

HUMAN RIGHTS

Research Committee 26

IPSA International Political Science Association

Message from the Chair



Newsletter no. 17
April 2024

Dear RC26 Family,

it seemed that after a global health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the world was returning and waking to life. Unfortunately, in many of its parts, such as Ukraine, Israel and the Gaza Strip, we have witnessed numerous cases of drastic violations of human rights during this period. In addition, there has been a record number of refugees, as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported in 2023. According to these figures, as many as 114 million were forced to leave their homes, fleeing war, persecution, violence, rape, and humanitarian crises in Ukraine, Sudan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, among others. Almost a third of all displaced persons come from just three countries, as specified by UNHCR: Afghanistan, Syria and Ukraine. According to the exact figures, Iran and Turkey have taken in the most refugees, with 3.4 million each. Ger-

What's inside?

1. Rc26 human rights day

2.- Slubice conference

3.- Shaista Tabassum on freedom of expression and right to have the correct information

4.- Syed Muhammad Ali Bilgrami on transforming lives

5.- Yasir Ali - Imperative on climate Justice in Pakistan

Conference news and call for papers

and much more...

many and Colombia accepted 2.5 million each, and Pakistan 2.1 million. Regrettably, the list of human rights violations does not end there. There are cases of restrictions on freedom of expression, unfair treatment of minorities, violence against women, political repression of opposition figures, breaches of labour or fundamental social rights, and many others. Therefore, in the face of all these infringements on fundamental human rights, the only tool is mobilising world public opinion through the organisation of meetings, debates, and conferences. As history has shown, despite international standards for the defence of human rights, the most effective weapons in the fight for their protection are various international actions to rally public opinion against such acts of inhuman treatment. I hope that the RC26 on the Human Rights community of IPSA can make at least a minimal contribution to drawing attention to various pressing human rights issues from the perspective of different continents, nations, races, and political and religious systems. RC26 is a community of scholars from all over the world who are researching these issues. That is why we have organised academic events over the past six months. First of all, there were two conferences chaired by Professor Alex Sander Pires, the elected Chair of RC26: the RC26 panel at the XXVI Semianual International Congress on the History of Human Rights, which was held at the University of Salamanca, Spain on 20-23 November 2023, and the panel at the Conferencia Comemorative dos 75 Anos da Declaração Universal dos Direitos Humanos, conducted in Lisbon, Portugal, on 5 December 2023.

Chair:

Jedrzej Skrzypczak
Adam Mickiewicz University in
Poznan, Poland
jedrzej.skrzypczak@gmail.com

Chair-elect:

Alex Sander Xavier Pires
Universidade Autonoma de
Lisboa, Portugal
aspires@gmail.com

Vicechair

Oscar Pérez de la Fuente
Carlos III University of Madrid
Spain
oscar.perez@uc3m.es

Secretary

Radwan Ziadeh
Arab Center – Washington D.C
radwan.ziadeh@gmail.com

Boarad

Anju Gupta
JECRC, University, Jaipur, Ra-
jasthan, India.
anjugupta33@gmail.com

Furqan Ahmed
South Asia Research Institute
for Minorities, SARIM Pakistan
furqan@sarimwatch.org

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

On 11 December 2023, for the third consecutive year, we organised Human Rights Day, where the keynote speaker was Dr Fernand de Varennes - former UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, and members of the RC26 Board, i.e. Alex Sander Pires (Chair-elect of the RC26, Professor at Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa, Portugal), Oscar Pèrez dela Fuente (Vice-Chair of the RC26 & Professor at Carlos III University of Madrid, Spain), Radwan Ziadeh (Analyst at the Arab Center, Washington D.C., USA), Anju Gupta (Head of Department, Political Science JECRC, University, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India), Furqan Ahmed (Senior Research Associate SARIM, Senior Research Associate SARIM, Karachi, Pakistan) and Cassius Guimaraes Chai (Full Professor of Law and Geopolitics Universidade Federal do Maranhão, Brazil).

On 1 February, RC26 hosted the panel “Hot Topic for Human Rights in the 21st Century from European and Beyond European Perspective” during the 24th International Academic Conference in the series “Europe and the World in the 21st Century. Europe and the World 20 Years after the Enlargement of the European Union in 2004. Current State and Future Scenarios” at the UAM campus in Słubice, on the border between Poland and Germany.

In the coming months, we plan to organise webinars to mark World Press Freedom Day (May) and World Refugee Day (June) and arrange a special panel on human rights issues during IPSA’s 75th anniversary conference in Lisbon in September 2024 . It is also worth mentioning another book published by Routledge, “Lessons for Implementing Human Rights from COVID-19: How the Pandemic Has Changed the World” by Jędrzej Skrzypczak and Oscar Pérez de la Fuente (eds.), which will be published by this prestigious publisher in August, this year. It is the result of the 2021 RC26 project and the Poznań conference.

Indeed, we would all be the happiest people on Earth if all these activities improved the fate of just one person.

Jędrzej Skrzypczak

05 DEZEMBRO • 14h30 • AUD 1/AUD 2 e ONLINE

CONFERÊNCIA COMEMORATIVA DOS 75 ANOS DA DECLARAÇÃO UNIVERSAL DOS DIREITOS HUMANOS

14h30 - AUDITÓRIO 2

ABERTURA: Magnífico Reitor da UAL
Diretor do Departamento de Direito da UAL

Moderadora: *Patrícia Cardoso Dias*

- **António Pedro de Azevedo Ferreira**, UAL - O não-direito legal nacional-socialista e a renovação do debate entre o jusnaturalismo e o juspositivismo.
- **Ariete Pontes de Oliveira**, Universidade do Estado de Minas Gerais BR - Direito e Literatura: Direitos Humanos e Direitos Fundamentais.
- **Maira Neiva Gomes**, Universidade do Estado de Minas Gerais BR - Migrações e a divisão internacional do trabalho na era da alta tecnologia.
- **Manuel António de Castro da Frada**, FDUP - O problema do relativismo na sua relação com os direitos humanos.
- **Ana Mafalda Miranda Barbosa**, FDUP - Direitos humanos, contra-humanos e transumanos.
- **Natália Lisboa**, Pró-Reitora da universidade federal de Ouro Preto BR - Refugiados do desenvolvimento - desafios para os direitos humanos.
- **Júlio Tormenta**, UAL - Impostos e direito fundamental à propriedade na ótica dos direitos humanos.
- **Jorge Baceilar Gouveia**, UAL - Uma nova declaração universal dos direitos humanos?

17h45m - RECITAL (escadaria monumental)

Intérpretes: Soprano lírico - *Maria Isabel de Seabra* Pianista - *Isabel Couto Dias*
Programa: *Der Holle Rache* -- W. A. Mozart, *Quando Me Vo* -- G. Puccini, *Il Bacio* -- Arditi
O Mio Babbino Caro -- G. Puccini, *Oh holy night*

18h30m - AUDITÓRIO 2

A MULTILATERALIDADE DOS DIREITOS HUMANOS E OS DESAFIOS CONTEMPORÂNEO

Moderadores: *Alex Sander Pires* e *Pedro Trovão do Rosário*

- **Alex Sander Pires**, UAL - Direitos humanos e cultura de paz.
- **Alexandre Miguel Mestre**, UAL - Direitos humanos e direito ao desporto.
- **Alexander Sungurov**, National Research University Higher School of Economics St-Petersburg - Human rights inside of the liberal democracies.
- **Débora Martins**, Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Goiás - Direitos humanos e pacificação social.
- **Jędrzej Skrzypczak**, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan - Digital human rights.
- **José António Frias**, Montoya Universidad de Salamanca - Documentación y derechos humanos.
- **Madalena Meyer**, Universidade Nova de Lisboa - Políticas públicas europeias e os direitos humanos.
- **Oscar Pérez de La Fuente**, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid - Derechos humanos y educación.
- **Roberta Campos**, UAL - Direitos humanos e saúde pública.
- **Pedro Trovão do Rosário**, UAL - Direitos humanos e necessidades especiais.

ENCERRAMENTO

CONFERENCE COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

On December 5, 2023, the Autonomous University of Lisbon (Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa – UAL), the Ratio Legis Research Center in Legal Sciences of UAL, and the Research Center in Justice and Governance of the University of Minho JUSGOV/UMinho, with the institutional support of the RC26 on Human Rights from the International Political Science Association (IPSA), held the conference commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Lisbon (Portugal), using the hybrid system based in Auditorium 1 of the Palácio dos Condes do Redondo. The event featured eighteen lectures designed to allow sensitive human rights issues to be considered in the light of the need to reflect on their foundations in modern times and in the search for freedom, equality and justice for all, allowing the audience to critically or analytically form their conviction from the points of view of professors and researchers from ten universities based in five countries. The RC26 was represented by lectures from Jędrzej Skrzypczak, Oscar Pérez de la Fuente and Alex Sander Xavier Pires.

Alex Sander Xavier Pires

HUMAN RIGHTS 75 United Nations

IPSA RC26 ON HUMAN RIGHTS

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

DR. FERNAND DE VARENNES
UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues.

OSCAR PÉREZ DE LA FUENTE
Vice-chair IPSA RC26 Human Rights & Professor in Carlos III University of Madrid.

ALEX SANDER PIRES
Chair-elected IPSA RC26 Human Rights & Professor at Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa.

PANELIST

RADWAN ZIADEH
Secretary IPSA RC26 Human Rights & Analyst at the Arab Center - Washington D.C.

ANJU GUPTA
Board Member IPSA RC26 Human Rights, & Head, Department of Political Science JECRC, University, Jaipur, Rajasthan.

FURQAN AHMED
Board Member IPSA RC26 on Human Rights & Senior Research Associate SARIM.

CASSIUS GUIMARAES CHAI
Board Member IPSA RC26 Human Rights, Full Law and Geopolitical Professor Universidade Federal do Maranhão (PPCDIR/Law).

MODERATOR

JEDRZEJ SKRZYPCZAK
Chair IPSA RC26 Human Rights & Head of the Department of Press Systems and Law, Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan.

WEBINAR ON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY:

The Role of the UDHR in the Contemporary World. Freedom, Equality and Justice for All

11 DEC 2023

5:00 PM CET

For more information, kindly visit: www.rc26.ipsa.org

RC26 CELEBRATED THE HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2023 – 11 DECEMBER 2023

RC26 of IPSA has celebrated United Nations Human Rights Day (UDHR) for several years. We want, as RC26, to be part of the global Human Rights Day celebrations. To mark the occasion, every December, we organise webinars during which representatives of the world of human rights practice and science discuss current human rights issues. Three years ago, we hosted Professor Felipe González Morales (Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Chile) and the Polish Ombudsman, while two years ago, in the course of a discussion on human rights during the war in Ukraine, among others, the Ukrainian Ombudsman and activists from that country contributed. Last year, we celebrated the 75th anniversary of UDHR and Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All. This year, our keynote speakers were Dr Fernand de Varennes – a former UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues and members of the RC26 board, Alex Sander Pires (Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa, Portugal, Oscar Pèrez dela Fuente (Carlos III University of Madrid, Spain), Radwan Ziadeh (the Arab Center Washington D.C., USA), Anju Gupta (Political Science JECRC, University, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India), Furquan Ahmed (SARIM), and Cassius Guimaraes Chai (Universidade Federal do Maranhão, Brazil),

A recording of this discussion is available here. <https://youtu.be/zPf--oPFCh8?si=j-YaNKYcho8dCQoVn>

Jędrzej Skrzypczak

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION VS RIGHT TO HAVE CORRECT INFORMATION

Shaista Tabassum

Professor of international Relations

Dean Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

University of Karachi, Pakista

Freedom of expression is a fundamental human right as given by Art 19 of the UDHR. The basic gain of this freedom is to increase knowledge and create understanding by dialogue on any issue among the people in any society. For any democratic culture the freedom of expression is the essential and primary stepping stone for democratic values to grow.

In Pakistan, public faced suspension of social media when the government in the end of December 2023 has gradually limited the use of social media platforms. Initially by limited access and later on slowing down the X (formerly Twitter) Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Needless to mention that Pakistan is among the top most subscriber of Facebook in the World. It was reported that due to the underwater cable faults the access to internet was slowed down, however, later on the blocking was unofficially accepted on grounds that it was due to the presence of blasphemous content or religious immorality on the social media [atforms. The blocking was primarily caused due to reports of the misuses of social media against the government, judiciary and the military establishment. The material used by the political opponents to spread disinformation based on propaganda and twisted facts using AI technology, thus creating chaos, anti-state and anti-military establishment propaganda. In societies like Pakistan where the literacy rate is below 60% there are high chances of public being easily influenced by the disinformation. Growing concerns were expressed by the religious community on the available online content and literature as misinterpretation of Islamic laws and practices equally challenging the very fabric of the society. Pakistani society is a conservative internally and is extremely sensitive on religious sectarian lines. The material on sensitive issues linked to blasphemy and pornographic material is popular and has wide market especially among the illiterate and rural young people.

The freedom of expression is the basic human right of an individual, if it is denied, restrained or limited he or she cannot be considered as free. Every individual has complete freedom of thinking, expression and writing. Any restriction is the violation of the principles of international Human rights laws. The debate on freedom of expression becomes more complex when the use of such rights violates or causes damage to the rights of others. Thus it is agreed by international conventions that the freedom of expression is not an unrestricted right; it must be balanced by the duties or responsibilities abided by the state, the media and the individuals alike. The 1950 European convention on HR very clearly agreed that this right may be limited. The primary reason being the protection of other's Rights. Article 10 of the convention is the crux of this debate, which says'

"everyone has the right to freedom of expression" but that this freedom may be subject to restrictions for a variety of reasons, including to protect the rights of others: The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

This leads to yet to an extended discussion on the concept of Human rights. At the tip of the iceberg, every individual has the right to have knowledge and information but which is authentic, correct and genuine knowledge based on truth and facts not fictions or disinformation. Plato believed that knowledge is achievable but for him true knowledge must be trustworthy and also of the real. Any state of mind which cannot defend this claim cannot be the true knowledge.

Digital version of this post: <https://humanrights.webphilosophia.com/archivos/202>

CALL FOR PAPERS

RC26 MIDTERM CONFERENCE 2024: “EVOLUTION OF THE POSITION AND ROLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN POLITICAL SYSTEMS”, MID-OCTOBER OR MID-NOVEMBER 2024, ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY, CAMPUS IN SŁUBICE, POLAND.

During the conference, participants are expected to attempt to diagnose the position and role of human rights in contemporary political systems. The evolution of human rights position and their role in political systems is a broad and complex topic involving changes in the legal framework, in 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 human rights worldwide - numerous problems remain, including authoritarianism, armed conflict and social inequality, and freedom of expression. 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 human 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. Referring to K. Vašák's concept of three generations of human rights, it is now possible to encounter the position that a fourth generation of these rights can be distinguished in the 21st Century. This catalogue would include human rights for developing information and communication technologies and cyberspace. We hope that representatives from other IPSA Research Committees will also attend this event. This international conference will be hosted by the Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Campus in Słubice, Poland

(<https://www.cp.edu.pl/en/index.html>) in mid-October or mid-November 2024 (University website: <https://wnpid.amu.edu.pl/en/home>). Adam Mickiewicz University hosted the World Congress of IPSA in 2016. This demonstrates AMU's valuable organisational experience in arranging such events. 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). RC26 has already put together two events in Campus Słubice in a hybrid mode (in 2022 and 2024), which shows that this Centre is a top-notch place to orchestrate such meetings.

Each paper-giver will make a 15-minute presentation. Once the panellists have concluded their appearances, the discussant will provide a brief set of oral comments (10-15 minutes). The panel chair will then open the floor to discussion and questions from the audience (45-60 minutes).

The conference will be organised in 4 panels with the following themes: a/ "The position of human rights in global and regional political systems", b/ "The role of human rights in national political systems. A cross-continental perspective", c/ "Human rights in concepts of de-globalisation and re-globalisation", d/ "The next generations of human rights - attempts at diagnosis and prediction".

Each panel will have a chair and a discussant. The call for papers will start soon. Abstracts (up to 400 words) and other queries should be sent to jedrzej.skrzypczak@gmail.com and oscar@der-pu.uc3m.es. The deadline for submission of Abstracts is 25 September 2024. Confirmation of Abstract acceptance will be provided by the end of September 2024. The deadline for submission of complete articles for publication is 31 December 2024. It is anticipated that some participants (2-3 persons) will be offered free hotel accommodation. These participants will be selected based on the quality of their papers and CVs. The conference results will be communicated within the IPSA and broader academic communities (and outside of them to practitioners and policymakers) via the IPSA website and Journals. Following the conference, leading academic publishers that have printed books either focusing on a similar topic or employing a compatible theoretical approach will be contacted.

Jędrzej Skrzypczak



HUMAN RIGHTS AND CULTURE OF PEACE IN DEBATE AT THE XXI SEMI-PRESENTIAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON THE HISTORY OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SALAMANCA (USAL – UNIVERSIDAD DE SALAMANCA/SPAIN)

On November 20-22, 2023, members of the RC26 on Human Rights from the International Political Science Association (IPSA), Jędrzej Skrzypczak (“Culture of peace in the concept of digital human rights”), Oscar Pérez de la Fuente (“Culture of peace, education and hate speech”) and Alex Sander Xavier Pires (“Theorization of culture of peace”) participated as guest speakers in working group no. 9 on human rights and culture of peace as part of the XXI Semi-presential and International Congress on the History of Human Rights at the University of Salamanca. The aim of the working group was to discuss, in the light of contemporary problems and the need to strengthen awareness for lasting and permanent peace, from a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary perspective, issues related to tolerance, dialogue and respect, which serve as a foundation for the practical development behind the theory of a culture of peace, taking into account the need to seek the full enjoyment of human rights for all. Twelve conferences were given by professors and researchers representing 8 universities in 4 countries.

Alex Sander Xavier Pires

“HOT TOPIC FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY FROM EUROPEAN AND BEYOND EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE”, 24TH INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC CONFERENCE IN THE SERIES EUROPE OF THE 21ST CENTURY. EUROPE AND THE WORLD 20 YEARS AFTER THE 2004 ENLARGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION. CURRENT STATE AND FUTURE SCENARIOS, SŁUBICE, POLAND, 1 FEBRUARY 2024.

On 1 and 2 February, the 24th International Academic Conference in the series “Europe in the 21st Century. Europe and the World 20 Years after the Enlargement of the European Union in 2004”. Under the auspices of the Minister of Science and Higher Education, the conference was organised by the Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU) in Poznan, Poland, the Centre for European Research and Education and the Collegium Polonicum, AMU. As part of this conference, Rc 26 IPSA organised a panel entitled “Hot Topic for Human Rights in the 21st Century from European and Beyond European Perspective”. The panel was held in a hybrid mode.

It featured nine distinguished speakers. The first was Professor Oscar Pérez de la Fuente, Carlos III University of Madrid, Spain, who made interesting remarks concerning the GRECO Report of Spain 2022 regarding members of Parliament, judges and prosecutors. Professor de la Fuente explained that GRECO was the Council of Europe’s specialised body for fighting corruption. Its report on Spain 2022 made several recommendations relating to legislative lobbying, the enforcement of judicial independence, improved selection procedures and a better disciplinary service for prosecutors. As the Professor pointed out, there are some difficulties in monitoring the lobbying activities of parliamentarians, and there has not yet been enough consensus on legislation. There is also a significant lack of consensus on the Consejo General del Poder Judicial election and conflicting concepts of power-sharing that prevent agreement on this issue. Some progress has been made in the regulation **OF**

of public prosecutors. The GRECO Commission urged Spain to reach the necessary agreements concerning members of Parliament, judges and prosecutors to enforce the rule of law.

Professor Alex Sander Pires, Chair-elect of Rc26, then gave a presentation entitled “Peace, Education and Democracy for the Enjoyment of Human Rights”. He highlighted that the United Nations General Assembly, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, saw the need to consider changes in the direction of human rights protection in the face of rising international tensions that escalated into historic wars and the weakening of the core points of the 2030 Agenda for a Sustainable World since the post-pandemic problems. As noted above, more complex questions about the effectiveness of and access to human rights in the face of real contemporary challenges encourage theorists and practitioners to find solutions, as seen in the economic and health crises of recent years, migration flows and humanitarian crises. It is necessary to rebuild the rule of law in the context of peace as a guarantee for the enjoyment of human rights and to strengthen international law by rebuilding democratic respect for sovereignty and upholding the values of education and self-determination of peoples. All this has led to a new peace agenda proposed by the UN Secretary-General, which focuses on the salvation of international security and peace by the central UN bodies and the promotion of a forward-looking dialogue between peoples and States for the negotiated settlement of conflicts. The main objective of these efforts should be to save peaceful international coexistence and to return to the agenda of achieving sustainable development. In this context, the Professor sought to answer how and by what means a solution to these issues could be found in the international arena.

The next speaker was the undersigned, who attempted to conceptualise digital human rights. It was emphasised that the same human rights and human rights obligations that apply offline are also relevant in the digital environment. At the same time, a definition of digital human rights was proposed. This concept should be understood as a set of legal or other norms and standards to which everyone is entitled, regardless of race, gender, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion or any other status, to protect human dignity in the digital world. According to K. Vašák’s concept, we can distinguish three subcategories of digital human rights: a/ positive rights (state action) - “freedom to...” (universal connectivity, ensuring digital inclusion for all), b/ negative rights - “freedom from...” (guaranteeing protection of human rights in the digital world, ensuring the safety of human

rights in the digital age, global cooperation on artificial intelligence), c/ solidarity rights - (promoting digital public goods to create a fairer world, strengthening digital capacity building, promoting trust and security in the digital environment, building a more effective architecture for cooperation).

Later, the room belonged to Professor Ragnar Leuning from Germany, who presented the topic of intercultural communication - a necessary basis for international encounters. Next, Professor Cassius Chai (Universidade Federal do Maranhao and Faculdade de Direito de Vitoria, Brazil) gave a presentation, “Democracy and Distrust: The Judicial Review Role in Fundamental Law Enforcement in Times of Disinformation and Geopolitics Shifts Regarding Human Rights Protection and The Rule of Law coherence”. Later, Leanid Marozau from AMU in Poznan presented a lecture, “The status of young people’s rights in Belarus: from prison to political emigration”. The next speaker was Furquan Ahmed (University of Karachi, Pakistan), who presented the problem “Religious Nationalism and Minority Rights in South Asia”. As he emphasised, religious nationalism has had a profound impact on minority rights in South Asia. Hindu nationalists view Christian schools as institutions that facilitate religious conversion, which they perceive as a threat to Hinduism’s indigenous identity. As a result, they argue that Christianity and Islam are foreign religions that have been imposed on the native Hindu population through proselytisation. Unfortunately, this perception has led to discrimination and the denial of rights for religious minorities. This is evident in India, where the Constitution guarantees freedom of religion and identifies the country as a secular democratic republic. However, the rise of religious nationalism has undermined these guarantees, leading to an increase in violence and discrimination against religious minorities. In this context, Indian secularism differs from that of other democratic countries in the sense that it grapples with the challenge of Hindu majoritarianism by allowing the state to intervene in religious affairs. This intervention aims to end discriminatory social practices and ensure equal rights for all citizens, even if it requires interfering with religion-based laws or practices.

The next speaker was Anju Gupta, Head Department of Political Science, JECRC University, Jaipur, India, who presented a paper titled “A Continent at the Cross Roads: Navigating Europe’s Turbulent Waters in the 21st Century”. In the opinion of Professor Anju Gupta, with a focus on Ukraine, the battle between the European Union (EU) and Russia for control of the European political, economic, and security order has irregularly escalated since 2004. Originally, the EU’s primary strategy for mitigating this competition was denial; but once Russia invaded Ukraine on a large scale in 2022, this strategy was no longer viable. In three crucial ways, the EU joined the race as an emergent geopo-

litical player: by waging war over the European order, using its (still limited) physical power, and expanding its boundaries. Most crucially, in response to Russia’s war on Ukraine, the EU is actively working to reshape the European order. The EU has strengthened its hard power capabilities and provided military support, even if it is primarily pursuing its aims via civilian methods. Furthermore, Ukraine took a firm stand on its future borders—which were fiercely disputed—by being granted candidate nation status.

The last speaker was Yukti Gupta, JECRC University, Jaipur, India, who presented the “Rise of Populism and the Emerging Challenges to Globalisation”.

It was undoubtedly an exciting scientific event.



SARIM South Asia Research Institute for Minorities

PODCAST ON RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE AND MINORITY RIGHTS

DR. FERNAND DE VARENNES
FORMER UN SPECIAL
RAPPORTEUR ON MINORITY
ISSUES

FURQAN AHMED
SENIOR RESEARCH
ASSOCIATE,
SARIM

WATCH US AT: 10.00 CET MONDAY, 29 JANUARY

The graphic features a dark brown background with an orange banner at the top containing the SARIM logo and the title of the podcast. Below the banner are two circular portraits of the speakers, Dr. Fernand de Varennes and Furqan Ahmed, with their names and titles listed underneath. At the bottom, there is a microphone icon, a progress bar, and navigation arrows. Social media icons for Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter are located in the bottom left corner.

Podcast: Religious Intolerance and Minority Rights

Moderator: Furqan Ahmed

In a recent podcast organized by the South Asia Research Institute for Minorities, Dr. Fernand De Varennes, a visiting professor and the former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, addressed the increasing religious intolerance towards Muslims in Myanmar and India. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbEwzWLM_2s

The session, hosted by Furqan Ahmed on January 29, 2024, provided a platform for Dr. De Varennes to discuss the concerning trends affecting these regions. During the podcast, Dr. De Varennes highlighted the similarities in the tactics employed by both Myanmar and India, including the scapegoating of minorities and the use of political nationalism to undermine the rights of Muslim communities.

He emphasized the potential for such practices to escalate into genocide if left unchecked and stressed the necessity for international accountability and the promotion of inter-faith dialogue. Drawing on successful global practices, such as the policies of territorial autonomy and multiculturalism seen in Switzerland and Belgium, Dr. De Varennes suggested these as models from which Myanmar and India could learn. Despite the dire situation, he remained hopeful that strong international pressure combined with empowered grassroots movements could affect meaningful change.

The podcast underscored the critical role of international collaboration and grassroots advocacy in combating religious intolerance and safeguarding minority rights, reflecting Dr. De Varennes' extensive experience and the international recognition of his work with the United Nations.

TRANSFORMING LIVES: A DECADE OF STREET CHILDREN'S JOURNEY IN PAKISTAN

Syed Muhammad Ali Bilgrami
CEO Bilgrami & Associates Internationa

Introduction

As I write this article in April 2024, memories flood back to a pivotal moment exactly a decade ago. Nine courageous street children and myself, touched down at Jinnah International Airport in Karachi. Our mission? Having represent Pakistan in the Street Child World Cup held in Rio, Brazil and won the bronze[1]. As we stepped off the plane, we were greeted by a sea of 4,000 charged football fans from across Pakistan[2]. The airport staff scrambled to get us outopening and closing one gate after the other, as this was the first time these street children experienced genuine affection and, most importantly, respect. No police officers snatched their meagre earnings or subjected them to beatings. No one molested or ridiculed them. For once, they were heroes, not invisible outcasts.

The 2014 Situational Analysis

Globally, street children faced complex socio-political challenges: India (11 million[3]) Egypt (1.5 million)[4] Kenya (0.3 million)[5] Philippines (0.25 million)[6] Germany (0.02 million)[7]. In Pakistan alone, an estimated 1.5 million[8] street children grappled with poverty, neglect, and violence[9]. Karachi, Lahore, and Peshawar harboured most of this population. These resilient souls survived independently, away from formal social structures. Their numbers surged due to factors like domestic violence, family issues, poverty, peer pressure, and addiction[10]. The War on Terror also contributed to internal displacement, further swelling their ranks. Illiteracy, health issues, and vulnerability plagued them[11], with many falling victims to sexual assault[12] and crimes[13]. There was no policy or legislative agenda for them by the government.

The Turning Point

In 2014, everything changed after Street Child World Cup. The nine champs became Pakistan's sensation, advocating for street children's rights and protection. The National Assembly passed a groundbreaking resolution, providing social security and protection—a first. These children became ambassadors, coaches, and social workers, elevating football's popularity in Pakistan. Corporates like HBL and the World Group supported their rehabilitation and reintegration through football.

Today's Grim Reality

Fast-forward to today, and the situation is dire. Street children remain abandoned, betrayed by both the government and NGOs. The sport-for-development model lies forgotten, with no initiatives in sight. National Strategic Plans and Action Plans for Children overlook street children entirely. Despite two general censuses, no mapping or census has been conducted. Critical data gaps hinder policy development. UNICEF and INGOs have withdrawn funding, leaving these vulnerable children uncared and unheard. Climate change now exacerbates internal displacement, and poverty persists as the primary driver. Protection centers are scarce, and government facilities fall short. Are we silently letting them go? Street youth involvement in crimes is rising. Is this society's justice for ignoring them as children?

In this ongoing struggle, we must remember that street children remain “uncared, unheard, and unseen.” Research is crucial to address the risk factors pushing them onto the streets (M. Ansari, 2019a).

Recommendations

Pakistan faces a significant challenge with a large population of street children. To effectively address this issue, a combination of policy changes and social initiatives are needed. Conducting a national census of street children will provide crucial data for informed decision-making. Updating national action plans specifically focused on street children, along with expanding social safety nets for vulnerable families, are essential steps. Investing in education, healthcare, and regulations for safe street work activities are also key. Strengthening child protection mechanisms and reviving sports development programs like football can offer protection and opportunities. Public awareness campaigns are crucial to shift societal attitudes towards street children. Engaging the private sector through CSR initiatives and promoting community-based rehabilitation programs further strengthen the support system for these vulnerable children. By implementing these recommendations, Pakistan can work towards a future where all children are safe, protected, and have a chance

to reach their full potential.

- [1] <https://www.thenews.com.pk/tns/detail/556574-pff-and-players-of-street-child-world-cup>
- [2] The Express Tribune. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/692840/street-child-world-cup-the-young-heroes-return-to-pakistan>
- [3] Consortium for Street Children's Civil Society Forums: South Asia, 12-14 December 2001, Colombo (with Child Hope and PEACE) and East and South East Asia, 12-14 March 2003, Bangkok. Reporting by KKSP Foundation (citing ILO figures); Aparajeyo (Bangladesh); Asha Rane (India); Save the Children UK China Programme (China); World Vision Myanmar (Burma); Terre des Hommes-Lausanne, Vietnam and partners (Vietnam).
- [4] UNICEF Egypt (http://www.unicef.org/media/media_39599.html)
- [5] IRIN-KENYA: Nairobi's Street Children: Hope for Kenya's future generation (<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=69987>)
- [6] World Street Children News (<http://streetkidnews.blogspot.com/2003/11/14/children-in-detention-in-the-philippines/>)
- [7] Earth Times (<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/news/191615,growing-number-of-street-children-in-germany-report-says.html>)
- [8] Asian Human Rights Commission (<http://acr.hrschool.org/mainfile.php/0228/461/>)
- [9] Identification of Key Vulnerabilities amongst street working and living girls in selected towns of Karachi conducted by Azad Foundation in 2008.
- [10] Identification of Key Vulnerabilities amongst street working and living girls in selected towns of Karachi conducted by Azad Foundation in 2008.
- [11] Identification of Key Vulnerabilities amongst street working and living girls in selected towns of Karachi conducted by Azad Foundation in 2008.
- [12] Ibid
- [13] <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2013/3/14/pakistan-detains-suspected-child-bombers>

Digital version of this post: <https://humanrights.webphilosophia.com/archivos/206>



WOMEN'S ACHIEVER'S AWARD

International Women's Day 2024 was celebrated on March 8th 2024 at JECRC University, Jaipur(India) . This special occasion not only commemorate the achievements and contributions of women but also highlight the commitment to diversity, equality, and inclusion in higher education.

As part of the celebrations, the University honored the hard work and dedication of the female fraternity at JECRC University. This was a gesture to recognize and appreciate their valuable contributions to the University's success. The aim was to acknowledge the loyalty and bond of trust that exists between the female employees and the university. The program was organized with the notion that empowering women is a key to nation-building. For this the University announced "Women's Achievers Award" Ceremony and invited nominations in various categories, such as leadership, innovation, and community impact. Ms. Anju Gupta , Head Department of Political Science also Board Member of RC26 IPSA was nominated under the category Leadership & Excellence and was awarded in the same category . She received this award from the Vice Chairman of the University Mr. Amit & Mr. Arpit Agarwal .

RC26 ON HUMAN RIGHTS IPSA CELEBRATES WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY FOR THE FIRST TIME - 6 MAY 2024 (WEBINAR) - 18:00 CET.

The United Nations General Assembly, more than 30 years ago, in 1993, declared 3 May World Press Freedom Day, also known as World Press Day. The primary purpose of this global initiative is to raise awareness of the importance of press freedom and to remind governments of their obligation to respect and uphold the right to freedom of expression enshrined in Article 19 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In this way, the international community wishes to focus the world's attention on the fundamental problems of media freedom, assess press freedom worldwide, defend the media against attacks on their independence and pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession. 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 intertwined. Undoubtedly, without free and pluralistic media, there can be no proper democracy. Hence, media freedom and freedom of expression are fundamental human rights. The theme for World Press Freedom Day in 2024 will be "Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis". The celebration of this important day is scheduled for 3 May 2024. RC 26 intends to join this trend and celebrate this event by organising a special webinar scheduled for 6 May 2024 from 18:00-20:00 CET. The event will be attended by prominent experts in this field from different continents. Detailed information about this event, the exact list of guests and a link to the webcast will be presented soon on RC26 IPSA's social media.

Jędrzej Skrzypczak



IPSA RC26 ON HUMAN RIGHTS

uc3m | Universidad Carlos III de Madrid



**ADAM MICKIEWICZ
UNIVERSITY
POZNAŃ**

RC26 ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE IPSA CELEBRATES UNESCO'S

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY



PROF. ENRIQUE ARMIJO
Elon University School of
Law, USA



**PROF. STANISŁAW
JĘDRZEJEWSKI**
Kozminski University in
Warsaw, Poland



**PROF. LEONARDO VIZEU
FIGUEIREDO**
Universidade Federal
Fluminense/Brazil



**MR. JAVIER GARZA
RAMOS**
World Editors Forum,
Article19 and Mexico's
National Commission to
Prevent Discrimination

MODERATOR



PROF. ALEX SANDER PIRES
Universidade Autónoma
de Lisboa, Portugal



PHD DOMINIKA BYCHAWSKA
Media Freedom
Observatory at the
Helsinki Foundation for
Human Rights in Poland &
Prague Civil Society Center



**PROF. SHAISTA
TABASSUM**
Professor of international
Relations Dean faculty of
Arts and Social Sciences
University of Karachi,
Pakistan



**PROF. JĘDRZEJ
SKRZYPCZAK**
Adam Mickiewicz
University in Poznan,
Poland. Chair of RC26 of
IPSA



6 MAY 2024



START AT
18:00 CEST

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
[HTTPS://RC26.IPSA.ORG](https://rc26.ipsa.org)

EQUITY IN AN EMERGENCY: THE IMPERATIVE OF CLIMATE JUSTICE IN PAKISTAN

Yasir Ali

PhD Scholar and Teaching Associate

department of International Relations, University of Karachi

Amidst rising environmental catastrophes and crises, Pakistan appears to be standing on the very crossroads. Climate change and its extremely serious impacts is actually not limited to any country, as it equally hits rich and poor nations alike. However, the most vulnerable countries like Pakistan are the ones who get affected by it the most fiercely. Along with other states on earth, Pakistan faces the issue of rapid climate crisis.

The country is blessed with various ecosystems ranging from the majestic peaks of the Himalayas to the fertile plains of the Indus Valley, is endangered by this ongoing threat. Climate change is yielding more unpredictable weather occurrences, the melting of glaciers, more disastrous floods and longer regional droughts. These consequences further aggravate already marginalized communities, endangering human security and increasing its vulnerabilities.

Pakistan produces less than 1% of the greenhouse gas emissions in the world but continuously ranks in the top countries that are most vulnerable to climate change impacts as stated by the annual Global Climate Risk Index. In 2022, a catastrophic flood that submerged a notable area of Pakistan took lives of more than 1,700 people and displaced many others. Key structures such as roads, bridges, and electricity grids suffered extensive damage, and crops were devastated on millions of acres.

This is not a one-off event. It is getting worse every year, which is caused by climate change. From the 1960s till now, Pakistan has seen a general rise in average rainfall during monsoons as a result of temperature increase. According to climate models, extreme precipitation events becoming even more intense as global warming goes into its continuation. India is already the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases after China and has continued to show lukewarmness even at the recent COP27 inter sessions. Pakistan on the other hand has to compete with an uncertain scenario of the fast melting Hindu Kush glaciers along with a global climate emergency already looming over it.

With the country's proliferating population and straining resources, the destabilizing effects of climate change become more pronounced. The poor households are at the greatest risk of losing their food security since the temperatures, precipitation, and extreme conditions are becoming extremely harsher causing a reduction of major crop production in some farming areas. Water shortages force millions of children to leave school and work instead for their families gathering supplies. For that they have to travel great distances to find them in remote places. This leads to youth unemployment, an upsurge in civil conflicts over resources, as well as insecurity and an increased sense of injustice.

In response to this catastrophe, Pakistan has actively engaged on the international stage, demanding climate justice and asking for global commitment in dealing with climate change issues. Pakistan's ratification of the Paris Agreement and pledge towards the lowering of greenhouse gas emissions serve as a realization of the country's accountability in confronting the climate crisis. Also, programs such as the Billion Tree Tsunami and the Clean Green Pakistan campaign demonstrate the government's determination to improve the environment and development.

Nevertheless, despite the adoption of different strategies, there remain many obstacles that make it difficult for the government of Pakistan to put its climate policies into practice. The fact that the country is still largely dependent on fossil fuels, along with poor infrastructure, and the limited financial resources makes the transition to a low-carbon future a struggle. On the other hand, unequal distribution of resources increases the vulnerability of marginalized communities to climate change and thus limits their efforts to adaptation.

In order to overcome this situation, Pakistan has to make sure the climate justice has the prominence and priority in their policy-making. This means reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and creating opportunities for participation, as well as shielding the vulnerable groups with services and strategies that make them resilient. Investments in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and climate resilient infrastructure will not only help to reduce the negative impacts of climate change, but is also essential for achieving the inclusive development. Besides, forming global partnerships with the United Nations, non-profit organizations, as well as the private companies is a very powerful way of gathering the funds and expertise for climate change improvement.

In addition, the development of Pakistan's policy on climate justice has to be based on a pledge to protect the rights and interests of its people, now and in the future. This needs an effective leadership that will come up with cutting-edge solutions which will help in

squaring with the climate alteration challenges. In the turbulence of the uncertain and changing climate, Pakistan will have a decisive role to undertake to build a more equitable and sustainable world for everyone.

Digital version of this post: <https://humanrights.webphilosophia.com/archivos/210>

SARIM South Asia Research Institute for Minorities

THE IMPACT OF DUAL-USE TECHNOLOGY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND MINORITY RIGHTS | PODCAST

With Special Guest

Furqan Ahmed

Senior Research Associate
SARIM

Cássius Guimarães Chai

Full Law & Geopolitical Professor,
School of Law, Federal University of
Maranhão, Brazil

Tuesday, 6 Feb 2024
9:00 PM Pakistani Time
01:00 PM Brasilia Time

www.sarimwatch.org

Podcast: “Exploring Dual-Use Technology’s Impact on Human Rights and Minority Rights”

Moderator: Furqan Ahmed

In the recent podcast titled “Exploring Dual-Use Technology’s Impact on Human Rights and Minority Rights,” hosted by the South Asia Research Institute for Minorities, Professor Cássius Guimarães Chai discussed the complex relationship between dual-use technologies and their implications for human and minority rights. This session, moderated by Furqan Ahmed on February 6, 2024, provided deep insights into how technologies intended for both civilian and military use pose challenges to protecting fundamental rights. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNYJcsXDdNM&t=2342s>

Professor Chai, an expert in Law and Geopolitics from Brazil, emphasized the critical need for solid legal and ethical frameworks to prevent the misuse of technologies, such as internet surveillance, facial recognition, social media monitoring, and predictive policing tools. He outlined how such technologies, while advanced, need rigorous oversight to balance progress with the preservation of rights.

Highlighting additional concerns, Professor Chai pointed to technologies like 3D printers, which inadvertently facilitate arms trafficking, posing severe risks to border control and law enforcement. He called for international collaboration and shared legal frameworks to manage the development and application of dual-use technologies effectively.

The discussion also covered the broader role of international organizations, like the United Nations, in regulating these technologies and promoting ethical standards and economic sanctions to safeguard global human rights. Looking forward, Professor Chai discussed the emerging implications of artificial intelligence and machine learning, stressing the importance of equitable access to technology to uphold human dignity and counter societal inequalities.

In conclusion, Professor Chai’s message was clear: there is a collective responsibility to ensure the responsible use of dual-use technology, emphasizing empathy, tolerance, and democracy to foster an inclusive and ethically conscious technological future. Through his dialogue, he encouraged a more profound examination of the ethical and legal challenges posed by dual-use technologies, advocating for a balance between innovation and ethical considerations in technology.

RC26 ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE IPSA CELEBRATES WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2024 – 20 JUNE 2024, 18:00 CET).

It is an international day declared by the United Nations to honour refugees worldwide. It falls every year on 20 June to commemorate the strength and courage of persons forced to leave their country to escape conflict or persecution. World Refugee Day was first celebrated around the world on 20 June 2001, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention. It was initially known as African Refugee Day before the UN General Assembly officially established it as an international day in December 2000, dedicated to exiles worldwide. The global observance of World Refugee Day reminds the international community of refugees' situation, rights, needs and dreams. It attempts to mobilise public opinion and policymakers to assist and protect displaced persons. The number of such individuals on the planet, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as of September 2023, was 114 million, meaning that wars, persecution and violence have forced a record number of individuals to leave their homes. Armed conflicts - in Ukraine, Sudan, Myanmar and the Democratic Republic of the Congo - as well as the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, were primarily behind the increase in the number of such persons. Therefore, RC 26 intends to join this trend and celebrate this event by organising a special webinar scheduled for 20 June from 18:00-20:00 CET. The event will be attended by prominent experts in this field from different continents. Details of the event, the exact list of guests and a link to the webcast will be presented soon on RC26 IPSA's social media.

CALL, FOR PAPERS

Call for Papers

The Age of Human Rights Journal

<https://revistaselectronicas.ujaen.es/index.php/TAHRJ/index>

The Age of Human Rights Journal is a scientific journal of international relevance, published in English, peer-reviewed and open-access, containing papers concerning Human Rights from different approaches.

The Journal is included in SCOPUS and in the Emerging Sources Citation Index (Web of Science).

It is also in: Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), LATINDEX (catalogue), ISOC (CSIC), DIALNET, CIRC, ERIH PLUS, CARHUS PLUS, MIAR, ULRICH'S, OCLC, WORLDCAT, REDIB, EUROPUB, and Philosopher's Index.

Submission instructions:

<https://revistaselectronicas.ujaen.es/index.php/TAHRJ/about/submissions>

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.

In this way we hope that the time that elapses from the moment an accepted article is submitted until it is published will be about three months.

Call for applications

The biennial FFVT International Summer School on Forced Migration and Governance, which is hosted by the Centre for Human Rights Erlangen-Nuremberg (CHREN) as part of the BMBF-funded joint project “Forced Migration and Refugee Studies: Networking and Knowledge Transfer” will take place from 15 to 20 July 2024 at the imperial castle in Nuremberg. This year the interdisciplinary Summer School deals with the topic of “Climate (Im-) Mobility”.

The application deadline is April, 24th 2024. Further information and details on how to apply are available online: <https://ffvt.net/de/events/save-the-date-ffvt-international-summer-school-on-forced-migration>

PUBLICATIONS

NEWS

Blog:

<http://humanrights.webphilosophia.com>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1262291640875256>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/ipsarc26>

Linkedin:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12552268/>

Official website:

<http://rc26.ipsa.org>