



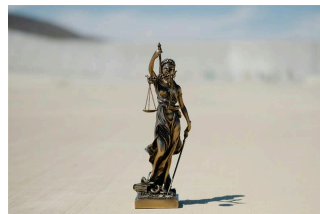
Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research

February 2025 Newsletter

[NNHRR Annual Conference] Toogdag 2025: Access to Justice

Dates: Wednesday 11 June 2025, 15:30 CET - Thursday 12 June 2025, 17:15 CET

Location: Radboud University, Grotius Building,
Montessorilaan 10 6525HR Nijmegen



[Register here!](#)

Although essential for human rights protection, **Access to Justice (A2J)** is threatened by backlash against (inter)national courts, (rising) costs of legal services, legal fees, standing and victim requirements, shrinking civic space or strategic lawsuits against public participation. This has a particularly adverse impact for marginalised communities. While technological advancements have the potential to improve access, they widen the gap for those without digital literacy or internet access. A2J is also threatened by the rise of populist movements and anti-establishment sentiments, further eroding public trust in legal institutions.

Call for Papers and Posters

Deadline: 16 March 2025

The Netherlands Network of Human Rights Research invites paper and poster submissions from academics and practitioners in all career stages.

Interested participants should provide an abstract in Word format of no more than 300 words for a paper presentation or a title for a poster presentation (it is possible to submit both a paper and a poster). Together with their abstracts/title, applicants should provide the following information: name, affiliation, the title of the proposed paper/poster presentation, and a contact email address. You can submit your paper abstract and/or

poster title by mail to machteld.vonk@ru.nl by 16 March 2025 including NNHRR PAPER/POSTER as the subject.

Read more about the application requirements [here](#).



[Register Now!] PhD Training for 3rd and 4th year PhD students

Date: 11 April 2025

Venue: University of Groningen, Faculty of Law

Time: 09:45 CET

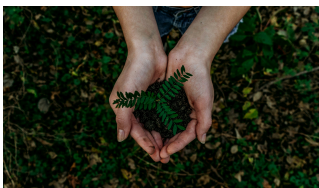
Fee: Free

Registration Deadline: 4 April 2025

If you are a **3rd or 4th year PhD candidate** interested in discussing future career opportunities, publication strategies, and wellbeing in human rights research, our **Annual PhD Training for 3rd and 4th year students** might be for you! To register for the event, follow [this link](#). To learn more about the programme visit [our website](#). Small travel and accommodation grants are available for PhD members of NNHRR to attend. Kindly note that previous attendance of the PhD Training for 1st and 2nd Year Students is NOT a prerequisite for attending this training. PhD candidates who are not members of NNHRR may be able to attend for a fee, subject to availability. For questions reach out to nnhrr@asser.nl.

[Save the Date] PhD Training for 1st and 2nd year PhD students

Mark your calendars! The next PhD training for 1st and 2nd year students will take place on **22-23 May 2025**, hosted by Leiden University in The Hague.



[Doctoral Workshop] Sustainability & Public Law

Date: 7 April 2025

Time: 9:00-17:00 CET

Location: Radboud University and online

Registration Deadline: 21 March 2025

The **Sustainability & Public Law PhDs** of the [Onderzoekcentrum voor Staat & Recht \(SteR\)](#) (Research Centre for State and Law) want to welcome all PhD candidates in Law and/or Sustainability to attend the Doctoral Workshop on Sustainability & Public Law.

The Doctoral Workshop will consist of four panels in which PhD candidates, who responded to the call for applications, will present their research. After presenting their research there will be ample opportunity to discuss the various legal approaches to sustainability and public law.

Would you like to attend the Doctoral Workshop in person or online? You can sign up via [this form](#).

[Call for Contributions] Thicker Notions of Human Rights Accountabilities Conference

Date: 19-21 November 2025

Location: Brussels, Belgium

Abstract Submission Deadline: 20 April 2025



The **Thicker Notions of Human Rights Accountabilities** Conference revisits the questions of what qualifies as a human rights violation, who holds human rights duties and how to actually deliver human rights accountability in the context of pressing and complex challenges. It will be hosted by the Future Proofing Human Rights research project in **Brussels, Belgium from 19-21 November 2025**.

We are inviting contributions that seek to reconstruct the notion of human rights accountability, divided across five themes: Change, Knowing, Duties, Harm, and Remedy. We welcome contributions from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, including but not limited to law, socio-legal perspectives, criminology, and political science. **Abstracts should be submitted by 20 April 2025.**

For full details, please see our **full conference call** [here](#).



[Spring Academy] Explore the Digitalisation of Sustainability Due Diligence

Date: 7-10 April 2025

Starting Time: 9:00 CET

Location: Asser Institute, R.J. Schimmelpennincklaan 20-22, 2517 JN The Hague

Fee: Regular fee €1495; Students/NGO €750

Professionals, researchers, students, and anyone interested in leveraging digitalisation to address global challenges ethically and sustainably are invited to attend this **front-runner academy on sustainability due diligence**. The four-day training programme combines theory and practice, featuring lectures by academics and workshops led by

industry experts. Participants will gain a deep understanding of key technological solutions for sustainable due diligence, empowering them to drive responsible business practices.

You can find more information [here](#).



[Talk Show & Exhibition] The Intersection of Art and International Law

Join us for a dynamic talk show where artists, legal scholars, and community members explore justice through conversation and live music performances. Keynote speaker is Sofia Stolk (VU Amsterdam), an expert on the intersection of international law and art with her lecture '**Law in the eye of the beholder: how visuals shape our world order**'. You can also participate in an interactive installation designed to spark new thinking about international law. [Read more →](#)

This [talk show](#) is part of the two-week free [exhibition](#) that explores the intersection of international law and visual arts.

[\[Talk show\] Uncut: Unlocking international law](#)

Date: 13 Mar 2025

Venue: West, the Hague

Time: 19:00 CET

Fee: Free

[Join the talk show](#)

[\[Exhibition\] Lens on law: Edges of proximity](#)

Date: 28 Feb - 13 Mar 2025

Venue: West, the Hague

Days: Wed - Sun

Time: 12:00 - 18:00 CET

Fee: Free

[Tickets for the exhibition](#)

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 and check [here](#) for the requirements.



Research Workshop Report: "The (Evolving) Human Right to a Healthy Environment: What Impact on Intellectual Property Laws?"

Repair, refurbishment, fashion upcycling and similar practices that minimize the environmental impact of (over)consumption are key in the transition from a linear market economy towards a just and sustainable one. However, intellectual property (IP) protection presents an unexpected yet significant challenge to these efforts. This blog explores the need to align IP laws with the growing recognition of environmental interests, that in turn are increasingly addressed through a human rights lens. The authors do so by drawing on the outcome of a research workshop they co-organised entitled "The Human Right to a Healthy Environment: What Impact on Intellectual Property Laws?" that took place in December 2024.

Read the blog post [here](#).

It's Not Getting Easier to be Green: Time for a True Business-Free COP (Part 1 & 2)



This blog post brings together insights from six PhD candidates, each an expert in their field, to analyze the impact of the latest Conference of Parties (COP) on climate change

policy through the lens of human rights. The discussion explores key topics, including climate finance, establishing an international carbon market, and integrating human rights into national emissions targets. The analysis reveals that while some progress has been made, such as the inclusion of human rights in carbon market methodologies and the extension of the Gender Action Plan, significant gaps remain. Wealthier nations' financial contributions to climate-affected countries fall short of ensuring basic human rights, and national emissions targets still fail to fully incorporate human rights principles as outlined in the Paris Agreement. Additionally, Indigenous peoples and local communities, despite facing disproportionate climate impacts, are gaining a stronger voice in international climate action. The post concludes with a critical assessment of the COP's outcomes, highlighting achievements and ongoing challenges.

You can read **Part 1** [here](#) and **Part 2** [here](#).



HRH Profile Series of NNHRR Working Group of ESCR: Good News from the Polder: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are not Forgotten!

We are thrilled to announce the creation of the Working Group on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ESCR) within the NNHRR! This initiative brings together a dynamic group of scholars committed to advancing research and critical dialogue on ESCR, focusing on both the Dutch context and global challenges. Economic, social, and cultural rights—like the rights to health, housing, food, and water—are fundamental to social justice and human dignity, yet often neglected in legal and policy frameworks. By tackling issues such as enforcement, codification, effectiveness, the Working Group aims to address gaps in theory and practice, ensuring these rights gain the recognition they deserve. To introduce this exciting initiative, we are launching this blog series for Human Rights Here. The series will present the Working Group and delve into their research on topics ranging from social security and housing rights to public interest litigation.

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

HRH Profile Series of NNHRR Working Group Human Rights & the Climate Crisis: Litigating the Private Law of Climate Change



In this blog post, using the Shell case as an example, Jie Ouyang illustrates how climate litigation is inviting courts to reconsider the fundamental tenets of private law through a climate-sensitive lens and thereby reshaping the private law system itself.

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



HRH Profile Series of NNHRR Working Group of ESCR: Understanding the Impact of Housing and Property Rights in Dutch Eviction Cases: Introducing the PROHOUSE Project

How Do Dutch Courts Protect Against Evictions? Evictions have severe consequences for individuals and families, yet they remain a common legal tool. The PROHOUSE Project, led by Dr Michelle Bruijn (University of Groningen), investigates how Dutch courts balance the right to housing and right to property in eviction cases. Using doctrinal legal analysis and machine learning, PROHOUSE will provide insights into judicial decision-making and develop an interactive tool to support evictees and property owners.

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

Rethinking Adoption Paradigms: How the ECtHR's Judgment on the Mitrevska Case Highlights the Rights of Adult Adoptees



The case of *Mitrevska v. North Macedonia*, judged by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR/Court) in 2024, contributes significantly to the field of adoption law. At first glance, *Mitrevska* seems similar to previous case law, putting access to biological information of adult adoptees under the spotlight. In this blog, a more in-depth analysis of the case reveals broader implications for adoption law and procedural guarantees that are noteworthy, especially in relation to two valuable possible paradigm shifts in the field of adoption law: a) a broader conceptualisation of adoptees' right to know, encompassing a comprehensive right to health, and b) the absence of a presumption of anonymity in adoption procedures.

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



HRH Profile Series of NNHRR Working Group of ESCR: Call It By Its Name: A Human Rights (Treaty)-Based Approach to Health

The dialogues between UN treaty bodies and States parties provide insights into policies aiming to fulfil human rights obligations. While discussions on the right to health often focus on healthcare access, States' explanations reveal gaps in measuring the impact on human rights of their health policies. This post highlights three examples from the Netherlands' reports under various conventions: issues with pregnant women's informed consent, reported prejudice against children with disabilities, and higher infant mortality rates in asylum centers. These examples illustrate a failure to fully adhere to a human rights-based policy by prioritising factors unrelated to human rights or neglecting concurrent human rights obligations. While these examples pertain to the Netherlands, they are indicative of similar situations in many other countries.

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

HRH Profile Series of NNHRR Working Group of ESCR: Arrest Warrant Against Netanyahu, Alleged Violations of the Right to Health



The arrest warrants against Mr Benjamin Netanyahu and Mr Yoav Gallant are based on international criminal law. This blog post illustrates how the right to health is - implicitly - also very present in this case. The authors stress the importance of regime interaction, and they illustrate how the applicability of the right to health is relevant both from a normative and an enforcement perspective.

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



HRH Profile Series of NNHRR Working Group of ESCR: Access to Food as an International Rights Issue

Otto Spijkers' blog post explores hunger as a global issue and advocates for a human rights-based approach to food access. While the UN's goal of "Zero Hunger by 2030" remains unmet, hunger persists due to unequal distribution rather than food shortages.

Different categories of international law can be helpful to address the hunger crisis. Most importantly, human rights law emphasizes the right to food. International humanitarian and criminal law prohibit intentional starvation of civilians. The post concludes that addressing the hunger crisis requires legal accountability and a focus on fair and equitable distribution of food, not just more food production.

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

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

Email 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

@2025 Copyright. All rights reserved.

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

[Unsubscribe](#)