



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

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 January - 31 December 2023**



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# FOREWORD

## DR. UMESH PALWANKAR Executive Director of the Geneva Centre

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The Geneva Centre has the pleasure to share with you our Annual Report for 2023. The year was characterized by intense and fruitful activities, appreciated by the participants and attendees alike.

The Centre organized 4 panel events on critical human rights issues of universal concern and a major international conference in September on **Environment, Climate Change and Women and Children's Rights: Challenges, Perspectives and the Role of Indigenous Peoples**, in view of COP 28. Further details of all these events are succinctly provided in the infographic annual report which follows. These events resulted in publications which are to be found on the Geneva Centre's user-friendly website.

Similarly, the Geneva Centre conducted other important activities, consisting of intensive and realtime **Reporting** on the sessions of the **Human Rights Council** and **training sessions** on diverse aspects of human rights, including a two-week joint summer course with Webster University. The Centre's **Internship programme** was very successful. Furthermore, the Centre published several Research papers on current human rights issues. It also conducted a series of interviews with...exact no...experts and field practitioners, within the framework of its **Scientific Café initiative**, whose theme this year was *"Right to a Healthy Environment: Significance for the Ordinary Citizen"*. The interviews were published in our website and on social media platforms.

For the third consecutive year, the Geneva Centre held its **Human Rights Recognition Awards** in December, commemorating international human rights day. The theme this year was Women Championing Environmental Rights, with four awardees working in the field to protect and promote these rights, selected by a renowned international jury which included acclaimed academicians in this field and as Guest of Honour the Climate Advisor to the UN Secretary-General. A publication has been issued and is in our website.

The Geneva Centre wishes to express its heartfelt gratitude for your interest and support, and wishes you a Very Happy and Rewarding New Year in your noble endeavours.

# OUR REACH, IN FIGURES



**27** people from different regions

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



**97** reports

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



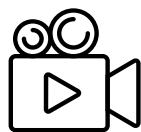
**6** events organized

**+30** external speakers



**6** publications

**2** newsletters



**28** videos

produced to raise awareness on important human rights issues



## DEFENDING WOMEN AND GIRLS' RIGHT TO EDUCATION: CURRENT CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

24 JANUARY 2023

On January 2, the Geneva Centre issued a statement recognizing the urgent need to defend women and girl's fundamental right to education, following the decision by the ruling Afghan authorities. As a continuation, the Geneva Centre organized an online event entitled "**Defending Women and Girls' Right to Education: Current Challenges and Perspectives**" on the occasion of the International Day of Education, celebrated each year on 24 January.

The event saw the participation of seven distinguished panellists comprising experts and practitioners, including a member of the UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls.

The panel event aimed to create a space for discussion and called for mobilization around women and girls' right to education. The speakers addressed good practices on how to encourage more national and international commitments from the governments and shared concrete initiatives and action from the grassroots level to ensure the right to education for every woman and girl, which can contribute to laying the foundation for women's empowerment and is fundamental to achieving gender equality.

**REGISTER NOW!**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION

### DEFENDING WOMEN AND GIRLS' RIGHT TO EDUCATION: CURRENT CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

ONLINE PANEL EVENT

24 JANUARY 2023  
12-13:15 PM CET

**PANELLISTS**

**Ms. Elizabeth Broderick**  
Member of the UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls

**Ms. Belquis Ahmadi**  
Senior Program Officer, United States Institute of Peace

**Dr. Racquel Warner**  
Career Educator, Academic Consultant

**Ms. Saba Ismail**  
Co-Founder, Aware Girls, Pakistan

**Ms. Shekeba Ahmadi**  
Women's Rights Advocate; CMI-Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation

**Dr. Mona Mostafa El-Sholkamy**  
Associate Professor, Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government

**Ms. Prasansa Karki**  
Program Development Coordinator, Nagarik Aawaz (Citizen's Voice), Nepal

**MODERATION**

**Dr. Umesh Palwankar**  
Executive Director, Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue

REGISTRATIONS: (ZOOM)

GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

### Highlights from the panel

The right to education, equally for men and women, is enshrined international law right from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights onwards, including in the 2 International Covenants of 1966 and several other treaties. Denying women and girls this basic human right would violate the fundamental principles of equality and nondiscrimination, embody a policy of flagrant gender discrimination, contrary international law and run against the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly 4 and 5. It would also seriously undermine the goals of the international community to establish just, tolerant, inclusive and prosperous societies.

[Access the pdf version](#) of this publication.

Watch the full recording of the panel event [here](#).

# INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION: CREATING AND SUSTAINING SPACES OF ENCOUNTER

22 FEBRUARY 2023

The second panel event of the year “**Interfaith Dialogue and Reconciliation: Creating and Sustaining Spaces of Encounter**” was successfully held on 22 February, with the participation of 54 participants and six renowned panelists.

The existence of a pluralistic society, particularly in terms of religion, faith and culture, requires a platform in the community. In this sense, interreligious and interfaith dialogue can be seen as an effective platform to build mutual understanding and tolerance in society. This process can be followed by anyone, from ordinary people to religious leaders, academics, and politicians operating at international, national and local levels. The term interfaith dialogue refers to cooperative, constructive, and positive interaction between people of different religious traditions and/or spiritual or humanistic beliefs, at both the individual and institutional levels. It aims to promote mutual understanding and to increase acceptance and tolerance. When employed as a tool or strategic practice, interfaith dialogue may facilitate discussions to combat intolerance, hate speech and discrimination and to promote peacebuilding.

A follow-up publication was issued, and it includes an analytical Lessons Learned and Ways Forward chapter.

**INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION : CREATING AND SUSTAINING SPACES OF ENCOUNTER**

22 FEBRUARY 2023  
12-13:00 PM CET

**SPEAKERS**

- Ms. Nazila Ghanea  
UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief
- Rev Sören Lenz  
Co-chair, Interreligious & Interconvictional Dialogue Committee, Council of Europe
- Prof. Fabio Petito  
Professor, Religion & International Affairs, University of Sussex
- Dr. Vinu Aram  
President, Shanti Ashram, India
- Dr. Scherto Gill  
Director, Global Humanity for Peace Institute; Senior Fellow, Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace
- Dr. Bakary Sambe  
Regional Director, Timbuktu Institute, African Center for Peace Studies

GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

Registration:  
gchragd.org/interfaith-dialogue-and-reconciliation/

## Highlights from the panel

**“Congrats to the Geneva Centre... for this innovative panel which has the virtue of delivering and crossing perspectives on a complex issue. Looking forward to reading the conclusions and recommendations.”**

- Participant



[Access the pdf version](#) of this publication.  
Watch the full recording of the panel event [here](#).



# SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS: BEYOND THE SECURITY - FREEDOM DILEMMA

14 JUNE 2023

In response to global debates on surveillance and cybersecurity, the Geneva Centre hosted a ZOOM panel discussion about the impact of surveillance tech on human rights, moderated by Dr. Palwankar, with various speakers participating. The panel aimed to bring a better understanding of the obstacles and contentions regarding use and regulations of surveillance; and identify international best practices and innovative ideas to tackle the impact of surveillance technologies on human rights.



**Sempala Allan Kigozi**



**Tamar Kaldani**



**Meredith Veit**



**Dr. Catarina Fontes**

*[...] it is not helpful to talk of 'privacy versus security' but rather of 'privacy and security', since both privacy and security are needed.*

*[...] Security is an enabling right for the overarching right to life, while privacy may also be viewed as an enabling right in the overall complex web of information flows in society, which are of fundamental importance [...].*

*Prof. Joseph Cannataci, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy*



Read more about the event [here](#).

**REGISTER NOW!**

**SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS:  
BEYOND THE SECURITY - FREEDOM DILEMMA**

**ONLINE PANEL EVENT**

**PANELLISTS**

- Mr. Sempala Allan Kigozi**  
Head of Programmes, Unwarranted Witness, Uganda
- Ms. Tamar Kaldani**  
Vice-Chair of the Consultative Committee of the CoE Convention 108, Georgia
- Ms. Meredith Veit**  
Tech & Human Rights Researcher, Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, USA
- Dr. Catarina Fontes**  
Postdoctoral researcher at the Institute for Ethics in Artificial Intelligence, Technical University of Munich, Germany

**MODERATION**

**Dr. Umesh Palwankar**  
Executive Director, Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue

**14 JUNE 2023**  
11 - 12:30 PM CET

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

**REGISTRATIONS**

[Access the pdf version of this publication.](#)

# ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS: CHALLENGES, PERSPECTIVES AND THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

6 SEPTEMBER 2023

## PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE

### Allocution by the Guest of Honour

**Ms. Nathalie Fontanet**, State Councillor, Republic and Canton of Geneva

### Moderator

**Dr. Umesh Palwankar**, Executive Director, Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue

### Welcome remarks

**Ambassador [retd] Ghazi Jomaa**, Chairman of the Board of Management, Geneva Centre

### OPENING STATEMENTS

**H.E. Mrs. Claudia Fuentes Julio**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the UN in Geneva

**H.E. Mrs. Clara Manuela da Luz Delgado Jesus**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cabo Verde to the UN in Geneva

**H.E. Ms. Lubna Qassim Albastaki**, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the UN in Geneva

### KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

**Mr. Todd Howland**, Chief of Branch, Development, Economic and Social Issues, OHCHR

**Dr. Ian Fry**, UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the context of Climate Change

**PANEL 1: PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND ENSURING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION**

**Dr. David Boyd**, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Environment. (pre-recorded video message)

**Prof. Liliana Andonova**, Professor of Political Science and International Relations and Academic Co-Director, Center for International Environmental Studies at IHEID

**Ms. Nahla Haidar El Addal**, Member of the CEDAW and ICJ Commissioner

**Ms. Gina Cortès Valderrama**, co-Focal Point of the UNFCCC Women and Gender Constituency

**PANEL 2: CHILDREN'S RIGHTS, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE: INTEGRATING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS INTO CLIMATE ACTION**

**Dr. Octavian Bivol**, Deputy Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, UNICEF

**Ms. Saher Rashid Baig**, Representative of the Child Rights Working Group of the UNFCCC Children and Youth Constituency

### A voice for children

**Ms. Licypriya Kangujam**, Young Environmental Activist and Founder of The Child Movement, India

**PANEL 3: TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN RECONCILING PURSUIT OF LIVELIHOODS WITH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION: INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND SAFEGUARDING NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Mr. José Francisco Cali Tzay**, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (pre-recorded video message)

**Dr. Pasang Dolma Sherpa**, Executive Director, Center for Indigenous Peoples' Research & Development (CIPRED)

**Dr. Handaine Mohamed**, President, Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordination Committee (IPACC)

The Geneva Centre decided to organize an international conference at the United Nations Office in Geneva on 6 September, on the heels of the Bonn Climate Conference and in anticipation of COP 28, with the aim of offering a platform for in-depth discussions among eminent specialists. The three panels that addressed the three themes:

- 1) Promoting and protecting the rights of women and ensuring gender equality in the context of climate change and environmental degradation.**
- 2) Children's rights, environment and climate change: integrating children's rights into climate action.**
- 3) Traditional knowledge and practices of Indigenous peoples in reconciling pursuit of livelihoods with environment protection: innovative approaches to addressing climate change and safeguarding natural resources.**

The panel was moderated by **Dr. Umesh Palwankar**, Executive Director of the Geneva Centre.





Read the follow-up publication [here](#)

Climate change and environmental degradation affect the most vulnerable first. The conference examined appropriate ways and effective means to address the challenges currently faced, drew upon the lessons learned thus far, explored future perspectives and offered concrete recommendations with regard to rights-based climate and environmental practices and policies. With just transition and human-rights-based climate action as an underlying framework for the discussion, it sought to attain the following specific objectives: Strengthen the understanding of the impacts of climate change on women and children and reinforce their role as agents of change; and bring to the discussion best practices from the field, voices of children as well as Indigenous Peoples' unique experience in order to promote an environment for continuous engagement.



***“As the development, application, preservation, and transmission of Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge are inextricably linked to the way Indigenous Peoples use their territory, lands, and resources, one of the main threats to Indigenous knowledge is the loss and lack of recognition and protection of their rights to land, territory, and resources.”***

*Mr. José Francisco Calí Tzay, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, speaking at the Geneva Centre conference*



***“In its recent resolutions about climate change, the Human Rights Council has mandated OHCHR to produce a series of reports covering a wide range of issues including on gender equality, migration, children’s rights and the rights of people in vulnerable situations. These reports have made it very clear that the worst impacts of climate change often fall on those least responsible and with limited resources to withstand them. This is unjust, untenable, unsustainable, and entirely preventable.”***

*Mr. Todd Howland, Chief of the OHCHR Development, Economic and Social Issues Branch, delivering a Keynote Address at the Geneva Centre conference*



Garnering substantial support from major Permanent Missions, who sponsored the conference, it attracted widespread attention and drew a broad audience, reflecting the growing demand and interest in this critical intersection of issues. Encouraged by this enthusiastic response, plans are already underway for a second conference in 2024 on a related subject.



# HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND HUMAN RIGHTS

30 NOVEMBER 2023

The panel event, organised in collaboration with the PM of the Sovereign Order of Malta, aimed to increase awareness among the international community, and to combat this aggravating global issue in light of the numerous human rights violations resulting from human trafficking. Human trafficking involves recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring, or receiving people for exploitation, whether through force, coercion, fraud, or some other form of deception.

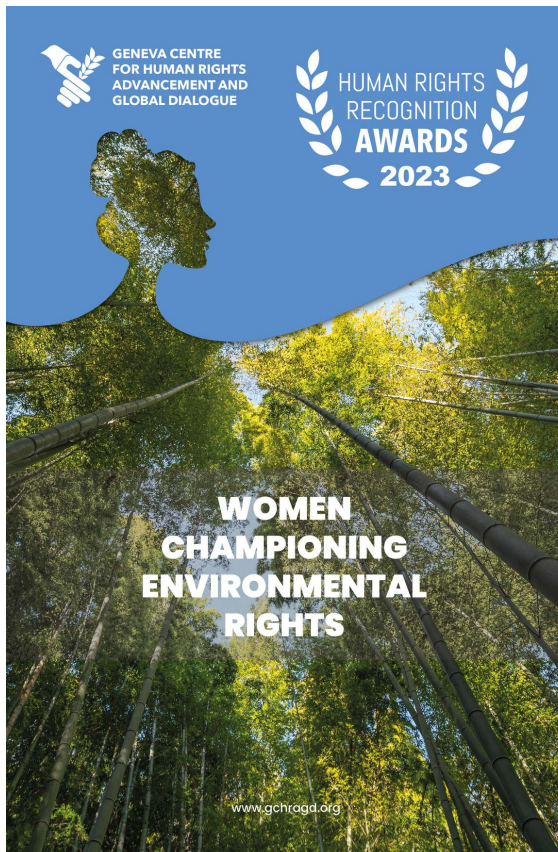
## Speakers:

- **Prof. Michel Veuthey** (Moderator), Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta to monitor and combat trafficking in persons;
- **Dr. Umesh Palwankar**, Executive Director of the Geneva Centre;
- **Mgr. Robert J. Vitillo**, Secretary General of ICMC;
- **Paola Fudakowska**, Legal Consultant at TRIAL International;
- **Ena Lucia Mariaca Pacheco**, Co-Founder and Global Ambassador of the U.S Council on Violence against Men and Boys;
- **Alisa Gbiorczyk**, Member of the International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC) at the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and Founder of CYBER NITELWATCH.



Read the follow-up publication [here](#).

# GENEVA CENTRE'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECOGNITION AWARDS CEREMONY



On the **International Human Rights Day**, 8 December 2023, the Geneva Centre's Human Rights Recognition Awards 2023 edition celebrates in this year of edition Women Championing Environmental Rights, highlighting the contributions and innovative projects undertaken by women in their communities.

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 Honor, **Ayisha Siddiqa**, the Climate Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General, delivered an excellent keynote speech in appreciation of the ceremony.

Building upon the success of the HRRRA, the Geneva Centre will continue this initiative in 2024 with a prestigious guest of honor, high-profile jury members, and a diverse array of candidates, on another human rights issue of universal concern.

***"To me, being a human rights advocate is synonymous with being a climate justice advocate. And I make this distinction of human rights because the loss of biodiversity and land is intimately connected to women's issues and human rights."***

*Guest of Honor, Ayisha Siddiqa, Climate Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General*



## Our 2023 Awardees



Dr. Priscilla Mbarumun Achakpa is a Founder, Global President of Women Environmental Programme. It is a non-governmental and non-political organization, whose vision is of a world where the lives of women, children and youth across the globe are positively transformed.



Monique Ntumngia is a sustainable entrepreneur and human rights advocate for climate-gender justice on a mission to provide every woman and girl on the African continent living in an African village access to electricity and clean cooking fuel which to her is a basic human right.



Hero Wakil is the director of the Nwe organization, which is dedicated to protecting the environment and women's rights. She is a passionate environmentalist, committed to creating positive change in the world.



Fatou Jeng is a dynamic force in climate change education, advocacy, and gender equality. With a rich 7-year journey in this critical field,



Read more about the event [here](#) and watch the [video](#).

# SCIENTIFIC CAFÉ INITIATIVE

## INTERVIEWS

Since 2021, the Geneva Centre is hosting the **Scientific Café initiative**, consisting of short interviews with academic experts and field practitioners on issues linked to human rights. Questions are posed with the request to provide explanations in simple terms to make the information accessible to all viewers.

The theme for the 2023 edition is "**Right to a Healthy Environment: Significance for the Ordinary Citizen**". The discussion analyzes the impact of climate change and environmental damage – manifest in all spheres of life from agriculture to health, migration, labor and trade – on ordinary citizens. It considers the disproportionate effects on different groups based on their age, geographical location, socio-economic situation, ethnicity, disability and gender, and what can be the role of different actors in ensuring impactful policies to safeguards people's right to a clean and healthy environment are realized.

Among others, the Geneva Centre interviewed the following experts:

- **Dr. Megan Donald**, Associate Research Fellow, Geneva Academy
- **Dr. Robin Bronen**, Executive Director, Alaska Institute for Justice
- **Ms Caroline Mayr**, Founder, Director, Institute for Small Islands; Chief Empowerment Officer for SHE Changes Climate
- **Dr. Anne Saab**, Associate Professor, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
- **Dr. Denis Ruyschaert**, Faculty Lead, Environment & Sustainability (Graduate Institute)
- **Prof. Melodena Stephens**, Professor of Innovation Management at the Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG)
- **Ms Rewa Assi**, Young Climate Activist, Youth Representative, UNICEF MENA and Program Coordinator, Water Innovation Lab Lebanon (WIL)
- **Mr Jevanic Henry**, Member UN Secretary General Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change

### The questions posed to the experts:

1. What are some of the short and long-term effects of climate change and the environment on ordinary citizens and which groups are particularly affected?
2. What does this human right offer concretely to the ordinary citizen? Who is responsible for ensuring this right and what means of redress are available to the common man in case of violations?
3. How can countries be prompted to enshrine the right to a healthy environment in national legislation and be encouraged to robustly implement these laws?
4. What could be the role of intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, the business sector, especially multinationals, and the media in defending and promoting this right?
5. Do you have any recommendations on how to ensure the right to a healthy environment is brought to the forefront of political discourse and public debate?

The aim in **2024** is to conduct a larger series of interviews on another human rights subject of interest to all. .

Access all the videos of the Scientific Café series [here](#).



# HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL REPORTING INITIATIVE

Through its unique monitoring initiative, the Geneva Centre's provided summary reports on some of the key meetings during the **52nd, 53rd and 54th regular sessions of the Human Rights Council** (27 February to 4 April, 19 June to 14 July and 11 September to 13 October), with **95 reports** produced on both **country specific** and **thematic topics**, as well as on several **panel discussions, urgent debates** and **general debates**. In May, the Geneva Centre also covered the **43rd session of the Universal Periodic Review**, reporting the review of United Arab Emirates and Israel. These timely reports set a new standard in Human Rights Council Reporting. The real-time availability of these documents significantly aids Permanent Missions and other institutions in gaining a comprehensive understanding of the discussions and results.

Access all our HRC52 reports [here](#).

Access all our HRC53 reports [here](#).

Access all our HRC54 reports [here](#).



***“Human rights is a force to reckon with, not because it serves the interests of the powerful, but because it has captured the imagination of the powerless.”***

- Volker Türk, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

## +700

**professionals  
subscribed to our  
Mailing list**



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

## 95

**reports  
produced in  
2023**



## 7

In response to Calls for Inputs by UN Special Rapporteurs, the Geneva Centre has been proactive, providing making submissions inputs on various themes, such as Women Human Rights Defenders, Discrimination in the context of the Right to Health, the intersection of Human Rights, Environmental issues and Corporate Accountability.

In 2024, the Centre is committed to maintaining its active role in contributing to ongoing efforts and discussions on contemporary human rights challenges



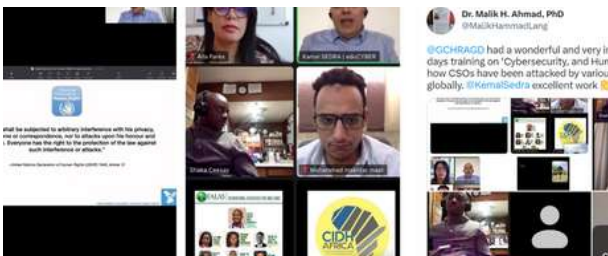
Stay up to date on our reports by subscribing to our unique HRC Newsletter [here](#).

# TRAINING SESSIONS AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

In 2023, the Geneva Centre distinguished itself by organizing major training sessions, both independently, and in collaboration with Webster University for the second consecutive year. In total, **27 trainees** attended our training sessions in 2023. Lecturers comprised external experts along with the Centre's staff.

The joint two-week training program with Webster University 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.

Encouraged by the successes of both sessions, the Centre plans to expand its training programs in 2024.



## April training session: “Cybersecurity for Human Rights Professionals”

## Joint Human Rights Training session in June with Webster University, Geneva, including students from Zayed University, UAE



In 2023, the Geneva Centre's internship program fostered a dynamic collaboration with international and national academic institutions, including the Graduate Institute Geneva, and the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. This initiative was further enriched by a robust interest from potential interns, as evidenced by the impressive number of **86 applications** from across the world.

# RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

## Publications issued by the Geneva Centre

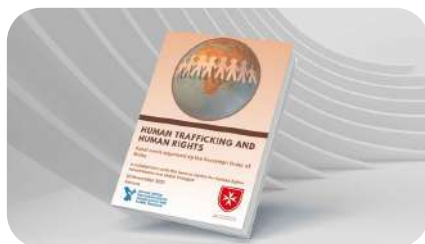


### **1 Conference Publication**

The Conference Publication draws on the conclusions and recommendations of the Geneva Centre Conference on Climate Change and Human Rights and provides an analysis and best practices of recent developments in the climate - human rights nexus.



### **4 Panel Publications**



### **1 Research Paper**



These publications and articles offered in-depth perspectives on current human rights issues, including COP28, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 75th Anniversary, and women's access to education in Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.



### **2 Newsletters**



### **Annual Report**

Access all our publications [here](#).



# PARTNERSHIPS

New partnerships and collaborations were established, including joint panel events, co-authored publications, participation as panelists in international conferences, and the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with an academic institution.

## The MoU with Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government (Dubai)



- The Geneva Centre has forged a significant partnership with the esteemed Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government (MBSG) through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in Dubai, UAE.
- Building upon a foundation of previous engagements, including collaborative training courses and event participation, this formal agreement marks a commitment to future joint endeavors.
- In early 2024, the Geneva Centre will hold a panel with MBRS on the **right to health, armed conflicts and peace processes**.



## Geneva Centre Hosted Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi Delegation

➤ 28 July 2023

The Geneva Centre hosted a delegation from Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi. The visit featured discussions with the Centre's staff, focusing on the Centre's work in research, advocacy, and promoting intercultural dialogue. The Centre expressed enthusiasm for future collaborations with Sorbonne University.



## Other collaborations

**Academia:** Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, St. Louis University (Madrid), Webster University, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government (Dubai), Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi.

**Permanent Missions:** Australia, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, Jordan, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritius, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, UAE, among others.

**National Institutions:** National Human Rights Institution (UAE), National Centre for Human Rights NCHR (Jordan).

**NGOs:** Kofi Annan Foundation, Daughters of Kenya, Sikh Human Rights Group, Global Initiative, Coordinator at the Centre for International Environmental Studies, CECASEM.

**United Nations:** OHCHR, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

In 2024, the Geneva Centre plans to organize, among others, a Symposium on ***Women's Empowerment in the MENA region: Trends and Developments***, in collaboration with national institutions and partners from the UAE, Jordan, and others. This will significantly enhance the Centre's visibility in the region. Through this initiative, the Centre aims at advancing gender equality and women's rights, including in the MENA region.

### Project and Information

Officer, Catia Trevisani participated as panellist in the 53rd Human Rights Council Session Side Event on Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue (6 July).



Executive Director Dr. Umesh Palwankar participated as panellist at the 28th annual International Humanitarian and Security Conference, Webster University (21-22 November).

# RAISING AWARENESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

PRODUCING VIDEOS AND POSTS



In 2023, the Geneva Centre continued to produce **short videos and posts** to raise awareness on a wide range of topics linked to human rights such as **women's rights, children's rights**, UN international days, as well as summary of important conferences such as the Human Rights Council.

## From January to December 2023, the Geneva Centre produced 13 videos related to human rights



Zero Discrimination Day 2023



International Day to Combat Islamophobia



World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (30 July)



International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination



*Social justice can only be achieved through collective awareness, by ensuring equal opportunities for each, eliminating all forms of systemic obstacles and discrimination, and ensuring everyone's human rights are respected and protected.*

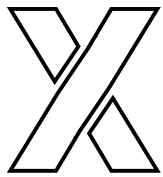
Access our short videos [here](#).



# 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!** Here are the Centre's latest social media figures:



**4,594** followers  
**25.701** tweet impressions in 2023



**31,350** followers  
**19,201** post impressions in 2023



**11,420** followers  
**38.000** post impressions in 2023



**28** videos produced in 2023  
**73,827** views in total



In total **47.364 followers**  
on our Social Media platforms



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

**Follow us on**



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