

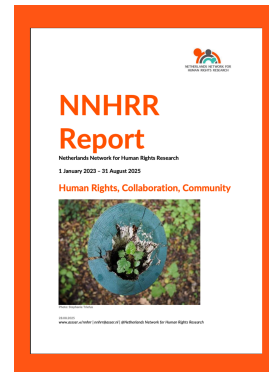


Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research

August 2025 Newsletter

[NNHRR Report] Human Rights, Collaboration, Community

Curious to see what the NNHRR has been up to the last two years? The latest NNHRR report, titled **"Human Rights, Collaboration, Community"** and covering the years 2023 to 2025, has just been published! In it, we detail the Networks' initiatives, events, funding schemes, communications strategy, and visions for the future.



[Read the Report](#)

Calls & Opportunities



[Opportunity] Shine a Spotlight on your PhD Research

Deadline: ongoing

Are you conducting innovative human rights research in your PhD, or know someone who is? We would love to interview you on our newest initiative for PhD members: **PhD Spotlight!** To participate, send a portrait picture and a filled out version of the [following document](#) to nnhrr@asser.nl with the subject line "PhD Spotlight - [your name]".

[Call for Papers] Legal Advisory Opinions Shaping Climate Action and Human Rights

Date: 6 November 2025

Location: Leiden University College, The Hague

Deadline: 15 September 2025



The NNHRR [Working Group on Human Rights & the Climate Crisis](#) invites abstract submissions for its upcoming conference "***Legal Advisory Opinions Shaping Climate Action and Human Rights***", taking place on **6 November 2025** at **Leiden University College, The Hague**. The conference will explore recent landmark Advisory Opinions by international courts affirming states' legal duties to address climate change through a human rights lens. Submissions may address topics including, but not limited to, the right to a healthy environment, climate-related human rights impacts, rights of Nature and future generations, regional legal perspectives and accountability. **The deadline to submit an abstract is 15 September 2025.**

[Submission Guidelines](#)

[Call for Applications] Conference Attendance Grant for PhD Members

Deadline: 30 September 2025



Are you a PhD member of the NNHRR planning to attend a human rights-related conference or academic event? Don't miss your chance to apply for the [Conference Attendance Grant](#)! The final deadline for 2025 is 30 September. The grant supports PhD candidates in attending academic events that contribute to their research, training, and networking. **Up to €1,000 per grant** is available to cover travel, accommodation, and conference fees. To apply, you must be a PhD member of the NNHRR affiliated with a member university, and the event must be relevant to your human rights research and take place within six months of the deadline. Priority will be given to external PhDs without institutional funding and those presenting their own research.

[Learn More & Apply](#)



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

Deadline: 1 October 2025

The deadline for faculties to nominate **Master Theses** for the [Max van der Stoel Human Rights Award](#) is approaching! To compete, theses must have been defended or published between 1 September 2023 and 31 August 2025, and be written in Dutch or English. Each applicant must submit a PDF version of their thesis, together with a nomination letter signed by the relevant authority at the faculty level via email to nnhrr@asser.nl before **1 October 2025**.

[Learn More Here](#)

[Call for Applications] NNHRR Doctoral Research Forum

Date: 30 January 2026

Location: Maastricht University

Deadline: 1 November 2025

At the NNHRR [Doctoral Research Forum](#), PhD members have the opportunity to present their human rights research and receive feedback from peers and senior NNHRR members. The upcoming edition will take place on **30 January 2026** at **Maastricht University**. Interested? Then submit your abstract (max. 500 words) and a bio (max. 100 words) **before 1 November 2025!**

[Register here](#)

Events & Education

[Webinar] Fifteen years of review: The Office of the Ombudsperson to the UN Security Council ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee

Date & Time: 9 September 2025, 18:00

Location: Online

This [webinar](#), organised by the [T.M.C. Asser Institute](#) and the [Office of the Ombudsperson to the UNSC ISIL \(Da'esh\) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee](#), critically reflect on counter-terrorism sanctions, delisting processes, and human rights law. It will assess the 15 years of the mandate and the difficulties of ensuring human rights protections within the context of countering terrorism. To do so, the current Ombudsperson, [Mr. Richard Malanjum](#), will be joined by a panel of experts, including lawyers, practitioners, and academic experts. The webinar will take place **online** on **9 September 2025 at 18:00**.

You can find more information about the webinar and the speakers [here](#).

[Register Here](#)

[Panel Discussion] Business and Human Rights in Times of Russia's War Against Ukraine: Rethinking Corporate Accountability

Date & Time: 10 September 2025, 17:00

Location: T.M.C. Asser Institute

The [T.M.C. Asser Institute](#) and the [Jean Monnet Center of Excellence on Corporate Sustainability and Human Rights](#) of Wageningen University, invite you to join the upcoming panel discussion "*Business and Human Rights in Times of Russia's War Against Ukraine: Rethinking Corporate Accountability*", which will critically explore how the Russian war on Ukraine has transformed the business and human rights landscape. The panel will take place on **10 September 2025** at the **T.M.C. Asser Institute**, The Hague.

More information on the event and the speakers is available [here](#).

[Register Here](#)

[Film screening] Hidden life: Testimonies of Venezuelans in Aruba and Curaçao

Date & Time: 21 September 2025, 14:00

Location: T.M.C. Asser Institute

Join the [T.M.C. Asser Institute](#) for a free screening of the film *Hidden Life* (2025) by Martin Maat and Hans Hermans, followed by a panel discussion and networking event. This event is co-organised with [UNHCR](#), and will take place at the **Asser Institute** on **Sunday 21 September**. *Hidden Life* is a documentary about the estimated 23,000 Venezuelan refugees living on Aruba and Curaçao, who fled their country's crisis but face legal limbo due to the islands' lack of formal asylum procedures. Unlike the Netherlands, Curaçao has not signed the UN Refugee Convention, leaving refugees without legal rights to work, healthcare, or protection. The film follows nine Venezuelans from various backgrounds, sharing their struggles with detention, exploitation, and separation from family. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion and networking event.

More information is available [here](#).

Register Here

[Online short course] Navigating the regulation of gender in international sport: Ensuring human rights, safety and fairness

Dates & Time: 15 - 17 October 2025, 14:30

Location: Online

This short course, organised by the [T.M.C. Asser Institute](#) and the [University of Lausanne](#) (UNIL), explores the intersection between gender, sport, and human rights. Participants will examine key issues such as eligibility regulations and inclusion, with particular attention to the experiences of transgender athletes and athletes with sex variations. Evolving international developments - including the landmark 2025 judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the Semenya case - will be explored to provide context for ongoing debates around fairness, equity, and discrimination in sport.

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

Register Here

[Conference] Adapting private international law in an era of uncertainty

Date & Time: 24 October 2025, 09:30

Location: T.M.C. Asser Institute

In an era of rapid change and digital disruption, private international law faces growing pressure to adapt. This one-day conference, organised by the [T.M.C. Asser Institute](#), brings together leading scholars, practitioners, and early-career researchers to explore how the field can respond to increasingly complex cross-border disputes. Through an opening keynote and three panel discussions, it will examine how digital technologies challenge traditional legal frameworks, whether weaker parties are being fairly protected in cross-border disputes, and new approaches to private international law.

More information is available [here](#).

[Register 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.

Mobilising Procedural Environmental Rights in Support of Civic Knowledge: What Role of the Aarhus Convention and the Escazú Agreement? by Anna Berti Suman

Civil society actors - ranging from individuals to organised collectives such as non-governmental organisations and civic associations - increasingly respond to environmental issues by gathering evidence that can influence official decisions towards stronger environmental protection. Existing research confirms this influence. However, a systematic understanding of how civic knowledge shapes official environmental law-making is lacking, whereas such insights could help re-imagine future law-making in order to fully achieve the procedural environmental rights enshrined in international provisions such as the Aarhus Convention for Europe and the Escazú Agreement for Latin America. This blog makes a case for the urgency of this inquiry, questioning how civic knowledge is accommodated or resisted in environmental law-making processes, and which legislative frameworks may support it.

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

Report on Eight Annual NNHRR Conference Toogdag 2025: Access to Justice by Letizia Bozzi & Ewa Romanowska

This report highlights discussions and ideas presented by Network members at the annual research day of the Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research (NNHRR) – the Toogdag. It first presents the theme of Access to Justice, which accompanied the participants throughout the two intensive and inspiring research days at Radboud University. By featuring the account of the keynote delivered by Professor Helen Duffy, as well as the thematic panels organised by the Network's Working Groups, it highlights the omnipresent character of the theme of Access to Justice (A2J) in different strands of human rights research, as well as the need to continuously seek A2J by mainstreaming human rights debates into governmental, non-governmental, and other actions.

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

Polygraphs at the Border: an Unreliable Tool at the Cost of Human Rights by Juuk van Andel and Evelien Brouwer

This blog examines the EU's growing interest in the use of polygraphs at EU borders and their potential conflict with fundamental rights. Drawing on CJEU case law, it highlights risks to privacy, data protection, and effective judicial remedies due to their invasiveness, questionable accuracy, and lack of transparent decision-making. While the AI Act labels them "high-risk," the authors argue that current safeguards are insufficient and that the use of polygraphs should be banned altogether.

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

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