

# HUMAN RIGHTS

## Research Committee 26

### IPSA International Political Science Association

#### Message from the Chair



Newsletter no. 18  
October 2024

Dear Friends,

It has been another six months since the last RC26 newsletter of April 2024 was published. Unfortunately, since then - predictably - not much has changed for the better in terms of human rights violations around the world. One can point to further locations where we are seeing armed conflicts. As I write these words, the Israeli army has launched a 'limited and targeted' ground operation against Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon. Iranian rockets are flying towards Israeli cities. It is a truism to say that every war brings suffering and casualties, most often among the weakest and defenceless.

Nevertheless, it must also be remembered that, despite the disparity of opposing forces, there are casualties on both sides in every armed conflict. Perhaps not symmetrical, but still. There will always be fathers, mothers, grandfathers, grandmothers, children and grandchildren of some people who have their own lives and feelings and suffer unmercifully because

#### What's inside?

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of it. Arguably, the belief that there will be a time without wars in the world may be regarded as mere utopia, but it is always worth repeating and shouting: never again war. However, we can point to many other inhumane consequences of wars than death and disability. Let us recall that 2023 saw a record number of refugees worldwide. An estimated 114 million persons worldwide have been forced to leave their homes, fleeing wars, persecution, violence, rape, and humanitarian crises. According to the UNHCR, nearly a third of all refugees came from just three countries: Afghanistan, Syria and Ukraine. Nevertheless, sadly, the list of human rights infringements does not end there. In recent months, too, we have regrettably seen numerous instances around the world of violence against women, repression against various minorities, restrictions on freedom of expression or breaches of social rights. When I was walking on a Sunday afternoon in September through the Old Market Square in Poznań, a city of 600 000 inhabitants in western Poland but not in the centre of international politics, I met a man, Mr. Wojciech Cichobłazinski ([https://www.instagram.com/strajk\\_dla\\_pokoju/?igsh=MWx4ZmhiaDk3cmQ3Y-g%3D%3D](https://www.instagram.com/strajk_dla_pokoju/?igsh=MWx4ZmhiaDk3cmQ3Y-g%3D%3D)), who was leading a protest action alone. He held a large poster with more or less the following content: “Strike for peace, enough wars! The UN and governments have failed, so now we citizens are calling up the United Nations Solidarity for Peace. We demand that contributions to the UN be withheld until the veto power for the five permanent members of this body is relinquished. We demand the elimination of nuclear weapons. We will enforce effective sanc-

#### Chair:

Jedrzej Skrzypczak  
Adam Mickiewicz University in  
Poznan, Poland  
[jedrzej.skrzypczak@gmail.com](mailto:jedrzej.skrzypczak@gmail.com)

#### Chair-elect:

Alex Sander Xavier Pires  
Universidade Autonoma de  
Lisboa, Portugal  
[aspires@gmail.com](mailto:aspires@gmail.com)

#### Vicechair

Oscar Pérez de la Fuente  
Carlos III University of Madrid  
Spain  
[oscar.perez@uc3m.es](mailto:oscar.perez@uc3m.es)

#### Secretary

Furqan Ahmed  
South Asia Research Institute  
for Minorities, SARIM Pakistan  
[furqan@sarimwatch.org](mailto:furqan@sarimwatch.org)

#### Boarad

Anju Gupta  
JECRC, University, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India.  
[anjugupta33@gmail.com](mailto:anjugupta33@gmail.com)

Cassius Guimaraes Chai  
Professor Universidade Federal  
do Maranhão (PPGDIR/Law)  
[cassiuschai@gmail.com](mailto:cassiuschai@gmail.com)

Radwan Ziadeh  
Arab Center – Washington D.C  
[radwan.ziadeh@gmail.com](mailto:radwan.ziadeh@gmail.com)

-tions. We demand a boycott of goods from aggressor states. In the age of globalisation, this is better than a retaliatory arsenal. We, United Nations Solidarity, are the ‘weaponry’ of the 21st Century. The millions will be feared more than the most modern arms. We are acting from the bottom up”. Few cared about this protest. However, perhaps it is worth considering whether these demands make sense. Possibly, reform of the United Nations system is needed. Certainly, mobilising global public opinion through meetings, discussions, and conferences can be an effective weapon. The RC26 on Human Rights of the IPSA community is trying to engage in this trend. That is why we have organised several scientific events in recent months.

On 6 May 2024, RC26 celebrated World Press Freedom Day. To mark the occasion, we organised a webinar during which we debated challenges and threats to media freedom and journalists worldwide. Distinguished speakers accepted our invitation to participate in the webinar: Prof. Enrique Armijo, Prof. Stanisław Jędrzejewski, Mr Javier Garza Ramos, Dr Dominika Bychawska-Siniarska, Prof. Shaista Tabassum, Prof. Leonardo Vizeu Figueiredo, and Prof. Alex Sander Pires.

For the first time as RC26, on 20 June 2024, we joined the global celebration of World Refugee Day. The theme attempted to show the scale of this phenomenon in different regions of the globe. The debate featured prominent panellists, including Prof. Felipe González Morales, Prof. Denise Gilman, Prof. Cláudio Carneiro, and Atty. Magdalena Bartosiewicz, Prof. Anna Potyrała, and Prof. Alex Sander Xavier Pires.

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to inform you that a book published by Routledge, entitled *Lessons for Implementing Human Rights from COVID-19: How the Pandemic Has Changed the World*, edited by Jędrzej Skrzypczak and Oscar Pérez de la Fuente, appeared on the market in August 2024. The publication is a result of RC26’s Poznań conference in 2021. The book analyses the impact of the pandemic on human rights, civil and political rights, and freedoms worldwide.

During the Democratisation and Autocratisation: The 75th Anniversary Conference (11-13 September 2024) in Lisbon, Prof. Alex Sander Pires and RC26 organised a panel entitled “Human Rights Education for Democracy.”

The RC26 hybrid business meeting was held on 11 September 2024 at the same IPSA conference in Lisbon. The programme included, among other things, the election of a new secretary, a position taken up by Furqan Ahmed of the South Asia Research Institute for Minorities (SARIM) in Pakistan. Congratulations.

A word of appreciation and thanks is due to Prof. Alex Sander Pires as co-editor of the book *Cultura de Paz e Direitos Humanos*, published in 2024 in Salamanca.

Congratulations and thanks to Prof. Cássius Guimarães Chai for organising the International Conference on Democracy and Constitutionalism held on 24 and 25 September 2024 at the Faculdade de Direito de Vitória (FDV) in Brazil.

I am glad the RC26 community is scientifically active, not only at the IPSA World Congresses. I want to thank all the members of our group, and especially the members of the RC26 board, for their support, help, and commitment during our many scientific events and for organising many exciting conferences and webinars. I admire your commitment and scientific activity.

We invite you to participate in all our scientific events in the coming months. The details are below.

Jedrzej Skrzypczak

**CALL FOR PAPERS. INTERIM CONFERENCE RC26: ‘THE EVOLUTION OF THE POSITION AND ROLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN POLITICAL SYSTEMS – ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY IN POZNAN, POLAND, CAMPUS SLUBICE, 28 NOVEMBER 2024 (HYBRID MODE)**

The evolution of human rights position and their role in political systems is a broad and complex topic involving changes in the legal framework, social values, and the impact of international relations. Currently, the role of human rights in political systems is characterised by both advances and setbacks. Despite significant progress in recognising and protecting such rights worldwide, numerous challenges remain, including authoritarianism, armed conflict and social inequality. The evolving nature of these rights requires constant adaptation of legal and policy frameworks to meet new challenges. The evolution of human rights in political systems reflects a journey from the privileges of a few to the inalienable rights of all individuals, influenced by historical events, philosophical ideas and social movements. This evolution continues today as societies and their political systems try to cope with the complex and changing landscape of human rights in the 21st Century. There have been calls for a change in the concept of these rights for some time. However, at the turn of the 20th and 21st Centuries, due to trends such as globalisation and the digital technological revolution, the need to seek a new axiological basis for the concept began to be recognised. RC26 seminar will be the part of bigger event, i.e the Conference “Citizen participation in political decision-making. Political activity vs. political passivity. 28-29 November 2024, Collegium Polonicum, Słubice. Participants of the RC26 panels are expected to attempt to shortly diagnose the setting and role of such rights in contemporary political systems and the main challenges. The meeting will be organised in panel(s) with the following themes: 1. “The position of human rights in global and regional political systems”, 2. “The role of human rights in national political systems. A cross-continental perspective”, 3. “Human rights in concepts of deglobalisation and re-globalisation”, 4. “The next generations of human rights - attempts at diagnosis and prediction”. Abstracts (up to 400 words) and queries should be

Abstracts (up to 400 words) and queries should be sent to [je-drzej.skrzypczak@gmail.com](mailto:je-drzej.skrzypczak@gmail.com) and [oscar@der-pu.uc3m.es](mailto:oscar@der-pu.uc3m.es).

The deadline for submission of abstracts will be postponed till the end of October 2024.

Confirmation of abstract acceptance will be provided by the beginning of November 2024.

The deadline for submission of complete articles for publication is 31 December 2024.

This international conference will be hosted by the Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland, Campus in Slubice, Poland (<https://www.cp.edu.pl/en/index.html>) on 28 November 2024. The Słubice campus is located in a border town between Poland and Germany, 100 km from Berlin and 180 km from Poznań, which provides excellent transport links. Representatives from other IPSA research committees will also be invited to attend. The conference fee applies to those attending in person in Słubice. The cost of participation in the conference (without study travel) is PLN 750 (=EUR 175 including accommodation, meals on the first day of the conference, breakfast on 29 November). The corresponding amount should be paid by bank transfer. The account number with your details will be sent to your email addresses. Please write 'Evolution + Participant's Name' in the transfer title. The study tour is not included in the conference fee. We will ask you to pay the organisers €35 for the trip fee on the first day of the conference. Participants of the trip are guaranteed extra accommodation and dinner on 29 November) Information about the conference and the application form will be available on the organisers' websites: the Centre for European Research and Education [http://obiee.amu.edu.pl/\(tab 'Scientific Conferences—Evolution 2023'\)](http://obiee.amu.edu.pl/(tab 'Scientific Conferences—Evolution 2023')) and the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism of the Adam Mickiewicz University [www.wnpid.amu.edu.pl](http://www.wnpid.amu.edu.pl). **Online participants do not pay any fees.**

## **POLITICAL IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE: THE CASE OF BANGLADESH**

**Dr. M. Shahrukh Shahnawaz**

Writer is a lawyer,

Member of the Environmental Committee of the Sindh High Court Bar Association Karachi,

&

The Faculty of Department of International Relations, University of Karachi

The interim government of Bangladesh under Muhammad Yunus, after the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajid by the student protest, is facing its first challenge, which is the death, devastation, and destruction caused by the recent floods, as nearly 300,000 people are taking refuge in emergency shelters, while the student leader in the cabinet accused India of deliberately releasing water from dams.

The fall of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajid is also a stark reminder that economic growth and development do not ensure political stability if human rights are being trampled. According to the Human Rights Watch, in 2023, ahead of the 2024 general elections, the authorities started making mass arrests of opposition members and using excessive force against protestors.

Amnesty International reported that the government intensified its crackdown on the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly ahead of elections, including abusing the Digital Security Act and other legislation to target journalists and human rights defenders, subjecting them to arbitrary detention and torture, and not being held accountable for enforced disappearances and custodial deaths.

However, the present interim government can face the same fate as the government of the father of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975, whose government was unable to respond to the destruction caused by the 1970 Bhola Cyclone, followed by 1974 famine, eventually leading to the declaration of emergency by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman government, followed by his assassination, and a long military rule.

The 1970 Bhola Cyclone led to the 1971 Pakistani Civil War, between West Pakistan and East Pakistan, which later turned into the 1971 Pakistan-India War, and saw the fall of Dhaka and East Pakistan, and the emergence of Bangladesh. The people of East Pakistan had many grievances from the government of West Pakistan especially the fishermen community of the East Pakistan, whose rights and plight were raised and shared by the great Faiz Ahmad Faiz, in his movie Jago Hua Savera (1959), based on the Bengali novel Padma Nadir Majhi, by Manik Bandopadhyay, which is a 1936 novel, depicted the plight of the Bengali fishermen residing on the banks of Padma river during the British colonial rule. The Bengal region paid heavy attention to British colonialism during the 1943 Bengal Famine, which killed around three million people and was a manmade disaster, primarily driven by the war policy of the British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

Bangladesh has learned from its previous historical and political experiences pertaining to floods, famines, and cyclones, and made history when the Supreme Court of Bangladesh declared all its rivers a living entity in 2019, contributing to the development of the rights of rivers.



Both India and Bangladesh fear China's construction of dams in Tibet along a bend in the river, in the vicinity of the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, on the Yarlung Tsangpo River, known as the Brahmaputra River in India. For India, this project could trigger flash floods or create water scarcity, or give China strategic leverage over India on border disputes in the Himalayan mountains, while Bangladesh claims that it is more adversely affected than India, as the Brahmaputra River is important for sustaining Bangladesh's livelihood and agriculture, especially in the dry season, potentially and possibly causing displacement.

Both India and Bangladesh share 54 rivers and signed the Ganga Waters Treaty in December 1996, announced in 2024 that both sides had started technical negotiations to renew it. Before the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajid toppled in August 2024, climate change caused the displacement of coastal communities, adversely affected farmers and the agriculture sector, and caused the death of farmers due to lightning. These and other environment-related causes have contributed to the uprising against the government, which has been overshadowed by student protests. The government took some remarkable steps, such as building resilient homes and providing job opportunities for climate refugees, but this was not enough.

Bangladesh has suffered and survived many environmental disasters since British colonial rule. Its story and struggle provide lessons and warnings to other South Asian countries to seriously threaten the environment, as it has serious political implications. The challenges for the present interim government of Bangladesh are immense, but the first one pertains to environmental disasters, exacerbated by climate change, and unless it is ready and willing to accept the environmental threat as a reality, it might end up facing the same fate as the first government of Bangladesh did in 1975

Digital version: <https://humanrights.webphilosophia.com/archivos/228>

**PROVISIONALLY ACCEPTED OPEN PANELS IN RC26 HUMAN RIGHTS  
28THWORLDCONGRESSOFPOLITICALSCIENCE,SEOUL,12-16JULY2025**

Details of Panel 1

Open Panel: **AN ANALYSIS OF IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM POLICY  
IN BRAZIL AND ITS IMPLICATIONS**

Convener: **Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim, Federal University of Rio Grande Do Sul  
Porto Alegre - RS, Brazil**

Chair: **Prof. Azul America Aguiar Aguiar, Jesuit University of Guadala-  
jara Cedar Forests.**

Co-Chair: **Dr. Irasema Coronado, Arizona State University, Phoenix , Ari-  
zona 85048 United States ,North America.**

Discussant(s): **1- Dr. Istemi Berk, Dokuz Eylul University, Faculty of Busi-  
ness, Department of Economics Türkiye. 2- Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim, Federal  
University of Rio Grande Do Sul Porto Alegre - RS, Brazil.**

More Info: [https://wc2025.ipsa.org/wc/panel/analysis-immigration-and-asylum-po-  
licy-brazil-and-its-implications](https://wc2025.ipsa.org/wc/panel/analysis-immigration-and-asylum-policy-brazil-and-its-implications)

Details of Panel 2

Open Panel: **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMO-  
CRACY AND THE JUDICIARY**

Convener: **Dr. Oscar Perez de la Fuente, University Carlos III Madrid, Spain  
, Europe.**

Chair: **Prof. Jędrzej Skrzypczak, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan,  
Poland, Europe.**

Discussant(s): **Dr. Oscar Perez de la Fuente, University Carlos III Madrid,  
Spain , Europe.**

More Info: [https://wc2025.ipsa.org/wc/panel/artificial-inteligen-  
ce-human-ri-ghts-democracy-and-judiciary](https://wc2025.ipsa.org/wc/panel/artificial-intelligence-human-ri-ghts-democracy-and-judiciary)

### Details of Panel 3

Open Panel: **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS AND THREATS TO HUMAN RIGHTS**

Convener: **Prof. Jędrzej Skrzypczak, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland, Europe.**

Chair: **Dr. Oscar Perez de la Fuente, University Carlos III Madrid, Spain, Europe.**

Discussant(s): Prof. Jędrzej Skrzypczak, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland, Europe.

More Info: <https://wc2025.ipsa.org/wc/panel/artificial-intelligence-systems-and-threats-human-rights>

### Details of Panel 4

Open Panel: **CULTURAL AND IDENTITY RIGHTS IN POLARIZED SOCIETIES: INSIGHTS FROM BHARTIYA GYAN PARAMPARA**

Convener: **Prof. (Dr.) Mamta Chandrashekhar, Tokat Gaziosmanpaşa University, Madhya Pradesh, India, Asia.**

Chair: **Dr. Biswajit Mohapatra, Department of Political Science, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, India, Asia.**

Co-Chair: **Ms. Chhavi Saini, IIS University Jaipur, India, Asia.**

Discussant(s): **Dr. Dr kamal Kishor Saini, University of Rajasthan, India, Asia.**

More Info: <https://wc2025.ipsa.org/wc/panel/cultural-and-identity-rights-polarized-societies-insights-bhartiya-gyan-parampara>

## Details of Panel 5

Open Panel: **DEMOCRACY AND CONSTITUTIONALISM IN AN ERA OF POLITICAL UPHEAVAL: EXPLORING THE INTERSECTIONS OF DEVELOPMENT, SUSTAINABILITY, AND THE RULE OF LAW**

Convener: **Prof. Cássius Guimarães Chai, Universidade Federal do Maranhão (UFMA), São Luís, Maranhão, Brazil. South America.**

Chair: **Prof. Cássius Guimarães Chai, Universidade Federal do Maranhão (UFMA), São Luís, Maranhão, Brazil. South America.**

Co-Chair: **Prof. Jędrzej Skrzypczak, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland, Europe.**

1- Discussant(s) **Mrs. Anju Gupta, JECRC University, Jaipur B-703 Seven Heavens Gandhi Path West, Lalarpura, Vaishali Nagar Jaipur , rajasthan302021 India , Asia.**

2- **Mr. Yasir Ali, PhD Scholar, International Relations, University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan, Asia.**

3- **Mr. Furqan Ahmed, Senior Research Associate, South Asia Institute for Minorities (SARIM), University of Karachi, Karachi Pakistan, Asia.**

More Info: <https://wc2025.ipsa.org/wc/panel/democracy-and-constitutionalism-era-political-upheaval-exploring-intersections-development>

## Details of Panel 6

Open Panel: **HUMAN RIGHTS IN CRITICAL TIMES**

Convener: **Mr. Victor Manuel Quisca Yucra, Universidad Católica de Santa María , Peru.**

Chair: To be Announced

Co-Chair: To be Announced

Discussant(s): **Mr. Victor Manuel Quisca Yucra, Universidad Católica de Santa María , Peru.**

More Info: <https://wc2025.ipsa.org/wc/panel/human-rights-critical-times>

#### Details of Panel 7

Open Panel: **HUMAN RIGHTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Convener: **Ms. Hasna Nasser, Université Libanaise , Lebanon**

Chair: To be Announced

Co-Chair: To be Announced

Discussant(s): To be Announced

More Info: <https://wc2025.ipsa.org/wc/panel/human-rights-political-science>

#### Details of Panel 8

Open Panel: **HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE POLARIZED SOCIETIES**

Convener: **Dr. Meenakshi Bansal, Chaudhary Bansi Lal University, Haryana, India , Asia.**

Chair: **Dr. Meenakshi Bansal, Chaudhary Bansi Lal University, India, Asia.**

Co-Chair: **Dr. Suresh Kumar Jangir, Chaudhary Bansi Lal University, Haryana, India , Asia.**

Discussant(s): **Dr. Rajesh Kumar Sharma, University of Rajasthan , India.**

More Info: <https://wc2025.ipsa.org/wc/panel/human-rights-polarized-societies>

**BEYOND EUROPE – RC26 PANEL “AI AND HUMAN RIGHTS”  
(12-13 DECEMBER 2024 ). CALL FOR PAPERS.**

‘Beyond Europe: Artificial Intelligence’ is an international conference organised by the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism and the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of Adam Mickiewicz University on 12-13 December 2024 on the challenges and opportunities of the emergence of artificial intelligence in technology, politics, health and communication. However, the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) systems raises some concerns about the risks to protecting human rights.

A panel organised by IPSA’s RC26 for this event will focus on diagnosing these threats and developing strategies, international regulatory frameworks and ethical standards for such systems to counter these dangers. In this way, RC26 wishes to join in celebrating Human Rights Day 2024. The panel will be held in hybrid mode.

Abstracts (up to 400 words) and queries should be sent to [jedrzej.skrzypczak@gmail.com](mailto:jedrzej.skrzypczak@gmail.com). The deadline for abstract submission is the end of October 2024. Confirmation of abstract acceptance will take place in early November 2024. Details are available on the conference website <https://beyondeurope.web.amu.edu.pl/>. **Participation in the online conference is free of charge.**

## **RC26 CELEBRATED WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY - 6 MAY 2024**

On 6 May 2024, we as the RC26 on Human Rights of the IPSA celebrated World Press Freedom Day for the first time. Let us recall that the United Nations General Assembly declared 3 May as World Press Freedom Day, also known as World Press Day, more than 30 years ago in 1993. The primary purpose of this global initiative is to raise awareness of the importance of press freedom and to remind governments by the international community of their obligation to respect and uphold the right to freedom of expression enshrined in Article XIX of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to focus the world's attention on fundamental issues of media freedom, as well as to defend the media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to those journalists who have sometimes sacrificed their lives in the exercise of their professional duties. As emphasised at the time, the right to freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of the press, access to information and the pursuit of peace and sustainable development - are closely inter-linked. Indeed, without free and pluralistic media, there can be no proper democracy. Therefore, media freedom and freedom of expression must be considered fundamental human rights. During the webinar, we focused not only on issues related to this year's theme announced by UNESCO, i.e. 'Press for the Planet: Journalism in the face of the environmental crisis', but also on other challenges, particularly threats to media freedom and journalists worldwide. Our invitation to the webinar was accepted by distinguished panelists, among them Prof. Enrique Armijo (Elon University School of Law/USA), who gave a lecture on 'Government interactions with the press: Lessons from Social Media', Prof. Stanislaw Jedrzejewski (Leon Kozminski Academy in Warsaw), who presented the topic 'PSM in Poland: between darkness and light'. Another speaker was the well-known Mexican journalist Javier Garza Ramos (Board member of the World Editors Forum, Article 19 and Mexico's National Commission to Prevent Discrimination), who spoke about the challenges to media freedom from Mexico's perspective. This was followed by Prof. Leonardo Vizeu Figueiredo (Universidade Federal Fluminense/Brazil), who lectured on 'Free-

dom about natural rights, human rights and fundamental rights - challenges for press freedom'. In turn, Prof. Alex Sander Pires (Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa, Portugal) spoke about the media's freedom in the face of democratic values. Next, Dr Dominika Bychawska-Siniarska (Media Freedom Observatory at the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights) focused on the problem of 'Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation'. Finally, Prof. Shaista Tabassum (Professor of International Relations, Dean Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences University of Karachi, Pakistan) presented the issue of 'Freedom of expression and the right to reliable information'.

vVideo of the event: <https://youtu.be/NDRCVNWkrwg?si=D9-ug5da3zcvIybx>

## **THE RC26 CELEBRATED THE WORLD REFUGEE DAY - 20 JUNE 2024**

20 June 2024 was also the first time we commemorated World Refugee Day, an annual holiday celebrated worldwide on 20 June, established on 4 December 2000 (Resolution 55/76) by the UN General Assembly to honour the courage and strength of refugees. It is worth recalling here that in 2001, the world observed the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. In turn, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) expressed its belief that this holiday should fall on the same day as African Refugee Day, i.e. 20 June. Since 2001, this day has been solemnised as World Refugee Day. During the RC26 webinar, representatives from the realm of human rights practice and academia from different corners of the world discussed the situation of refugees worldwide. The central theme was, on the one hand, an attempt to show the scale of this phenomenon in different regions of the planet and, on the other hand, to commemorate the strength and courage of people who have been forced to leave their country to escape conflict or persecution. The debate featured distinguished panellists, including:

- Professor Felipe Gonzalez Morales (UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants 2017 – 2023),
- Prof. Denise Gilman (Director for the Clinic on Immigration of the University



of Texas, USA),

- Prof. Cláudio Carneiro ( Lawyer, Professor and Writer, Chairman of the Compliance and Governance Committee of the Brazilian Lawyers Institute. Vice-president of the Ethical & Compliance International Institute, Brasil),

- Atty. Magdalena Bartosiewicz, attorney-at-law chair of the Commission for International Cooperation and Human Rights Council of Attorneys in Law in Poland and Head of the Refugee Legal Aid Coordination Centre of the National Chamber of Legal Advisers in Poland;

- Prof. Anna Potyrała (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland),
- and Prof. Alex Sander Xavier Pires (Chair elect of the RC26 on Human Rights, UAL, Lisbon, Portugal).

Video of the event: <https://youtu.be/oA8DuMDSV5Q?si=CQIBR4QUBIVyFvxM>

## **A WORLD IN PERIL: CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE EROSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

Dr. Uzma Shujjat  
Director, Area Study Centre for Europe  
University of Karachi  
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Climate Change is a human rights threat with causes and consequences that cross borders; thus, it requires a global response underpinned by international solidarity. States should share resources, knowledge, and technologies to address climate change. Climate change is one of the greatest threats to human rights of our generation, posing a serious threat to the fundamental rights to life, health, food, and an adequate standard of living of individuals and communities across the world.

The dramatic impact of climate change has exposed devastating clarity and the integral of a healthy environment to the benefit of all our other rights. Climate change is intimately linked with human rights because of its effect on not only the environment but also our own well-being and ultimately our survival. Big powers, especially from higher-income countries with the greatest historical responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions, are not fulfilling their responsibilities.

World leaders, especially those from the developed world, have the greatest responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions and do not fulfill their legal obligations to address climate change and help, in the long run, adapt to the change that has already occurred. If these developed ones are not going to respond seriously and act quickly, the effects of the unprecedented weather conditions of frequent heat waves, excessive flooding, and

rainfall will continue to rise and worsen over time, creating a threat for current and future generations. Thus, the failure of governments to act in a responsible manner to address the crises accompanying scientific evidence and frequent dialers and predictions be the biggest intergovernmental human rights violation in human history.

In addition to the Government, the corporate sector is responsible for addressing and respecting human rights in the context of climate change. The impact of climate change includes warming temperatures, changes in precipitation, and increases in the frequency or intensity of extreme weather, and rising sea levels.

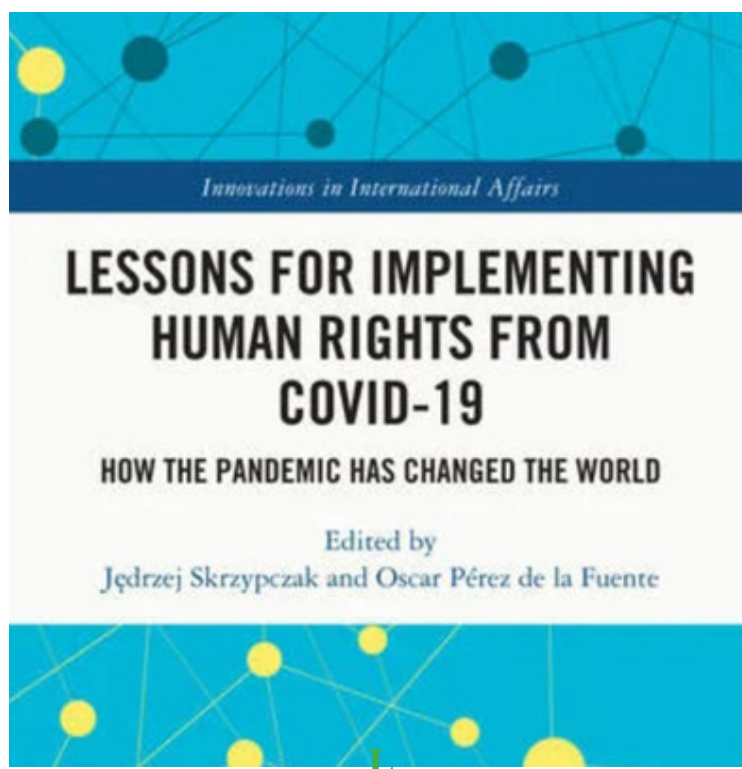
These impacts threaten our health by affecting the food we eat, water we drink, air we breathe, and weather we experience. The human actions that affect climate change, such as burning fossil fuels, cutting down forests, and farming livestock, have increasingly influenced the climate and the earth's temperature. According to Resolution 53/6 July 2023, the council recognized the importance of minimizing and addressing the loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

The dangers of climate change are particularly important for Children. Climate change has threatened livelihoods in the last decade, and international, regional, and national Human Rights bodies have recorded a rise in human rights violations in accordance with climate change. Here, we consider some high-risk human rights violations that are solely connected with livelihoods.

Access to clean water climate change is meagerly affecting and will continue to affect rising trends and the availability, accessibility, and affordability of water. This was mostly due to natural degradation changes and anthropogenic factors. Large corporate sectors are highly responsible for large-scale damage to the water system, contamination, and poor quality of water, which are sources of amenities. The right to life and climate change have a vital connection; sudden extreme weather events due to changes in the natural system, such as heat waves, wildfires, excessive flooding, and rainfall, usually lead

-tural system, such as heat waves, wildfires, excessive flooding, and rainfall, usually lead to people losing their lives, resulting in a very high death toll, right to health, and food.

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**LESSONS FOR IMPLEMENTING HUMAN RIGHTS FROM COVID-19: HOW THE PANDEMIC HAS CHANGED THE WORLD, JĘDRZEJ SKRZYPCZAK, OSCAR PÉREZ DE LA FUENTE (EDS.), ROUTLEDGE 2024**

In August 2024, a book published by Routledge, entitled *Lessons for Implementing Human Rights from COVID-19: How the Pandemic Has Changed the World* by Jędrzej Skrzypczak, Oscar Pérez de la Fuente (Eds.), appeared on the market. This publication results from the 2021 RC26 project and the Poznan conference on the topic. The book examines the impact of the pandemic on human rights, civil and political rights (CPR), economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) and freedoms worldwide. The COVID-19 pandemic radically changed many aspects of individuals' lives and entire societies. This crisis and unprecedented experience required extraordinary solutions, regulations and rapid responses by decision-makers to limit the spread of the disease and protect societies. To this end, many countries chose to impose states of emergency during this period, granting extraordinary powers to the executive authorities. This sometimes provided a very convenient pretext for introducing various types of restrictions, oppressive surveillance and other legal arrangements that can be qualified as human rights violations. The authors

offer a scholarly summary of this time, identifying possible infringements of rights - but most importantly - recommendations for the future. The crisis has demonstrated the significance of having universal, equitable health and social protection systems that include all community members equally and without discrimination. At the same time, the authors remodel the concept of 'human rights' and 'human needs'. The book covers a variety of examples, from blockades to vaccination and information control, in Spain, Poland, the Czech Republic, Belarus and Ukraine, South Africa and Uganda, and Russia. The tome comprises, eleven thematic chapters with a conclusion, starting with the Introduction: How Has the COVID-19 Pandemic Changed the World from the Human Rights Perspective? (Jedrzej Skrzypczak and Oscar Pérez de la Fuente), 1. Accountability and COVID-19: The Spanish Perspective (Oscar Pérez de la Fuente), 2. Enforcement of Equality Before the Law in Poland During the Coronavirus Pandemic (Roman Bäcker and Joanna Rak), 3. COVID-19 Entrepreneurs: Corruption and the Violation of the Rights of Health and Development in South Africa and Uganda (Marianne Séverin and Hannah Muzee), 4. New World Order After the Pandemic: Can 'New Political Thinking' Be Reinvented? (A. Yu. Sungurov), 5. Models of Human Resource Management in Healthcare Systems During a Pandemic: The Example of Poland (Jędrzej Skrzypczak and Tomasz Maksymiuk), 6. Smart Quarantine vs Strict Lockdown: Restrictions on Political Rights in Anti-Pandemic Strategies in the Czech Republic (Maciej Skrzypek), 7. Is Obligatory Vaccination Against COVID-19 Acceptable from the Human Rights Perspective? (Tomasz Litwin), 8. Threats to Freedom of Expression in the Era of the COVID-19 Pandemic (Jędrzej Skrzypczak and Krzysztof Duda), 9. The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Changes in the Media Market and Information Pluralism (Wojciech Adamczyk), 10. The COVID-19 Pandemic as Another Pretext for Information Control: Case Studies of Belarus and Ukraine (Vladyslav Zinichenko), 11. Grassroots Activity of Russian Citizens in Response to the Worsening Pandemic-Related Crisis of the State (Anna Jach), Conclusions: Lessons for the Future from the COVID-19 Pandemic (Jedrzej Skrzypczak and Oscar Pérez de la Fuente).

# BIOTECHNOLOGY IN THE NEW AGE: EXPLORING ITS SYNERGY WITH AI, ECONOMY, POLICY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND IPR

Anju Gupta.

Head Department of Political Science

JECRC University, JAIPUR (India)

## **Introduction:**

Ah, biotechnology—a field that started out studying the tiny mysteries of life and has now become a full-fledged celebrity in science, stealing the limelight from even AI and blockchain at times. But don't worry, this isn't one of those stuffy science blogs. We're here to mix biochemistry with a dash of humor and dive into how biotech is cozying up to some new-age trends like AI, economics, policy-making, entrepreneurship, and the ever-important intellectual property rights (IPR). Spoiler alert: It's a fascinating ride.

## **AI and Biotechnology: The Dynamic Duo We Didn't Know We Needed**

It was inevitable that Artificial Intelligence and Biotechnology would become best friends eventually. AI has been flexing its muscles in almost every industry imaginable, but in biotech, it's like that one friend who brings the coolest gadgets to a dinner party.

- Drug Discovery: AI helps biotech companies find new drugs faster than a teenager skipping through Netflix options. By analyzing massive amounts of biological data, AI can predict which molecules are most likely to be the next big cure. While biotech is occupied with lab work, AI is there to whisper in its ear, 'Hey, give this one a try.' You might like it."

- Genetic Engineering: AI-powered CRISPR technologies are on the rise, and no,

## **The Economy: Biotech's Financial Glow-Up**

Biotechnology isn't just for science nerds in lab coats anymore. No, it's a full-blown economic powerhouse. Investors are investing in biotech startups as if it were the next cryptocurrency boom (with less volatility, mostly).

- **Investment Trends:** Biotechnology startups are now a hot ticket item. Venture capitalists are chasing them down like they're handing out free kombucha at a tech conference. Investors are drawn to Biotech's promise of revolutionary cures, treatments, and eco-friendly solutions. The sector is expected to hit new highs—think more IPOs and a few more yachts for those early investors.

- **Job Creation:** Biotech is not just creating new drugs and therapies; it's creating jobs. From lab researchers to marketing gurus (because even gene therapy needs a brand), the industry is bolstering the economy like a protein shake for job growth.

Sure, we may not see biotechnology sponsoring the Super Bowl halftime show anytime soon, but give it a few years.

## **Policy-Making: When Science Meets Suit-and-Tie World**

If you think biotech is complicated, try navigating the maze of policies and regulations around it. Policymakers act as the grown-ups in the room, trying to figure out how to allow biotech to proceed without causing a Jurassic Park scenario.

- **Ethical Debates:** Should we tweak human genes? Is it okay to modify crops? These aren't just dinner table conversation starters anymore—they're real issues that governments are tackling. And unlike your family's Thanksgiving debates, these come with actual consequences.



- **Ethical Debates:** Should we tweak human genes? Is it okay to modify crops? These aren't just dinner table conversation starters anymore—they're real issues that governments are tackling. And unlike your family's Thanksgiving debates, these come with actual consequences.

- **Regulatory Hurdles:** New biotech breakthroughs like CRISPR or lab-grown meat can't just be tossed into the market. Regulations are necessary to ensure safety, but they also can slow down innovation. It's a bit like having to explain every step of a complicated dance to a judge before you can actually perform it. Fun? Not so much. Necessary? Absolutely.

On the bright side, once policy catches up, biotech innovations usually make a splash. Plus, we can all agree that no one wants unregulated genetic experiments running amok. Thanks, government.

### **Entrepreneurship: Startups, Unicorns, and Biotech Millionaires**

In the old days, if you wanted to make millions, you started an app or launched a podcast. But now, biotech entrepreneurship is the new gold rush. Forget social media influencers—bio-entrepreneurs are the next superstars.

- **Startups Everywhere:** Biotech startups are springing up like mushrooms after a rainstorm. Whether it's gene-editing therapies, next-gen agriculture, or synthetic biology, there's a startup for it. And these aren't just hobby projects; many of them have real potential to change the world (and maybe even get a Netflix documentary).

- **Challenges:** Sure, starting a biotech company might sound glamorous, but it's not all pipettes and venture capital. The costs are high, the timelines are long, and there's always the small issue of actually getting your product through regulatory approvals. Still, for those who can navigate the murky waters, the rewards can be astronomical.

Biotech entrepreneurs are living the dream—if your dream includes FDA paperwork and petri dishes.

## **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR): The Unsung Hero of Biotech**

In biotechnology, intellectual property rights (IPR) are as important as lab coats. Without strong IPR protection, innovation in biotech would look like a game of Monopoly without the rules—and trust us, nobody wants that chaos.

- **Patents Galore:** Biotech inventions are patent-heavy. Whether it's a new cancer drug or a genetically modified crop, patents help companies protect their work. But navigating biotech patents can feel like playing chess against a very strict librarian—one wrong move, and your company could be out.

- **Challenges:** IPR in biotech can get thorny. Who owns the rights to a modified gene? Can someone really patent a part of the human body? These types of questions are what make IPR lawyers both necessary and somewhat intimidating. But at the end of the day, strong IPR ensures that the people who spend years developing new technologies get to reap the rewards.

Just remember: in biotech, patents aren't just a piece of paper—they're the backbone of innovation.

### **Conclusion:**

The focus of biotechnology is no longer solely on curing diseases or creating genetically modified plants. In ways that are both surprising and exciting, this field is interconnect-

ing with some of the most significant new-age trends, including AI, the economy, policy-making, entrepreneurship, and intellectual property rights. And while the journey might be full of twists, turns, and the occasional government form, biotech is undoubtedly carving its place in the future.

In the end, whether you're a budding bio-entrepreneur, a policy-maker scratching your head, or just someone curious about the future of humanity, biotechnology is a field worth watching—and maybe even chuckling about along the way.

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### **RC26 AT IPSA'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE IN LISBON**

The conference “Democratisation and Autocratisation: the 75th Anniversary Conference IPSA 11-13 September 2024 in Lisbon, attended by 477 participants from 68 countries, presented more than 360 papers in 79 panels. Thanks to the involvement of Professor Alex Sander Pires (RC26 Chair-Elect), RC26 organised a panel entitled ‘Education for Democracy in Scope of Human Rights’. The Chair was Alex Sander Pires, Portugal, and the undersigned acted as a discussant. The following papers were given during the panel: 1. Combatting Misinformation and the Assault on Academic Freedom with Research, Education, and Advocacy (Heather L. Pfeifer, University of Baltimore, USA), 2. Constructing Democracy and Citizenship in Cultural and Education Policies (Katja Mäkinen, University of Jyväskylä, Finland), 3. Democracy, Sport and Right to Peace: The Legacy of Pierre de Coubertin (Alexandre Miguel Mestre, Autonomous University of Lisbon, Portugal), 4. Education, culture of peace and democracy: three vertices for a better world (Alex Sander Pires, Autonomous University of Lisbon, Portugal), 5. Forms of Democratic Education in the 21st Century. Can Democracy Still Be Sexy for Generation Z? (Jedrzej Skrzypczak, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland), 6. International Security and Democracy: Building a Path to a Successful Security Sector Reform SSR (Carlos Imbrosio Filho, Autonomous University of Lisbon, Portugal).

## **RC26 BUSINESS MEETING, LISBON, PORTUGAL, 11 SEPTEMBER 2024**

During the Democratisation and Autocratisation: the IPSA 75th Anniversary Conference, the RC26 hybrid business meeting was held on 11 September 2024 in Lisbon, Portugal. The programme included: 1. Approval of the agenda, 2. Election of the new Secretary, 3. IPSA WC Seoul 2025 - important information, 4. RC26 plans for 2024/25 (conferences and events, WIPS), and 5. Varia. Indeed, the most critical item on the agenda was the election of a new secretary. For personal and health reasons, Radwan Ziadeh of the Arab Center in Washington, DC, resigned as Secretary. He will now serve as a member of the RC26 Council. Furqan Ahmed, South Asia Research Institute for Minorities SARIM, Pakistan, a current member of the RC26 Board, agreed to serve as Secretary. The proposals were accepted unanimously. Again, my congratulations to both gentlemen and I look forward to an excellent collaboration in the coming months. I would like to thank Professor Alex Sander Pires for the perfect organisation of this meeting at the headquarters of the Autonomous University of Lisbon, Portugal.

## THE UN AT 79: NAVIGATING NEUTRALITY IN A DIVIDED WORLD

Furqan Ahmed

Senior Research Associate, South Asia Research Institute for Minorities (SARIM).

Secretary, Research Committee 26 RC26 - Human Rights, General Research

Coordinator, International Association of Political Science Students, IAPSS.

### **Introduction:**

October 24, 2024 marks the commemoration of the 'United Nations Day' and this blog is dedicated to celebrate the birth of United Nations with an aim as whistleblower, highlight the challenges the UN faces in effectively addressing global peace in a divided world. The emergence of the United Nations took place on October 24, 1945 as a result of one of the most horrific wars human beings have ever witnessed. The United Nations (UN) was established by its member states, which then created a new primary body of international law and human rights that is regulated by the International Bill of Human Rights, a set of five treaties that each state has ratified in compliance with its own domestic laws on foreign commitments. Before we begin our dissection on why the UN is failing in maintaining global peace, we will dive into some of its major achievements, which are tantamount to success rather than failure. Here are three pillars, which define the UN's significance achievements:

1- Fight against poverty, hunger, and health related initiatives: The United Nation provides food and financial assistance to over 80 million people, while, it provide aid to more than 69 million people who have fled their homeland due to persecution, conflict, or human rights violation. Along with that, the UN facilitates 45% of the world's children with vaccines, saving as estimated 2 to 3 million lives.

- 2- Efforts for upholding Human Rights through:
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
  - International Convention on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
  - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

3- Decolonization: Before its inception in 1945, there was a massive network of Colonizers across the world, 750 million people lived under the colonial regime. The numbers have been trickled down to 2 million people today. Despite these monumental achievements, the UN is still under immense pressure, be it the financial crunch, post Covid-19 and the other bulging challenges regarding maintaining a massive influx of migrants caused by two of contemporary regional conflicts of Russo-Ukraine War and Middle-East crisis, and climate change.

### **Critical Analysis:**

The outbreak of the Russo-Ukraine war on February 24, 2022, and the ongoing crisis in Gaza are stark reminders that contemporary conflicts are not isolated events but rather the culmination of decades of unresolved tensions. As war experts warn of the potential for these conflicts to escalate into a global confrontation, including the frightening prospect of World War III, it is crucial to examine the effectiveness of international organizations tasked with maintaining peace. The purpose of the following commentary is to examine the causes, which is making the UN a 'toothless tiger. At first place, why it [UN] failed to prevent these two recent wars, while on the second place, why this intergovernmental organization is failing to maintain neutrality in establishing global peace. Numerous independent reports document gross human rights violations in conflict zones, where innocent civilians bear the brunt of war. The UN's failure to act decisively in these situations raises critical questions about its effectiveness as a peacekeeping body. Why has the UN struggled to prevent recent wars, and what specific cases illustrate its compromised neutrality?

“The author also gave a reference to his interaction with Prof. Dr. Heinz-Dietrich Steinmeyer in a podcast that took place on October 10, 2024 titled “Social Security and Minority Rights: Lessons from Europe for South Asia”. In response to a question to Prof. Steinmeyer, that “do you really think that UN is failing to maintain neutrality and in establishing global peace”, the guest responded that, is the world ready to live a peaceful life, that is the reason UN is becoming extremely compulsive in maintaining neutrality, because you sometimes have to deal with the good-one and the bad ones”

Is the UN on the verge of become the League of Nations 2.0? The following proposition will explore the similarities in the failure of the League of Nations with its replacing counterpart, the United Nations, in maintaining global peace and why it is heading towards repeating the same mistakes, which caused the demise of the League of Nations and the outbreak of World War II.

### **Historical Background:**

Historically, the League of Nations provides a compelling case study of the failures in global governance. Established after World War I to prevent future conflicts, the League ultimately faltered in the 1930s, unable to respond effectively to aggression from rising powers. This historical precedent raises important questions about the current role of the United Nations (UN) and its ability to learn from past mistakes. The main reason gave birth to the creation of an intergovernmental organization, known as the United Nations, was the miserable failure of the League, the first intergovernmental organization that was established after the World War I, which was built of the principles of maintaining international peace, achieving international cooperation, and being a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations. Reasons behind the failures of League of Nations: The League of Nations was sandwiched between aggressor nations [Germany, Italy, and Japan] and the abysmal performance of its own members [Britain and France], failing to appease Hitler – actions that arguably led to the outbreak of World War II. The member states became hostile to each other as a result of the ‘World Economic Depression’ in the late 1930s. The overtaking of fascist dictatorships in Germany, Italy, and

Japan] and the abysmal performance of its own members [Britain and France], failing to appease Hitler – actions that arguably led to the outbreak of World War II. The member states became hostile to each other as a result of the ‘World Economic Depression’ in the late 1930s. The overtaking of fascist dictatorships in Germany, Italy, and Japan, which were intended for empire-building, and these countries defied the League.

Can the UN adapt its strategies to overcome historical pitfalls and effectively maintain global peace in the face of contemporary challenges?

“76 years and half a trillion dollars later, the international community is divided on the effectiveness of the United Nations. Overall, the UN has a positive international image but the partisan divide over supporting the UN has widened, particularly in the United States. The United States’ perception of the UN is important since the United States is the largest donor to the UN and accounts for roughly 20% of the UN’s collective budget”

Katelyn

Balakir

The effectiveness of the United Nations remains a contentious issue, with a positive international image overshadowed by a widening partisan divide, particularly in the U.S., which contributes 20% of the UN's budget. While the UN has achieved significant successes in humanitarian aid, human rights, and decolonization, it faces critical limitations, including enforcement challenges, Security Council inaction, and perceptions of Western dominance, all of which hinder its peacekeeping efforts and future operations amid financial constraints and fluctuating political support from member states.

### **Role in Peacekeeping Missions Globally:**

Rwanda Genocide (1994): The genocide of Rwanda in 1994, despite wary of im-



Rwanda Genocide (1994): The genocide of Rwanda in 1994, despite wary of impending violence, the mandate holder, the United Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNIMAR), lacked resources and the UN's reluctance to mediate vehemently exhibited genocide to escalate, which caused innocent civil casualties.

Bosnia (1992-1995): The UN even couldn't even protect its safe zones for civilians in Srebrenica; the Bosnian Serb forces violated attacked Peacekeepers from Netherlands [Dutch]. As a result of the UN's inactiveness, more than 8,000 Bosniak men and boys were massacred.

Syria (2011 Present): The ineffectiveness of mediating the current conflict in Syria presents a case study of human rights defenders. Additionally, the use of chemical weapons and the humanitarian crisis have further complicated the UN's neutrality, as various member states have been accused of using the UN as a platform to advance their geopolitical interests, rather than genuinely seeking a resolution.

Myanmar (Rohingya Crisis): Once again, the UN's ineptness forming a robust political stance against the Myanmar Government raised disbelief about its commitment to fairness. That is why the Rohingya Crisis is still unsettled and the UN faces hostile response for being slow in response. Critics argue that the UN's focus on humanitarian aid has overshadowed the need for accountability and justice.

Yemen (2015-present): This crisis is regarded as perhaps world's worst humanitarian crisis. The United Nations is under extreme pressure for failing to hold parties accountable for violations of International Laws, particularly the Saudi-led coalition's actions. It is perceived that the UN holds soft corner or passive in resolving and addressing these issues.

These conflicts and crises provided the intricacies and challenges the UN faces in sustaining impartiality whereas resolving complicated conflicts. They accentuate the need for reorganization and a preemptive approach to conflict resolution to rebuild trust in its capacity to mediate fairly and effectively.

In conclusion, as we navigate an increasingly volatile world, it is imperative to critically assess the role of the UN and other international organizations. By learning from the lessons of the past and addressing their shortcomings, we may foster a more effective approach to maintaining global peace and security

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The Age of Human Rights Journal has moved to a continuous publication model.

This means that as soon as an article is ready to be published, it will be immediately released online rather than waiting for other articles in the issue to be completed, resulting in faster access to the final version of the article.

However, as it is being done up to now, twice a year (in June and December), we will close the issue which will become the 'latest complete issue'. Any new articles received and accepted after the closure will then be placed in the next open issue.

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Alec Stone Sweet, Wayne Sandholtz, *The Law and Politics of International Human Rights Courts: The Dilemma of Effectiveness*, Oxford University Press, 2024.

Ng, I. Just Around the Corner: How Cross-ethnic Solidarity Is Established Between Locals and the Asylum-Seekers and Refugees in a Local NGO. *Int. Migration & Integration* (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12134-024-01166-5>

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