



Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research

June 2025 Newsletter

[Looking Back] Toogdag 2025: Access to Justice (A2J)

Dates: 11 – 12 June 2025

Location: Radboud University Nijmegen



It was a pleasure to welcome so many of you at our Annual Research Conference, the [Toogdag](#), at [Radboud University](#) in Nijmegen! We want to extend a special thank you to the organising committee from the [Research Centre for State & Law \(SteR\)](#), consisting of Prof. dr. Jasper Krommendijk, Prof. mr. Machteld Vonk, Dr. Annick Pijnenburg, Jeske Jansen, Lisa van Roermund, Sandra Arntz, and Emilia Klebanowski. After a powerful keynote address by [Prof. Helen Duffy](#) on the challenges and opportunities relating to Access to Justice (A2J) today, we split up into 8 thematic panels, from Business & Human Rights to Migration & Borders, from Justice for the Climate Crisis to Economic, Social & Cultural Rights. This year's Toogdag perfectly highlighted the Network's efforts to explore the intersections between various topics of human rights research.



[Call for Nominations] Max van der Stoel Human Rights Award 2025

Deadlines: 1 July 2025 (Doctoral Dissertations), 1 October 2025 (Master Theses)

There is still time to nominate manuscripts for the [Max van der Stoel Human Rights Award](#)! The upcoming edition will take place on **10 December 2025** at [Tilburg University](#). Each faculty may nominate one candidate for the Best Doctoral Thesis

category before **1 July 2025** and one candidate for the Best Master Thesis category before **1 October 2025**.

[Find out more](#)

[Conference] Advancing Social, Economic, and Cultural Rights in a Polarised, Digitalised, and Unequal World

Dates: 4 – 5 September 2025

Location: Leiden University



The launching conference of our [Working Group on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights](#) "Advancing Social, Economic, and Cultural Rights in a Polarised, Digitalised, and Unequal World", will take place at [Leiden University](#) on **4 and 5 September 2025**. Presentations will range from legal, theoretical, and practical dimensions of ESCR, to current challenges, enforcement of ESCR through judicial and non-judicial mechanisms, as well as interdisciplinary and comparative approaches.

[To the Conference Call](#)



[Call for Applications] Research Workshops on Human Rights

Next Deadline: 31 October 2025

We invite Network members to **submit proposals for research workshops on human rights before 31 October 2025**. Workshops should involve at least two members of the Network and at least two member universities. Each round, **three grants of up to 2,000 euros will be awarded** to the successful applicants. Research workshops may consist of a variety of event formats, including (but not limited to) panels, keynote speeches, meet and greets, and events with artistic elements.

[Find out more](#)



[Lecture by Jolien Schukking] A House of Stories: 75 years of protecting human rights through the European Convention of Human Rights

Date: 14 November 2025

Location: Utrecht University

On **Thursday 14 November 2025**, the [Netherlands Institute of Human Rights](#) (SIM) of [Utrecht University](#) will host this year's Peter Baehr Lecture, entitled "A House of Stories: 75 years of protecting human rights through the European Convention on Human Rights." The lecture will be delivered by [Judge Jolien Schukking](#), marking the conclusion of her distinguished nine-year term at the European Court of Human Rights. Drawing on her extensive experience, she will reflect on the ECHR's legacy in safeguarding human rights and explore the pressing challenges it faces today. You can find more information [here](#).

[Register Here](#)

[Conference] Regulating Tobacco and Novel Products: Special Attention to Human Rights

Dates: 4 – 5 December 2025

Location: University of Groningen Centre for Health Law

The [Global Scientific Network on Law and Tobacco](#) (GSNLT), part of the [Groningen Centre for Health Law](#) (GCHL), invites submissions for its upcoming conference "Regulating Tobacco and Novel Products: Special Attention to Human Rights", which will take place on **4 and 5 December 2025**. Topics may include human rights-based approaches to tobacco control, regulation of novel nicotine/tobacco products, comparative and international legal frameworks, industry interference and corporate accountability, regional and local policy experiences, opportunities and challenges under EU Law, youth access, marketing, and protection. Empirical, theoretical, and interdisciplinary research is welcome. Questions should be addressed to the GSNLT Coordinator, [Monique van Cauwenberghe](#) [m.v.c.van.cauwenberghe@rug.nl].

[Register Here](#)

[Save the Date] Doctoral Research Forum

Date: 30 January 2026

Location: Maastricht University

We invite PhD students interested in presenting their research and receiving valuable insights and feedback from academics in the field to submit an abstract for our upcoming [Doctoral Research Forum](#). The call for abstracts will be announced in September. In the meantime, please save the date of **30 January 2026**. For questions, reach out to nnhrr@asser.nl.

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.

L. et Autres c. France: A Landmark Judgment Concerning Sexist Judicial Bias - Himpathy and Victim-Blaming - in Cases of Sexual Violence Against Girls by Margarita S. Ilieva [3 June]

For the first time, the European Court of Human Rights has acknowledged that judicial gender-based negative stereotyping of a sexual violence survivor not only revictimised her but was also discriminatory. On 24 April 2025, the Court found that France had violated its duties to protect girls, victims of sexual predators, from inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 3 of the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) and to respect their private lives/ dignity (Article 8 ECHR), as well its duty not to discriminate (Article 14 ECHR). The French judges had made 'guilt-inducing statements', propagating gender stereotypes. Previously, in such cases, the Court refused to even consider Article 14 allegations.

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

NNHRR PhD Training for 3rd and 4th Year Students at the University of Groningen by Sina Platzbecker, Sophia Salziger and Chiiun Miin Seah [18 June]

On 11 April 2025, the Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research (NNHRR) held its annual PhD training for 3rd and 4th year PhD students at the University of Groningen, focusing on publishing, wellbeing, and career development in human rights research. The event offered valuable insights ranging from information on blog writing and Open Access publishing to managing emotionally challenging research and navigating careers inside and outside academia. Sessions also covered grant opportunities and ethical challenges in human rights funding. An inspiring day of learning, reflection, and networking – co-organised by Dr. Katerina Tsampi, Sophia Salziger, Chiiun Miin Seah, and Sina Platzbecker.

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

Deportations Trigger Inter-American Protection Regarding El Salvador by Kate Murphy [23 June]

On May 9, 2025, several human rights organisations filed a landmark request for precautionary measures before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on behalf of Venezuelans deported from the U.S. and imprisoned in El Salvador's CECOT facility. If granted, these would be the first measures for prisoners in El Salvador in a decade, marking a potential turning point for legal mobilisation in a context where sustained advocacy remains uncertain.

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

Recognising Changes in Gender Identity Under EU Law: The Impact of Mirin and Deldits for Legal Gender Recognition Across Borders by Chiara Rauceu [25, 27, 30 June]

This contribution consists of a series of three interconnected blog posts that explore whether, and to what extent, EU law can protect the right of trans European citizens to have their gender identity legally recognised across the borders of EU Member States. Currently, procedures and conditions for Legal Gender Recognition (LGR) are governed by national laws, and the EU lacks direct legislative competence in this area. As a result,

the absence of harmonised rules means that trans Union citizens who move to or reside in another Member State risk having their legal gender identity inconsistently recorded or misrecognised.

You can read Part 1 [here](#), Part 2 [here](#), and Part 3 [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!

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