



Geneva Institute for Human Rights

Training Courses



Training Courses

Training Courses in Geneva

Navigating the UN human rights mechanisms takes some skill. That's why GIHR has been running its flagship Human Rights Training Programme since 2014 – the extensive training programme for human rights defenders. So, if you are a human rights defender keen to increase your interaction with the UN system, apply now for the 2018 edition!

The training will take place in Geneva between 11 and 22 June 2018 and provides defenders with opportunities to put their advocacy skills directly into action at the 38th session of the UN Human Rights Council. Get a taste of the programme here, and find out more about how to apply here.

GIHR's Human Rights Training Programme equips defenders with the knowledge and skills to make strategic use of the international human rights system. It also provides an opportunity for participants to directly engage in lobbying and advocacy activities at the UN level to effect change on the ground back home.

As well as receiving training modules on all the UN human rights mechanisms from a range of experts, participants will also have the opportunity to build networks in Geneva and around the world, carry out lobbying of UN member States and UN staff, and learn from peers from a range of regions working on a variety of human rights issues.

At the end of last year's training, 100% of participants were either "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with the overall programme, and they all also felt that they would be able to apply what they learnt to their own day-to-day work. GIHR will look to build upon this success in 2018.

Participants will take part in:

Intensive training in Geneva during June, to coincide with the 38th session of the Human Rights Council. The training will focus on ways to effectively use international human rights mechanisms and to influence outcomes;

Specific advocacy at Human Rights Council sessions and other relevant meetings, with regular feedback and peer education to learn from the experiences, including expert input from leading human rights advocates.

This programme is directed at experienced human rights defenders in non-governmental organizations, with existing advocacy experience at the national level and some prior knowledge of the international human rights system.

If you are interested in applying for GIHR's training programme, please read the call for applications to check that you comply with the requirements, and apply before midnight Geneva time on 11 December 2017. The link to the online application form can be found in the call for applications. For more information, write to training@gihr.org.



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GIHR Training Courses, enabling participants to attend the UN sessions, to meet with members of the Human Rights Council and Special Procedures and Treaty Monitoring Bodies, as well as United Nations experts and NGO representatives attending the sessions.

The trainings designed to empower participants to, in the future, provide crucial input to the Human Rights Councils' work and to ensure and monitor the implementation of international human rights standards in their respective countries at the national level.

The effective use of the Human Rights Councils' thematic special procedures as well as the human rights treaty bodies is becoming particularly crucial in light of the weakened role of the Human Rights Council's country specific special procedures.

The training sought to develop the knowledge and the capacity of participants to access and use the United Nations human rights mechanisms and procedures to, in the end, increase the protection of human rights at the national level in the MENA region.

Furthermore, during the course participants were encouraged to develop a network of human rights activists trained in international human rights law to also work together at the regional level, facilitate cross-border information exchange, and to lobby with regional organizations.

GIHR selected candidates based on the following criteria:

- **Active involvement:** Applicants should be actively involved with the human rights organization/institute/ Government that support their candidature.
- **Training of trainers:** Individuals and their respective organizations must be committed to work together after the training in Geneva to multiply the information acquired so as to sustain and enhance the education process. Firstly, GIHR seek applicants who will prepare future training courses in the MENA region (potentially with the help of GIHR). Second, the training is also targeted at staff members of partner organizations who use international procedures in their day-to-day activities.
- **Future partnerships:** In our selection we look for new potential partnerships.
- **Specific needs:** Candidates must clearly identify the specific needs of their government, organization (including an explanation of the patterns of human rights abuses in the country concerned, the main expertise of their organization, etc.).
- **Educational background:** Advanced academic training is not required, although we do recommend that applicants have a level equivalent to undergraduate education. We also require that candidates have several years working experience in their organization and that the organization should be committed to continue working with the trainee in the field.
- **Language:** A good knowledge of Arabic, the working language of the Course, is essential.



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- NGO Support: During the selection process, representatives from NGOs are given preference. Civil servants and diplomats are selected exceptionally.
- Gender balance

The courses based on a shared understanding of human rights as a struggle for dignity and freedom from the perspective of the defender. International human rights mechanisms are conceived as a further extension of the struggle from the grass roots up. The methodology focused on assisting the trainees in experiencing full ownership of the human rights machinery at the international level so as to enable them to use it in favor of the victims at the national level. Participants were not only simple observers but protagonists with a role to play, who were to learn how to use the United Nations human rights mechanisms with intelligence and deep conviction.

Over the five days participants will be trained in theoretical aspects of international human rights and humanitarian law, as well as United Nations human rights mechanisms and procedures. Focus was placed on the practical role NGOs, institutions and governments can play within these procedures.

Each session commenced with a presentation provided by an expert, including academics, experts from the United Nations, international organizations, representatives from NGOs or Government representatives, and was followed by group discussions. Some of the sessions were hosted at different organizations premises including an introduction to the respective organization's work.

Different materials were provided to each participant including a compilation of texts on the United Nations structure and its functioning; the main international conventions as well as United Nations documents related to the MENA region.

Participants were able to exchange their experiences among themselves but also with the different experts they met in the course of the training. They established contacts that should now sustain themselves to develop common strategies in the future.



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The course enabled participants to:

- Increase their knowledge of the United Nations mechanisms for the protection of human rights and to develop the capacity to access and use those United Nations human rights mechanisms and procedures.
- Obtain an increased awareness about the role of NGOs, National Institutions, Governments in addressing human rights violations;
- Share information and experiences in the field of human rights protection among themselves; Develop a network of human rights activists trained in the international human rights system of human rights protection to support activities in the region and their respective countries.

Coming Trainings in Geneva

#	Dates	Title of the Training Course
1	23 -27 April 2018	The International Human Rights Protection Mechanisms. Reports of KSA and Qatar
2	06-10 August 2018	The role of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). Report of Mauritania



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Information about our annual programme “Study Tour for Students”

Throughout the year, the GIHR organises training programmes on the United Nations System for Protection of Human Rights and on International Organisations, which serve the purpose of creating a better understanding of the many activities of these Organisations based in Geneva.

The programmes are prepared for groups of at least ten people coming from all parts of the world and composed of university students, diplomats, public servants and representatives of non-governmental organizations or other associations. The duration of the programme is one week, with the possibility of extension.

From 2017 - 2018 the GIHR would like to open the participation of these programmes to delegation of students coming from Law, Political Science and International Relations faculties.

We believe that this new project “Geneva Study Tour” which consists of two-weeks in Geneva, the home of the United Nations, numerous international and non-governmental organisations will be a vital programme in educating the participants on the role of International Organisations and providing them with an advanced awareness of human rights. It will also open potential career opportunities for the graduates within international organisations and broaden their horizons.

About the Program:

Description:

Geneva is a unique City; although situated in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, its population is one-third non-Swiss, making it one of Europe’s most international metropolitan centres. The presence of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and more than 250 other international and non-governmental organizations gives us the option to offer both coursework and the unique opportunity to meet with their staff members and with human rights defenders.

The program is designed for students specializing in international relations, political sciences, law, and other related fields and will provide a unique opportunity to connect with and play role in these global organizations through in-depth and carefully focused coursework.

The training course is designed to provide comprehensive and in-depth training on the mechanisms and procedures of the international human rights protection system, with practical and concrete advice that will empower participants to apply their new knowledge and skills directly in enforcing the mechanisms and procedures in their future career.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please see or do not hesitate to contact us.

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