



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



ANNUAL REPORT

1 January - 31 December 2024



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FOREWORD

DR. UMESH PALWANKAR Executive Director of the Geneva Centre

The Geneva Centre has the privilege of presenting its **Annual Report for 2024**, a testament to another year filled with impactful and wide-ranging initiatives, appreciated by participants and stakeholders alike.

This year, the Centre organized four high-level panel events on pressing human rights issues. These included a panel in Dubai on **Right to Health, Armed Conflicts, and Peacebuilding: How Can Ensuring the Right to Health Contribute to Peace Processes?**; a panel addressing **Bridging the Divide: New Perspectives for an International Approach to Countering Religious Hatred and Promoting Fundamental Freedoms**; the launch presentation of our research paper on the **Human Rights Implications of the Israel-Gaza War**; and a major international conference entitled **Empowering Youth, Indigenous Peoples, and Small Island States in Promoting Environmental Rights and Climate Justice**. Each of these events resulted in valuable insights and publications, all available on the Geneva Centre's accessible website.

The **Scientific Café initiative** fosters dialogue with experts and practitioners to promote universal understanding of complex and current human rights issues. The theme this year was **"Migration and Businesses: Safeguarding Human Rights Amidst the Climate Crisis"**. A series of engaging interviews on this theme were published on our website and shared across social media platforms.

The Geneva Centre also intensified its real-time reporting on the sessions of the **Human Rights Council**, and successfully continued its internship program. Our collaboration with Webster Geneva Campus this year resulted in a two-week summer course on critical human rights topics. Additionally, several research papers addressing contemporary human rights issues were published and widely disseminated.

For the first time, the **Human Rights Recognition Awards** were held during the **Human Rights Awareness Week**—an event organized in Dubai and Abu Dhabi to foster broader awareness of human rights. This year's awards celebrated exceptional contributions to human rights, enhancing the impact of this prestigious recognition.

The Geneva Centre extends its deepest gratitude for your continued interest and support. We look forward to another year of collaboration and wish you a fulfilling and prosperous New Year in your commendable efforts to promote and protect human rights.

OUR REACH, IN FIGURES



+30 people

trained and equipped with knowledge on International Relations and Global Governance



118 reports

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



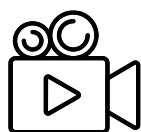
4 events organized

+30 external speakers



4 publications

2 newsletters



34 videos

produced to raise awareness on important human rights issues

PANEL EVENTS & MAJOR CONFERENCE



RIGHT TO HEALTH, ARMED CONFLICTS, AND PEACEBUILDING: HOW CAN ENSURING THE RIGHT TO HEALTH CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE PROCESSES?

1 FEBRUARY 2024



On 1 February 2024, the Geneva Centre co-organized a panel event in partnership with the **Mohamed Bin Rashid School of Government** in Dubai. The event shed light on how ensuring the right to health can positively contribute to peace processes.

The panel featured an array of **distinguished speakers**, each bringing a wealth of expertise and insight to the discussion. These included most notably Mr. Immanuel Azaad Moonesar, Professor of Health Policy and Systems Research Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government; Dr Umesh Palwankar, Executive Director Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue; Ms. Clare Dalton, Head of Delegation, International Committee of the Red Cross; Mr. Giuseppe Saba, CEO, International Humanitarian City, Dubai; and Dr Khulood Alsayegh, Head of Health Policies and Regulation, Dubai Health Authority.

Interlinkages between armed conflicts, health, and peace are well known. Violence and armed conflicts have devastating implications for health. Health is always under attack. The proliferation of attacks on health and healthcare workers are obviously unacceptable under international human rights and humanitarian law.

These conference offered the perfect setting to delve into the integration of healthcare into peace processes and conflict resolution, highlighting the essential role of health and medical sector professionals. The discussion further emphasized the significant contribution of women in health services towards successful peace processes. From the fruitful expert discussion emerged three potential intervention avenues for health as a bridge for peace programs, namely delivering health services in conflict zones, providing a neutral platform to collaborate on health issues, and offering mental health and rehabilitation services to aid reconciliation in conflict-affected communities.

The emerging reflections and recommendations have been encapsulated in a comprehensive report made publicly available, thereby contributing further to the discourse on healthcare's role in peacebuilding.



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



BRIDGING THE DIVIDE: NEW PERSPECTIVES FOR AN INTERNATIONAL APPROACH TO COUNTERING RELIGIOUS HATRED AND PROMOTE FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

24 APRIL 2024

On 24 April 2024, the Geneva Centre jointly with the **Sikh Human Rights Group** had the pleasure of hosting a remote event on **countering religious hatred** for what was an incredibly engaging round of reflections centred on international approaches to countering religious hate while upholding fundamental freedoms. Given the gravely dehumanizing character of religious hatred and that tensions on this front are sadly on the rise, this panel event could not have been more timely.



The eminent table of panellists delved into the challenges our societies face, discussing **how education and policies need to evolve to move from dialogue to community actions and projects**. Panellists highlighted the need of bringing together religious actors, educators and the media to act jointly and swiftly. Empowering knowledge and education to defuse political manipulation is also key, as well as investing in religious literacy to foster genuine listening and peer-to-peer dialogue.

Furthermore, the so-called “Rabat threshold” conceived for helping law enforcement authorities navigate the fine line between free speech and hate speech remains largely unknown. Public denunciation and prevention of religious instrumentalization should be at the centre of any policy, along with a heightened responsibility of political and religious leaders in these fields.

- Dr. Ibrahim Salama**, Chief of the Human Rights Treaties Branch - OHCHR
- Dr. Hacı Ali Açıkgül**, Vice-chairperson of Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission - OIC
- Mrs. Armela Krasniqi**, President of the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities (MNRA).
- Dr. W.Y. Alice Chan**, Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Centre for Civic Religious Literacy.
- Prof. Arvind-Pal S. Mandair**, Director of Graduate Studies and Tara Singh and Balwant Kaur Chattha and Gurbax Singh and Kirpal Kaur Brar Sikh Studies Professor, University of Michigan (Ann Arbor)

From the **rich debates** it further emerged the duty to develop remedial speech and the key role played by the media and media literacy.

The panel acknowledged the imperative need to widen the faith-based civil society space through supportive, multistakeholder policies that have the potential of truly contributing to the shaping of tolerant and pluralistic societies.



The Geneva Centre stands very keen to work more closely with key stakeholders such as faith-based organizations, OHCHR and the European Union to explore new approaches to youth and institutional engagement in genuine interfaith dialogue.

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

GENEVA CENTRE HIGHLIGHTS HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES IN ISRAEL-GAZA CONFLICT WITH NEW RESEARCH PRESENTATION

20 SEPTEMBER 2024



On September 20, 2024, in a significant effort to highlight the devastating human rights consequences of the ongoing conflict in Gaza following the October 7, 2023, attack by Hamas and Israel’s subsequent military response, the Geneva Centre presented the research paper titled **“Vortex of Pain: Human Rights Implications of the Israel-Gaza Armed Conflict.”**

The presentation was held during a special event on the margins of the 57th Session of the Human Rights Council and was hosted by the **Swiss Press Club** in Geneva.

GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

REGISTER NOW

RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATION

VORTEX OF PAIN: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS OF THE ISRAEL-GAZA WAR

20 SEPTEMBER 2024 / 12:00-13:00 CET
ONLINE AND IN PRESENCE AT THE SWISS PRESS CLUB
DOMAINE DES PENTHES, CHEMIN DE L'IMPÉRATRICE 18, PREGNY-CHAMBÉSY

SPEAKERS

 <p>Dr. Umesh Palwankar Executive Director, Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue</p>	 <p>Prof. Surya Deva UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development</p>	 <p>Prof. Claire Somerville Director, Gender Centre, Graduate Institute Geneva</p>	 <p>Prof. Mara Tignino Senior Lecturer, University of Geneva, Deputy Director, Platform for International Water Law, Geneva Water Hub</p>
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MODERATOR Swiss Press Club



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



The **research paper** examines the vast scale of civilian suffering and violations of international law, drawing attention to the catastrophic humanitarian crisis.

Key Findings:

- **Unprecedented Destruction:** The research paper reveals that the conflict has caused the most severe damage to Gaza since 2014, with widespread destruction across social and cultural sectors. Over 43 cultural heritage sites, including religious monuments and museums, have been damaged, and the collapse of healthcare infrastructure has severely limited access to essential services.
- **Human Rights Violations:** According to international human rights law, the right to life extends beyond protection from direct violence and includes safeguarding individuals from foreseeable threats such as famine and environmental degradation. The research paper documents Israel's indiscriminate use of force and restrictions that have jeopardized civilians' access to food, water, and medical care.
- **Humanitarian Crisis:** As the conflict continues, Gaza faces an acute shortage of essential goods, worsened by severe movement restrictions. The lack of electricity and fuel has exacerbated the humanitarian situation, impacting food security, healthcare facilities and access to the few still functioning, and sanitation. The research paper emphasizes that ongoing military operations and blockades have hindered the delivery of critical humanitarian aid and further caused the spread of diseases, particularly among babies, children and pregnant women.
- **Vulnerable Populations:** The research paper highlights the disproportionate impact on children, women, and other vulnerable groups. More than 600,000 children have been deprived of education, and access to medical care remains critically low for those suffering from war-related injuries. The conflict has also increased risks for pregnant women, displaced families, and people with disabilities.
- **Excessive Force and Extrajudicial Actions:** Allegations of extrajudicial killings, targeting of civilian infrastructure, and disproportionate military responses are widespread.

Proposals to ensure compliance with human rights

The research paper provides a succinct analysis of and offers recommendations on the means to reinforce existing domestic and international mechanisms to ensure compliance with human rights law and effective accountability, including investigations, commissions of inquiry, the role of the Human Rights Council, its complaint procedure, the role of the International Criminal Court and of civil society organizations. It further highlights the duty of Third States to exercise influence over the warring parties to change their behaviour and bring it in line with international law. Measures to do so could involve diplomatic avenues, sanctions, referrals to the UN Security Council, General Assembly and to the International Criminal Court.

About the Research Paper

The "Vortex of Pain" research paper is based on extensive research, including data from UN agencies, humanitarian organizations, and media reports. It provides a comprehensive overview of the human rights violations in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories, offering a detailed examination of the legal implications of the ongoing conflict.



[Read the full research paper here](#)

CONFERENCE

EMPOWERING YOUTH, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND SMALL ISLAND STATES IN PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

23 OCTOBER 2024

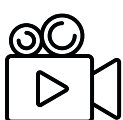
On a day dedicated to advancing environmental rights and climate justice, the Geneva Centre hosted a ground-breaking **conference** entitled “*Empowering Youth, Indigenous Peoples, and Small Island States in Promoting Environmental Rights and Climate Justice.*”

The hybrid event, held at Domaine de la Pastorale in Geneva with an option for online participation, brought together international experts, practitioners, and policymakers to discuss the intersection of environmental rights and the unique challenges faced by these vulnerable groups.

The conference had the privilege of hearing, in its high-level segment, the Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, the Vice-Chairperson and Executive Director of the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines, the Director and Principal Legal Advisor of the UN Climate Change, the Chief of the Development, Economic and Social Issues Branch at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Regional Focal Point and Swiss Youth for Climate.



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



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

“ By centering the lived experiences of youth, Indigenous peoples, and SIDS, the Geneva Centre advocates for an inclusive approach that recognizes human rights as integral to effective climate action, ensuring that the needs and rights of the most vulnerable are prioritized in global climate governance. ”

Panels and Discussions

The conference featured three dynamic panels:

- 1. Youth Voices as Catalysts for Change:** Young environmental leaders shared how they are driving grassroots change in their communities. Their testimonies highlighted the urgency of empowering youth to take centre stage in the fight against climate injustice.
- 2. Indigenous Peoples:** Protectors of the Earth Indigenous activists and experts shed light on the critical role their communities play in safeguarding the planet's biodiversity and traditional knowledge.
- 3. Small Island States:** Representatives from small island nations and other experts shared their experiences of climate impacts, from rising sea levels to extreme weather events.

Reflections and Outcomes

Throughout the event, participants emphasized the need for greater collaboration between nations, communities, and international organizations to address climate challenges. The discussions culminated in a set of actionable recommendations for policymakers, civil society, and global leaders.



“Climate change is more than just an environmental challenge; it represents an existential threat to the very essence of life on our planet.”

*Ms. Christine Adam, Director and Principal Legal Advisor,
UN Climate Change*



Moving Forward

The conference served as a precursor to the Geneva Centre's broader initiatives leading up to COP29, where these issues were at the forefront of international negotiations. A comprehensive report summarizing the conference's outcomes was published, highlighting strategies to advance environmental rights and climate justice globally.

Key findings from the conference revealed that climate change disproportionately affects youth, Indigenous communities, and small island developing states (SIDS), yet their perspectives are often marginalized in global discussions. Youth activists shared compelling testimonies of grassroots initiatives driving change, while Indigenous representatives underscored their critical role in protecting biodiversity and traditional ecological knowledge. SIDS representatives articulated the existential threats they face, including rising sea levels and extreme weather events, calling for stronger international support and recognition.

The discussions led to **actionable recommendations** aimed at fostering greater collaboration among nations, communities, and international organizations to effectively address climate challenges. As a precursor to COP29, this report aims to outline strategies for advancing environmental rights and climate justice, reinforcing the necessity of including the experiences and voices of marginalized groups in shaping equitable solutions.



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

GENEVA CENTRE'S HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS WEEK

9-12 DECEMBER 2024, DUBAI & ABU DHABI



9 DEC

In collaboration with the Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government

Joint Panel on Human Rights Education: Curriculum and Beyond.

- Dr. Umesh Palwankar, Executive Director, Geneva Centre.
- Professor Immanuel Azaad Moonesar R.D., Professor of Health, Policy and Systems Research, MBRSG.

Venue: Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government's headquarters (Dubai)

10 DEC

Expanding Horizons from Individuals to Institutions

Honoring Advocacy: Human Rights Recognition Awards 2024 Ceremony and presentation of awards

Venue: Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government's headquarters (Dubai)

11 DEC

In collaboration with the UAE's National Human Rights Institution

Joint Panel on The Role of NHRIs in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

- Panelists:
- H.E Maqsood Kruse, Chairperson of the National Human Rights Institution, UAE.
- Dr. Umesh Palwankar, Executive Director, Geneva Centre.

Venue: The Abu Dhabi EDITION Hotel.

12 DEC

In collaboration with the Anwar Gargash Diplomacy Academy

Joint Panel on Educating for Change: The Role of Diplomacy in Human Rights Education

Moderator: Dr. Rikard Jalkebro, Associate Professor, AGDA

- Panelists:
- Dr. Nafees Ahmad, Associate Professor, AGDA
- Dr. Leena Al Beloushiy, Mohamed Bin Zayed University for Humanities.
- Dr. Umesh Palwankar, Executive Director, Geneva Centre.

Venue: AGDA'S headquarters (Abu Dhabi)



A premiere in Abu Dhabi and Dubai – The 2024 edition of the Human Rights Awareness Week brought the vibrant human rights heart of UN Geneva directly to the core of the Arabian Peninsula. **Empowering Awareness** was the common thread to a five-day journey marked by a wealth of engaging and interactive activities to discover human rights in all their facets. **Joint panels** allowed participants to delve into human rights education, the role of governments in upholding human rights, and the role of diplomacy in fostering human rights education, followed by a closing panel dedicated to celebrating cultural diversity in the perspective of the host country.



The 2024 edition of the **Human Rights Recognition Awards (HRRRA)** marked a milestone in the Geneva Centre's efforts to promote and celebrate impactful human rights advocacy. Under the theme "**Expanding Horizons from Individuals to Institutions**," the awards recognized the institutional contributions that have significantly advanced the global human rights agenda. This year's event attracted a substantial number of applications, reflecting the diverse and innovative efforts in this vital field.



The award was presented to the **All India Council of Human Rights, Liberties, and Social Justice (AICHLS)** – India, for its outstanding commitment to advocating for human rights, fostering social justice, and advancing peace initiatives.

Dr. Mustafa Saasa, Global Chairman (for Peace Initiatives) and Global Director General of AICHLS, accepted the award on behalf of the organization during a prestigious ceremony.

The ceremony was held at the **Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG)** in Dubai, a strategic and long-standing partner of the Geneva Centre. This collaboration underscored the Centre's commitment to strengthening partnerships and promoting human rights. The HRRRA 2024 was a key highlight of the Geneva Centre's Human Rights Awareness Week, furthering its mission to inspire global engagement and foster sustainable human rights advocacy.



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

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 2024 edition is “**Migration and Businesses: Safeguarding Human Rights Amidst the Climate Crisis**”. Migrants, including refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are highly impacted and vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation, while forecasts predict 25 million to 1 billion environmental migrants by 2050. For businesses, the responsibility to respect and aid the fulfilment of the rights of migrants has to be approached within the current climate situation. Businesses hold a key role in mitigating climate change and preserving the environment.

The Geneva Centre interviewed the following experts:

- Ms. Christine Adam, **Director and Principal Legal Advisor, UNFCCC** secretariat in Bonn
- Mr. Neill Wilkins, **Head of Migrant Workers Programme, Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB)**
- Mr. Seán O’Connell, **Global Focal Point on Environmental Justice, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**
- Ms. Adriana Quiñones, **Head of Human Rights and Development and Deputy Head, UN Women Geneva Office**
- Ms. Catriona Fraser, **Researcher, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre**
- Ms. Stéphanie Winet, **Head of Stakeholder Engagement, International Organisation of Employers (IOE)**
- Ms. Dorothée Baumann-Pauly, Professor at Geneva University’s School of Economics and Management and **Director of the Geneva Center for Business and Human Rights**
- Dr. Michael Oppenheimer, Albert G. Milbank Professor of Geosciences and International Affairs, **Princeton School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA)**, the Department of Geosciences, and the High Meadows Environmental Institute at Princeton University; and **Director of the Center for Policy Research on Energy and the Environment (C-PREE)** at SPIA

The questions posed to the experts:



1. What are the major determinants of vulnerability to climate change for migrants and how can business activities impact it?
2. How are States due to protect human rights and labor rights for migrants and their families? What are some common barriers?
3. What are the responsibilities of businesses regarding climate-related risks for the rights of their workers and the communities they impact?
4. What are the standards and best practices for businesses in terms of self-reporting, self-assessment, and data gathering? To what extent are migrants (including refugees and IDPs) accounted for?
5. How can migrants be better included in climate action and adaptation?
6. What is your view on the current global policy agenda for migration and business and human rights?

*The goal for **2025** is to expand the series by conducting more interviews on a human rights topic of broad interest.*

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 **55th, 56th and 57th regular sessions of the Human Rights Council**, with **114 reports** produced on both **country specific** and **thematic topics**, as well as on several **panel discussions, urgent debates** and **general debates**. The Geneva Centre also covered the **45th and 46th sessions of the Universal Periodic Review**, reporting the review of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Afghanistan and Yemen. 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 HRC55 reports [here](#).
- Access all our HRC56 reports [here](#).
- Access all our HRC57 reports [here](#).



“We urgently need to find our way back to peace, in line with the UN Charter and international law.”

- Volker Türk, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

+800

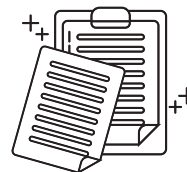
**professionals
subscribed to our
Mailing list**



including Permanent Missions, NGOs, International organizations, Academic institutions, and members of the media.

118

**reports
produced in
2024**



Calls for Inputs to UN mechanisms

4

on the Report on how climate change can have an impact on the realization of the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl; on the general debate of the 2024 ECOSOC High-Level Segment; on the Overview of the implementation of the Right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; on draft general comment No. 27 on children's rights to access to justice and effective remedies

In 2025, 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

Empowering Future Leaders through Human Rights Education

In June 2024, the Geneva Centre successfully concluded the third edition of its flagship training program, “**Human Rights & Global Governance**”, conducted in collaboration with Webster Geneva Campus.

This two-week initiative brought together final-year international relations students from the UAE’s Zayed University and Sharjah University, alongside international students from Webster University, fostering a truly global learning environment.

Combining insightful lectures and immersive field visits, the program equipped participants with practical skills and a deeper understanding of human rights and global governance. The remarkable engagement of the students, coupled with the program’s interdisciplinary approach, underscores the Geneva Centre’s commitment to nurturing future leaders dedicated to advancing human rights and fostering positive change worldwide.



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



In 2024, the Geneva Centre's **internship program** fostered dynamic partnerships with international and national academic institutions, including the Graduate Institute Geneva and the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. The program’s global appeal was evident, with **over 200 internship applications** received during 2023-2024 from candidates spanning all continents, reflecting the Centre’s growing reputation as a hub for nurturing future human rights advocates.



Cybersecurity Training: Enhancing Digital Safety and Human Rights Awareness

During **Human Rights Awareness Week 2024**, the Geneva Centre held two training sessions of "Cybersecurity Training: Enhancing Human Rights Awareness in the Digital Era" in the UAE, led by Geneva-based expert **Kamal Sedra**.

- On December 10, the first training session was held at the **Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG)**, focusing on public sector professionals and students.
- A subsequent session on December 12 at the **Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA)** catered to diplomats and researchers, emphasizing cybersecurity's critical role in protecting sensitive data and enhancing digital safety within governance and diplomacy frameworks.

These training sessions demonstrated the Geneva Centre's commitment to integrating human rights principles in the digital realm.



Cybersecurity Training: Enhancing Human Rights Awareness in the Digital Era, December 2024, UAE



[Find out more about our trainings here](#)

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS



Publications issued by the Geneva Centre

1 Conference Publication

The Conference Publication captures the key conclusions and recommendations from the Geneva Centre's Conference on Empowering Youth, Indigenous Peoples, and Small Island States in Promoting Environmental Rights and Climate Justice



2 Research Papers




1 Panel Publication



2 Newsletters

Annual Report

Our publications offer insightful and in-depth perspectives on pressing human rights challenges, addressing a wide range of topics with a focus on fostering **understanding**, **dialogue**, and **actionable solutions**. Each publication aims to contribute meaningfully to ongoing discussions and advocacy efforts in the field of human rights.

 Access all our publications [here](#).

PARTNERSHIPS

New partnerships and collaborations were established, strengthening our network and expanding our reach. These included new connections with prominent organizations and institutions, as well as the reinforcement of existing relationships with key stakeholders, such as Permanent Missions and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).



Meeting with IPU's SG Martin Chungong

- On 18 April 2024, the Geneva Centre's Director, Dr. Umesh Palwankar, met with Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), at the House of Parliaments.
- The meeting highlighted shared priorities between the IPU's mission and the Geneva Centre's work, fostering opportunities for collaboration on democracy and human rights.
- The Geneva Centre values the Secretary General's inclusive approach and is eager to pursue a constructive partnership with the IPU to advance these shared goals.



Meeting with the National Centre for Human Rights NCHR (Jordan)

➤ May 2024

The Geneva Centre was honored to host H.E. Jamal Al Shamayleh, Commissioner General of NCHR Jordan, for discussions on strengthening collaboration to address human rights challenges. The visit highlighted a strong partnership and laid the groundwork for future joint initiatives, including a forthcoming Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).



Geneva Centre Hosts MBRSG Delegation for Dialogue on Global Challenges

October 2024



The Geneva Centre welcomed a 27-member delegation from the Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG) for an interactive dialogue on "Fostering Dialogue and Understanding." This visit, part of the ongoing collaboration under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions, highlighted the importance of cross-cultural dialogue in addressing global challenges and reinforced the partnership between the Geneva Centre and MBRSG in empowering future leaders in governance and human rights.

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), Princeton University, Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (UAE), *inter alia*.

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

National Institutions: National Centre for Human Rights (Jordan), International Affairs Directorate (State of Geneva), National Human Rights Institutions (UAE), Permanent Committee for Human Rights (UAE).

NGOs: Kofi Annan Foundation, Daughters of Kenya, Sikh Human Rights Group, Global Initiative, Coordinator at the Centre for International Environmental Studies, CECASEM, Center for International Environmental Law, World Council of Churches, International Humanitarian City (Dubai), Geneva International Welcome Centre (CAGI), *inter alia*.

United Nations: OHCHR, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), SR on the Right to Development, SR on climate change and human rights, *inter alia*.



Executive Director Dr. Umesh Palwankar participated as panellist at the 29th annual International Humanitarian and Security Conference, Webster Geneva Campus. (21 November 2024)



[Read more about the event here](#)

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS IN THE MENA REGION

With a growing body of evidence showing the indispensable character of women's active participation in economic activity to the achievement of sustainable socioeconomic growth and development, the Geneva Centre decided to undertake an ambitious research project aimed at shedding light on women's economic empowerment as well as on the realization of their fundamental social and economic rights.

This research project aims at shedding light on existing social, policy, and legal obstacles in place in Iraq, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia with a view to dismantling women's discrimination and barriers in the economic spheres as well as identifying existing measures aimed at unlocking women's economic potential and fostering their economic empowerment.

MEET THE ARP GRADUATE INSTITUTE INTERNS TEAM



Nada Hashweh



Dounia Guetarni



Esra Balkas



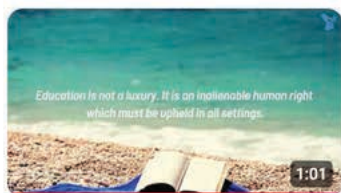
In 2025, the Geneva Centre aims to further enrich its network by forging new partnerships and strengthening existing collaborations. We are committed to expanding our reach and impact by working closely with like-minded organizations, institutions, and key stakeholders in the human rights field. Through these strategic partnerships, we seek to foster collective action and enhance our efforts to promote human rights, democracy, and global dialogue.

RAISING AWARENESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

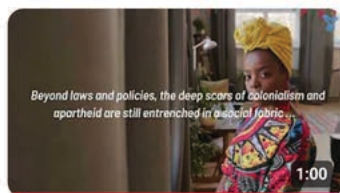
PRODUCING VIDEOS AND POSTS

In 2024, 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 2024, the Geneva Centre produced **34 videos related to human rights**



International Day to Protect Education from Attack 2024



International Day for People of African Descent 2024



International Day Commemorating Victims of Acts of Violence Based...



International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to Victims of...



World Humanitarian Day 2024



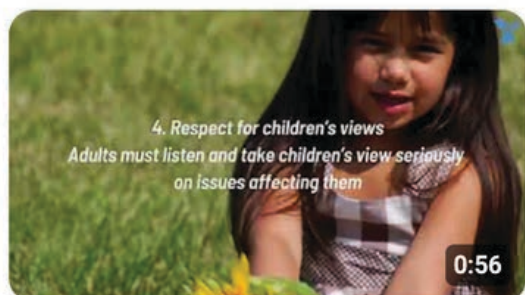
International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples



World Youth Day 2024



World Peace Day 2024



2024 World Children's Day

“Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. ... Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

Access our videos [here](#).



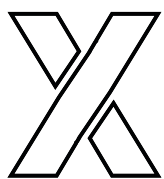
SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE



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.

Apart from using **X**, **LinkedIn**, **Facebook**, and **Youtube**, this year we launched our **Instagram** and **TikTok** accounts!

Here are the Centre's latest social media figures:



4,592 followers

3,402 following



35,549 followers

288,780 post impressions in 2024



11,420 followers

7k views in 2024



34 videos produced in 2024

18,311 views in 2024



Re-launched in October 2024

100 followers



Launched in October 2024

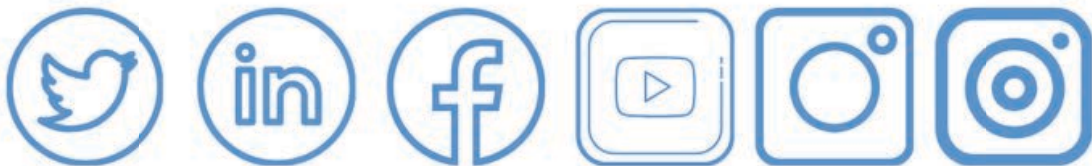
12k views





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

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