



GENEVA CENTRE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND
GLOBAL DIALOGUE

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

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GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT AND
GLOBAL DIALOGUE

<http://www.gchragd.org/>

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FOREWORD

DR. UMESH PALWANKAR Executive Director of the Geneva Centre

In 2021, once again, the Geneva Centre, together with its partners, interlocutors and colleagues, overcame the obstacles posed by the pandemic and related sanitary restrictions, and actively pursued its mission and activities.

These evolved around four underlying pillars, with research and publications on human rights issues, organizing training sessions, conducting human rights advocacy and promoting global dialogue through organisation of international panels and conferences.

Consequently, 5 panel events with 29 expert invitees were held in 2021. The Geneva Centre issued 5 publications, of which 1 book and 2 brochures on panel events, as well as 2 Newsletters.

2 online training programs were held, also involving external experts, and participation of 36 trainees in total. 115 reports on the work of UN human rights mechanisms, in particular the UN Human Rights Council, were produced and shared with the Centre's interlocutors. Furthermore, 29 videos were produced and published by the Geneva Centre.

For the first time, this year, the Geneva Centre offered recognition for the exemplary work of four human rights champions in the field, through its human rights awards ceremony held on 10 December, on the occasion of International Human Rights Day.

The Geneva Centre's Board of Management and staff wish you all a Very Happy, Safe and Successful New Year.



OUR REACH, IN FIGURES



36 people from
20 countries

trained and equipped with knowledge on the Human Rights Council's structure, mechanisms, and procedures



115 reports

produced on Human rights Council sessions, including Interactive Dialogues, thematic Panels, General Debates, UPR outcomes, and Resolutions and amendments



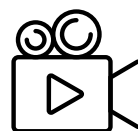
7 events organized

25 external speakers



3 publications

2 newsletters



29 videos

produced to raise awareness on important human rights issues

EVENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

"PATHWAYS TO AN EQUAL FUTURE: WOMEN INSPIRING CHANGE"

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



On the occasion of the **International Women's Day on 8 March**, the Geneva Centre held a virtual event entitled "**Pathways to an Equal Future: Women Inspiring Change**" to celebrate the commitment, the courage and the determination of millions of ordinary people who do extraordinary things in order to promote a society based on gender equality and respect for women's rights.

Individuals, who **#ChooseToChallenge** stereotypes, fight biases, 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.

Eight women's rights practitioners from the **United States, Australia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Malaysia, United Kingdom** and **Sri Lanka** shared their hands-on experience with an international audience. During their inspiring interventions they addressed promoting girls' and women's leadership, combatting gender-based violence, modern slavery, human trafficking and early marriages.

The panellists also expanded on the significance of the right to education, the importance of childhood as well as the role of working with the governments for creating new policies.

The poster features the Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue logo, the International Women's Day logo, and the SDG 5 Gender Equality icon. It includes a photograph of a group of women walking. The text on the poster reads: '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"'. It lists eight panellists: Sarah Morse (Australia), Dr Coralanne Hunte (USA), Ajra Ashar (Sri Lanka), Bailey Leuschen (USA), Hira Anjad (Pakistan), Diana Madibekova (UK), Sayed Masoumi (Afghanistan), and Tan Ejn (Malaysia). A registration link is provided: <https://gchragd.org/women-inspiring-change/>. The event is scheduled for 8 March 2021, 3:00-4:15 pm (Geneva time, CET). A list of topics to be discussed includes: gender-based violence, women's leadership, modern slavery, early marriages, gender equality, human trafficking, the role of education, and importance of childhood.

[Read full article](#)

[Watch video](#)

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



The poster features the Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue logo at the top left and the Quality Education logo at the top right. The main title is "COVID-19 AND RIGHT TO EDUCATION: CURRENT IMPACT AND FUTURE CONSEQUENCES". Below the title, there are six circular portraits of the panellists with their names and titles. At the bottom, there is a registration link and a list of topics to be discussed.

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 25 March 2021 Virtual learning
Data and methodology 3:00 pm (Geneva time, CET) Refugee education
REGISTRATION: http://bit.ly/25March_Gc

On 25 March, the Geneva Centre organized an online event **"COVID-19 and the Right to Education: Current Impact and Future Consequences."**

Invited speakers coming from different 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.

PANELLISTS:

- **H.E. Ms. Lubna Qassim**, Deputy Permanent Representative of the UAE to the UN in Geneva
- **Dr. Koumbou Boly Barry**, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education
- **Dr. Suguru Mizunoya**, Senior Adviser Monitoring and Statistics (Education) at UNICEF
- **Ms. Emma Wagner**, Senior Education Policy & Advocacy Adviser at Save the Children
- **Ms. Amélie Mariage**, founder of Aprendices Visuales
- **Ms. Madelle Kangha**, founder of JumpStart Academy Africa

[Read full article](#) [Watch video](#)

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

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



On the occasion of the **International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour**, 17 June 2021, the Geneva Centre organized an online event entitled **"Back to School not Work: Ending Child Labour in a Post-COVID World"**.

The panel 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.

PANELLISTS:

- **Mr. Philippe Vanhuynegem**, Chief, Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch, International Labour Organization
- **Mr. Tomoya Obokata**, UN Special Rapporteur on Slavery
- **Ms. Jo Becker**, Children's Rights Advocacy Director, Human Rights Watch
- **Ms. Anita Sheth**, Senior Advisor Social Compliance and Development, Fairtrade International
- **Ms. Florie May Butiong-Tacang**, Executive Director, Kaugmaon for Children's Rights and Social Development

Interventions were also made by **Ms. Molly Namirembe**, a child labour survivor and activist from Uganda, and **Ms. Stacey Fru**, an award-winning child activist from South Africa.

The poster features the Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue logo at the top left and the Sustainable Development Goals icons for Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8) and Quality Education (SDG 4) at the top right. The main title is "BACK TO SCHOOL NOT WORK: ENDING CHILD LABOUR IN A POST COVID WORLD". Below the title, it lists the panelists: Mr. Philippe Vanhuynegem (ILO), Mr. Tomoya Obokata (UN), Ms. Jo Becker (HRW), Ms. Molly Namirembe (former child labourer), Ms. Anita Sheth (Fairtrade), Ms. Florie May Tacang (Kaugmaon), and Ms. Stacey Fru (activist). The event is scheduled for 17 June 2021 at 3pm CET. A registration link is provided: http://bit.ly/17June_GC. The bottom of the poster includes the message: "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."

[Read full article](#) [Watch video](#)

GENEVA CENTRE'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECOGNITION AWARDS CEREMONY



"Our commitment continues, and with the help of technology, our voice for gender equality will be stronger and bigger."

- Mr. Sayed Ahmad Masoumi,
Awardee of Honour

On the **International Human Rights Day**, 10 December 2021, the Geneva Centre celebrated individuals with commendable work in the human rights advancement through its first ever Human Rights Recognition Award.

The Geneva Centre's Awards were given to individuals who work for the **protection, promotion and advancement** of human rights.

The Awards Ceremony was not only an opportunity to acknowledge and increase the visibility of the significant work of many individuals, but also a chance to **celebrate human rights achievements**.

In addition to the awardees' compelling and inspiring speeches, our **Guest of Honour Mr. Sami Kanaan**, Member of the Executive Council of the City of Geneva, delivered an excellent keynote speech in appreciation of the ceremony.

GENEVA CENTRE'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECOGNITION AWARDS CEREMONY



Our 2021 Awardees



Ms. Hira Amjad

Pakistan 

Is the Co-Founder and Director of 'DASTAK Foundation' in Pakistan. She has been working for prevention of gender-based violence and the promotion of women's rights since 2014.



Ms. Molly Namirembe

Uganda 

Is a former child labourer and a young human rights activist. Her projects aims at the elimination of child labour and child trafficking through advocacy and empowerment of children and youth in Uganda.



Ms. Casey Myers

USA 

Is Founder and Executive Director of 'One Digital World', a non-profit organization that connects, educates, and empowers refugees and asylum seekers worldwide, through technology and digital education.



Mr. Sayed Ahmad Masoumi (Awardee of Honour) Afghanistan 

Is active in promoting gender equality in Afghanistan. He developed the Rural Women's Entrepreneurship project and submitted it to UN Women for funding. His next initiative is to support Afghan women and girls through creating awareness-raising videos to put pressure on the Taliban to ensure women's rights.

"We write our own stories and if we don't like them, we have the power to change them. Let's write our stories the way we want them to be, today and now!"

- Ms. Hira Amjad

"I want to thank the Geneva Centre for this recognition award, the capacity building and the platform that you have always provided for me to share and learn. I want you to know this is a good fight and we are in it together."

- Ms. Molly Namirembe

[Read full article](#) [Watch video](#)

SCIENTIFIC CAFÉ

The Scientific Café is another new initiative introduced in 2021 by the Geneva Centre, offering short, factual, and accessible information in video format about important topics linked to human rights. The Scientific Café consists of a series of short interviews with experts from different fields.

The theme of the 1st edition of the Scientific Café was "**Right to Information during COVID-19**". In November and December 2021, the Geneva Centre conducted short interviews with the three following experts:

- **Prof. Marco Pedroni**, Professor of Sociology, Culture and Communication at the University of Ferrara, Italy.
- **Prof. Orazio Licciardello**, Social Psychologist at the University of Catania, Italy.
- **Prof. Bravo Bosch**, Professor of Law at the University of Vigo, Spain.



[Watch recordings](#)

REPORTING: UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL SESSIONS AND MEETINGS



In 2021, the Geneva Centre closely followed the **46th, 47th, and 48th** regular sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council. The Centre also covered **HRC Special Sessions** on Palestine, Afghanistan and Sudan, and followed the **37th session of the UPR**, with reports produced on Lebanon, Oman, and Myanmar.

A Summary Table listing all the Draft Resolutions, their background, and voting history was prepared for each session. Interactive infographics and short videos summarizing the outcomes were released at the end of the sessions.

A total of 115 reports were produced, including reports on **Panel Discussions, Interactive Dialogues, and General Debates**. The Centre also attended numerous other UN meetings, from which reports are available on demand.

Additionally, the Geneva Centre delivered **a statement on Systemic Racism** on 18 March 2021, under Item 9 *“Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance”*.

+500
professionals
subscribed to our
Mailing list



including 93 Permanent Missions, more than 65 NGOs, International organizations, Academic institutions, and members of the media.

115
reports
produced in
2021



REPORTING: UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL SESSIONS AND MEETINGS



UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré

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

"Thank you very much for the reports, they have been very helpful for us in following the developments in the Council, especially as many of us from smaller delegations have challenges in attending all meetings."

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



"Your reports broadened my understanding of the issues in giving a different perspective from other reporting sources.

I find the reports enriching in terms of capturing different perspectives on the discussions and outcomes of the Council sessions."

- Geneva-based Permanent Mission to the UNOG, (Eastern European States)

TRAINING SESSIONS

In 2021, the Geneva Centre organized two online training sessions. In total, **36 trainees** attended our training sessions in 2021. Lectures involved external experts along with the Centre's staff.

Both training sessions, entitled "**UN Human Rights Council – Structure, Mechanisms and Procedures**" aimed at providing participants with basic knowledge of the Human Rights Council, its structure, mechanisms and procedures, in addition to introductory lectures on Human Rights Law and its differences with International Humanitarian Law.

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/3dubFxi>

Course fee: 300 swiss francs (special fees apply for students)
Contact: AFares@gchragd.org

March training session: Six trainees from various regions of the world received our online training.

November training session: 30 trainees participated in our online training.

GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

Are you interested in learning about the United Nations human rights council?

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

THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL: STRUCTURE, MECHANISMS AND PROCEDURES

ONLINE TRAINING COURSE

8-12 November 2021

REGISTER NOW

<https://forms.office.com/r/BQPNXuStzD>

Course fee: 150 USD (50% special fee applicable for students)
Contact Allia Fares: AFares@gchragd.org

TRAINING SESSIONS

A big thank you to the team at Geneva Centre for creating an awesome online training program!

- Shivali Mehta, Master's student of Law, India

"I've gained more clarity and knowledge about the differences and complementarities of the International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law."

- Dr. Coralanne Griffith, Created for Greatness Leadership Group, USA



UN Photo / Jean-Marc Ferré

"This is a high-level training with high-end information, practices, guidance and deep Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law, HRC in-depth facilitation and more guidance that I really yearned for"

- Mr. Joseph Agina, Olkejuado Adult and Continuing Education Association (OACEA), Kenya

Discover GCHRAGD trainings [here](#).

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Books and brochures issued by the Geneva Centre

In 2021, the Geneva Centre issued one book and two brochures on panel events organized during the year.

Book publication:

“Pathways To An Equal Future: Women Inspiring Change” (March 2021)

This book is the fruit of the online panel debate organized by the Geneva Centre on 8 March 2021 to commemorate International Women’s Day. The book includes a summary of the proceedings, statements and written contributions, and an analytical article which builds upon the lessons learned from the panel.



Brochure publication:

“COVID-19 and Right to Education: Current Impact, Future Consequences” (March 2021)



Brochure publication:

“Back to School not Work: Ending Child Labour in a Post-COVID World” (June 2021)

AWARENESS RAISING VIDEOS

In 2021, the Geneva Centre continued to produce **short videos** to raise awareness on a wide range of topics linked to human rights such as **women's rights, children's rights, the impact of COVID-19 on human rights**, UN international days, as well as summary of important conferences such as the Human Rights Council.

From January to December 2021, the Geneva Centre produced **29 videos related to human rights**



Gender Equality 2021



International Day of Peace 2021



Universal Vaccination for Equal Human Rights 2021



Building back Fairer: Equality in a Post-Covid World

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS ALL OUR VIDEOS](#)



SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

The Geneva Centre uses social media to **raise awareness about human rights** and to **give visibility to its work**. We share news, create visual content, and exchange with our partners to achieve these goals.

The main social media platforms used are **Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook** and **Youtube**. In 2021, **the Geneva Centre reached 20.000 followers on LinkedIn!** Here are the Centre's latest social media figures:



4.646 followers
273.400 tweet impressions in 2021



20.000 followers
247.600 post impressions in 2021



11.346 followers
38.000 post impressions in 2021



29 videos produced in 2021
1600 views in total



In total **35.992 followers**
on our Social Media platforms

LOOKING INTO 2022

The Geneva Centre will continue to vigorously pursue its mission in 2022, with an increased focus on **training**, national **capacity building** and consolidating **partnerships** with Geneva-based human rights NGOs. The Centre will also continue to organize its main activities, evolving around four underlying pillars, which fulfil its mandate as an independent **think-tank** and **advocacy** organization:

- **Research and publications on human rights issues**
- **Organizing training sessions**
- **Conducting human rights awareness raising and advocacy**
- **Promoting global dialogue on current human rights issues of universal importance, through organisation of international panels and conferences.**

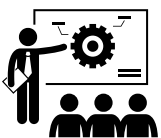
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



Reporting on major human rights conferences, in particular the UN Human Rights Council;



Organizing events on crucial human rights issues and bringing together all stakeholders to propose concrete measures and collaborate on ways forward;



Conducting training sessions to strengthen skills and knowledge of professionals and individuals interested in UN Human Rights Structures and Mechanisms;



Increasing communication and outreach through videos and creation of interactive contents in order to raise human rights awareness at the global level.



Our vision is anchored in our belief in human rights as essential to the **dignity of all human beings**, and in **dialogue** and **cooperation** to promote development and foster harmony in the world community.

Since its creation in 2013, the Geneva Centre has aimed to **promote respect for, and raise awareness of human rights universally**, in a non-politicized manner and in accordance with internationally recognized standards. The Centre accords a particular importance to the development and spread of the values of tolerance, solidarity, empathy and celebration of the diversity of humankind.

Building **partnerships and collaborations** with other NGOs in general and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA region) in particular is an important objective of the Geneva Centre to promote more resilient, tolerant and inclusive societies and raise more awareness of, and consequently respect for human rights.

OUR MISSION

- Provide a platform for global dialogue through organizing events
- Conduct research and produce publications on human rights issues
- Offer human rights trainings and capacity building programs
- Participate in human rights meetings and inform all stakeholders
- Network actively with the Permanent Missions, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and academia.

**"Compassion, inclusiveness,
respect and solidarity are the
true gateways to just and
peaceful societies"**

Dr. Umesh Palwankar, Executive
Director of the Geneva Centre



**GENEVA CENTRE
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Follow us on



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