



Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research

September 2025 Newsletter

Calls & Opportunities

[Last Chance to Apply] Conference Attendance Grants for PhD Members

Deadline: 30 September 2025



Are you a PhD student, member of the NNHRR, and interested in attending a conference relevant to your human rights research? We are offering four **conference attendance grants of up to €1,000** to cover your conference fee, as well as travel and hotel costs.

To be eligible, you must be:

- A member of the NNHRR
- Affiliated with a NNHRR member university
- Have not yet defended your PhD by the time of the conference
- Attending a conference connected to your human rights research
- Attending a conference taking place within 6 months of the application deadline

[Apply](#)



[Opportunity] Shine a Spotlight on your PhD Research

Deadline: ongoing

Are you conducting innovative human rights research during 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]".

[New ILA Study Group] International Law, Human Rights & Islands



A new Study Group with a focus on islands and human rights has been endorsed by the ILA to examine a number of international law issues. The new Study Group will explore, amongst others, how islands are defined and treated in international law, what the human rights challenges on islands are, the relevance of interdisciplinary Island Studies, and whether islands require distinct legal treatment. On 22 September 2025, two webinars were held to outline the group's scope and research agenda. More information is now available [online](#).

The Study Group is chaired by [Prof. Donald Rothwell](#) ([Australian National University](#)) with [Dr. Katerina Tsampi](#) ([University of Groningen](#), NNHRR Steering Committee member) as Rapporteur. Experts interested in contributing can apply for membership in the coming weeks. ILA Members will need to submit their CVs to the [Study Group Chair](#) who will then liaise with the ILA Director of Studies (DOS) regarding the selection and appointment. Experts from islands are particularly encouraged to apply.



[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!**

Please register [here](#).

[PhD Workshop] Sustainability and Public Law

Date: 11 March 2026

Deadline: 30 November 2025



[Radboud University](#)'s Sustainability and Public Law PhDs, and the Law and Transformation Programme at the Joachim Herz Doctoral School of Law, [Leuphana University of Lüneburg](#) (Germany), would like to invite you to the second round of their doctoral workshop on **11 March 2026**. The workshop aims to bring together researchers working with different legal approaches to sustainability and law in context. It is a unique opportunity to share your work, exchange ideas, and foster cross-field discussions and collaboration. PhD candidates whose research explores different aspects of sustainability and law in context are encouraged to apply. For more information about the workshop and the application, can be found [here](#).

Send your abstract [here](#) until 30 November 2025.

[Call for Papers] Positive Obligations and Discrimination in the Case Law of the European Court of Human Rights

Date: 4-5 June 2026

Location: Lund University

Deadline: 8 November 2025

This workshop, organised by [Utrecht University](#) and [Lund University](#), aims to critically examine the intersection between the European Court of Human Rights' doctrine on positive obligations and the prohibition of discrimination under Article 14 and Article 1 of Protocol No. 12 of the ECHR. Over the past two decades, the Court has increasingly relied on positive obligations to address both individual and structural forms of discrimination, offering new legal avenues for holding States accountable for omissions and failures to protect. At the same time, the flexible and at times uncertain standards applied in this area raise concerns about legal clarity and the Court's capacity to ensure effective remedies. The workshop seeks contributions that explore how the Court's evolving positive obligations jurisprudence shapes, supports, or limits the protection against discrimination under the Convention.

Paper proposals must be submitted by **8 November 2025**. [Learn more](#).

Events & Education

[Pick our Brains Session] Ontological Conflicts and the Law: Pragmatic Truth and the Reconciliation of Indigenous Knowledge with Science in International Courts

Date: 2 October 2025

Time: 12:00-13:15

Location: Maastricht University, D1.311E & Online

On 2 October, [Dr. André Nunes Chaib](#) (Assistant Professor in Globalization and Law, [Maastricht University](#)) will present on "*Ontological Conflicts and the Law: Pragmatic Truth and the Reconciliation of Indigenous Knowledge with Science in International Courts*". The talk examines how courts confront disputes involving deep ontological conflicts between Indigenous knowledge systems and Western legal-scientific frameworks. Drawing on cases from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Canadian and Norwegian Supreme Courts, and Latin America, Dr. Nunes Chaib introduces the concept of pragmatic truth as a procedural approach that fosters partial commensurability without reducing Indigenous worldviews. This emerging principle offers a path toward more equitable, pluralistic, and decolonized legal practices in transnational environmental governance.

[Click here to join the talk via Teams.](#)

[Lecture] The Law of an International Society: Reflections on the Concept of the 'Social' in International Law

Date & Time: 6 October 2025, 15:30

Location: Amsterdam Centre for International Law and Online

[Professor Martti Koskenniemi](#) will deliver a public lecture on **Monday 6 October** at the [Amsterdam Law School](#) (also available online). Drawing on his influential work "*The Gentle Civilizer of Nations*", Koskenniemi will explore how modern international law emerged in the late 19th century around the ideology of "civilization," and how an alternative tradition—centered on the concept of "society"—developed alongside it in European thought. Tracing this idea through 20th-century legal debates and disciplines such as sociology and political economy, the lecture will examine how the notion of an "international society" has shaped efforts to move beyond a state-centric legal order. The talk will conclude with reflections on the role of social theory in current discussions on legal pluralism and transnational law.

Learn more & register [here](#).

[Seminar] Right to a Healthy Environment in Latin America

Date & Time: 7 October 2025, 16:00-17:30

Location: Utrecht University (Toon Peterszaal, Achter Sint Pieter 200)

[Utrecht University](#) and *Fair Transitions* invite you to join their upcoming seminar in their "Rethinking the Margins" series. [Patricio Trincado Vera](#) will discuss the "Right to a Healthy Environment in Latin America". The session will be chaired by [Julie Fraser](#), and [Jesse Jonkman](#) will act as a discussant.

More information about the session is available [here](#).

[Panel discussion] Israel's Unlawful Occupation of Palestine and the Impact of States' (Non-)Compliance with UNGA Resolution ES-10/24

Date & Time: 8 October 2025, 17:00

Location: T.M.C. Asser Institute

In this panel event, co-organised by the [Asser Institute](#) and the **Council of Arab Ambassadors in The Hague**, experts, including Ambassador Ammar Hijazi, Head of the Palestinian mission to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and Permanent Representative of the State of Palestine to International organisations in The Hague, will reflect on state compliance with UNGA Resolution A/RES/ES-10/24. They will particularly reflect on the legal and political consequences which may follow for states and the international legal order as a whole, now that the UNGA resolution's deadline has expired without compliance.

More information & registration available [here](#).

[Training programme] Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of WMD 2025

Dates: 13 - 17 October 2025

Location: T.M.C. Asser Institute and OPCW

The global non-proliferation norms regarding the use and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are under pressure. The threat posed by nuclear, chemical and biological weapons has reached levels of urgency not seen since the Cold War.

Consequently, there is a growing demand for professionals with the necessary legal, technical and policy expertise to tackle the challenges of today's non-proliferation and disarmament agenda. Register now for the fifteenth training programme on disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, co-organised by the [Asser Institute](#) and the [Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons](#) (OPCW) on **13-17 October 2025** in The Hague. During this intensive training programme, you will receive a comprehensive overview of the international non-proliferation and disarmament framework. You will learn from renowned experts and practitioners in the field and engage in active discussions about key topics and current debates. The programme also provides you with the opportunity to build your professional network with experts in the field, as well as with your fellow participants.

Learn more & register [here](#).

[Webinar] Making Universities more Inclusive for Staff with Disabilities

Dates & Time: 29 October 2025, 10:00 AEST, 30 October 2025, 10:00 UTC+1

Location: Online

This two-day seminar, organised by the [Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law](#), the [Maastricht Centre for Human Rights](#) and the [UQ Disability Collaboration](#) of the [University of Queensland Law School](#), will discuss best practices for the inclusion of staff with disabilities in the university environment. It will draw on the expertise of Paul Harper and Lisa Waddington, and other experts from Europe, Oceania, North and South America, Asia and Africa. It welcomes participants from all over the world to discuss their experiences, studies, and expertise in making universities a more inclusive place for those who work there.

You can register for the **Day 1 Webinar** [here](#) and the **Day 2 Webinar** [here](#).

[Annual Conference] Legal Advisory Opinions Shaping Climate Action and Human Rights

Dates: 5 - 6 November 2025

Location: Leiden University College

Register before 24 October 2025!

The NNHRR [Working Group on Human Rights & the Climate Crisis](#) invites you to join its annual conference on "*Legal Advisory Opinions Shaping Climate Action and Human Rights*", which will take place on **5 and 6 November 2025** at [Leiden University College](#). The

Hague. The programme will kick-off on **5 November between 17.00-19.00 at the Wijnhaven building** (Turfmarkt 99, The Hague), with the screening of *"Yumi - The Whole World"* ([trailer](#)). It is open to NNHRR members, free of charge, no reservation required. The conference itself will take place on **6 November, between 9:30-18:00** at Anna van Buerenplein 301. The Opening Plenary (9:30-11:00) will be delivered [Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh](#), [Maria Antonia Tigre](#), and [Fons Coomans](#). This will be followed by five panel discussions, on the topics of *"Healthy Environment"* (11:20-13:00), *"Climate litigation: techniques and approaches"* (11:20-13:00), *"The Advisory Opinions in Context"* (14:00-15:40), *"Reparations and Future Generations"* (14:00-15:40), *"Cross-fertilization between opinions of the IACtHR and the ICJ"* (14:00-15:40). The Closing Plenary (16:00-17:00) will be delivered by [Nico Schrijver](#), [Julie Fraser](#), [Anneloes Kuiper](#), [Otto Spijkers](#) and [Patricio Trincado Vera](#). It will be followed by a drinks reception.

Please [register here](#) before Friday 24 October 2025.

[Study Afternoon] Vulnerability and the Law: Multidisciplinary Perspectives

Date: 14 November 2025

Location: Maastricht University

On **14 November 2025**, the study afternoon in Maastricht will take place organised by the [VSR](#) (Dutch-Flemish Law & Society Association) and the [VWR](#) (The Netherlands Association for Philosophy of Law). This year, the central theme is: *"Vulnerability and the Law: Multidisciplinary Perspectives."* The programme will include a series of presentations (10–20 minutes) on the following topics: *"Vulnerability and Climate Change"*, *"Vulnerability and Digitalisation"*, and *"Vulnerability and the Responsive State"*.

Learn more [here](#).

[Publication] Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights September 2025

The September 2025 issue of the *Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights* has been published! It features a column that suggests rethinking our approach to teaching international humanitarian law – and the mantra that there is a licence to kill in war. It also includes an article on the systemic integration of environmental law in the interpretation of UN human rights treaties and an article on the ECtHR jurisprudence on the prohibition of collective expulsion of aliens at land borders. The newest edition is available online and open access, [available here](#). Happy reading!

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.

Toogdag 2025 Blog Series: Lliuya v RWE: Access to Justice in Corporate Climate Litigation for People Living Abroad by Clara Kammeringer

This blog, first in the series for the Annual Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research Toogdag 2025 and written by Clara Kammeringer, discusses the 28 May 2025 decision of the Higher Regional Court of Hamm, Germany (Oberlandesgericht Hamm) which established that civil liability for climate change-induced harms anywhere in the world is possible and dismantled several commonly advanced arguments why this would not be the case. This is a crucial step towards access to justice for all who suffer from the consequences of the climate crisis, regardless of where they are in the world.

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

The Right to Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples: Brief Reflections on Recent IACtHR Case Law by Medes Malaihollo

In this blog, Medes Malaihollo discusses how in recent months, judicial practice of the Inter American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) has increasingly dealt with the right to self-determination of Indigenous peoples. While this case law deserves to be reviewed in much more detail, this short contribution briefly reflects on this recent judicial practice by discussing three major themes that can be identified in these cases: participatory engagement, freedom of expression and better understanding the situation of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation.

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

The (R)evolution of EU Equality Law by Nozizwe Dube

In this blogpost, the author submits that for EU equality law to acknowledge intersectional discrimination, the legal framework must forgo its fixation on comparative harm and acontextual legal subjects; and embrace a broader contextual harm assessment instead. This blogpost draws upon a conference presentation entitled "*Capturing Intersectional Harm, Fostering Anti-Subordination: New Directions for EU Equality Law*" presented at the 12th annual Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality & Anti-Discrimination Law Conference. This conference aimed to reflect on the achievements, limitations, and future potential of equality law, as it marks 25 years since EU equality law expanded its prohibitions of discrimination beyond the initial focus.

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

Refugees as Actors of International Law in 'The Fifth Annual Postgraduate Conference on International Law and Human Rights: 'Conflict and Contestation in International Law' by Oğuzhan Öztürk

In this blog post, the author explores the emerging role of refugees as active participants in the development and practice of international law. Drawing from a presentation delivered at the Fifth Annual Postgraduate Conference on International Law and Human Rights, the author argues that, despite the depoliticising foundations of the 1951 Refugee Convention, refugees are reclaiming their political agency through protest and public mobilisation. The blog examines how historical events shaped the Convention's apolitical framing and how contemporary refugee protests, from Australia to Germany, challenge restrictive legal frameworks and assert participation rights. By highlighting these movements, the author contends that refugees are not merely passive beneficiaries of international protection but are shaping legal norms and state practices.

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!

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