



## Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research

# December 2024 Newsletter

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Dear Members of the NNHRR,

As the year comes to a close, we would like to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation for your continued support and active participation in the Network. Your contributions—whether through research, collaboration, or engagement—have been instrumental in strengthening the NNHRR community and advancing our shared goals.

May this holiday season bring you well-deserved rest, moments of joy, and an opportunity to reflect on the achievements and progress of the past 12 months. Here's to a bright, productive, and inspiring year ahead!

Looking ahead, we are excited for the opportunities that 2025 will bring and look forward to continuing this journey together.

Warm regards,  
The NNHRR Steering Committee

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## [Vacancy] Internship with the NNHRR (and in International and European Human Rights Law)



The Asser Institute is currently offering one internship position to assist with the operation of the NNHRR, as well as research projects in the fields of international law and European law. **The Application deadline 5 January 2025.**

Please share with your network and encourage students or recent graduates of International and European (human rights) law to apply!

See the vacancy [here](#).

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## [Save the Date] PhD Training for 3rd- and 4th-year Candidates

Exciting news for 3rd and 4th-year PhD candidates: the annual NNHRR [PhD Training](#) will be hosted by the [University of Groningen](#), and take place on **11 April 2025**!

Stay tuned for updates on the program and registration details. For now, make sure to mark your calendar—we look forward to seeing you there!

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## [Save the Date] Toogdag 2025: Access to Justice

Mark your calendars! The annual [Toogdag](#) will take place on **12 June 2025** at **Radboud University in Nijmegen**! This year's theme is **Access to Justice**.

Keep an eye out for updates and registration details.

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## [Announcement] PhD Member Conference Attendance Grants



The NNHRR is pleased to announce the launch of a pilot **Conference Attendance Grants** scheme in 2025. The aim of the initiative is to support PhD members in attending key academic events in the field of human rights, giving them the opportunity to develop their expertise, build connections, and strengthen their presence in the global academic community.

In the pilot year of 2025, there will be three rounds of applications. The deadline for applications for the first round will be **31 January**, the deadline for the second round will be **30 April**, and the deadline for the third round will be **30 September**. For each round, four grants of maximum **€1,000** will be awarded.

If you are interested, read the eligibility requirements and the application procedure [here](#).

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## [Workshop Invitation] Join the Conversation on Security in the Digital Age!



**Workshop Dates:** 3 and 4 June 2025

**Deadline of Call for Papers:** 10 February 2025

The Erasmus Center of Law and Digitalization and the Amsterdam Law & Technology Institute are excited to announce an interdisciplinary workshop on “**Security in the Digital Age**”. The workshop is made possible by the financial support of the Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research and the SSH-Breed on Digitalization.

The conference welcomes and encourages contributions from a variety of methods and methodologies. In particular, we encourage contributions that build upon the theoretical and empirical aspects of the following subjects:

- The role of cybersecurity in protecting fundamental rights like the right to security, the right to access essential services, and the right to health;
- The relationship between cybersecurity and the rights to privacy and data protection;
- The legal framework on the protection of the critical infrastructure and its impact on fundamental rights;
- Sector specific challenges in securing the digital infrastructure;
- The role of governmental and non-governmental bodies in protecting the digital infrastructure;
- The use of new technologies to secure the digital infrastructure;

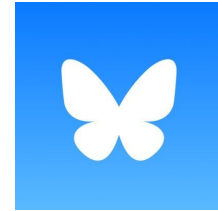
- Environmental security and digital infrastructure.

Submit your abstract (500 words max) to [digitalization@law.eur.nl](mailto:digitalization@law.eur.nl) by **10 February 2025**. Selected papers may be published in an edited volume or special journal issue!

For more information on the theme of the workshop and possible topics, see the [Call for Papers!](#)

Participation is free, and limited financial aid is available for travel and accommodation.

## [Social Media] Follow the NNHRR's New Bluesky and LinkedIn Accounts!



We are migrating to Bluesky and LinkedIn! Please follow us at [@nnhrr.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/nnhrr.bsky.social) and connect with us at [Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research](#) for event updates and news from the Network. Tag us if you would like us to repost your posts!



## [Save the Date!] Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights: Strategically Moving Forward

**Date:** 29 January 2025

**Location:** Maastricht Centre for Human Rights (hybrid)

In recent months, two books were published by members of the Maastricht Centre for Human Rights in the AHRI Human Rights series. ‘**Human Rights Strategies: Benefits and Drawbacks**’, edited by **Dr. Ingrid Westendorp**, and ‘**Socio-economic Rights, Inequalities and Vulnerability in Times of Crises: Building Back Better**’, edited by **Prof. Dr. Andrea Broderick** and **Dr. Jennifer Sellin**. The second book was written in honour of Prof. Dr. Fons Coomans.



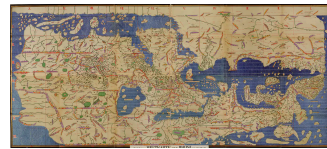
In light of both of these recent publications, the time is ripe to reflect, and take a forward-looking perspective, on the manner in which human rights institutions, mechanisms, and processes can build back better in the wake of crises, to ensure a more equitable enjoyment of socio-economic rights. Human rights strategies may contribute to the protection of socio-economic rights, but besides benefits, such strategies may also have drawbacks.

This seminar will launch both books mentioned above, and at the same time put the spotlight on Prof. Dr. Fons Coomans, who retired two years ago and to whom the *liber amicorum* will be presented.

Read more about the event, and see the programme, [here](#).

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### [Call for Papers] International Law's Local Encounters: Experiences and Imaginaries of (de-)Coloniality



The constitutional commitment of Tuvalu to maintain its sovereignty, even as climate change threatens its physical territory, highlights the profound stakes of international law in shaping decolonial futures. How do local experiences and global solidarities challenge and transform international legal norms?

The **University of Amsterdam (UvA)** and the **Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research (NNHRR)** invite scholars to a two-day workshop on **5–6 June 2024** exploring these questions. This event will examine how claims to decoloniality emerge in international law and the limits and possibilities of terms like “decolonisation” and “coloniality.”

For more information, see the Call for Papers [here](#). **The deadline to submit your abstracts is 5 January 2025!**

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### [Call for Papers] The Politics of International Dispute Settlement

The conference '**The Politics of International Dispute Settlement**' takes place at Utrecht University, in the Netherlands, on **6 June 2025**, with Judge Bruno Simma attending as keynote speaker. The aim of this conference is to explore the legal, but also the social and political, implications and consequences of decisions of international courts and tribunals (ICTs) within the framework of international dispute settlement. Abstract of no more than 500 words are welcome until **15 January 2025**.

See the Call for Papers [here](#).

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## [Call for Abstracts] Workshop on Reverse Strategic Litigation by Governments on Migrants' Rights



The Amsterdam Centre for Migration and Refugee Law (ACMRL) & Human Rights Discourse in Migration Societies (MeDiMi) invites submissions for the workshop 'Reverse Strategic Litigation by Governments on Migrants' Rights?.'

The workshop, taking place on **27–28 March 2025**, will explore how governments engage with human rights litigation in migration-related cases, examining their roles in shaping the interpretation of human rights law through their participation in legal processes before international courts and treaty bodies.

### Key Questions Include:

- What are the practices of Governments before human rights courts and committees in migration-related cases?
- How do Governments contribute to and engage in human rights litigation?
- Do they act as 'doctrinal entrepreneurs', engaging in 'reverse strategic litigation' in order to shape the meaning of human rights law?

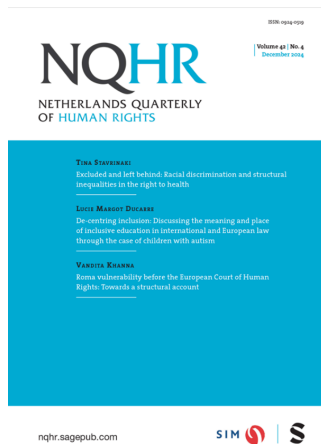
### Submission Details:

- **Abstract Deadline:** 20 December 2024, 23:59.
- **Abstract Format:** Max. 400 words in PDF, including name, affiliation, and email.
- **Submission Email:** [j.klueger@vu.nl](mailto:j.klueger@vu.nl) and [m.avila.curras@vu.nl](mailto:m.avila.curras@vu.nl) (subject: *Reverse Strategic Litigation by Governments Workshop*)

Participants will be asked to submit a short draft (3-7 pages) ahead of the workshop as a basis for discussion. A joint publication of selected contributions is planned, though participation in the publication is optional.

For more information, please email the organisers!

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## [Publication] Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights

The December 2024 issue of the Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights has been published! It features contributions on a diverse range of human rights topics, including racial discrimination and structural inequalities in the right to health, inclusive education, and Roma vulnerability before the ECtHR.

The newest edition is available online and open access [here](#).

# Human Rights Here

## Human Rights Here Blog

### Call for Submissions!

Submissions to the Human Rights Here blog are invited from scholars and practitioners both inside and outside of the Netherlands on topics related to human rights. Members of the NNHRR and early career scholars are especially welcomed to submit blog content. Please send your contribution to [humanrightshere@asser.nl](mailto:humanrightshere@asser.nl) and check [here](#) for the requirements.

## '2024 International Day of Persons with Disabilities: the Participation, Representation, and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Public Decision-Making Processes'



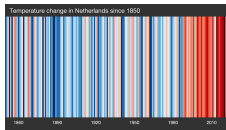
December 3rd marks the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and the theme for this year is 'Amplifying the Leadership of Persons with Disabilities for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future'.

The theme emphasises the ‘importance of the participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes that affect their lives’, which is essential for fulfilling the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – ‘leave no one behind’ – especially in response to the ongoing technological developments, global crises, and conflicts.

Reflecting on the theme of the 2024 International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Dr. Hanxu Liu ([Maastricht University](#)) examines the requirements and principles to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in public decision-making processes related to international human rights and development governance.

You can read the blog post [here](#).

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## 'HRH Profile Series of NNHRR Working Groups: Human Rights & the Climate Crisis'

Continuing our blog series spotlighting the NNHRR Working Groups, our second post introduces the Human Rights & the Climate Crisis Working Group. Established in December 2023, this Working Group brings together researchers working across different areas of human rights who share an interest in climate change as a cross-cutting issue in contemporary human rights.

Interested in learning more about the Working Group? Check out our blog post by Sandra Arntz and Samuel Ballin (Radboud University), and feel free to reach out to one of the coordinators!

See the blog post [here](#).

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## 'Reflecting on Human Rights Day 2024 at Human Rights Here'



The year 2024 has turned out to be an impactful year for human rights. Various developments, some extremely concerning and some maybe reassuring, have shaped how human rights are perceived and practiced in the world. At Human Rights Here, we have stood still at some of these developments.

This year, a wide and large selection of our contributions have engaged with key human rights issues, helping HRH keep its finger on the pulse when it comes to bringing to light and helping tackle some of the most pressing human rights issues. From climate change, to the challenges involving AI, and the impact of human rights in conflict zones, including in Palestine.

Today, in celebration of Human Rights Day as well as the 5th Anniversary of the launch of Human Rights Here (on 10 December 2019), we share some reflections on the state of human rights in 2024.

Read it [here](#).

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## 'The New Frontiers of Externalisation of Migration Control and Strategic Litigation'

This post discusses two related trends: the continued rise in externalisation of migration control and asylum, and the increased use of strategic litigation. It sets out these developments and their interaction, showing that increasing externalisation can trigger a rise in strategic litigation as well as rule of law backsliding.

You can read the blog [here](#).

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Would you like your news item included in the next newsletter?

Email [nnhrr@asser.nl](mailto:nnhrr@asser.nl) with the desired text and image before the end of the month!

Was this email forwarded to you? Sign up for our newsletter [here](#).

**Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research**

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R.J. Schimmelpennincklaan 20-22, 2517 JN Den Haag, The Netherlands

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