GENEVA ACADEMY
of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

a joint centre of

GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE



PROGRAMME

AHRI CONFERENCE 2026

ENDURING CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHALLENGES: THE 60-YEAR AND 20-YEAR LEGACIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Geneva | 4 - 6 November

AHRI

Global Campus of Human Rights

the covenants at 60
a commitment to human dignity

The Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, through its Geneva Human Rights Platform (GHRP), with the support of the Geneva Graduate Institute, the University of Geneva, and the Global Campus of Human Rights, is organizing the AHRI Annual Conference, which will take place from 4 to 6 November 2026 in Geneva. The Conference commemorates the 60th anniversary of the two International Covenants (ICCPR and ICESCR) and the 20th anniversary of the UN Human Rights Council.

FONDS GÉNÉRAL DE L'UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE

Société Académique de Genève

WITH THE SUPPORT OF :

REPUBLIQUE ET CANTON DE GENEVE

POST TENEBRAS LUX



OPENING CONFERENCE - DAY 1
4 NOVEMBER 2026

LOCATION: MAISON DE LA PAIX, CHEMIN EUGÈNE-RIGOT 2, 1202 GENÈVE

17h30 - 18h30 – Conference Registration
18h30 - 20h30 – Inaugural Conference

Room Pictet A1A

Opening Remarks

- Paola Gaeta and Frédéric Bernard – Co-Presidents, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
- Nathalie Fontanet – Geneva State Councillor
- Davide Rodogno – Deputy Director, Geneva Graduate Institute
- Sébastien Castelltort - Vice-Rector, University of Geneva
- Frans Viljoen – Chair, Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI)

Commemorative Keynote Addresses

- Maya Hertig – Professor at the University of Geneva and Board Member of the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
- Changrok Soh – Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee, on the 60th anniversary of the Committee and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Preeti Saran – Chairperson of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, on the 60th anniversary of the Committee and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Mahamane Cissé-Gouro – Director, Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division (OHCHR)

20h30 - 21h30 – Cocktail 🍸

PARALLEL SESSIONS - DAY 2
5 NOVEMBER 2026

LOCATION: VILLA BARTON, RUE DE LAUSANNE 132, 1202 GENÈVE

9h - 10h30 – Parallel Sessions

Panel 1: Realizing ESC Rights in Conflict Zones
(Track 1: 60 Years of Covenant Rights)

Room B01

Moderator: Revaz Tkemaladze, Geneva Academy of IHL and Human Rights

- Florence Foster - *"Rethinking Priorities: Military Spending, Human Rights, and the Evolving Role of the ICESCR"*
- Lisang Nyathi, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies - *"Sixty Years On: The Right to Education in Armed Conflict, Progress, and the Unfinished Promise of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights"*
- Chianaraekpere Ike, Free State Centre for Human Rights, University of The Free State, - *"Re-Conceptualizing the Right to Education in Armed Conflict: Interdependence, Resilience, and Technological Evolution Under the International Covenants"*
- Giulia Bosi, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies - *"Mental Health in Conflict and Post-Conflict Settings: An Analysis of UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies' Concluding Observations"*
- Amanda Cahill-Ripley, University of Liverpool - *"The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Situations of Armed Conflict and Beyond – Devising a Legal Framework for the Realisation of Socio-Economic Rights"* (remote)

Panel 2: Rereading the Covenants in the Digital Age
(Track 1: 60 Years of Covenant Rights)

Room B11

Moderator: Anna Greipl, University of Geneva

- Francesco Paolo Levantino, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies - *"'Mining Data from Within': The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights amidst AI-Based Inferences. Where do Privacy, Data Protection and Freedom of Thought Stand?"*
- Alberto Rinaldi, Lund University, Faculty of Law - *"Between Democratization and Manipulation: Interactive AI and the Indivisibility of Human Rights in the Digital Age"*

Panel 3: Covenant Implementation in Asia: Localisation, Monitoring and Access to Rights
(Track 2: International, Regional and Local Dimensions of Covenant Rights)

Room B12

Moderator: Kiana Daryabeigi, Geneva Academy of IHL and Human Rights

- Sachin Surendra Tripathi, Symbiosis Law School, Symbiosis International Deemed University - *"Do Covenants Offer Higher Protection Than Regional Instruments in South Asia? An India-Centered Study of the Absence of a Strong Regional Human Rights System"* (remote)
- Yige Wang, Independent Researcher - *"Strategic Rights Translation under Authoritarian Constraint: Localising Covenant Rights in LGBTQ+ Advocacy in Mainland China"* (remote)
- Pei-Chun Lin, Soochow University - *"Taiwan's 'Unique' Model of Covenant Implementation: Rethinking UN Human Rights Treaty Monitoring"*
- Agnes Chong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Vanessa Man-Yi Wong, 18LC Chambers & the Chinese University of Hong Kong – *"The Known Unknowns: Implementing the Right to Water and Sanitation in Asia and ASEAN"*

Panel 4: The Potential Role of UN Special Procedures
(Track 3: Norms to Accountability: The UN Human Rights Council and its Supervisory Mechanisms)

Room B13

Moderator: Vincent Chetail, Geneva Graduate Institute

- Shenfei Zhou, Human Rights Centre, Central South University - *"Beyond Treaty Interpretation: UN Special Procedures and the Shaping of Covenant Rights"*
- Luca Brocca, Just Access e.V. - *"Adaptation as Obligation: Children's Rights, the ICESCR, and the Potential of UN Special Procedures in the Climate Era"*
- Megan Donald, Danish Institute for Human Rights - *"Interpreting ICESCR in the Face of Climate Change: Reviewing the CESCR's Current Approach and Potential for Further Evolution"*
- Yasmine Abdel Moneim, University of London at the European Universities in Egypt (EUE) - *"The Algorithmic Erosion of the 'Three Is': Addressing the Crisis of Accountability in the Age of AI"*

10h30 - 11h – Coffee Break ☕
11h - 12h30 – Parallel Sessions

Panel 5: Reframing the Right to Education in International Law? A Focus on Article 13 of the ICESCR
(Track 1: 60 Years of Covenant Rights)

Room B22

Moderator: Klaus D. Beiter, North-West University and Balázs Szabolcs Gerencsér, Pázmány Péter Catholic University

- Farida Shaheed, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education (remote), Mylène Bidault, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and Maria Smirnova, OHCHR - *"HR Council Special Procedure plus Covenant Right: The Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education's Contribution to Norm Development under Article 13 of the ICESCR"*

- Bede Sheppard, Human Rights Watch - *"Free. For All. Now. – Creating Rights to Early Childhood Care and Education, Free Pre-Primary Education, and Free Secondary Education? Reforming the ICESCR or the CRC?"*
- Klaus D. Beiter, North-West University - *"Edtech, AI, IP and the Big "Assetisation" Moment for the Education Industry – Can Article 13 of the ICESCR Still Bridge the Public-Private Divide?"*
- Łukasz Szoszkiewicz, Adam Mickiewicz University (chapter written with Prof. Michał Klichowski) - *"Neurotechnology and the Right to Education – Limits on the Use of Such Technology? Or Part of the Right to High-Quality Education under Article 13 of the ICESCR?"*
- Elvis Fokala, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria - *"A New General Comment on the Right to Education in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child - Complementarity or Distinctiveness in Relation to General Comment No. 13 under the ICESCR?"* (remote)

Panel 6: Cross-System Dialogue: International, Regional Courts and Evolving Jurisprudence

Room B01

(Track 2: International, Regional and Local Dimensions of Covenant Rights)

Moderator: Revaz Tkemaladze, Geneva Academy of IHL and Human Rights

- Arianda Jonāne, European University Institute - *"The Use of ECtHR Case Law in UN Human Rights Committee Decisions"*
- Esteban Oyarzún-Gómez, Círculo de Estudios de Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos (CEDIDH) - *"Beyond Citation: Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Genuine Inter-System Dialogue in the Human Rights Committee's 'Girls, Not Mothers' Jurisprudence"*
- Luna Lanckvrind, Ghent University – *"Admissibility as a Tool of Institutional Effectiveness before the Human Rights Committee: The Evolving Interpretation of Article 3 of the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR in Screening Late Communications"*
- Clara Burbano Herrera, Ghent University – *"The Role of the Human Rights Committee in Protecting Persons Deprived of Liberty in Latin America through Interim Measures"*
- Melek Saral, Nuremberg Global Human Rights Fellow, Cluster of Excellence, Center for Human Rights Erlangen-Nürnberg (CHREN), Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) - *"Institutional Interaction and the Evolution of Human Rights Norms Across Regional Systems"*

Panel 7: Indivisibility in Action: Bridging Civil-Political and Socio-Economic Rights

Room B11

(Track 1: 60 Years of Covenant Rights)

Moderator: Brightman Ganta, University of Geneva

- Maurice Kabazzi Lwanga, African Court Coalition - *"Bridging the Divide: Institutional Harmony and the Indivisibility of Covenant Rights in the African System"*
- Julia Kapelańska-Pręgowska, Nicolaus Copernicus University - *"Accessibility and Reasonable Accommodation: Two Legal Mechanisms to Bridge the Divide Between the Two Generations of Rights"*
- Katarzyna Widlas-Klimsiak, Poznań Human Rights Centre, Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences - *"Psychosocial Disability and the Indivisibility of Rights under the Covenants: Lessons from Mental Health Law"*

Panel 8: Democratic Backsliding: The Role of the UN Human Rights Infrastructure in Protecting and Strengthening Democracy

(Track 4: The Covenants and the Council: Beyond 60 and 20)

Room B12

Moderator: Nora Salem, University of Vienna

- Alexander Kmett, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations Office in Geneva
- George Katrougalos, United Nations Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order (remote)
- Michael Lysander Fremuth, University of Vienna and Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights, University of Vienna
- Vasilka Sancin, European Court of Human Rights
- Iris Eisenberger, University of Vienna
- Rodrigo Lima, Democracy without Borders

Panel 9: Human Rights in Afghanistan: From International Standards to Inclusive and Context-Sensitive Implementation

(Track 2: International, Regional and Local Dimensions of Covenant Rights)

Room B13

Moderator: Helena Olsson - Country Director - Afghanistan, Lund Office, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI)

- Discussant: Sayed Nooroddin Alavi, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI)
- Alejandro Fuentes, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI); Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Lund University - *"Minority Rights in Afghanistan: Legal Frameworks, Structural Challenges, and Protection Gaps"*
- Hamid A. Formuli, Human Rights Practitioner / Former Research Fellow at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) - *"Leaving Many Behind: Examining the State of Inclusivity and Non-Discrimination in Afghanistan"*
- Zulfia Abawe, Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) - *"Decolonial Constitutionalism in Afghanistan: Reimagining Human Rights through Relational Legal Practices"*

12h30 - 14h – Lunch Break 🍽️
14h - 15h30 – Parallel Sessions

Panel 10: Covenants Rights Obligations in Armed Conflict

(Track 1: 60 Years of Covenant Rights)

Room B13

Moderator: Gloria Gaggioli, University of Geneva

- Ntandoyenkosi Moyo, University of Pretoria - *"Beyond Lex Specialis: Reclaiming Covenant Rights in Armed Conflict through a Functional Approach to Jus in Bello"*
- Khushal Gurjar, National Law University - *"The Digital Resilience of the Covenants: Evolutive Human Rights Obligations in the Era of Cyberwarfare"* (remote)
- Dara Maria Marques da Silva, Federal University of ABC & Analis Rossi, University of Padova (UNIPD) - *"Sixty Years of the ICESCR and a Promise Without Mechanism: Starvation, War, and Geopolitical Interests in Sudan"*

Panel 11: From Universal Covenants to Regional and Emerging Frameworks: The Influence of the International Covenants and the Human Rights Council across Regional Human Rights Systems

Room B22

(Track 2: International, Regional and Local Dimensions of Covenant Rights)

Moderator: Rachel Murray, Bonavero Institute of Human Rights

- Valeria Reyes Menéndez, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú
- Frans Viljoen, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria
- Başak Çalı, Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, University of Oxford
- Edmund Bon Tai Soon, Representative of Malaysia to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights - AICHR (remote)

Panel 12: The UPR: Universality and Normative Drift

Room B01

(Track 3: Norms to Accountability: The UN Human Rights Council and its Supervisory Mechanisms)

Moderator: Ralph Loren-Eisendecher, Geneva Academy of IHL and Human Rights

- Ernest Ako, University of Cape Coast / University of Pretoria & Solomon Atsuviah, London School of Economics and Political Science, LSE (remote) - *"Advancing the Rights of Vulnerable Groups in Ghana through the Universal Period Review Process"*
- Michael Lane, University of Worcester (remote) and Alice Storey, Birmingham City University - *"Achieving Universal Accountability for Human Rights: Contemporary Challenges Facing the United Nations Universal Periodic Review"*
- Elizabeth Salmon, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú - *"The Enhanced Impact of the Universal Periodic Review in the Case of States that Do Not Cooperate with the United Nations Human Rights System as a whole"*
- Alessia Preti, University of Bologna - *"Monitoring Goes Local: The Role and Potential of Local and Regional Governments in the Universal Periodic Review"*

Panel 13: The Human Rights Council as an Accountability Actor: Mandate, Gaps, and Politics

Room B11

(Track 3: Norms to Accountability: The UN Human Rights Council and its Supervisory Mechanisms)

Moderator: Vincent Chetail, Geneva Graduate Institute

- Mohamed Abdelsalam Babiker, College of Law, Sultan Qaboos University - *"Between Justice, Politics and Accountability: The UN Human Rights Council's Response to Systematic Conflict-Related Violations in Africa"* (remote)
- Sara Faraj, ICELIS Global / UNESCO - *"The UN Human Rights Council and the Accountability Gap in Armed Conflict: Institutional Limits and Pathways to Justice"* (remote)
- Erin Davis, *"The Role of the Human Rights Council in Armed Conflict: The Myanmar Crisis"* (remote)
- Sheetal Soni, University of KwaZulu-Natal - *"Systemic Harm and the Limits of Accountability: The Human Rights Council and Healthcare in Armed Conflict"* (remote)

Panel 14: Reimagining Implementation of Covenant Rights: Arts and Humanities Perspectives
(Track 4: The Covenants and the Council: Beyond 60 and 20)

Room B12

Moderator: Manfred Nowak, University of Vienna and Global Campus of Human Rights

- Oonagh E. Fitzgerald, Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa - *"Deploying the Arts to Reimagine the Right to Life on a Healthy Planet"*
- Elaine Webster, University of Strathclyde - *"New Perspectives on Degrading Treatment through 'More-than-Human' Design"*
- Kasey McCall-Smith, University of Edinburgh, Global Justice Academy - *"Beyond 'Material' Conditions of Detention"*
- Alexandra Moore, SUNY Binghamton University & Belinda Walzer, Appalachian State University - *"Evidentiary Aesthetics of Guantanamo"*

15h30 - 16h – Coffee Break ☕
16h - 17h30 – Parallel Sessions

Panel 15: Technology and Covenant Rights: Identity, Liberty, and the Digital Self
(Track 1: 60 Years of Covenant Rights)

Room B13

Moderator: Anna Greipl, University of Geneva

- Didar Shwan, Osgoode Hall Law School & Amir Nahidi, Osgoode Hall Law School - *"Seized in Mind and Matter: The Evolution of Technology-Assisted Liberty Deprivations under the Twin Covenants"*(remote)
- Mahmoud Masud, Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University - *"From Protection to Intrusion: Artificial Intelligence and the Erosion of Privacy and Family Life under the International Covenant"*(remote)
- Naomi van de Pol, Utrecht University & University of Bergen - *"The Freedom to Hold Opinions in the Digital Age: Protecting the Mind under Article 19 ICCPR"*

Panel 16: Indigenous Rights and Minority Rights under the Covenants
(Track 1: 60 Years of Covenant Rights)

Room B22

Moderator: Nicolas Levrat, University of Geneva and UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues

- Milla Monteiro Kotani, Lund University - *"Beyond Recognition: A Decolonial Perspective on Article 27 ICCPR and the Implementation of Indigenous Cultural Rights in the Green Transition"*
- Peter Johansson, School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg and Johan Karlsson Schaffer, University of Gothenburg - *"The Evolving Role of ICCPR Article 27 in Apex Courts in Norway, Sweden, and Finland"*
- Gozos Dianela Peña Peña, University of Edinburgh - *"From Recognition to Realization: Covenant Rights, Structural Inequality, and the Local Implementation of Socioeconomic Rights across Afro-Mexican Communities in Mexico's Costa Chica Region"*
- Alice Lopes Fabris, Universidade Federal Rural do Pernambuco and CRESPPA/CNRS - *"Reclaiming Cultural Rights: The Case of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendant Communities before the UN Committees"*

Panel 17: Implementing Covenant Rights at the National Level (II)
(Track 2: International, Regional and Local Dimensions of Covenant Rights)

Room B01

Moderator: Ralph Loren-Eisendecher, Geneva Academy of IHL and Human Rights

- Clement Agyemang, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria - *"Assessing Ghana's Implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights"* (remote)
- Additiya Mukherjee, Lawyer - *"Translating Participation: Article 25 ICCPR and Electoral Practice in India"*
- Natalia Cwicinskaja, Adam Mickiewicz University - *"Human Rights without Recognition: Rethinking the Implementation of Covenant Rights in Contexts of Contested Territorial Authority"* (remote)
- Joanna Grygiel-Zasada, Institute of Law Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences - *"Implementing the ICCPR Prohibition of Torture at the National Level: The Role of National Preventive Mechanisms"*

Panel 18: Claimed, acclaimed, disputed and derided: Interdisciplinary master's in human rights
(Track 2: International, Regional and Local Dimensions of Covenant Rights)

Room B11

Moderator: Marie Thérèse Murphy, Queen's University Belfast

- Anne Goedert, Ambassador of Luxembourg to the UN
- Manfred Nowak, Global Campus of Human Rights
- Kristine Gevorgyan, Yerevan State University
- Orla Ní Cheallacháin, Global Campus of Human Rights
- Ntandoyenkosi Moyo, University of Pretoria
- Suzanne Egan, School of Law, University College Dublin

Panel 19: Advancing Covenant Rights through UN Human Rights Treaty Body Case Law
(Track 3: Norms to Accountability: The UN Human Rights Council and its Supervisory Mechanisms)

Room B12

Moderator: Gentian Zyberi, Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo

- Ignatius Yordan Nugraha, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg - *"Jurisdiction and Extraterritorial Application in UNTB case law: Towards a Functional Model?"* (remote)
- Alexandre Skander Galand, Maastricht University - *"From the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to Specialized Regimes: The Expanding Prohibition of Torture and Other Ill-Treatments Across the UN Treaty Bodies"*
- Betül Durmuş, Bilkent University – *"The Evolution of 'Special Protection as a Minor' and Children's Rights before the UN Treaty Bodies"*
- Başak Çalı, the University of Oxford - *"Advancing the Covenant Rights: Doctrinal contributions of the CRPD and the CEDAW Case Law"*

PARALLEL SESSIONS - DAY 3
6 NOVEMBER 2026

LOCATION: VILLA BARTON, RUE DE LAUSANNE 132, 1202 GENÈVE

9h - 10h30 – Parallel Sessions

Panel 20: Intersectionality under the Covenants
(Track 1: 60 Years of Covenant Rights)

Room B13

Moderator: Maya Hertig, University of Geneva

- Montserrat Saavedra Montaño, Universidad Carlos III - *"Reconstituting the Rights-Holder: Care, Intersectionality, and the Limits of the International Covenants"*
- Neus Torbisco-Casals, Geneva Graduate Institute and Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights - *"Intersectionality, Minority Rights, and the Challenge of Structural Inequality in the Covenant Framework"*
- Zuzanna Kowalska, Poznań Centre of Human Rights, Institute of Law Studies, Polish Academy of Science & Katarzyna Sękowska-Kozłowska, Poznań Centre of Human Rights, Institute of Law Studies of the Polish Academy of Science - *"Intersectionality Inverted: Anti-gender Advocacy and the Threat to Decades of CEDAW Practice and its own Faults and Silences"*
- Ruth Kelly, University of York (written with Dr Kerri Woods) - *"The Meanings of Solidarity in Covenant Rights"*
- Francesca Cerulli, University of Florence - *"Transgenerational Harm and the Human Rights Committee: Evolving Victimhood, Intersectionality, and Reparations under the ICCPR"* (remote)

Panel 21: Regional Human Rights Systems and Covenant Implementation
(Track 2: International, Regional and Local Dimensions of Covenant Rights)

Room B22

Moderator: Ralph Loren-Eisendecher, Geneva Academy of IHL and Human Rights

- Thilini R. Galappaththige, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo - *"The Role of Regional Human Rights Systems in Advancing Covenant Rights in the Global South"* (remote)
- Pauline L. Forje, O.P. Jindal Global City - *"Fragmented Authority and the Failure of Covenant Rights: Regional Enforcement Gaps and Constitutional Stagnation in Cameroon"* (remote)
- Thomas Bundschuh, Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice - *"The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child Confronting the Climate Crisis: A Critical Analysis of the 2024 Continental Study"*

- Fadi Hachem, Université Catholique de Louvain - *"Freedom of Religion or Belief Across Levels of Protection: Covenant Rights, Regional Frameworks, and Domestic Translation in the Arab World"* (remote)
- Yves Haeck, Ghent University - *"A Critical Comparative Appraisal of Interim Measures before the UN Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights with the regional human rights bodies"*

Panel 22: Monitoring in Practice: Civil Society, Evidence, and Compliance

Room B01

(Track 2: International, Regional and Local Dimensions of Covenant Rights)

Moderator: Shima Esmailian, Geneva Academy of IHL and Human Rights

- Nokuthula Ndlovu, Office of the Chief Justice, South Africa & Tsireletso Mokoaqo, Shakesshem South Africa - *"Translating Covenant Rights at the Local Level: Civil Society Monitoring and Accountability in South Africa"* (remote)
- Julie Ada Tchoukou, University of Ottawa - *"Counting Rights: Indicators and the Transformation of Monitoring in UN Treaty Bodies"*
- Aristi Volou, City Law School, City St'Georges', University of London - *"An Early Assessment of Spain's Compliance with the Views of the UN CESCR on the Right to Housing"*

Panel 23: Treaty Bodies as Sites of Advocacy for US Civil Society

Room B11

(Track 3: Norms to Accountability: The UN Human Rights Council and its Supervisory Mechanisms)

Moderator: Joel R. Pruce, University of Dayton Human Rights Center

- Jamil Dakwar, ACLU / NYU / Hunter College
- Cynthia Soohoo, Human Rights and Gender Justice Clinic, City of New York School of Law
- Siya Hegde, National Homelessness Law Center (remote)

Panel 24: The Future of the Covenants: Reinforced Duties, Monitoring and Responsibilities

Room B12

(Track 4: The Covenants and the Council: Beyond 60 and 20)

Moderator: Paola Gaeta, Geneva Academy of IHL and Human Rights

- Raoul Cardellini Leipertz, School of Advanced Defence Studies (CASD/SSU) - *"The Right to Observe: Satellite Evidence, Gaza, and the Future of Human Rights Monitoring"*
- Nadine Y. Fares, Independent Researcher, Founder of LEGIT (Law, Ethics and Governance in Innovative Technology) - *"Human Rights in the Age of Delegated Action: Rethinking Responsibility and Control in Automated Systems"*
- Antoine Buyse, Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM) - Utrecht University - *"Recalibrating Human Rights Protection for Academic Freedoms – From the Covenants into the Future"*

10h30 - 11h – Coffee Break ☕
11h - 12h30 – Parallel Sessions

Panel 25: Women, Gender Rights and Covenant Implementation
(Track 1: 60 Years of Covenant Rights)

Room B13

Moderator: Maya Hertig, University of Geneva

- Chefor Ngwenyi Meungwe, University of Yaounde 2 (Soa), Cameroon Economic Policy Institute - *"Rights Without Remedy: Intersectionality, Indivisibility and the Lived Covenant Gap for Women in Conflict-Affected Cameroon"* (remote)
- Sahildeep Singh, Law Centre II, University of Delhi & Ritika Sharma, HUMAN.DROITS - *"Intersectional Sexual Violence from a South Asian Perspective: An Analysis of Gender and Caste within the International Law Framework"*
- Jennifer Heaven Mike, American University of Nigeria & Anthony Etuvoata Ebruphihor, Delta State House of Assembly and Benson Idahosa University - *"Whose Covenant Is It? Recentring the ICCPR, ICESCR and Human Rights Instruments through Feminist Relational Ethics and Indigenous Knowledge Perspective"* (remote)

Panel 26: Implementing Covenant Rights at the National Level (I)
(Track 2: International, Regional and Local Dimensions of Covenant Rights)

Room B22

Moderator: Karl Hanson, University of Geneva

- Nomita Mishra, National Law University Delhi - *"Transformative Constitutionalism and Gender Justice in Global South Democracies: A Critical Analysis of the Indian Supreme Court's Engagement with ICCPR and ICESCR in a Comparative Perspective"* (remote)
- Laura Marques de Oliveira, Geneva Graduate Institute & Tatiana Cardoso Squeff (remote), Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) (written with Bianca Guimarães Silva) - *"The Intersectional and Inter-American Perspective: Interpreting the Principles Equality and Non-Discrimination in Brazil"*
- Antonio Moreira Maués, Federal University of Pará & Breno Baía Magalhães, PPGD - Federal University of Pará - *"Breaking Resistance? Brazilian Judiciary Pact for Human Rights"*
- Dea Nini, Human Rights Lawyer and Legal Strategist - *"From International Standards to Domestic Protection: Applying the ICCPR and ICESCR in the Practice of Albania's Equality Body, with a Focus on Marginalised Communities"* (remote)

Panel 27: Hard to Kill, Hard to Assess, Hard to Use? A Multi-Perspective Analysis of the UN Human Rights Council Confidential Complaint Procedure

Room B01

(Track 3: Norms to Accountability: The UN Human Rights Council and its Supervisory Mechanisms)

Moderator: Elodie Tranchez, GIMHRF

- Eric Tistounet, former Chief of the Human Rights Council Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) - *"Hard to Kill: The Institutional Survival of the Human Rights Council Complaint Procedure"*
- Elvira Domínguez-Redondo, Kingston University - *"Hard to Assess: Confidentiality, Victim-Orientation, and the Normative Tensions of the Complaint Procedure"*
- Khadidja Nemar, University of Geneva - *"Hard to Use: Complainant-Side Experience in the Human Rights Council Complaint Procedure"*

Panel 28: Fact-Finding, Investigations, and Justice: HRC Mechanisms in Practice

Room B11

(Track 3: Norms to Accountability: The UN Human Rights Council and its Supervisory Mechanisms)

Moderator: Gloria Gaggioli, University of Geneva

- Brianne McGonigle Leyh, Utrecht University, Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM) - *"Fact-Finding for Justice? Authority, Archives, and Access in UN Human Rights Investigations"*
- Irene Gallina, Sapienza University of Rome - *"From Monitoring to Accountability: The Evolving Role of HRC Investigative Bodies in International Criminal Justice"* (remote)
- Elena Katselli, Newcastle University - *"The Role of Human Rights Council-mandated Investigative Missions in Promoting International Criminal Justice for Sexual and Reproductive Violence"*
- Murren Meers, Geneva Graduate Institute Alumni - *"Bridging the Accountability Gap: From Recognition to Investigation of Reproductive Violence in UN HRC-Mandated Investigative Mechanisms"* (remote)
- Helena Rodríguez-Bronchú Carceller, Independent Consultant - *"Constructing Investigations: The Language and Politics of Human Rights Council Investigative Mandates (2006–2026)"*

Panel 29: Beyond the State: Non-State Actors and the Covenant Framework

Room B12

(Track 4: The Covenants and the Council: Beyond 60 and 20)

Moderator: Stuart Casey-Maslen, Geneva Academy of IHL and Human Rights

- Brightman Ganta, University of Geneva - *"Beyond 'Protect, Respect and Remedy' Framework: Reclaiming the Obligation to Fulfill in Business and Human Rights"*
- Julie Fraser, Utrecht University – *"Beyond the State: Rethinking Human Rights Implementation through Legal Pluralism in Kenya"*
- Rawnak Miraj Ul Azam, American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) – *"Rethinking Covenant Obligations for Non-State Armed Groups in an Era of Fragmented Sovereignty"* (remote)

12h30 - 14h30 – Lunch Break 🍽

CLOSING CONFERENCE - DAY 3
6 NOVEMBER 2026

LOCATION: UNIMAIL, BOULEVARD DU PONT-D'ARVE 40 1205 GENÈVE

13h30 - 15h00 – AHRI General Assembly (for AHRI Representatives) — **Room MR150 - Uni Mail**

14h30 - 15h30 – Closing Conference Registration
15h30 - 15h35 – Opening and Welcome — **Auditoire MR280 - Uni Mail**

Maître de cérémonie: Nathalie Herlemont, Executive Director, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

15h35 - 15h45 – Intervention by the Swiss Human Rights Institution

Plenary Panel: Enduring and Evolving: The Covenants and the Human Rights Council (15h45 - 16h45)

Moderator: Frédéric Bernard, Co-President, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

- Andrew Clapham, Professor, Geneva Graduate Institute
- Gloria Gaggioli, Professor, University of Geneva
- Mona Rishmawi, Member of the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Sudan
- George Ulrich, Academic Director of the Global Campus of Human Rights
- Frans Viljoen, Professor, Universiy of Pretoria and Chair of the Association for Human Rights (AHRI)

Closing Keynote Address (16h45 - 17h15)

- Vincent Chetail, Professor at the Geneva Graduate Institute and Board Member of the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

Closing Remarks (17h15 - 17h45)

- Manfred Nowak – University of Vienna and Global Campus of Human Rights, Member of the AHRI Executive Committee
- Magnus Killander – Executive Secretary, AHRI
- Paola Gaeta and Frédéric Bernard – Co-Presidents, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights