

Expert Meeting

70 years Universal Declaration of Human Rights – A time for concern or celebration?

Berlin, 15-16 October 2018
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Hiroshimastr. 17, 10785 Berlin

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with a variety of legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948 in Paris. The Declaration continues to serve as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations to this day.

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration, the German Institute for Human Rights, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Forum Menschenrechte and the Geneva Academy for International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights invite you to a discussion on the significance and impact of the Declaration today. How relevant is the UDHR in times that see the rise in both horizontal and vertical inequality as well as increasing political instability? How has the international human rights landscape, as well as concrete human rights priorities changed? Is the scope of international human rights law still adequate to challenges in the 21st century? And to what extent can current international human rights instruments be utilized to achieve some of the standards outlined in the Declaration?

In deliberating these questions, we would like to focus on concrete experience. To this end, the discussions will address practical experiences encountered as well as persistent weaknesses of the UN System. In-depth discussions of thematic segments will analyse key issues while discussing the broad spectrum of existing and emerging rights.

One thematic pillar of the expert meeting will be Article 3 of the UDHR - *the Right to Life* - which is currently a hotly debated topic. The enjoyment of human rights in situations of war or armed conflict, of countering terrorism, of excessive use of force by law enforcement agents as well as the compatibility of human rights with arms exports will be a key element of the discussions. The meeting will address the normative scope of human rights and the necessary cooperation with international humanitarian law. By combining a humanitarian and human rights approach to sustaining peace, conflict situations might be addressed more effectively as well as more easily prevented in the first place. The public event on Monday evening will address challenges for human rights defenders across the globe in strengthening human rights standards, both in the context of policy making and public discourse. The second day of the expert meeting will focus on economic, social and cultural rights which continue to find themselves neglected in the international discourse. The universal, indivisible and interrelated nature of human will be highlighted as well as the opportunity provided by human rights, and the UDHR in particular.

Conference language is English.

Monday, 15 October 2018

Venue: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Haus 1, Hiroshimastr. 17, 10785 Berlin

10:00-10:30	<p>Welcome by the organizers</p> <p>Jochen Steinhilber, <i>Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)</i> Lisa Heemann, <i>Forum Menschenrechte (FMR)</i></p>
10:30-11:15	<p>The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and current challenges</p> <p>Key Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christof Heyns, <i>UN Human Rights Committee</i>• Florence Simbiri-Jaoko, <i>Special Advisor to GANHRI</i> <p>Moderator: Felix Kirchmeier, <i>Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights</i></p>
11:15-13:00	<p>The scope of current debates on UDHR Article 3 [Right to Life]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amina Masood, <i>Defence of Human Rights Pakistan</i>• Matt Pollard, <i>International Commission of Jurists</i> <p>Moderator: Wolfgang Heinz, <i>German Institute for Human Rights</i></p>
13:00-14:00	<p>Lunch</p>
14:00-15:30	<p>Contemporary substantive and structural challenges for human rights</p> <p>Thematic Working Groups</p> <p>a) Conceptual discussion on Human Rights Treaty Bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rainer Huhle, <i>Nürnberger Menschenrechtszentrum</i> <p>Moderator: Kamelia Kemileva, <i>Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights</i></p> <p>b) Conceptual discussion on Human Rights Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Salma El Hosseiny, <i>International Service for Human Rights</i> <p>Moderator: Hannah Peters, <i>FES Geneva</i></p> <p>c) ESC-Rights in the work of National Human Rights Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesrina Kaur Grewal, <i>Human Rights Commission of Malaysia</i>• N.N., <i>Irish Human and Equality Commission</i> <p>Moderator: Lisa Heemann, <i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für die Vereinten Nationen</i></p> <p>d) The right to life from the perspective of persons in vulnerable situations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marus Schefer, <i>University of Basel and nominated member CRPD</i>• Ellecer Carlos, <i>Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates</i> <p>Moderator: Theodor Rathgeber, <i>Forum Menschenrechte</i></p>
15:30-	<p>Coffee Break</p>

16:00	
16:00-17:15	<p>The UDHR in the context of violent and armed conflict</p> <p>Key Note</p> <p>Annyssa Bellal, <i>Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights</i></p> <p>Panel on country situations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ezequiel Heffes, <i>Geneva Call</i> • Ana-María Rodríguez, <i>Comisión Colombiana de Juristas</i> <p>Moderator: Jochen Motte, <i>Forum Menschenrechte</i></p>
18:00-20:00	<p>Public Debate “70 years Universal Declaration of Human Rights – A time for concern or celebration?”</p> <p>Venue: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Hiroshimastr. 17, 10785 Berlin</p> <p>Welcome by the organizers:</p> <p>Jochen Motte, <i>Forum Menschenrechte</i> Hubert René Schillinger, <i>FES Geneva</i></p> <p>Key Note</p> <p>Bärbel Kofler, <i>Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid</i></p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christof Heyns, <i>UN Human Rights Committee</i> • Beate Rudolf, <i>German Institute for Human Rights</i> • Florence Simbiri-Jaoko, <i>Special Advisor to GANHRI</i> • Peggy Hicks, <i>Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights</i> • Michael Krennerich, <i>Nürnberger Menschenrechtszentrum</i> <p>Moderator: Wolfgang Wanner, <i>ARD Genf</i> (tbc)</p> <p><i>Simultaneous interpretation English – German will be provided</i></p>

Tuesday, 16 October 2018

Venue: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Haus 1, Hiroshimastr. 17, 10785 Berlin

10:00-13:00	<p>On equal footing with civil and political rights – The standing of economic, social and cultural Rights in the international discourse (ESC Rights)</p> <p>Key Note</p> <p>Michael Windfuhr, <i>Member of UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</i></p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gustavo Huppes, <i>Conectas</i>• Susi Bascon, <i>Peace Brigades International UK</i>• Jonas Schubert, <i>terre des hommes / Forum Menschenrechte</i> <p>Moderator: Michael Krennerich, <i>Nürnberger Menschenrechtszentrum</i></p> <p>World Café (approx. 60 minutes)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Unequal treatment of ESC Rights and CP Rights Resource Person: Jonas Schubert, <i>terre des hommes</i> Rapporteur: Lisa Heemann, <i>United Nations Association of Germany</i>2. The role of ESC Rights before, during and after violent conflict Resource Person: Katherine Ronderos, <i>WILPF Colombia</i> Rapporteur: Hannah Peters, <i>FES Geneva</i>3. The role ESC Rights in the context of an authoritarian regime Resource Person: Johannes Icking, <i>Philippinen Büro</i> Rapporteur: Wolfgang Heinz, <i>German Institute for Human Rights</i> <p>Wrap up by the three rapporteurs</p> <p>Moderator: Jochen Motte, <i>Forum Menschenrechte</i></p>
13:00-14:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Lunch</p>
14:00-15:00	<p>The UDHR in times of a globally troubled human rights discourse</p> <p>Input: Peggy Hicks, OHCHR</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amina Masood, <i>Defense of Human Rights Pakistan</i>• Ana María Rodríguez, <i>Comisión Colombiana de Juristas</i>• Christian Mihr, <i>Reporter ohne Grenzen</i> <p>Moderator: Theodor Rathgeber, <i>Forum Menschenrechte</i></p>
15:00	<p style="text-align: center;">End of conference / departure of participants</p>