

TRAINING COURSE ON THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

VILLA MOYNIER, 120 B RUE DE LAUSANNE, GENEVA AND ONLINE | 23 - 27 NOVEMBER 2020



Can we promote environmental protection through existing human rights (HR) mechanisms? What protection does international law afford to ‘climate refugees’? What are the synergies and tensions between the legal protection of HR and the environment?

From the contamination of water bodies to the effects of climate change, the impact of environmental degradation on human life is one of the most pressing issues in contemporary international law.

This training course provides participants with a deep understanding of the international legal framework for the protection of HR and the environment as well as in-depth knowledge of how to promote environmental protection through existing HR mechanisms.

PROGRAMME

The training course covers the following issues:

- The main international HR and environmental law instruments and mechanisms and the nature of state obligations under the two legal regimes
- Rights to information and participation in environment-related decision-making and the mandate of the Aarhus Compliance Committee
- Business accountability
- The rights of indigenous peoples, traditional local communities and environmental migrants
- The protection of human rights and environmental defenders
- The HR dimension of climate change, land, water, and biodiversity degradation
- Strategies to use international HR mechanisms to litigate and advocate for

- environmental protection
- A visit to the Human Rights Council and the Aarhus Compliance Committee session

FOCUS ON WATER POLLUTION AND SCARCITY

This 2020 edition will dedicate special attention to water pollution and scarcity. Course attendants will participate in exercises to discuss the impacts of water pollution on human health, the responsibilities of states and businesses, vulnerable actors and environmental justice, and mechanisms at national and international levels to address actual and potential human rights violations.

BENEFITS

The training course covers the following issues:

- Familiar with the major international legal instruments for the promotion of HR and the conservation of the environment (e.g. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UN Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, Convention on Biological Diversity and Protocols, Aarhus Convention, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNESCO World Heritage Convention)
- Knowledgeable about the different UN mechanisms mandated to protect and promote human rights and the conservation of the environment, and how the agendas of the specialized agencies intersect
- Conversant with the role of civil society, national and international environmental and HR institutions, governments and non-state actors in relation to the protection of human rights and the environment
- Able to identify and effectively describe synergies and tensions in the realization of HR and the protection of the environment, to re-think their advocacy plans and devise new strategies for making better use of the UN HR mechanisms
- Able to address, via a rights-based approach, specific environmental challenges related to water pollution and its impact on human life.

AUDIENCE

This training course is designed for staff of NGOs, business companies and research centres, national environmental and HR institutions, UN bodies and other international organizations, as well as representatives of governments and members of academia.

IN GENEVA AND ONLINE

Given the current situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic, participants who will not be able to travel to Geneva will have the possibility to follow the course online.

APPLICATION DEADLINES AND FEES

- Fees: **CHF 1'530** (50 percent discount for PhD and master students)
- Deadlines:
- Application end (with visa): 21 September 2020
 - Application end (without visa): 1 November 2020