



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

MAY - OCTOBER 2021, ISSUE N°8

NEWSLETTER

***SPECIAL FOCUS: TWO YEARS OF REPORTING
ON THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL***



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This issue of the Geneva Centre's Newsletter provides an overview of one of our major activities, which began two years ago, with the Human Rights Council reporting. It describes the genesis of this initiative, the methodology related to its implementation, and illustrates its success with the stakeholders by mentioning examples of their appreciative testimonials. The reporting initiative is based upon one of the four main pillars of the Geneva Centre's mandate, namely advocacy through following and reporting on international human rights conferences, in particular the Human Rights Council, and significant developments in the field of human rights.

The Newsletter equally highlights other activities of the Geneva Centre during the period it covers, including events organized and publications issued, on contemporary human rights issues.

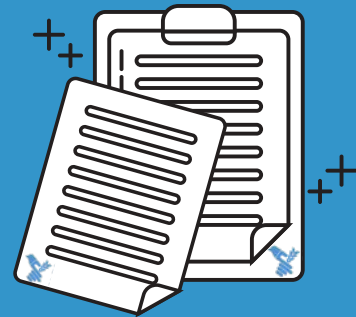
Finally, it offers a glimpse of the events planned till the end of the year, among which two are first time initiatives, the café scientifique and the Geneva Centre's Human Rights recognition awards. These ventures reflect the Centre's constant quest to explore innovative means to further promote awareness of and respect for human rights world-wide. Our Annual Report 2021 will be published and shared early next year.

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL REPORTING INITIATIVE OF THE GENEVA CENTRE



Since the beginning of our reporting initiative of the Human Rights Council (HRC) in February 2020:

- 180 summary report produced, representing in average 30 reports per session.
- 6 HRC sessions covered: from the 43rd to the 48th.
- A mailing list composed of more than 500 subscribers, who receive our reports.



[ACCESS ALL
OUR REPORTS](#)



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL REPORTING INITIATIVE OF THE GENEVA CENTRE



WHY DID WE START OUR REPORTING INITIATIVE?

The underlying aim was to bridge what we perceived as a gap between discussions taking place in Geneva, and the rest of the world, at the local, national and regional levels. While UNOG Press Services admittedly do an excellent job providing Press Releases after all HRC meetings, these summaries are often relatively short and do not always provide vital details of the discussions. The Geneva Centre's reports, therefore, aim to offer a more detailed and analytical coverage to those closely following the work of the Council, often quoting the state delegations and civil society organizations and the main points they raised.

The ultimate goal of our reporting initiative is to make people aware of the nature of the discussions and the processes of international human rights mechanisms, because everyone is concerned by human rights as they are universal and relate to the intrinsic value of all human beings. In parallel, we also want to contribute concretely to the work of professionals active in the field of human rights. That is why our summary reports are equally used by diplomats, NGO workers, journalists and academics who are interested in the discussions but who do not necessarily have the time to follow them systematically at the UN. All our reports are available for universal access on our website.



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL REPORTING INITIATIVE OF THE GENEVA CENTRE



WHAT DO WE INCLUDE IN OUR REPORTS?

For those who are not very familiar with the online tools that facilitate following of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC Extranet platform, UN WebTV broadcasting, etc.), the Geneva Centre seeks to provide synthesized and user-friendly reports with all practical information, such as the list of speakers from both States and NGOs, the names of the experts and short summaries of their interventions, the questions asked during the discussion, among others. We also include the link to the original video recording of the meeting in all our reports.

DIFFERENT KIND OF REPORTS

The format of our reports differ, depending on the type of meeting held at the HRC.

- **Interactive Dialogues (IDs)**: these are the most common reports. IDs start with the presentation of a report by a UN expert, on a specific subject. This is followed by interventions from States and NGOs. In general, our summary reports accord 1 page to the presentation of the expert and 1 page to the interventions of States and NGOs
- **General Debates (GDs)**: these are our longest reports. They correspond to the 10 items of the HRC agenda. There is no limit to the list of speakers for States and NGOs, thus our summary reports are longer for GDs and are formatted in tables.
- **UPR Outcomes clustered reports**: these reports are more specific and allow 1 page for each country under review. These reports are designed in an infographic style, highlighting the main human rights issues in the country under review.
- **Resolution tables**: represent our most important and appreciated reports. The final resolution tables contain extensive information about resolutions discussed during each session of the HRC. They also indicate the voting patterns of the resolutions.
- **Weekly overviews**: these reports are issued each Monday during the sessions. They provide an overview of the coming week, with the main meetings, themes to be discussed and a short summary of each report to be presented and discussed.

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL REPORTING INITIATIVE OF THE GENEVA CENTRE



TESTIMONIALS

"We are so happy that you exist, as before, we could not follow all the UN work due to our civil society-focused programs, which we believe are key to creating change locally and nationally. You have our wholehearted support and admiration for your service to civil society actors to help bring about urgent changes on many fronts"

International NGO based in Geneva



"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."

Geneva-based Permanent Mission to the UNOG (African States)



"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 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

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

Geneva-based Permanent Mission to the UNOG (Asia and Pacific States)

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

International NGO based in Geneva

"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."

International NGO based in Geneva



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

Geneva-based Permanent Mission to the UNOG (Western States)

"You were very organized and very comprehensive. The reports were useful as a tool to make our own reports."

Regional NGO (Morocco)



**OTHER ACTIVITIES
IMPLEMENTED
AND FUTURE
COMING UP**

ONLINE EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE GENEVA CENTRE

17 JUNE 2021 "BACK TO SCHOOL NOT WORK: ENDING CHILD LABOUR IN A POST- COVID WORLD"

8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH

On the occasion of the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, the Geneva Centre organized an online event entitled "Back to School not Work: Ending Child Labour in a Post-COVID World" which discussed the most recent updates on progress against child labour around the world, and how, together, we could prevent the COVID-19 crisis from pushing millions of children into labour.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVENT

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

2021 International year for the elimination of child labour

The Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue invites you to join its online event on 17 June 2021

BACK TO SCHOOL NOT WORK

ENDING CHILD LABOUR IN A POST COVID WORLD

Mr. Philippe Vanhuynegem
Chief, Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch
International Labour Organization

Ms. Jo Becker
Children's Rights Advocacy Director
Human Rights Watch

Ms. Anita Sheth
Senior Advisor Social Compliance and Development
Fairtrade International

Mr. Tomoya Obokata
United Nations Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

Ms. Molly Namirembe
Former Child Labourer
Activist from Uganda

Ms. Florie May Tacang
Executive Director of the Kaugmaon for Children's Rights and Social Development

Ms. Stacy Fru
Multiple Award-Winning
Child Author and Activist

Every child deserves a right to education and a safe and peaceful childhood, free from exploitation. Join us to learn how, together, we can accelerate progress to end child labour and inspire change.

17 June 2021
3pm [CET]

REGISTER HERE:
http://bit.ly/17June_GC

The panel benefited from the participation of the following distinguished panellists:



Mr. Philippe Vanhuynegem - International Labour Organization (ILO)

"The largest majority of child labour takes place within family work, in farms. Despite the common perception that the family offers a safer work environment."



Mr. Tomoya Obokata - UN Special Rapporteur on Slavery

"Families need social protection and access to decent work in rural and urban areas in order to break the vicious cycle of poverty and child labour."



Ms. Jo Becker - Human Rights Watch

"When governments provide families with cash assistance, this can help them meet their needs without resorting to child labor."



Ms. Anita Sheth – FairTrade International

"We simply cannot end child labour without young people's involvement and leadership."



Ms. Florie May Butiong-Tacang – Kaugmaon for Children's Rights and Social Development

"We should not take child labor as survival initiatives of children but an exploitative condition and a serious violation of children's rights."

The panel equally benefited from the inputs and interventions made by Molly Namirembe, **child labour survivor** and **activist** from Uganda, and Stacey Fru, award-winning **child activist** from South Africa:



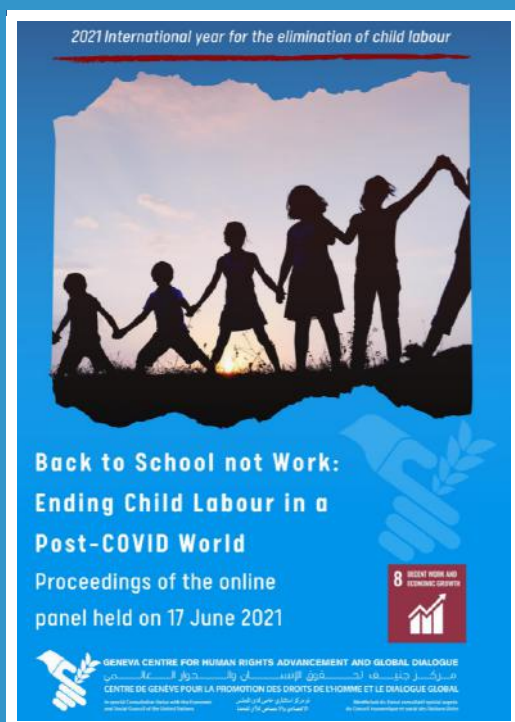
Ms. Molly Namirembe – Former Child Labourer, Activist from Uganda

"Civil society organizations need to continue emphasizing the issue of child labour within families drawing a clear line between what they can do at home and what is child labour."



Ms. Stacey Fru – Multiple Award-Winning Child Author and Activist

"I call on adults across the globe to play very important roles in avoiding child labour by protecting children from any employment of children anywhere including in homes and farms."



In July 2021, no later than a month after the panel event, the Geneva Centre issued the follow-up publication of the event held on 17 June. The publication contains a summary of the proceedings, including the discussions during the question and answer session, and the full statements of the panellists.

[ACCESS THE PUBLICATION](#)

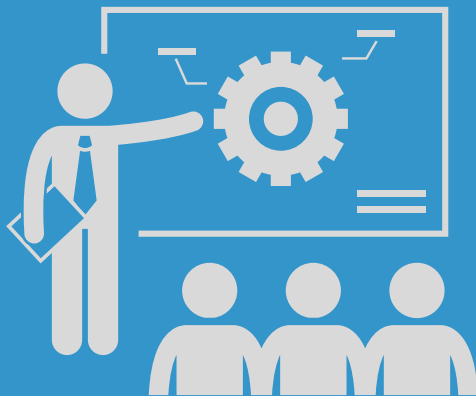
WHAT'S NEXT?

ACTIVITIES COMING UP FOR THE END OF THE YEAR



SCIENTIFIC CAFE

This coming November, the Geneva Centre will organize a "*Scientific Café*". This brand new activity will feature experts from different fields, who will be interviewed by our team. The short interviews will be released on the social media platforms of the Geneva Centre in order to raise awareness. The theme of the 1st edition of the Scientific Café will be "**Right to information during COVID-19**".



TRAINING SESSION

From 8 to 12 November, the Geneva Centre will organize its second training session of the year. Registrations for the training course, entitled "UN Human Rights Council – Structure, Mechanisms and Procedures" are open. More information [HERE](#).

10th December online ceremony to celebrate Human Rights Day 2021:

On the occasion of the International Human Rights Day 2021, the Geneva Centre will organize for the first time an online ceremony to reward human rights workers' initiative in the field, in advancing human rights. More information coming soon!



SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES

FACTS AND FIGURES



4,638

Twitter followers



From May to October 2021, we tweeted 130 times, generating a total of **142.800 tweet impressions.**



18,816

Followers



+ **3000 followers** since the beginning of the year.



14

Videos produced



From May to October 2021, we produced and shared on our social media **14 new videos** linked to human rights. Our videos aim at raising awareness of human rights.



Visit us online

www.gchragd.org_



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