



GENEVA CENTRE  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
ADVANCEMENT AND  
GLOBAL DIALOGUE

JANUARY - APRIL 2021

# NEWSLETTER

Issue N°7

Human Rights Without Prejudice



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**The Geneva Centre began the year 2021 determined to fulfil its mandate despite the continuing sanitary restrictions. It defined its strategy accordingly and adopted a robust workplan, thereby enabling it to carry out a wide spectrum of activities in the domains of international human rights advocacy, multi-stakeholder reporting, human rights training, dialogue on crucial and contemporary human rights issues, research and publications, which will be released shortly.**

**The Geneva Centre thus enters the second half of the year with renewed vigour to promote universal respect of human rights, and understanding and empathy between peoples and regions across the world.**

**The present Newsletter provides an update of our activities and efforts undertaken over the past four months.**

# ONLINE EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE GENEVA CENTRE



## 8 MARCH 2021 "PATHWAYS TO AN EQUAL FUTURE: WOMEN INSPIRING CHANGE"

On the occasion of the **International Women's Day** on 8 March, the Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue held a virtual event to celebrate the commitment, the courage and the determination of millions of ordinary women and men who do extraordinary things in order to promote a society based on gender equality and respect for women's rights, who #ChooseToChallenge stereotypes, fight bias and broaden perceptions. Beyond this, the event aimed to honour women who are the true architects of society, to promote their empowerment for them to play a crucial role in shaping the world and in building a better future for all.

GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

International Women's Day

5 GENDER EQUALITY

on 8 March 2021, The Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue invites you to join us in celebrating

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

with a virtual event

#### "PATHWAYS TO AN EQUAL FUTURE: WOMEN INSPIRING CHANGE"

Meet our amazing panellists:

<https://gchragd.org/women-inspiring-change/>

Register Now and Join our conversation on:

- gender-based violence
- women's leadership
- modern slavery
- early marriages
- gender equality
- human trafficking
- the role of education
- importance of childhood

8 March 2021,  
3:00-4:15 pm (Geneva time, CET)  
REGISTRATION: <https://bit.ly/08MarchGC>

Our 8 speakers shared their experience in promoting girls' and women's leadership, as well as combatting gender-based violence, modern slavery, human trafficking and early marriages. They expanded on the significance of the right to education, the importance of childhood and the role of working with the governments for creating new policies.

[READ MORE](#)

# ONLINE EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE GENEVA CENTRE

## 25 MARCH 2021 "COVID-19 AND RIGHT TO EDUCATION: CURRENT IMPACT AND FUTURE CONSEQUENCES"



The Geneva Centre organized an online event on the topic of **COVID-19 and the Right to Education**. Invited speakers coming from different types of fields and organizations discussed and elaborated on the current impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the right to education, and the future consequences it may have. Speakers identified the main risks and problems and presented solutions for the future, to safeguard and promote the right to education following the pandemic.

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

On 25 March 2021, The Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue invites you to join its online event on

**COVID-19 AND RIGHT TO EDUCATION:  
CURRENT IMPACT AND FUTURE CONSEQUENCES**

**Dr Kombou Bolly Barry**  
UN Special Rapporteur  
on the Right to  
Education

**Ms Emma Wagner**  
Senior Education Policy  
& Advocacy Adviser  
Save the Children

**Ms Amélie J. Mariage**  
Founder of Aprendices  
Visuales

**Dr Suguru Mizunoya**  
Senior Adviser Monitoring  
and Statistics (education)  
UNICEF

**H.E. Lubna Qassim**  
Deputy Permanent  
Representative at the  
PM of the United Arab  
Emirates to the UNOG

**Ms Madelle Kangha**  
Founder JumpStart  
Academy Africa

**Register now and join our conversation on**

School closures      Educational programs  
Girls' education      Virtual learning  
Data and methodology      Refugee education

25 March 2021  
3:00 pm (Geneva time, CET)

REGISTRATION: [http://bit.ly/25March\\_GC](http://bit.ly/25March_GC)

Our 6 speakers included: H.E. Lubna Qassim the Deputy Permanent Representative of the UAE to the UN in Geneva, Dr Koumbou Boly Barry the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, Dr Suguru Mizunoya from UNICEF, Ms Emma Wagner from Save the Children, Ms Amélie Mariage founder of Aprendices Visuales and Ms Madelle Kangha founder of JumpStart Academy Africa.

**READ MORE**



# CAPACITY BUILDING

## ONLINE TRAINING SESSION 1 TO 5 MARCH 2021



GENEVA CENTRE  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
ADVANCEMENT AND  
GLOBAL DIALOGUE

Are you interested in learning about the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) its methods and mechanisms, the Universal Periodic Review and the HRC's Special Procedures?

Take the first step with the Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue

AN INTRODUCTORY ONLINE TRAINING COURSE

### UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL: MECHANISMS AND PROCEDURES

1-5 March 2021



**REGISTER NOW**

<http://bit.ly/3duhExi>

Course fee: 300 swiss francs (special fees apply for students)

Contact: [AFares@gchragd.org](mailto:AFares@gchragd.org)



The Geneva Centre conducted its first online training course on the functioning and work of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) during 1-5 March 2021 in parallel to the 46th session of the HRC.

This five-day online training course provided participants with basic knowledge of human rights law, an overview of the Human Rights Council (HRC) its methods and mechanisms, and the differences between Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law.

Six Master's degree holders from Turkey, UK, Argentina, Italy, India and Ireland participated in the training which was held via Zoom videoconferencing platform.

**READ MORE**

A summary video of the March 2021 training session is available on the YouTube channel of the Geneva Centre: <https://youtu.be/Uv0l5MyJmZl>



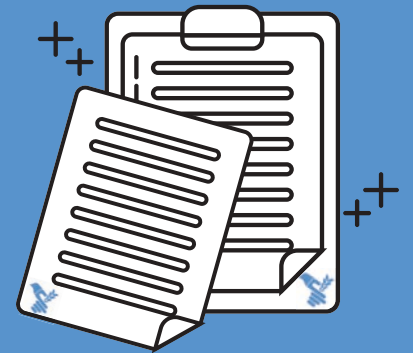
# HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL 46 REPORTING INITIATIVE OF THE GENEVA CENTRE



As for the previous sessions, the Geneva Centre closely monitored the 46th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) and shared its summary reports on its dedicated Human Rights Council 46 webpage. This 46th session, the main of the year, was held from 22 February to 23 March 2021.

## THE GENEVA CENTRE FOLLOWED AND REPORTED ON:

- 6 PANELS
- 11 INTERACTIVE DIALOGUES
- 14 UPR OUTCOMES
- 4 GENERAL DEBATES



**A TOTAL OF 42 REPORTS WERE PRODUCED AND SHARED WITH NEARLY 500 STAKEHOLDERS ON A DAILY BASIS.**

[READ MORE](#)



# HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL 46 REPORTING INITIATIVE OF THE GENEVA CENTRE



## TESTIMONIALS

*"Your initiative gave me good summary for my reports to capital and I didnt have to refer to the HRC discussions all the time, making them convenient and timely. Thanks for the good job that you are doing. Keep on."*

Diplomat from the Permanent Mission of Kenya



*"Your reports helped filling the gaps as I cover HRC and Health matters and couldn't attend both meetings at the same time. The information received tallied with the extranet video statements that I had missed."*

Diplomat from the Permanent Mission of Eswatini

*"I like very much your timely and informative reports! Your reports were helpful by keeping me informed about the work and decisions of the HRC. As a Treaty Body member it is not easy to follow HRC."* Expert from the Committee on the Rights of the Child



*"It is very timely and help facilitate our work in many ways."*

Diplomat from Permanent Mission of Vietnam

***"As we are small staff organization, it is difficult to follow all debates. Having good regular summaries is extremely useful"***

UNPO - Unrepresented Nations and People organization

***"Often I don't have the time to follow all the debates taking place at the HRC, and having a timely summaries is of huge help not to lose track of what happened, and also facilitates my day to day work."***

Right Livelihood Foundation



***"Not being able to participate in all HRC meetings I was able to get information from the reports. Thank you for all your work."***

Diplomat from the Permanent Mission of Poland



***"We believe you are doing a great service for smaller NGOs to follow the UN processes. We appreciate your outreach and capacity to summarize complex issues that are dealt with at the HR council."***

Women's World Summit Foundation

# RAISING HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



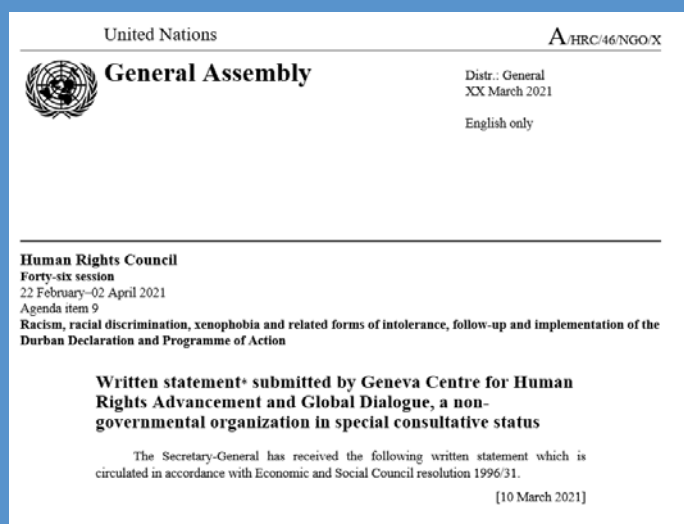
## STATEMENTS ON RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

On 18 March 2021, the United Nations Human Rights Council held a General Debate under Item 9 “Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance”. Dr Umesh Palwankar, the Geneva Centre’s Executive Director, delivered a statement on behalf of the Centre in which he urged *“Governments and civil society to unite their efforts to enforce all rights and duties of people on the basis of their role as rights-holders, while preserving ethnic and cultural diversity.”*



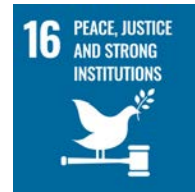
**FULL STATEMENT**

On 10 March, the Geneva Centre also submitted a written statement to the UN Human Rights Council on the occasion of the annual debate on racial discrimination. It was another occasion for the Geneva Centre to strengthen its commitment to the fight against racism and xenophobia. The statement was made available by the United Nations on the extranet website of the 46th session of the Human Rights Council.





# RAISING HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS



## VIDEOS PRODUCED

The Geneva Centre regularly produces videos in order to raise awareness by spreading the word on specific human rights related issues and to celebrate important United Nations international days. From January to April 2021, the Geneva Centre produced 8 videos related to human rights:

### ALL OUR VIDEOS

- 4 February 2021, celebration of the UN International Day for Human Fraternity: <https://youtu.be/VlirM6cNGuk>
- 8 March 2021, full recording of the online event organized by the Geneva Centre "Pathways to an Equal Future: Women Inspiring Change" <https://youtu.be/hOydk-UPhBQ>
- 10 March 2021, summary video of the online training session of March 2021 organized by the Geneva Centre: <https://youtu.be/Uv0I5MyJmZI>
- 19 March 2021, video recording of the oral statement on systemic racism delivered during the 46th session of the Human Rights Council: [https://youtu.be/IF\\_5ETd9CH4](https://youtu.be/IF_5ETd9CH4)
- 25 March 2021 video highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on the right to education: <https://youtu.be/FfBH8IFNIR8>
- 25 March 2021, full recording of the online event organized by the Geneva Centre "COVID-19 and Right to Education, current impact and future consequences": <https://youtu.be/kqPSMvABKKg>
- 24 April 2021, celebration of the UN International Day for Multilateralism: <https://youtu.be/ydf5bKiC2CA>
- 1 May 2021, celebration of the International Labour Day 2021: <https://youtu.be/Vm3EiA-kHVs>

# SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES

## FACTS AND FIGURES



**93,800**

Tweet impressions



From January to April 2021, we tweeted 111 times.

We attained 4,652 followers in April 2021, an increase of 150 followers since the beginning of 2021.



**17,192**

Followers



+ 2000 followers since the beginning of the year.

We use LinkedIn as a platform to reach professionals active in the field of human rights. This is also our main platform to advertise our training programs.

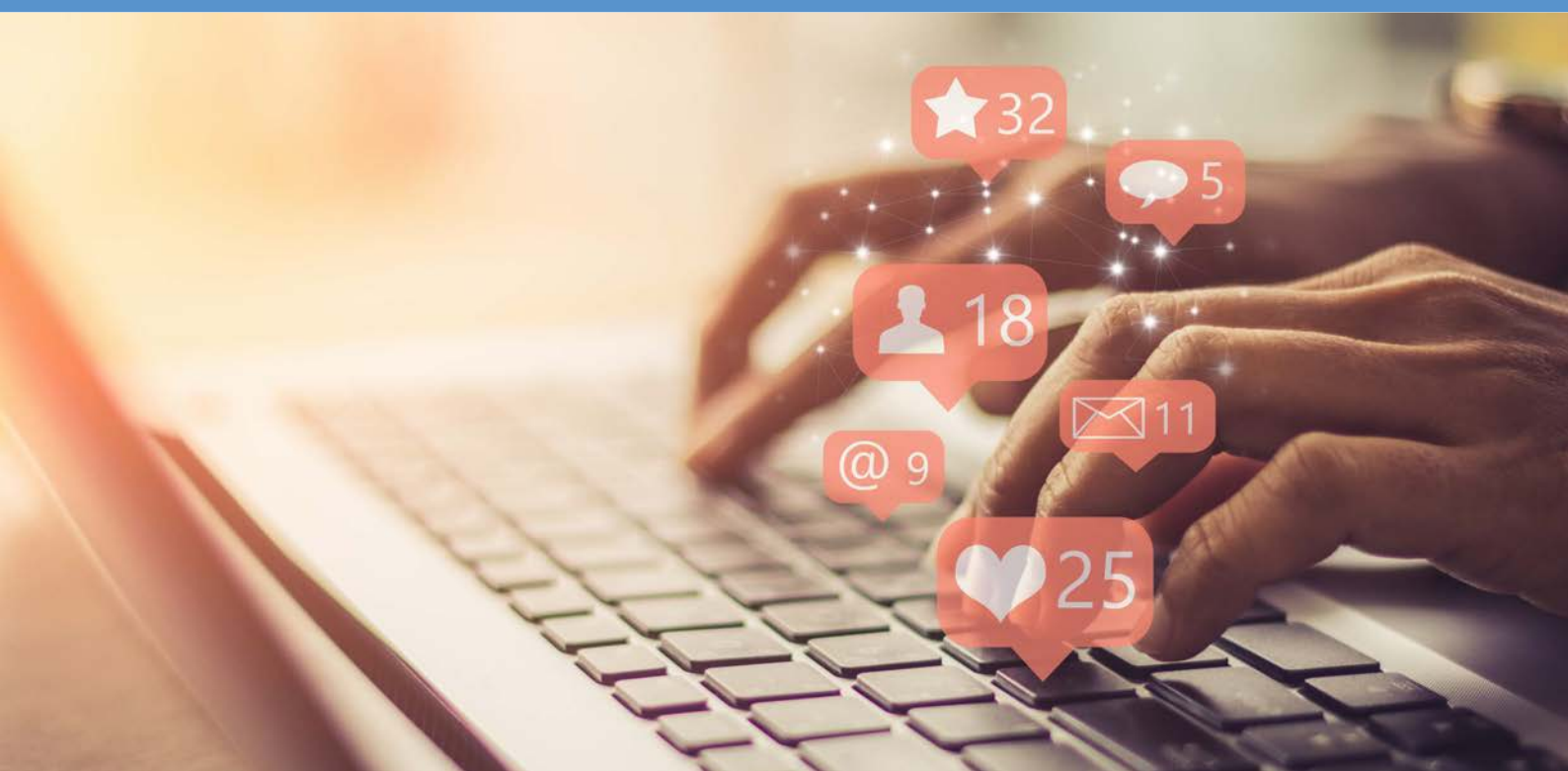


**8**

Videos produced



From January to April 2021, we produced and shared on our social media 8 new videos linked to human rights. Our videos aim at raising awareness of human rights, commemorate international days and summarize major international meetings.



Visit us online

[www.gchragd.org\\_](http://www.gchragd.org_)



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