

# EVENT

# PROGRAM

## 28TH INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN & SECURITY CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 21-22, 2023

INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE CENTER  
GENEVA  
(CICG)

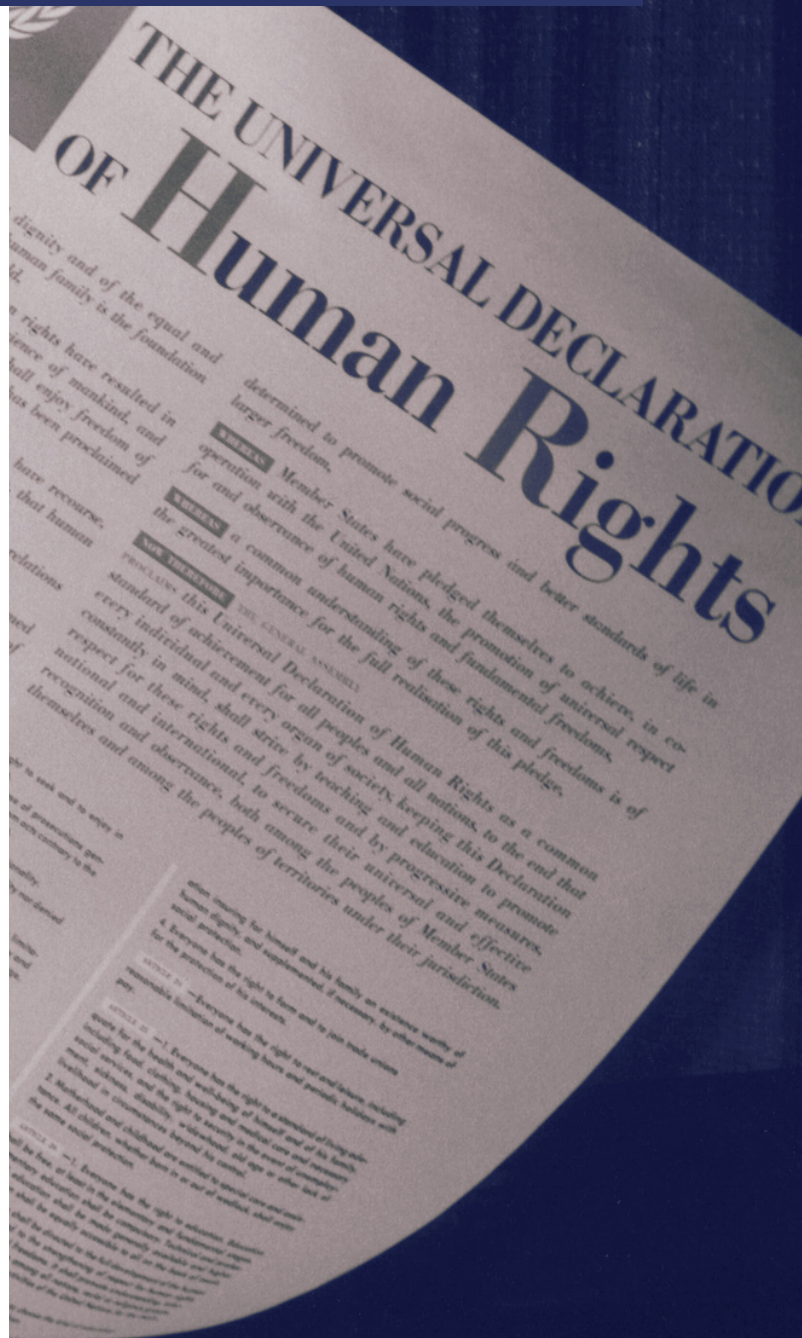
The Universal Declaration of  
Human Rights  
Seventy-Five Years On:  
Achievements and  
Current Challenges



WHA

Webster  
UNIVERSITY

Geneva



# DAY 1 – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023

8:30-9:00 WELCOME AND REGISTRATION

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09:00 – 09:20 OPENING REMARKS

**Ryan V. Guffey** – Director-General, Office of Global Campuses, Webster University

**Jubin M. Goodarzi** – Acting Director, International Relations Program, Webster University Geneva

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09:20 – 10:00 KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

**Volker Türk** – High Commissioner, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
*“75 Years On: Anchoring Solutions in Human Rights”*

**Gillian Triggs** – Assistant High Commissioner, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)  
*“The Rights to Asylum 75 Years On: Conflicts, Climate and Crises”*

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10:00 – 11:00

SESSION 1:

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights – A Critical Assessment

**Chair: Michel Veuthey** – Ambassador of the Order of Malta and Professor of International Law, Webster University Geneva

**Mark Gibney** – Belk Distinguished Professor of Humanities and Professor of Political Science, University of North Carolina Asheville, USA  
*“The Founders’ Views of the UDHR at 75: Where Optimism and Pessimism Collide”*

**Phil Lynch** – Director, International Service for Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland  
*“Human Rights Defenders: The Lifeblood of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights”*

**Claire Somerville** – Executive Director of the Gender Centre and Lecturer in International Affairs, The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland  
*“Women’s Human Rights After 75 Years of the UDHR: Some Gendered Reflections on Progress and Challenges”*

**Alexandre Kamarotos** – Executive Director, International Secretariat, Defence for Children International, Geneva, Switzerland  
*“Defending the Human Rights of Children 34 Years After the Adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: Progress and Challenges”*

11:00 – 11:15

Question and Answer Session

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11:15 – 11:30

Coffee Break

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11:30 – 12:30

SESSION 2:

Differing Interpretations and the Politicization of Human Rights

**Chair: Lionel Fatton** – Professor of International Relations, Webster University Geneva

**Daniel Warner** – Independent Scholar and Former Deputy Director, The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland  
*“Two Versions of Human Rights and Their Political Implications”*

**Madeleine Rees** – Secretary-General, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Geneva, Switzerland  
*“Is the Gendered Nature of International Humanitarian Law Inimical to the Realization of Human Rights?”*

**Baptiste Martin** – Lecturer, Geneva Centre for Humanitarian Studies, University of Geneva Switzerland  
*“Addressing Human Rights Violations by National, Regional and International Defense and Security Forces”*

75  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSAL  
DECLARATION  
OF  
HUMAN  
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RIGHTS

## DAY 1 – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023

11:30 – 12:30 **Nasir Andisha** - Ambassador, Embassy and Permanent Mission of Afghanistan in Geneva, Switzerland  
*"Afghanistan under the Taliban: A Ground Zero of Human Rights and Graveyard of International Norms"*

12:30 – 12:45 Question and Answer Session

12:45 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:00 **SESSION 3:**  
Emerging Challenge to Human Rights – Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence and Civic Space

**Chair: Christophe Germann** – Attorney-at-Law and Professor of International Law, Webster University Geneva

**Caroline Troein** - Lead Researcher, Cybersecurity Division, International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Geneva, Switzerland  
*"Enabling Catalytic Digital Transformation through Foundational Interventions in Developing Countries"*

**Guillaume Fournier** – Director, Geneva Institute for International Relations, Geneva, Switzerland  
*"The Negative Impacts of Artificial Intelligence on Human Rights"*

**Marcello Puca** – Professor, Department of Economics, University of Bergamo and Research Fellow at the Center for Studies in Economics and Finance, Italy  
*"Trust and Partnerships in the Era of Artificial Intelligence"*

**Philippe Mottaz** – Founder, The Geneva Observer and Board Member, Reporters Without Borders  
*"Big Tech's Relentless Assault on Human Rights"*

15:00 – 15:15 Question and Answer Session

15:15 – 15:30 Coffee Break

15:30 – 16:30 **SESSION 4:**  
International Justice and Addressing Gross Human Rights Violations

**Chair: Mara Tignino** – Professor of Public International Law and International Organization, University of Geneva, and Adjunct Faculty Member in International Law, Webster University Geneva

**Umesh Palwankar** – Director, Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue, Switzerland

**Elodie Tranchez** – Human Rights Adviser, International Association for Human Rights Advocacy, Geneva, Switzerland  
*"The Use of the Geneva-Based UN Human Rights Mechanisms: A Civil Society Perspective"*

**Hajer Bouyahia** - Human Rights Officer, Office of the United Nations Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland  
*"Dealing with Past Human Rights Violations through Transitional Justice"*

**Francisco Rubio** - Magistrate Judge at the National Court for Asylum Seekers, and Member of the Board of Action Contre la Fair (Action Against Hunger), Paris, France  
*"No Peace without Justice"*

16:30 – 16:45 Question and Answer Session

16:45 – 17:00 Concluding Comments for the Day

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8:30-9:00 WELCOME AND REGISTRATION

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09:00 – 09:45 KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

**Ugochi Daniels** - Deputy Director-General, International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
*"The Impact of Climate Change on Human Rights, Migration and the Environment"*

**Her Excellency Ambassador Doreen Debrum** - Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva  
*"Article 1 The Right to Equality: The Marshall Island's Journey of 75 Years"*

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09:45 – 10:45 SESSION 5:  
Human Rights and Business

**Chair: Ivana Machonova-Schellongova** – Human Rights Officer, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Professor of Human Rights, Webster University Geneva

**Dorothee Baumann-Pauly** - Director, Geneva Center for Business and Human Rights, University of Geneva, Switzerland  
*"Advancing Human Rights in Corporate Practice - Opportunities and Obstacles"*

**Florian Wettstein** – Professor of Business Ethics, University of Saint-Gallen, Switzerland  
*"Beyond Human Rights Due Diligence: Toward a Rights Holder-Centered Economy"*

**Yann Wyss** – Global Head, Social Impact and Human Rights, Nestle, Vevey, Switzerland  
*"Human Rights Due Diligence: Lessons Learnt From the Ground"*

**Carlos Lopez** – Senior Legal Advisor, Business and Human Rights, International Commission on Jurists  
*"Business and Human Rights: From Responsibilities to Obligations"*

10:45 – 11:00 Question and Answer Session

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11:00– 11:15 Coffee Break

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11:15 – 12:15 SESSION 6:  
Human Rights, Migration, Climate Change and the Environment

**Chair: Dina IONESCO** – Co-Director, Program on Migration, Climate Change and the Environment, Webster University Geneva

**Guillaume Charron** – Director, Independent Diplomat: The Diplomatic Advisory Group  
*"Facing Climate Change and Reconnecting with Human Rights' Subversive Nature"*

**Kristen Hagon** - Senior Humanitarian Policy Analyst, International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC)  
*"Adjusting Humanitarian Responses in the Context of Climate Change Impacts on Human Displacement"*

**Michel Veuthey** - Ambassador of the Order of Malta and Professor of International Law, Webster University  
*"Human Trafficking Exacerbated by Migration, Climate Change, Armed Conflict and Environmental Destruction: One of the Worst Human Rights Violations"*

**Anare Leweniqila** - Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Fiji to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland  
*"Planning for Human Mobility: The Threat of Climate Change and its Human Rights Dimension"*

**Gervais Rufyikiri** - Executive-in-Residence Fellow, Geneva Centre for Security Policy, and Lecturer at Webster University Geneva on Climate Change, Water, and Food Security, Geneva, Switzerland  
*"Food and Water Security as a Human Right: Persistent Challenges and Opportunities in Developing Countries"*

DAY TWO

## DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023



12:15 – 12:30

Question and Answer Session

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12:30 – 12:45

Closing Remarks

12:45 – 13:00

Concluding Comments, Webster University Geneva Student Organizing Committee

DAY TWO