

75 Years Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Start: 29.11.2023, 1:00 pm
End: 30.11.2023, 2:00 pm
Französische Friedrichstadtkirche



Programme

Wednesday, 29 November 2023

1:00 pm Registration and coffee

2:00 pm Opening

Dr Max Oliver Schmidt, *Protestant Academy of Berlin*
Prof. Dr Beate Rudolf, *German Institute for Human Rights*
Dr Jochen Motte, *Human Rights Forum*

2:15 pm 75 Years Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Volker Türk, *UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (video statement)*

2:30 pm What is the significance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for young people today?

Panel discussion by and with young people

Young people are committed in many ways to the realisation of human rights and to overcoming pressing social and global challenges. The panel discussion is intended to give young people the opportunity to share their personal view of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the importance of human rights with the audience and thus provide impetus for the conference and beyond.

3:15 pm Coffee break

3:30 pm Parallel panels

Panel 1: Human rights as a cornerstone of German foreign policy?

In the coalition agreement, the coalition government describes human rights as its compass. Human rights policy encompasses all aspects of state action at the international as well as the domestic level. The new National Security Strategy of the Federal Government also describes the close connection between security, peace and the commitment to human rights worldwide. In reality, geopolitical, security or migration policy or economic interests often counteract a commitment to human rights. Against this backdrop, this panel asks how Germany can address human rights challenges in other states in a consistent, effective and credible manner, even when seeking closer cooperation with these states. This includes the question of the adequacy of the foreign policy toolbox.

In the first part, we will hear the voices of actors from different countries with whom Germany has alleged conflicts of interest. Subsequently, selected members of parliament will be invited to comment on these alleged dilemmas. Lastly, two international experts will discuss the foreign policy toolbox and necessary changes.

Anna Cavazzini, *Greens/EFA, MEP*
Gyde Jensen, *FDP, Member of Bundestag*
Gerald Staberock, *OMCT*
Peter Heidt, *FDP, Member of Bundestag*

Chair: Silke Pfeiffer, *Human Rights Forum*

Panel 2: Human rights as a yardstick for European refugee and migration policy?

Human rights apply to everyone and refugee protection is a focal point of human rights. However, two different standards are applied here. For European citizens on the one hand and for refugees on the other. This undermines the entire rule of law and the yardstick of our actions - human rights. To ensure that human rights are also realised for refugees, the judiciary, as the third power, is a central element in controlling state action. Overall, there is a need to fight for a democratic Europe based on the rule of law, the latter being endangered in numerous EU states and by the reform of the Common European Asylum System.

Doreen Denstädt, *Thuringian Minister for Migration, Justice and Consumer Protection*
Clara Bünger, *The Left Party, Member of the Bundestag*
Julian Pahlke, *Bündnis90/Die Grünen, Member of the Bundestag*
Katrín Lehmann, *Judge (ret.)*

Chair: Günter Burkhardt, *Human Rights Forum*

Panel 3: Climate protection, environmental protection and human rights (English, with simultaneous German translation)

Climate change, and related phenomena such as biodiversity loss, has far-reaching impacts on human rights, starting with the right to life and health. People in countries of the Global South, who have contributed little to current emissions, have felt these impacts much earlier than people in the Global North. Children and older people are particularly affected by the impacts of climate change - so looking at different generations and particularly exposed/vulnerable groups is crucial to making better climate policies. It is also children and older people who bring cases to the ECtHR and feel that their human rights have been affected by the lack of or failure of climate policies. What role can jurisprudence play here: what contribution does the human rights protection system make to more climate protection and better climate policy overall?

Ann Skelton, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (Videostatement)

Peter Splinter, *Independent human rights consultant*

Dr. Claudia Mahler, *Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons*

Henrike Lindemann, *Managing Director, Green Legal Impact*

Chair: Nina Eschke, *German Institute for Human Rights*

5:45 pm Return from the panels

6:00 pm Human rights and racism. An interim assessment of the work in Germany and Europe

Reem Alabali-Radovan, *Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration*

Chair: Günter Burkhardt, *Human Rights Forum*

7:00 pm Evening reception | Concert: An ensemble from the Barenboim-Said Academy plays it Piano Quintet, Op. 44 by Robert Schumann

Bilal Alnemr & Semaan Wehbe, Violin

Sara Umanskaya, Viola

Idil Pulat, Cello

Itai Navon, Piano

Thursday, 30 November 2023

8:30 am Arrival

9:00 am Human rights in Europe

Dunja Mijatović, *Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe*

9:45 am Thematic Parallel Panels

Panel 4: Social rights - 75 years of the Declaration of Human Rights

Poverty and social inequalities are human rights problems in Germany. Social human rights play an enormous role in a functioning democracy. In the public debate and perception, issues of poverty and social justice play a major role. Furthermore, these issues must also be understood as a human rights problem and threat to democracy. Education, health care, housing and work are essential for creating an equal society. The fulfilment of basic social needs - above all the need to have one's own home - are often a prerequisite for active participation in political processes. The panel will illustrate the importance of social human rights for democracy by looking at the growing problem of homelessness in Germany. Homeless people in Germany are massively restricted in their human rights, for example in their right to housing, to health, to family life and privacy or to protection from violence.

Annett Jura, *Head of the Housing and Real Estate Department at the Federal Ministry of Housing, Urban Development and Construction*

Greta Schabram, *Social Research and Housing Officer at Paritätischer Gesamtverband*

Anna Hanf, *Social Worker & Project Coordinator Project Nostel - Emergency Housing for Homeless Union Citizen Families and Project Nos Dorum - Housing First for Union Citizen Families*

Arnd Liesendahl, *expert on his own behalf*

Karen Holzinger, *Head of the Homeless Assistance Department of the Berlin City Mission*

Michael Windfuhr, *Deputy Director of the German Institute for Human Rights*

Moderation and opening statement: Claudia Engelmann, *German Institute for Human Rights*

Panel 5: Europe 2024: Gender Backlash and Anti-Feminism - Where do we stand on women's and LGBTI* rights?

The setting for the European elections is clear: European "anti-gender" movements are well organised, networked across Europe and well-funded, so that they pose a serious threat to the rights of women and LGBTI*. Right-wing extremist parties use anti-feminism, openly represented as the preservation of "traditional values" or hidden in the rejection of the Istanbul Convention, as well as homophobia and transphobia as bridges to the centre of society. This prepares the ground for the rejection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. All democrats must resolutely oppose this in the European elections of 2024. At the panel, we want to talk about the effects of the "anti-gender" movements as well as possible counter-strategies and how we can promote solidarity and form alliances to defend human rights - at the European level and in Germany. Professionals from the audience will also have their say, reporting on their everyday work in counselling centres and institutions.

Kalle Hümpfner, *Federal Association Trans**

Judith Rahner, *Amadeu Antonio Foundation*

Agnieszka Glapa, *Dziewuchy Berlin Team*

Müşerref Tanrıverdi, *Head of National Rapporteur Mechanism on gender-based violence, German Institute for Human Rights*

Chair: Caroline Ausserer, *German Women's Council*

Panel 6: Business and Human Rights (English, with simultaneous German translation)

Businesses are important actors in the globalised world economy; they can contribute to human rights protection and the Sustainable Development Goals by creating decent work, but they can also harm human rights protection. Transnational corporations in particular have long benefited from power asymmetries between the Global North and Global South and from governance deficiencies in host states at the expense of human rights and the environment.

Regulations such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (2011), the OECD Guidelines and, last but not least, regulations such as those in Germany and other countries are now supposed to ensure that human rights are not impaired by transnational business activities through the implementation of corporate due diligence. But is this enough? What are the effects of this regulation on human rights protection in host states? What is needed there? What are the perspectives of rights-holders, duty-bearers and companies in host countries on the regulations that have been devised in the Global North for human rights protection along value chains? What are the perspectives on international developments for an international treaty on business and human rights?

Fernanda Hopenhagen, *UN-Working Group Business and Human Rights*

Professor Aishah Bidin, *Representative of Malaysia, ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights*

Joseph Kibugu, *Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, Africa Programme Manager*

Chair: Deniz Utlü, *German Institute for Human Rights*

11:30 am Coffee break

12:00 am Human Rights for All, Worldwide: How to Achieve Transformation?

Luise Amtsberg, *Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid*

12:30 pm Standing up for human rights: How does human rights solidarity succeed?

Closing panel with audience discussion

Even 75 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, human rights cannot be taken for granted. Rather, they must be fought for and defended again and again. This requires people who stand up in solidarity for the human rights of others. The panel asks what the prerequisites for human rights solidarity are and how the commitment to human rights can be maintained and strengthened - especially in the face of policies and public discourses that run counter to human rights. To this end, the panel brings together perspectives from academia and practice and invites conference participants to reflect together and encourage each other. Because without human rights, we will not be able to master the challenges of the future - human rights are and will remain indispensable!

Prof Dr Beate Rudolf, *German Institute for Human Rights*

Janina Meyeringh, *XENION, psychosocial support for politically persecuted people, psychotherapist & volunteer guardian*

Professor h.c. Sigrid Arnade, *Chairwoman of the DBR Spokeswomen's Council*
Dr. Alema Alema, *Speaker for Afghanistan for PRO ASYL*

Chair: Elise Bittenbinder, *Human Rights Forum*

2:00 pm End of Conference

Organizer:

Evangelische Akademie zu Berlin gGmbH
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In co-operation with: Forum Menschenrechte and Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte

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Conference fees

Participation 30,- EUR (reduced 10,- EUR)

Catering 20,- EUR

ONLINE Participation 10,- EUR

PLEASE SELECT THE "Online Participation" PRICE CATEGORY WHEN REGISTERING

Payable upon receipt of invoice.

Reduction for students (up to 35 years) and unemployed.

No reduction for partial participation.

Registration

Open until up to one week before the start of the event.

Cancellation policy

Full refund if you cancel before November 22, 2023.

We then charge the following cancellation fees: up to one day before the start of the event 30%, thereafter 100% of the services you have ordered.

Venue

French Friedrichstadt Church (French Cathedral)
Gendarmenmarkt 5, 10117 Berlin (Mitte)