



Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research

January 2026 Newsletter

Calls & Opportunities



[Call for Papers] 2026 Human Rights Essay Award

• **Deadline:** 3 February 2026

The Academy on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law invites submissions for the [2026 Human Rights Essay Award \(HREA\)](#). The theme of the 2026 edition is "*The right to protest under international human rights law: legal protection and challenges ahead.*"

Two winners, one writing in English and one in Spanish, will receive a full tuition scholarship to attend the [2026 Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law](#) (25 May-12 June 2026), offered by the American University Washington College of Law. Selected articles may also be considered for publication in the *American University International Law Review*.

The competition is open to lawyers worldwide who have obtained a first law degree. For more information and submission guidelines, please visit the website or contact humanrightsessay@wcl.american.edu.

[Registration](#)

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

- **Deadline:** 7 February 2026



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

[More information](#)



[Call for Applications] Research Workshops on Human Rights

- **Deadline:** 28 February 2026

We invite Network members to submit proposals for research workshops on human rights before 28 February 2026. 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.

[More information](#)

[Call for Applications] The Law of Armed Conflict and Emerging Technologies: Legal, Ethical and Strategic Perspectives

- **Date:** 10-13 March 2026



- **Location:** Lucerne, Switzerland
- **Application deadline:** 25 February 2026

The [International Society for Military Law and the Law of War](#) invites applications for its upcoming international conference, which will bring together interdisciplinary experts to examine how developments such as cyber operations, artificial intelligence, autonomous weapon systems, and data-driven warfare are reshaping international humanitarian law.

Through keynote lectures, panel discussions, and interdisciplinary exchanges, participants will explore challenges relating to accountability, distinction, precaution, and proportionality, and consider how LOAC can remain effective in the face of rapid technological change.

Applications can be [submitted online](#) or via the official application form. Please note that places are limited and registration may close early once capacity is reached.



[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](#).

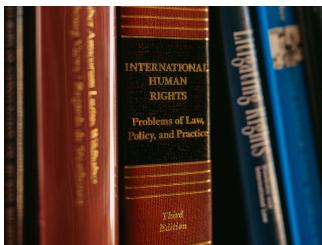
Events & Education

[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.



[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.



[Save the Date] NNHRR Toogdag 2026 – Technology

- **Date:** 11 June 2026
- **Location:** Erasmus University Rotterdam

Please save the date for the NNHRR Toogdag 2026, which will take place on 11 June 2026 at Erasmus University Rotterdam. The theme of this year’s Toogdag will be Technology, exploring its implications for human rights research and practice. The call for papers will be shared very soon. Stay tuned for more information!

Publications

Call for Contributions!

Would you like us to feature your recent or upcoming publication in the NNHRR Newsletter? Reach out to nnhrr@asser.nl.

[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!



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.



Blog series: Behind the Scenes of the ECtHR's Practice - "Finding a violation is an opportunity; it's not about punishing states, but about helping them clean their own house" by Niloufar Fasli and Lena Marie Neuhaus

The blog post features an interview with Dr. Eleni Micha, legal counsel and applicant in the case of Micha and Others v. Greece before the European Court of Human Rights. She discusses the practical challenges of bringing a case to Strasbourg, the transformative impact of ECtHR judgments on domestic systems, and her dual role as lawyer and applicant.

The blog is written by former LLM Students Niloufar Fasli and Lena Marie N. and is part of the second cycle of the blog series Behind the Scenes of the ECtHR's practice, a collaboration with the University of Groningen, Faculty of Law.

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

Future Generations Have 'Interests': the ICJ Holds by Simon-Waswa



On 23 July 2025, the ICJ made history by affirming that States must account for the interests of future generations when tackling climate change. This landmark advisory opinion goes beyond guidance, it renders these interests justiciable, marking a bold step toward embedding intergenerational equity at the heart of global climate action. In his blog post, Simon Waswa analyzes the ICJ's advisory opinion from the future generations perspective concluding that it offers a springboard from which the protection of the 'distant future' may be launched.

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

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

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