

HUMAN RIGHTS

Research Committee 26

IPSA International Political Science Association

Joint Message from the Chair and Vice- Chair



Newsletter no. 20
October 2025

Dear Colleagues,
Dear Friends,

in this first joint message from the Chair and Vice-Chair, since our nominations were confirmed at the Seoul Congress last July, we reaffirm the growing cooperation and dialogue that has characterised RC26 in recent times, as well as the affiliation of new members, whom we formally welcome, hoping that you will enjoy and participate in the team's collective activities.

RC26, within the IPSA universe, has been gaining ground and recognition.

In recent months, we have been invited to participate in interesting collective works to be published by global publishers, such as Springer (Perspectives on Reglobalization - Insights from Political Science) and Springer Nature (IPSA Encyclopedia in Political Science).

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We believe that many others will follow suit, in this way, allowing more members to participate in these types of projects.

Several events have been organised by members with the support of the Chair, Chair-Elect, Vice-Chair, and Secretary - always with a view to maintaining scientific integrity in research on the various elements surrounding human rights. We have noticed that the respect and dialogue practised in the relationships between RC26 members have been passed on to the speakers and audience at these events, contributing, in practice, to the understanding and development of human rights. We have succeeded in creating a healthy standard of conduct in which the RC26 team serves as a scientific and practical resource for the advancement of human rights around the world.

Furthermore, continuing with the practice of official events, two conferences will be organised in the coming months: the first, in December 2025, for debates on the contemporary relevance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in times of high global tension, which has led to numerous conflicts, including armed conflicts, with human rights violations contrary to what is suggested in the institutional environment of the United Nation; and the second, probably in May 2026, for debates on human rights in the context of a culture of peace.

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RC26 IPSA – UN HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2025
**SPECIAL EVENT WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “BE-
YOND EUROPE” 12 DECEMBER 2025 | HYBRID FORMAT (POZNAN &
ONLINE)**
**FACULTY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND JOURNALISM, ADAM MIC-
KIEWICZ UNIVERSITY IN POZNAŃ, POLAND**

On the occasion of United Nations Human Rights Day, we warmly invite you to take part in a special session organised by IPSA Research Committee 26 (Human Rights), as part of the international conference “Beyond Europe: Indo-Pacific Dynamics in the New Geopolitical Landscape”, to be held on 12 December 2025 in hybrid format (on-site at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland, and online).

The event will bring together scholars, experts, and representatives from civil society to consider the legacy and contemporary challenges of human rights protection, as well as how the experience of World War II has shaped the human rights protection system over the past 80 years.

The UN Human Rights Day session will include keynote addresses and an open panel discussion on the theme:

“Never again ... Or now? Human rights eighty years after the Second World War”.

The discussion will focus on new perspectives on the universality of human rights, the impact of new technologies and the role of international and regional institutions in protecting human dignity.

Participation is free of charge, but registration is required.

Details on the full programme and the registration link will be available soon at:

□ <https://beyondeurope.web.amu.edu.pl>

HUMAN RIGHTS VALUES PRAXIS IN INDIA: VISHWAGURU WITH MANUAL SCAVENGERS

Ms. Sanghamitra Mallick

BITS Pilani K.K. Birla Goa Campus, India

Introduction

India, the largest liberal democracy with a population of 1.4 billion, is a vibrant subcontinent with a rich historical and cultural legacy and often termed as a “Vishwaguru” cultural leader of the cosmos. The Indian constitution, enacted in 1950 post-Independence, accommodated the aspirations of the vulnerable population while absorbing the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948 by the UN, which serves as a global benchmark for human rights. Despite the fact that India is hailed as a civilizational state and has evolved as a Constitutional democracy, the human rights situation of the marginalised section of the Indian society remains grim, despite the maker of the Indian Constitution Dr. B.R. Ambedkar whose experience as a Dalit was humiliation, denial of dignity and refusal of Human rights, that he has recorded all along through several of his seminal works. In spite of the fact that the Constitution of India abolished untouchability and advocated the dignified treatment of all human beings equally, the situation of the Dalit population nearly seventy years after the enactment of the Republic is precarious in such a manner that a sizeable number of them are involved in manual scavenging.

Praxis of Human Rights Values from the Spirit of the Constitution

A dehumanising occupation of manual scavenging, inheriting a social stratification called the caste system, where the dirty job of society is the yardstick for the Dalits, is constitutionally banned in India. While the spirit of the Constitution (Part III) promotes civil and political rights, the first generation of human rights, the constitution makers left the safeguard of socio-economic rights to the provinces of the then Indian Union, given the limitations of resource allocation through constitution as

as the “Directive Principles of State Policy” (Part IV) of the Indian Constitution. Thus, a Dalit in India, who is voiceless, is positioned between two columns of Constitutional protection. A) His civil rights are protected and he is an equal before the others, and yet B) his economic rights are to be protected by the Provincial Government, which is supposed to operate in fair terms in ensuring Justice, which is yet to be realised. This praxis would explain how and why manual scavenging in India is perpetuated despite the ban in the Constitution

Institutional Limitations and Implementation Gaps

The 1993 Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrine (Prohibition) Act fell under the state subject of health and sanitation, and under Article 252(1), applied only to states adopting it through a legislative resolution. The legal provision is unclear; for instance, the punishment clauses do not specify whether the employer or scavenger is liable for punishment or penalty. It is also a conflicting interest, while a scavenger wants to file a case against executive authority, the same authority is also one to grant permission for filing cases against themselves (Gochhayat, 2018). Since it is a state (Provincial Government) subject, adoption and enforcement differ across states, causing uneven implementation. There is no independent body with enough power to address complaints quickly. There is a lack of political will among states to implement it; some states acted only after the Supreme Court’s intervention. Exploited by the only means of survival, the fear of social stigma, and the fear of losing their livelihood, manual scavengers often avoid reporting, which leads to poor monitoring data. In 2014, the Indian government, under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, was installing toilets in rural villages to promote ‘open defecation free’ and eradicate manual scavenging in the country as the flagship project named as Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). But the question is, who is going to clean the septic tanks in the absence of a suction pump (Wilson, 2016)?

Failure of Technological Implementation to Address the Problem in the Age of AI

In this technologically advanced era, there is a continuous dependence on human labour for hazardous tasks like manual scavenging. India has the capability to develop cryogenic engines and launch lunar missions, yet we hesitate to invest in technology that elimi-

the need for manual toilet cleaning. Despite the fact that at present there are thousands of cases regarding septic tank and sewer deaths in India (Yacoob & Karthik, 2025).

Conclusion and recommendation

Given AI and technological advancements, the mechanising process is feasible. Law-makers must plan to eradicate this intolerable evil by sufficient budget allocation and concerted implementation of the mechanisation of scavenging in both urban and rural India. Robotic instruments must substitute for humans in getting down the underground drainage system. This is a classic case that depicts the praxis of Human rights Values in India, when a section of its Population hails the Indian State as a Vishwaguru and at the same time, its weaker sections are entrenched in a perpetuated social oppression.

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Digital version: <https://humanrights.webphilosophia.com/archivos/318>

RC26 ON HUMAN RIGHTS – IPSA BUSINESS MEETING (SEOUL, 16 JULY 2025)

Election of the New RC26 Board for the 2025–2027 Term

During the reporting and election meeting of RC26 – the Research Committee on Human Rights of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) - held on 16 July 2025 in Seoul - the results of the election for the new RC26 Board for the 2025–2027 term were officially announced.

New RC26 IPSA Board (2025–2027)

Chair: Professor Alex Sander Xavier Pires, Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa (UAL), Department of Law, Lisbon, Portugal

Chair-Elect: Professor Anju Gupta, JECRC University, Jaipur, India

Vice-Chair: Professor Jędrzej Skrzypczak, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland

Secretary: Furqan Ahmed, South Asia Research Institute for Minorities (SARIM), Pakistan

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Ms Yukti Gupta, JECRC University, India

Dr Laitonjam Muhindro, S. Kula Women's College, Manipur University, India

Professor Bruno Konder Comparato, Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Brazil

Summary of the 2023–2025 Term

The outgoing Chair, Professor Jędrzej Skrzypczak (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań), presented a comprehensive report on RC26's activities during the 2023–2025 term, which included:

- organising IPSA panels in Lisbon, Salamanca, Słubice, and Seoul,
- hosting a series of conferences and webinars on “Human Rights in Theory and Practice”,
- publishing scholarly volumes with leading international publishers (Routledge, Palgrave Macmillan),
- Moreover, expanding international cooperation with academic institutions and human rights organisations.

In his concluding remarks, Professor Skrzypczak emphasised the high quality of research, the vibrant inter-congress activity of RC26, and the committee's crucial role in advancing a global human rights culture.

The New Term (2025–2027): Strategic Directions

The newly elected Chair, Prof. Alex Sander Xavier Pires (UAL, Lisbon), announced that the new board would continue its work in a spirit of openness and interdisciplinarity, focusing on the development of key thematic areas such as:

- human rights education,
- ethics and technology (AI and Human Rights),
- inclusion and the protection of minority groups.

RC26 will also continue to publish the IPSA RC26 Newsletter, expand its social media presence, and strengthen its collaboration with other IPSA research committees.

INTERNET SHUTDOWNS AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Laitonjam Muhindro, Ph. D

While internet shutdowns may appear to be an effective strategy for suppressing protests and maintaining order in the short term, they fundamentally infringe upon the fundamental human rights of freedom of expression and the right to access information. These rights are enshrined in Article 19(1)a of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and various United Nations resolutions that guarantee the protection of these freedoms. The implications of these shutdowns extend far beyond the immediate suppression of dissent, raising serious concerns about the long-term impact on democratic values and citizen engagement. This is to understand a comprehensive analysis of the human rights issues associated with the increasing prevalence of internet shutdowns, with a particular focus on the situation in India, specifically in the region of Manipur, as well as a broader global perspective. The study will delve into the various ways in which these shutdowns affect individuals and communities, examining the impact on their ability to exercise their rights and participate in public discourse. The imposition of preventive internet shutdowns by Indian authorities has become a disturbing trend, disrupting the daily lives of ordinary citizens without any conclusive evidence that they are effective in restoring peace and stability. Furthermore, these shutdowns severely impede access to essential information, particularly during times of crisis and emergencies, when access to timely and accurate information is most critical for the safety and well-being of the population.

Internet shutdown is becoming a global phenomenon where the controlling authority is treated as the most convenient and easy tactic to suppress issues immediately in the name of public order. It is reported that 187 times were in 35 countries around the world during 2022 while compared to 76 times in 2016. Usually, an internet shutdown entails purposefully interfering with electronic communications or the internet to the point that they are rendered completely or partially inoperable. Internet shutdowns have occasio-

occasionally impacted entire nations, but they usually target a specific population or geographic area to limit the free flow of information in that area. Full and localized shutdowns, bandwidth throttling, and service-based blocking of two-way communication platforms are examples of internet shutdowns, often known as “blackouts” or “kill switches.”

International law has established clear guidelines that acknowledge internet access as an essential requirement for both the practice and fulfillment of human rights, whether in digital spaces or in real life. The UN Human Rights Council has repeatedly stated that “the same rights individuals possess offline must also be safeguarded online” and has urged all nations to improve access to and utilization of the internet to foster the complete realization of human rights for everyone. States frequently depend on the justification of “national security” or “public order” to rationalize the interruption of internet services. In legal disputes concerning internet shutdowns, it is crucial to perform a comprehensive analysis of limitations to demonstrate to a court that a right has been violated and that this limitation fails to satisfy the criteria established by Article 19(3) of the ICCPR.

Necessity and proportionality

At the core of challenging internet shutdowns is demonstrating that such actions infringe upon the rights to freedom of expression and access to information, as well as other rights including health and education. Nevertheless, because freedom of expression is not an absolute right, it can be restricted under specific conditions, but only when such restrictions, in line with international human rights standards, are “established by law” and “essential” to guarantee “the respect for the rights or reputation of others” or for “the safeguarding of national security or public order, or public health or morals.”

Digital version: <https://humanrights.webphilosophia.com/archivos/321>

IPSA 2025 WORLD CONGRESS IN SEOUL – RC26 PANELS OVERVIEW

The Research Committee 26 on Human Rights (RC26) organised 13 thematic panels during the IPSA World Congress 2025 in Seoul, featuring nearly 60 academic papers. The panels covered a wide range of topics — from constitutional and authoritarian issues to digital rights, gender equality, indigenous peoples' rights, and challenges to democracy.

Structure of the Panels

During the Congress, nine open panels and four closed panels were held.

The average number of presentations per panel ranged from 4 to 5, which encouraged in-depth discussion and the exchange of diverse international perspectives.

Thematic and Geographical Scope

The 2025 RC26 program revealed three principal research axes:

1. Authoritarianism, Security, and Human Rights – analyses of the condition of human rights across different regions and political systems, including Russia, China, and North Korea (Panels RC26.11, RC26.14).
 2. Democracy, Constitutionalism, and Populism – studies on democratic backsliding, political violence, and efforts to protect the rule of law (Panels RC26.01, RC26.18).
 3. Digital Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence – discussions on ethics, surveillance, disinformation, and algorithmic accountability (Panels RC26.05, RC26.06, RC26.16).
- These were complemented by panels addressing women's and gender minority rights (RC26.17), indigenous rights (RC26.09, RC26.12), issues of inclusion and exclusion (RC26.10), and contemporary challenges in human rights protection (RC26.15).

Key Observations

- A strong focus on Asia and the Global South (India, North Korea, the Philippines, ASEAN, and Latin America) was evident throughout the sessions, combining issues of security, social rights, and institutional protection mechanisms for individuals and societies.

- A notable digital rights / AI cluster — encompassing three dedicated panels and several cross-references in other sessions — addressed privacy, surveillance, the ethics of artificial intelligence, and risks to freedom of expression.
- The themes of democratic regression and populism were discussed from both normative and empirical perspectives, with case studies from Poland, India, and the Caribbean.
- Equality, diversity, and inclusion were recurring motifs, with analyses focusing on gender, minority, indigenous, and migration issues within international and national human rights protection frameworks.

Significance

Discussions within RC26 confirmed the central role of human rights as a foundation for democratic resilience, social diversity, and the regulation of the digital world.

This year's RC26 contribution represents a substantial input into the development of critical reflection on human rights governance in an era of autocratization and technological transformation.

It is also noteworthy that, upon the recommendation of RC26, one of the presented papers received an IPSA Award — a testament to the Committee's high scholarly standards and visibility within the global IPSA community.

Finally, the IPSA World Congress 2025 in Seoul was not only an opportunity for the exchange of ideas and the strengthening of international collaboration but also a space for inspiring and collegial encounters among scholars from all continents.

The next IPSA World Congress will take place in Rome, Italy, in 2027. I hope that we all will meet there.

DEMOCRACY AND THE RIGHT TO WELFARE: RECLAIMING HUMAN DIGNITY THROUGH SOCIAL RIGHTS

Thiruppathi P.

Ph.D. Scholar

Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), University of Mysore, India.

Chair of Comparative Politics SRC

International Association for Political Science Students (IAPSS)
Human rights have been touted as the pillars of contemporary democracy, infusing values of freedom, equality, and dignity. While civil and political rights like voting, freedom of speech, and fair treatment under law are touted, social and economic rights are relegated to the background. In order for democracy to be meaningfully inclusive, the right to welfare needs to be accepted as a core human right and not a state-derived indulgence (Beetham, 1999; Sen, 1999).

This contends that democratic legitimacy is not complete without considering social exclusion and structural inequality—particularly for historically excluded groups such as Dalits in India. The withholding of welfare, dignity, and equal opportunity from the Dalits highlights the imperative necessity of inscribing social rights into the democratic order. Based on the prisms of political communication and rights-based language, this post contends for an expansive understanding of democracy: one that guarantees substantive equality, natural justice, and collective welfare.

From Political Equality to Social Citizenship

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) upholds both civil liberties and

socio-economic rights (Articles 22–26). However, in practice, democracies often treat the latter as aspirational rather than enforceable. As T.H. Marshall (1950) argued, full citizenship involves not just legal equality but social rights—the right to education, livelihood, and health—which allow people to meaningfully participate in public life.

Nowhere is this disparity more evident than in the life of Dalits in India. Even with constitutional guarantees and effective political rights, Dalits remain discriminated against in obtaining access to public goods, education, health services, and accommodations (Thorat & Newman, 2010). Their plight best illustrates what democracy

without welfare rights is like—a society in which formal inclusion camouflages structural exclusion. This is a violation of not just human rights but also the concept of natural justice, which presumes fairness, impartiality, and protection against arbitrary denial of dignity.

Rhetoric, Framing, and Political Inclusion

Political communication is a central factor in reinforcing or challenging exclusion. The way in which an issue is “framed” determines public perception and policy measures, as pointed out by Entman (1993). When welfare is framed as an entitlement based on human dignity and natural justice, it enhances democracy; when framed as dependency or burden, it legitimates exclusion.

In India, social welfare schemes for Dalits—e.g., scholarships, affirmative action, or housing schemes—are frequently articulated not as rights, but as concessions or appeasement. Public opinion and policy enforcement are shaped by this rhetorical articulation, dissolving the moral authority of social justice and intensifying stigma.

On the other hand, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s call for social democracy rested on the pre-

mise that “political democracy cannot last unless it lies at the base of social democracy”. His conceptualization of the abolition of caste and welfare as human rights, and not state charity, is a progressive lesson in rights-based messaging and the moral ethics of natural justice.

Welfare as a Human Right

Identifying welfare as a human right changes the state’s role: not to give but to guarantee, not to be benevolent but accountable. This is vital for marginalized groups whose rights are perpetually delayed in practice. When Dalit groups insist on land, education, and healthcare, they are not claiming privilege—they are insisting on justice. These calls ring out in all contexts around the world: Black communities’ fight for social rights in the U.S., Latin American indigenous peoples, or refugees in Europe all attest to a common global shortfall of democratic inclusion.

By restructuring welfare as a natural justice and democratic equity right, democracies allow the most vulnerable to assert their rightful position in the polity, not merely hope for symbolic representation.

The Democratic Case for Social Rights

Real democracy is not just a matter of voting—it’s a matter of living with dignity. When political regimes forget this, they open themselves up to solidifying economic inequality and caste or racial hierarchies, even as they may seem representative. To Dalits, social rights—enshrined through education, employment, access to healthcare, and protection from violence—are not merely a question of survival but of dignity and democratic citizenship. Without them, the promise of equality is rhetorical.

Democratic democracies will hence need to reimagine participation as incorporating economic agency and social mobility. Welfare programs promoting equality must be

articulated not only as state welfare measures but as rights from moral obligations of fairness and justice.

Conclusion: Democracy as Dignity in Action

The situation of Dalits in India provides a compelling case of why welfare has to be a fundamental democratic right. It teaches us that civil liberties are insufficient where social structures are oppressive. There can be no genuine democracy until and unless these inequalities are met head on through embedding welfare at the institutional, rhetorical, and ethical levels. By bringing political communication into alignment with a rights-based discourse, and by conceptualizing welfare as a necessary component of citizenship, democracies can become more humane, just, and inclusive. In this vision, human rights are not only safeguards against state tyranny but promises of human flourishing and natural justice—particularly for those who were previously excluded from it.

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Digital version: <https://humanrights.webphilosophia.com/archivos/325>

THE EVOLUTION OF THE 2025 POLITICAL SYSTEM AND HUMAN RIGHTS: NAVIGATING CHANGE AND FACING CHALLENGES, 24 APRIL 2025 | COLLEGIUM POLONICUM, ŚLUBICE, POLAND
ORGANISED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE IPSA RESEARCH COMMITTEE 26 ON HUMAN RIGHTS (RC26)

The double session “The Evolution of the 2025 Political System and Human Rights: Navigating Change and Facing Challenges” brought together distinguished scholars from Europe, Asia, and Latin America to discuss the intersections between political transformation, populism, democratic backsliding, and human rights protection in contemporary political systems. The sessions were held at the Collegium Polonicum in Ślubice, as part of the international conference “Political Parties and Party Systems in Central and Eastern Europe: Navigating Change and Confronting Challenges”(24–25 April 2025).

Session I (1:45–3:45 p.m. Warsaw/Madrid time)

Chair: Prof. Cássius Guimarães Chai (Federal University of Maranhão & Vitória School of Law, Brazil)

Discussant: Mr Furqan Ahmed (Secretary, IPSA RC26, SARIM, Pakistan)

This session examined how populist and anti-establishment discourses influence the reshaping of democratic institutions, constitutional courts, and public confidence in governance structures.

- Tomasz Litwin (Ignatianum University in Cracow, Poland) analysed the “populist revolution” in Poland’s Constitutional Tribunal and its repercussions for the rule of law and human rights protection.
- Thiruppathi P. (Institute for Social and Economic Change, India) presented a comparative analysis of populism and anti-elite rhetoric in Dravidian politics, emphasising their destabilising influence on Tamil Nadu’s party system.
- Adamilton Lima Borgneth, Olívia Brandão Melo Campelo, and Éric da Silva Lima (Federal University of Piauí, Brazil) explored institutional transformations and party participation in Georgia and the Eastern Partnership region.
- The same research group, joined by Thais Onofre Caixeta de Freitas (Presbyte-

rian University Mackenzie, Brazil), discussed the enduring political meaning of Rousseau's thought in modern governance.

- Marcelo Siano Lima (Faculty of Law of Vitória, Brazil) examined the mechanisms of anti-democratic influence and possible strategies for democratic renewal.

In his commentary, Mr Ahmed highlighted the comparative relevance of these studies for understanding global democratic fragility and resilience.

Session II (4:00–5:15 p.m. Warsaw/Madrid time)

Chair: Prof. Jędrzej Skrzypczak (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Chair of IPSA RC26)

Discussant: Prof. Oscar Pérez de la Fuente (Carlos III University of Madrid, Vice-Chair of IPSA RC26)

The second session expanded the discussion to encompass global human rights governance, sustainability, and security within the context of political and ecological crises.

- Prof. Cássius Guimarães Chai addressed the fragmentation of water sovereignty and the growing role of non-state actors in transboundary resource governance, conceptualised as a “crisis of hydrosolidarity.”

- Juan Pablo Carbajal Camberos (Carlos III University of Madrid, Spain) examined “The Trump Effect” and its impact on Mexico's national security and geopolitical positioning.

- Prof. Jędrzej Skrzypczak (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland) presented findings from his study on “Democratic and Media Freedom Regress: The Case of Poland and the Decline in Media Pluralism (2015–2023).”

Prof. Pérez de la Fuente, in his closing remarks, underlined the intrinsic connection between media freedom, human rights, and democratic stability, noting that robust public communication systems are indispensable for the health of democratic institutions.

Organisers

The sessions were co-organised by:

- Centre for European Research and Education and the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań
- Centre for Party and Democracy Studies, University of Granada
- Polish Political Science Association
- IPSA Research Committees: RC22 (Political Communication), RC26 (Human Rights), and RC10 (Electronic Democracy)

The event was supported by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education under the programme “Excellent Scientific Base II – Support for Scientific Conferences” (agreement no. KONF/SN/0529/2024/02).

Further details and livestream link:

□ <http://obiee.amu.edu.pl/evolution-of-political-system-2025/>

CONFERENCE ON CULTURE OF PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

At the beginning of December, a new edition of the “Conference on Culture of Peace and Human Rights” will be held, with the theme “Human Rights in Crisis,” as part of the celebration of the UDHR, this year with particular interest in the UN’s 80th anniversary.

The aim of the Conference is to encourage reflection on the weakening of human rights, followed by possible solutions for strengthening them.

The conference, now in its third edition, is jointly organized by IPSA RC26 on human rights, the Law Department of the Autonomous University of Lisbon, RATIOLEGIS—Center for Research and Development in Legal Sciences at the Autonomous University of Lisbon, and JUSGOV—Center for Research on Justice and Governance at the University of Minho. This year, we will have the participation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In early November, the call for events and papers will be published, to which all IPSA members, and particularly RC26 members, are invited.

WILMA RULE AWARD 2025 FOR RENEE VICTORIA O'SHANASSY



Renee O'Shanassy was honoured with the prestigious Wilma Rule Award on Gender and Politics, presented by the International Political Science Association (IPSA).

<https://www.ipsa.org/page/awards-wilma-rule-award-ipso-award-best-research-gender-and-politics>

This recognition is of particular importance to RC26 on Human Rights, as Renee received the award following a nomination supported, among others, by the Chair of IPSA RC26, and her paper was presented during one of the RC26 sessions at the IPSA World Congress in Seoul.

Established at the IPSA World Congress in 2000, the Wilma Rule Award aims to promote excellence in research on gender and politics, with special emphasis on women's participation and representation in political institutions.

At the 2025 Seoul World Congress, O'Shanassy was named the award recipient for her paper titled "Glimpses of Feminist Hope: A 30-Year Review of Side Event Advocacy at the UN Commission on the Status of Women."

This year's award highlights the importance of feminist scholarship that bridges institutional analysis and advocacy practice in advancing gender equality on the international stage.

The paper "Glimpses of Feminist Hope..." presents a systematic analysis of three decades of evaluative and advocacy activities conducted as side events during the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW) sessions. The author examines how feminist movements have used these events to shape norms, build

alliances, and influence global gender and women's policy agendas.

The issues addressed in the paper include:

- the evolution of thematic priorities in side events (e.g., employment equality, violence against women, access to education);
- networking strategies among NGOs, UN institutions, and member states;
- limitations and barriers to the influence of feminist agendas within international structures;
- and prospects of hope and institutional transformation generated through feminist normative practices.

Interdisciplinary in nature, O'Shanassy's paper combines historical-institutional analysis with normative reflection and empirical case studies, offering a profound contribution to the study of global gender advocacy and political science.

The RC26 community warmly congratulates Renee Victoria O'Shanassy on this outstanding achievement.

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