights"* reaffirms its commitment to the 1948 Universal Declaration on Human Rights (hereinafter "UDHR") to promote peace, mutual respect and understanding across civilizations, cultures and generations, it was highlighted in a statement issued by the Geneva Centre in commemoration of the 2018 World Day for Peace observed on 21 September. *"The World Conference outcome declaration reaffirms its commitment to the founding ideals of the UDHR and calls upon lay and religious leaders to advance the well-being of humanity and to promote global peace. It also appeals to decision-makers worldwide to recommit themselves to Article 18 of the UDHR reaffirming that 'everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,'"* In conclusion, it was added that it is high time that all parties join hands to initiate a global effort to ensure that our equally shared humanity is reflected in equal citizenship rights.

The full statement is available at: <https://www.gchragd.org/en/article/chairman-geneva-centre-world-conference-outcome-declaration-contributes-realization-1948>

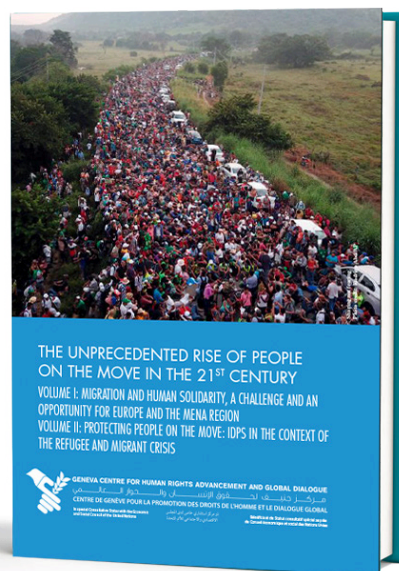
PUBLICATION ALERTS

A: New publications

As part of the Geneva Centre's endeavours to promote mutual understanding and cooperative relations between people and to promote a depoliticized view of human rights issues from the viewpoints of the Global South and of the Arab region, the following publications have been issued by the Geneva Centre in January 2019:

The Unprecedented Rise of People on the Move in the 21st Century (January 2019)

The purpose of this publication is to assess the causes and consequences of forced displacement of people on the move in Europe and in the Arab region. The first volume entitled *"Migration and human solidarity, a challenge and an opportunity for Europe and the MENA region"* explores the adverse impact of cross-border movement resulting from war-related insecurity and from economic push factors such as the detrimental impact of climate change. It aims to demonstrate that the migrant and refugee crisis is not a *"number-crisis"* as many of the European countries most hostile to the arrival of people on the move are those that have hosted the smallest numbers of migrants. Upon examination of these issues, it becomes clear that the closed border policies of advanced societies and the rise of xenophobic populism further aggravate the migrant and refugee crisis. It also highlights that armed conflict and environmental degradation in the Arab and the Sahel regions are multi-causal phenomena, forcing people to flee their home societies.



The second volume of the publication entitled *"Protecting people on the move: IDPs in the context of the refugee and migrant crisis"* 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 IDPs 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. In conclusion, the publication suggests that the long-term solution to enhance the protection of IDPs in conflict- and disaster-settings rests on the ability of stakeholders to develop efficient policies to prevent and reduce internal displacement.

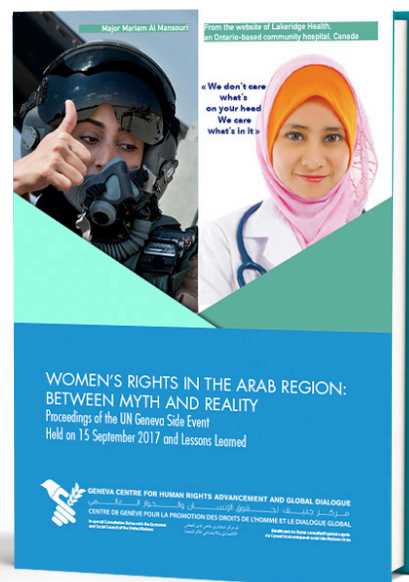


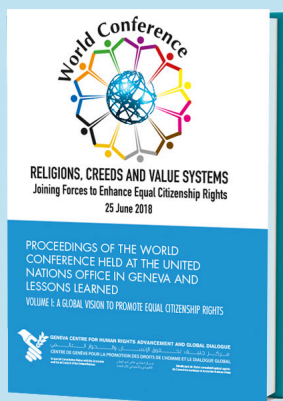
Veiling /Unveiling: The Headscarf in Christianity, Judaism and Islam (January 2019)

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. Politicians are waging a relentless war against this religious symbol, either by advocating its prohibition and thus trampling on article 18 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, or by legislating to impose it on women, thus violating women's freedom to choose what to wear. The Geneva Centre partnered with the Permanent Mission of Algeria to organize a panel discussion and an exhibition on 23 February 2018, at the UN Offices in Geneva, entitled "*Veiling/Unveiling: The Headscarf in Christianity, Islam and Judaism*." In the first part of the publication, the reader is provided with the summary of the debate, whilst a full chapter is dedicated to the lessons learned, offering an analysis of the topic from the standpoint of each religion discussed. The second part of the publication provides a graphic illustration of the catalogue of the eponymous exhibition.

Women's Rights in the Arab Region: Between Myth and Reality (January 2019)

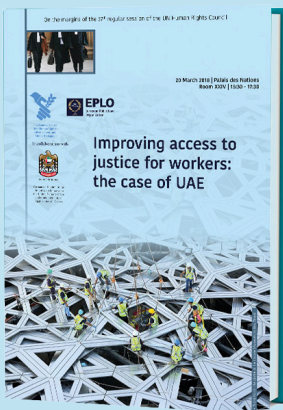
In September 2017, the Geneva Centre organized a meeting on "*Women's rights in the Arab region: between myth and reality*", in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The discussion sought to review the remaining challenges and to deconstruct the existing myths regarding women in the Arab region. As became evident during the debate, women worldwide are still suffering, to different degrees, from the grip of patriarchy, and these challenges are not specific to any culture, but are common to all countries. The panel highlighted the negative impact of the stereotypical representations of Arab and Muslim women, and the resulting intersecting forms of discrimination. Despite the efforts of the international community, and the comprehensive international legal framework on women's rights, major shortcomings persisted all around the world.





Title: Religions, creeds and value systems: Joining forces to enhance equal citizenship rights

Co-organizers: Geneva Centre, World Council of Churches, International Catholic Migration Commission, Arab Thought Forum and Bridges to Common Ground and the World Council of Religious Leaders



Title: Improving access to justice for workers: the case of UAE

Co-organizers: Geneva Centre, European Public Law Organization and Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
The UN Migration Agency

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

6 February 2018

Your Excellency, *Dear Friend,*

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 9 January 2018.

Allow me to congratulate you on the fruitful discussions held on 14 December 2017 during the meeting on "Migration and human solidarity, a challenge and an opportunity for Europe and the MENA region." I am glad to hear that the event was well received and successful.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for sharing with us the Declaration which was adopted as a result of the meeting. Please be assured that we will distribute the Declaration to all our missions and colleagues as requested in your kind letter.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

And, my congratulations on your excellent editorial!



William Lacy Swing

His Excellency
Ambassador Idriss Jazairy
Executive Director
Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue
Rue de Vermont 37-39
1202 Geneva

THE GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

The Geneva Centre, an organization with special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, is a think tank dedicated to the promotion of human rights through cross-cultural, religious and civilizational dialogue between the Global North and Global South, and through training of the upcoming generations of stakeholders in the Arab region. The Centre works towards a value-driven human rights system, steering clear of politicization and building bridges between different narratives thereon of the Global North and of the Global South. Its aim is to act as a platform for dialogue between a variety of stakeholders involved in the promotion and protection of human rights.

As of the latest Board meeting held on 29 May 2018 at the Geneva Centre's Headquarters, the Board of the Geneva Centre is constituted of the following members: H. E. Dr. Hanif Hassan Ali Al Qassim (Chairman of the Board of Management – UAE); Dr. Mohamed Butti Thani Tarish Al Shamsi (Treasurer – UAE); H. E. Mr. Saad Ahmed Al Farargi (Board Member - Egypt); Dr. Michael Kouly (Board Member – Canada); Mr. Trevor Mostyn (Board Member - UK).



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Rue de Vermont 37-39, CP 186
1211 Geneva 20 - Switzerland
Tel.: +41 (0)22 748 27 80
www.gchragd.org