



Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research

December 2025 Newsletter



Dear Members of the NNHRR,

As 2025 draws to a close, we want to take a moment to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing support and active engagement within the Network. Your contributions have played a key role in strengthening the NNHRR community and advancing our collective mission.

This holiday season offers a wonderful opportunity to pause, recharge, and reflect on the successes of the past year. We hope you find time for rest, joy, and meaningful moments

with loved ones.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are excited for the new opportunities and initiatives that await us. We look forward to continuing to work together, furthering our shared commitment to human rights research, and exploring new avenues for collaboration.

Wishing you all a merry holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

Warm regards,
The NNHRR Steering Committee

Calls & Opportunities

[Call for Papers] International Conference “What Truth? Evidence as Politics in Human Rights Courts”

- **Date:** 7-9 September 2026
- **Location:** Mas Boronat, Tarragona (Spain)
- **Abstract submission deadline:** 22 December 2025



The ERC-funded DISSECT project invites submissions for its final international conference: “*What Truth? Evidence as Politics in Human Rights Courts*”. The event brings together scholars and practitioners to explore the politics of truth-seeking in human rights adjudication across regional human rights courts, commissions, and UN treaty bodies. Participants are encouraged to engage with questions on the role of factual truth in human rights litigation, the influence of institutional and extra-legal factors on evidentiary processes, and the diverse conceptualisations of “truth” in adjudicatory settings. Participation is in person only. For more information, [click here](#). For questions, contact dissect.erc@ugent.be

Registration



[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]."

[Call for Papers] One-day workshop "The Promise of the Pact? What the EU promised but the Pact on Migration and Asylum does not deliver"



- **Workshop date:** 22 May 2026
- **Location:** Radboud University Nijmegen
- **Deadline:** 9 January 2026

As Member States prepare to transpose the Pact into national law by June 2026, it is important to critically examine the persistent gaps between EU ambitions and legislative outcomes. With this in mind, the Centre for Migration Law (RU), the Institute for European Law (KU Leuven), and the Amsterdam Centre for Constitutional Culture and Democratic Governance (UvA) invite paper proposals for the one-day workshop *"The Promise of the Pact? What the EU Promised but the Pact on Migration and Asylum Does Not Deliver."* Researchers at all career stages, especially PhD candidates, are encouraged to submit abstracts (max. 400 words). Email your abstract to [Karin Zwaan](#) with the subject line **"Pact workshop 2026"**. For more information, [click here](#).



5th Human Trafficking Research Network Conference
"Reframing Trafficking - Knowledge, Policy, and Practice at a Crossroads"
18-19 June 2026
School of Law, Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK

[Call for Papers] 5th Human Trafficking Research Network Conference

- **Date:** 18-19 June 2026
- **Location:** Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK
- **Deadline:** 20 February 2026

The Human Trafficking Research Network (HTRN) invites abstracts for its 5th annual conference, "Reframing Trafficking – Knowledge, Policy, and Practice at a Crossroads". This interdisciplinary event will explore the evolving global landscape of human trafficking, with a focus on new research, methodologies, and reimagining policy responses. Submissions from all fields, including law, sociology, migration studies, and criminology are welcome. Submit your abstracts (200 words max) by 20 February 2026 to htrn@ulster.ac.uk. For more details, [click here](#).

Events & Education

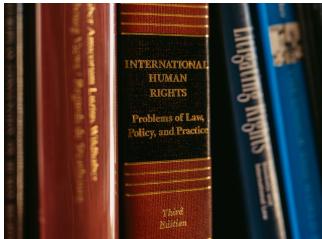
[Conference] Challenging Health Inequalities in a Digitalised World: Transdisciplinary Perspectives

- **Date:** 24 February 2026
- **Time:** 13:00–17:00
- **Format:** Hybrid
- **Location:** Utrecht University, Department of Law
Alex Brenninkmeijerzaal, Johanna Hudiggebouw
Achter Sint Pieter 200, 3512 HT Utrecht, The
Netherlands



The [UU Research Platform Equality Legal Studies \(EQUALS\)](#) is organising a hybrid international conference addressing the complex and evolving challenges of health inequalities in an increasingly digitalised world. The event will bring together scholars, practitioners, and other stakeholders from a wide range of disciplines to exchange insights and explore collaborative approaches to tackling health inequalities in the digital era.

Registration



[PhD Training] Methodologies of Human Rights Research

- **Date:** 15–16 April 2026
- **Location:** Utrecht University

Save the date - the 1st and 2nd year PhD training titled “Methodologies of Human Rights Research” will take place on 15 and 16 April 2026 at Utrecht University. The training offers early-stage PhD researchers the opportunity to deepen their understanding of key methodological approaches in human rights research and to engage in interdisciplinary discussion. Registration information to follow in the new year.

[Inaugural Lecture] A Critical Look at Fundamental Rights

- **Date:** Wednesday, 13 May 2026
- **Time:** 16:15
- **Location:** Academy Building, Utrecht University
- **Language:** Dutch



Prof. Karin de Vries, Professor of Fundamental Rights Law at Utrecht University, will deliver her inaugural lecture entitled “A Critical Look at Fundamental Rights” on Wednesday 13 May 2026. The lecture will take place at 16:15 in the Academy Building of Utrecht University and will be held in Dutch. A registration link will be shared closer to the date.

Publications

[New Issue] Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights



The December 2025 issue of the Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights has been published! It features the yearly editorial by the Editor-in-Chief and a column on the UN financial crisis by Ann Skelton. It also includes articles on temporality within human rights, the intersection between enforced disappearances and migration, and the paradoxical human rights implications of (phasing out) fossil fuels. The [newest edition](#) is available online and is open access. Happy reading!

Call for Contributions!

Would you like us to feature your recent or upcoming publication in the NNHRR Newsletter? 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.



Starting at Home: Empowering Rural Ethiopian Women in the Face of the Migrant Labour Industry by Bethlehem-Wolde

In her blog, Bethlehem Wolde explores how systemic inequality and limited domestic opportunities push rural Ethiopian women into exploitative migrant labour industries. She calls for a bottom-up, capabilities-based approach that prioritises education, economic empowerment, and locally driven development to create meaningful alternatives at home.

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

Reflections on Human Rights Day, the Max van der Stoel award, and practicing human rights by Floris Tan



In this blog post, on the occasion of Human Rights Day, Floris Tan reflects on what it has meant to him, both professionally and personally, to have won the Max van der Stoel Human Rights Award in 2023. He also reflects on his work in light of the 77th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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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