



Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research

March 2026 Newsletter

Calls & Opportunities

[Summer School] Utrecht Summer School on Human Rights 2026

- **Date:** 6–10 July 2026
- **Location:** Utrecht University
- **Application deadline:** 1 May 2026



The [Netherlands Institute of Human Rights \(SIM\)](#) is pleased to announce the **Utrecht Summer School on Human Rights 2026**, offering an intensive and interdisciplinary programme on international human rights law.

The one-week course, “*International Human Rights Law: An Introduction*,” provides a comprehensive overview of the theory and practice of human rights protection. Participants will explore key legal frameworks and institutions at the international and regional levels, with particular attention to issues such as equality and non-discrimination, the right to protest, and environmental rights. The programme combines lectures, interactive sessions, and engagement with leading scholars and practitioners.

The course is open to advanced Bachelor students, graduate students, and professionals with an interest in human rights law. **Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.**

[More information and registration](#)



[Online Event] ESIL IG on International Human Rights Law – Monthly Breakfast Sessions

- **Date:** 29 April 2026, ongoing
- **Time:** 08:00–09:00
- **Format:** Online

The [ESIL Interest Group on International Human Rights Law](#) is launching a new initiative: **Monthly Breakfast Sessions**, starting with an inaugural session on **29 April 2026**. These informal, one-hour online meetings - held on the last Wednesday of each month - aim to create a supportive space for discussing ongoing research and current developments in international human rights law.

The sessions provide an opportunity for participants to present work in progress and receive constructive feedback in a relaxed setting. Early-career researchers are particularly encouraged to present and engage with the broader community. Presentations will be followed by discussion and feedback.

Those interested in presenting can contact esilhumanrightslaw@gmail.com with a short description of their topic and availability.

[Call for Inputs] UN Study on the Justiciability of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

- **Deadline:** 30 April 2026



The [United Nations Human Rights Council Advisory Committee](#) is conducting a global study on trends in the use of courts for the enforcement of economic, social and cultural rights. The study aims to examine challenges related to the justiciability of these rights at the domestic level and to identify ways to overcome them.

Academic institutions, researchers, and experts in the field of socio-economic rights are invited to contribute by completing a questionnaire. Contributions will help ensure that the study reflects a broad and diverse range of academic perspectives.

Submit your input via the [online questionnaire](#).



[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]".

Events & Education

[3rd and 4th year PhD Training] Life After the PhD, Funding & Publishing

- **Date:** 8 April 2026
- **Time:** Registration from 09:00 | Programme 09:45–16:30 | Drinks afterwards
- **Location:** Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Initium Building



The Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research invites its [3rd and 4th year PhD members to the annual PhD training](#). This year's programme features three panel discussions:

- **Life after PhD** – Exploring career paths in academia, public service, national human rights institutions, and legal practice.
- **Research funds & grants** – Practical guidance on securing funding and continuing your research beyond the PhD.
- **Publish or perish?** – Insights into the peer review process and turning your dissertation into a book, with editors from the *Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights* and the Asser series.

The training offers an excellent opportunity to exchange experiences, expand your professional network, and reflect on the next steps in your academic journey. Participation is free of charge and includes lunch. **Registration is open to all NNHRR PhD members.** The training is designed for PhD candidates in a later stage of their PhD trajectory, but those in earlier stages may also attend.

Registration



[1st and 2nd year PhD Training] Methodologies of Human Rights Research

- **Date:** 15–16 April 2026
- **Time:** 08:30-18:00 (15/04, followed by social event and dinner), 09:00-17:00 (16/04, followed by drinks)
- **Location:** Utrecht University, Janskerkhof 2–3, Utrecht

The Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research (NNHRR) invites [1st and 2nd year PhD candidates to its two-day PhD Training](#) titled “**Methodologies of Human Rights Research**”, which will take place on 15 and 16 April 2026 at Utrecht University. The training is designed to strengthen methodological foundations, expand research toolkits, and foster peer exchange in a supportive academic setting. The programme includes sessions on core approaches to human rights legal research, translating research questions into robust designs, reflexive and critical perspectives, and practical methodological tools such as critical discourse analysis, digital ethnography, semi-structured interviewing, and co-creation techniques. The training also provides space for community-building, including a shared dinner.

The training is open to NNHRR PhD members, particularly those in their first or second year (non-members may participate for a fee).

Registration

[Lecture] Corina Heri: Interpreting Environmental Human Rights

- **Date:** 9 April 2026
- **Time:** 11:00– 12:30
- **Location:** Maastricht University / Online



The Maastricht Centre for Human Rights will host a “*Pick our Brains*” session by **Dr Corina Heri** (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) on “*Interpreting Environmental Human Rights: Narratives of Scarcity in Climate Litigation.*”

The lecture explores how dominant narratives, particularly scarcity, shape the interpretation of human rights law, with a focus on climate litigation before the European Court of Human Rights. It reflects on how rethinking these narratives could support stronger legal responses to climate change.

The event will take place in a hybrid format. You can join the meeting [here](#).



[Event] Civil Society Perspectives on Fossil Fuel Phase-Out

- **Date:** 14 April 2026
- **Time:** 17:00–20:30
- **Location:** The Hague

In the lead-up to the *Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels Conference (TAFF)*, hosted by the Governments of the Netherlands and Colombia, this consultation brings together civil society, policymakers, and researchers to explore how commitments to phase out fossil fuels can be implemented in a just and equitable manner.

The event will feature a plenary discussion with representatives from the Dutch delegation and expert speakers, followed by breakout sessions on key themes. The programme will conclude with a networking reception.

Participation is free of charge, but [registration](#) is required.

[More information](#)

[Theo van Boven Lecture 2026] William Schabas – The Genocide Convention at the ICJ

- **Date:** 23 April 2026
- **Time:** 15:00–17:00
- **Location:** Maastricht University / online



The Maastricht Centre for Human Rights invites you to the 2026 Theo van Boven Lecture, delivered by **Prof. William A. Schabas**, titled “*A Refresh of the Genocide Convention at the International Court of Justice?*”

The lecture will examine the recent surge of Genocide Convention cases before the ICJ and consider how this development may reshape international justice and the

interpretation of the Convention. Drawing on ongoing cases, it reflects on the Court's evolving role in addressing atrocity crimes.

The event is held in hybrid format. **Registration is required.**

[More information and registration](#)



[Save the Date] Seminar – Who Are Fundamental Rights For?

- **Date:** Wednesday, 13 May 2026
- **Time:** 12:30–15:15
- **Location:** Utrecht University, Johanna Hudiggebouw (Alex Brenninkmeijerzaal), Utrecht
- **Language:** Dutch

A seminar titled “*Who Are Fundamental Rights For?*” will take place on 13 May 2026 at Utrecht University, preceding the inaugural lecture of Prof. Karin de Vries. The seminar will explore the assumed universality of fundamental rights and critically reflect on who is effectively protected within current legal frameworks. It will address questions of structural inequality, representation, and blind spots in the interpretation and application of fundamental rights, including issues such as discrimination, intersectionality, and the uneven protection of social rights.

A registration link will be shared closer to the date.

[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. Participation at the conference is free of charge but registration is required. Registration for non-speakers should be addressed to digitalization@law.eur.nl by May 1, 2026.

[Event] ELS Academy Mid-Season Event 2026 – Interdisciplinary Legal Research

- **Date:** 10 April 2026
- **Location:** Omnia, Wageningen University & Research
- **Registration deadline:** 3 April 2026



The [ELS Academy Mid-Season Event 2026](#) will take place on **10 April 2026** in Wageningen, bringing together scholars to explore how law can meaningfully engage with other disciplines. The programme features a panel discussion on interdisciplinary research, followed by two thematic sessions: one on publishing and another on creating impact through interdisciplinary work.

Participation is free of charge, but registration is required.

Past Events & Congratulations

[Congratulations] Nadia Bernaz Appointed Personal Professor of Law and Corporate Justice



The Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research warmly congratulates Dr. Nadia Bernaz, member of the NNHRR Steering Committee, on her appointment as **Personal Professor of Law and Corporate Justice** at [Wageningen University & Research](#).

This well-deserved recognition reflects her outstanding contributions to the field of international law and business and human rights. Over the course of her career, Dr. Bernaz has advanced critical research on corporate accountability, with a particular focus on sustainability, global supply chains, and the role of law in addressing corporate impacts on people and the environment.



[Past Event] Legal Symposium on Racial Discrimination in European Courts

On 20 March 2026, the [Netherlands Institute of Human Rights \(SIM\)](#) and [RENFORCE \(Utrecht University\)](#), in collaboration with the [European Court of Human Rights](#) and the [Institut de recherche Carré de Malberg \(University of Strasbourg\)](#), co-organised a legal symposium in Strasbourg on racial discrimination in European human rights jurisprudence.

The symposium brought together experts to examine how the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union address racial discrimination, and how their case law interacts with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). The discussions highlighted developments, challenges, and opportunities in strengthening legal protection against racial discrimination across European and international frameworks.

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 Book] The Human Cost of Development - Situating Development-Induced Displacement in International Human Rights Law



Roman Girma Teshome's new book, [The Human Cost of Development – Situating Development-Induced Displacement in International Human Rights Law](#), has been published as part of the [NNHRR Human Rights Research Series](#) (T.M.C. Asser Press, 2026).

The book offers a comprehensive legal analysis of development-induced displacement (DID), examining how involuntary displacement linked to development projects can be understood and addressed through international human rights law.

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.



Rainy Days and Rays of Sunshine: Reflections from the 14th United Nations Business and Human Rights Forum by Silvia-Ciacchi

Reflecting on the 14th United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights, in her blog post [Silvia Ciacchi](#) explores what emerged from a gathering held at a challenging moment for the business and human rights field. Amid shrinking political support and mounting global crises, The Forum highlighted both the fragilities of the field and the determination of the BHR community to keep advancing the agenda.

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

Book Launch: The Companion to the European Convention on Human Rights by Naz-Yilancioglu-and-Kushtrim-Istrefi



On 7 January 2026, scholars, lawyers, and judges from the [European Court of Human Rights / Cour européenne des droits de l'homme](#) gathered together at [Universiteit Utrecht](#) for the book launch of 'The Companion to the European Convention on Human Rights', edited by [Kushtrim Istrefi](#), Zane Ratniece, and [Kresimir Kamber](#).

In their blog, [Kushtrim Istrefi](#) and [Naz Yilancioglu](#) comment on the event which traced the journey of the Companion, including how the project began, and reflected on the future of the Convention system.

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



Water Governance through a Human Rights Lens: Advancing Equality for Women and Girls by Tadesse Kebebew, Caroline-Pellaton, Erik-Schnetzler and Mara-Tignino

On the occasion of World Water Day (22 March), in their blog [Tadesse Kebebew](#), [Caroline Pellaton](#), [Erik A. Schnetzler](#) and [Mara Tignino](#) reflect on persistent global water inequalities and their disproportionate impacts on women and girls. The blog argues that

equitable water sharing and protection from armed conflicts are essential for peace, as unequal access often exacerbates conflict and instability.

The analysis advocates for centring women and girls in water governance across levels, adopting a human-rights-based approach to foster equity, inclusion and sustainability.

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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