

# HUMAN RIGHTS Research Committee 26 IPSA International Political Science Association

## Joint Message from the Chair and Vice- Chair



Newsletter no. 21  
April 2026

Dear Colleagues,

Dear Friends,

The beginning of 2026 invites reflection and renewed commitment to the principles that guide our collective work in human rights. Echoing the message of the United Nations Secretary-General for the New Year, we are reminded that the challenges facing humanity—ranging from persistent inequalities to conflicts and climate pressures—require solidarity, multilateral cooperation, and an unwavering dedication to human dignity. The call is clear: to rebuild trust, strengthen institutions, and place people and their rights at the center of all global and local actions.

In this spirit, it is especially meaningful that the United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2026 as the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development. This recognition highlights the essential role of volunteerism in

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Sustainable Development Goals, fostering social cohesion, and empowering communities. It underscores the transformative power of civic engagement and reminds us that meaningful change often begins with committed individuals working collectively for the common good.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the United Nations' adoption of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which was adopted in 1966 and entered into force in 1976. The Covenant remains one of the cornerstone international human rights treaties, protecting fundamental rights such as the right to life, freedom of expression, the right to a fair trial, and the right to privacy.

We believe this anniversary offers an excellent opportunity not only for members of IPSA RC26 on Human Rights, but for all, to reflect on the global human rights system and its effectiveness.

The RC26 on Human Rights reaffirms its steadfast commitment to promoting and disseminating best practices in the field of human rights. Our research, dialogue, and academic initiatives continue to be guided by principles of inclusivity, respect for diversity, and the protection of fundamental freedoms. We strive to contribute to knowledge production that not only advances scholarship but also informs policies and practices that uphold human dignity worldwide.

In this context, Chair Alex Sander Xavier Pires, together with Chair-elect Anju Gupta and Vice Chair Jędrzej Skrzypczak, with the active participation of Board members, seeks to contribute to the promotion and practice of a culture of peace through ongoing academic dialogue and collaboration within RC26 and the broader IPSA community. This collective effort reflects a shared commitment to promoting ethical reflection, mutual understanding, and constructive engagement among different perspectives

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Over the past period, RC26 has actively strengthened its collaboration within the IPSA community. This includes the presentation of a chapter in the official IPSA book on deglobalization and reglobalization, contributions of four entries to the IPSA Encyclopedia, and the development of a publication project aligned with the IPSA Book Series model. Additionally, RC26 has promoted dynamic academic exchange through Work in Progress Sessions (WIPS), as well as the organization of conferences, seminars, and webinars that have brought together scholars from diverse regions and perspectives.

We would like to express our sincere recognition and gratitude to all RC26 members. Your commitment, scholarly contributions, and active participation are the foundation of our collective success. It is through your engagement that RC26 continues to grow as a vibrant and impactful research community.

Looking ahead, we are pleased to announce the continuation and expansion of these initiatives. RC26 will further develop its publication projects, organize new conferences and academic events, and promote collaborative research, including the preparation of new collective volumes that reflect the diversity and depth of our field.

We conclude with an open invitation to all members and colleagues to actively participate in our ongoing and future initiatives. Together, we can continue to strengthen our network, deepen our research, and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of human rights and the promotion of a global culture of peace.

Alex Sander Xavier Pires

Jędrzej Skrzypczak

## RC26 AT IPSA WiPS 2026

IPSA WiPS is a new service introduced by IPSA to its members starting in 2024. The IPSA Work in Progress Sessions (IPSA WiPS) will take place online from 13–19 July 2026. The event aims to host a series of interactive workshops in which individual IPSA members can present and engage in in depth discussions about their ongoing research with colleagues who share similar interests and topics. This format offers a valuable opportunity for paper authors to receive specific, detailed feedback that is often difficult to achieve in larger conference settings.

The goals of IPSA WiPS are to provide constructive feedback on works in progress and to foster the development of special journal issues, edited books, research networks, and project proposals. IPSA WiPS focuses specifically on “work in progress” papers, so completed research is not a requirement. Each participant will present their ongoing research and receive feedback from other participants and the Research Committee. These workshops are open only to accepted and registered participants.

According to IPSA guidelines, WiPS sessions are available exclusively to IPSA members, as is the case with the World Congress. Zoom rooms will be programmed and provided by the IPSA Secretariat to each unit chair, and registration fees will be collected via the WiPS webpage once registration opens in early June. Convenors are not required to register, and fees have been waived for chairs who are not also presenting a paper. All other participants are invited to register and pay the fees ( see <https://www.ipsa.org/events/wips2026> )

### KeyDates

<https://www.ipsa.org/events/wips2026>

### Guidelines

<https://www.ipsa.org/events/wips2026>

**A RC26 PANELS AT IPSA WIPS 2026**  
**1. PANEL: “DISINFORMATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS”**

This panel will examine the growing threat that disinformation poses to international human rights standards, including freedom of expression, access to information, and non discrimination. In the era of rapid AI and social media development, disinformation contributes to societal polarization, the erosion of trust in institutions, and the violation of the rights of minorities and journalists, as highlighted in UN Human Rights Council Resolution 55/10 of 3 April 2024, “The Role of States in Countering the Negative Impact of Disinformation on the Enjoyment and Realization of Human Rights”. Participants will discuss the need for a balanced, human rights based approach to countering disinformation, while avoiding abuses in the fight against “fake news”, in line with guidelines issued by the Council of Europe and the United Nations. The panel will also address the regulatory challenges involved in promoting societal resilience to manipulation and information based harm.

**2. PANEL: “ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS AND THREATS TO HUMAN RIGHTS”**

This panel examines the key challenges posed by artificial intelligence systems to human rights. It will focus on the risks of discrimination, privacy violations, and restrictions on freedom of expression, as well as the adequacy and effectiveness of existing and emerging regulations. Artificial intelligence can exacerbate discrimination through biases in algorithms, for example, in facial recognition or predictive policing models, disproportionately affecting ethnic minorities and other vulnerable groups. These tools also threaten privacy through mass surveillance and biometric data analysis, undermining the rights to freedom of assembly and to a fair trial. Freedom of expression is constrained by imperfect content moderation systems and manipulative bots, which can create echo chambers and influence democratic processes.

The panel will encourage debate on sustainable AI development, with an emphasis on inclusive training data, robust impact assessments of fundamental rights, and case based insights from across the world.

Call for Proposal

<https://www.ipsa.org/events/wips2026>

## **BEARING THE RISK, MISSING THE REWARD: THE UNEQUAL BURDEN OF THE NEW SPACE RACE**

Cássius Guimarães Chai

RC26 Board Member

Full Law and Geopolitics Professor (PPGAERO/PROFIAP/UFMA & PPGD/FDV)

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[www.spaceweeknordeste.com](http://www.spaceweeknordeste.com)

The grand promise enshrined in Article I of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, that the exploration and use of outer space shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, constitutes one of international law's most ambitious normative declarations. It proclaims space as the "province of all mankind," a common beyond terrestrial sovereign claims. However, viewed from the critical perspective afforded by Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAIL), this foundational promise stands in stark and increasingly indefensible tension with present realities. The juridical architecture of space governance, far from guaranteeing equitable access and benefit-sharing, functions as a mechanism for consolidating the technological and economic primacy of a handful of wealthy states and their corporate proxies, thereby perpetuating the very structures of global inequality that

TWAIL scholarship has long sought to unmask.

The TWAIL critique offers an indispensable hermeneutic for understanding why the "province of all mankind" remains a largely rhetorical flourish. It posits that international legal norms, including those governing outer space, were forged within a post-colonial order inherently reflecting the interests of powerful, developed states. The ostensibly

neutral principle of equitable access is, in practice, subverted by operational realities. The prevailing regime for allocating geostationary orbital slots and radio frequencies, administered by the International Telecommunication Union, operates effectively on a “first-come, first-served” basis. This procedural framework creates an insurmountable first-mover advantage, allowing established spacefaring nations and their commercial entities to claim prime orbital real estate long before developing nations possess the technical and financial capacity to compete. The result is not a common management for universal benefit, but a de facto enclosure of a finite resource, sanctioned by a legal order whose structural biases TWAIL consistently foregrounds.

Furthermore, the accelerating commercialization and militarization of space exacerbate this foundational inequity. The deployment of vast satellite mega-constellations by private corporations, while offering global services, consumes enormous amounts of spectrum and orbital volume in Low Earth Orbit. This raises urgent concerns about the ability of non-spacefaring countries to ever achieve meaningful access. The orbital environment is rapidly becoming congested and polluted, predominantly by the actions of a few, yet the consequent risks of collision and debris proliferation fall disproportionately upon nations that have yet to launch their first satellite. This dynamic, wherein the costs and dangers of technological “progress” are externalized onto the global periphery, mirrors patterns of environmental injustice and resource extraction that TWAIL identifies as characteristic of neo-colonial legal and economic relations. The principle of the “province of all mankind” is thus inverted: the benefits are privatized and concentrated, while the long-term risks and burdens are socialized globally, with developing nations bearing a disproportionate share of the potential consequences of the Kessler Syndrome.

In conclusion, the intersection of space law’s foundational promise with TWAIL’s critical lens reveals a profound and disquieting juridical dissonance. The “province of all mankind” functions less as a binding normative commitment and more as a legitimating ideology for a system that entrenches global hierarchy. A genuinely equitable framework for space governance cannot be realized through a superficial adherence to dated treaty language; it demands a fundamental reimagining of the legal order itself. This reimagining must prioritize procedural inclusion, granting developing nations a substantive voice in the regulatory bodies that shape the future of the cosmos. It requires concrete mechanisms for technology transfer and capacity building that move beyond mere aspirational statements. Ultimately, the legitimacy of international space law hinges upon its capacity to trans-

hinges upon its capacity to transform the abstract promise of a shared celestial commons into a tangible reality of equitable participation and shared benefit. Without such a transformation, the law merely provides a veneer of legality to a new frontier of global disenfranchisement.

Digital version: <https://humanrights.webphilosophia.com/archivos/346>

## **PLURALISM, DURING THE IPSA RESEARCH COMMITTEES COLLOQUIUM 2026, 23–26 JUNE 2026 IN BOLZANO/BOZEN, ITALY.**

As part of the IPSA Research Committees Colloquium 2026 entitled “Minorities under siege. Pluralist societies facing pluralist challenges”, a special panel entitled “Language minority rights: challenges of pluralism” will take place on 23–26 June 2026 in Bolzano/Bozen, organised jointly by RC50 The Politics of Language and RC26 Human Rights. The event, organised by the Institute for Minority Rights at Eurac Research, provides an important platform for reflection on the linguistic rights of minorities as an integral part of the human rights system in pluralistic societies.

The panel is dedicated to the conceptualisation and practices of implementing linguistic minority rights in rapidly changing socio-political contexts. The presentations analyse systemic changes, restrictions, the ideologisation and ‘weaponisation’ of these rights in the 21st century, taking into account both individual and collective aspects. Particular attention is paid to mechanisms for identifying and guaranteeing language rights and their role in promoting diversity and social cohesion.

During the panel „Migrants’ linguistic rights and European contexts” Oscar Pérez de la Fuente (Carlos III University of Madrid) will present “Migrants’ linguistic rights”, highlighting the marginalisation of migrants’ cultural and linguistic rights in international law, as well as the contradiction between collective and individual rights, particularly in the context of national minorities. Then Jędrzej Skrzypczak (Adam Mickiewicz Univer-

rsity in Poznań) will discuss “Challenges for European guarantees of linguistic minority rights in the 21st century”, analysing the evolution of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in the context of digitalisation, migration, and politicisation. Using Poland as an example (the Kashubian and Silesian languages), he highlighted financial and legal shortcomings as well as the impact of politics on language rights. Michał Szczyszek, Agnieszka Piotrowska-Wojaczyk, Zuzanna Przybysz, Alicja Goczyła Ferreira (AMU and Universidade Federal do Paraná, Curitiba) will demonstrate how “Polish as a minority language in Brazil” is maintained within a Portuguese-speaking environment, and how the influence of language policy, particularly in the 1930s and 1970s, led to the collapse of institutions and the curtailment of language rights, which have now been restored in certain parts of South American Korea.

Panel RC26 and RC50 strengthen the dialogue between political linguistics and human rights, emphasising that language rights are not merely “cultural rights” but a key to democracy, integration, and security.

## **THE ALGORITHMIC FRONTIER: AI, POLITICAL SCIENCE, AND THE FUTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

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As we move further into the decade, the intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Political Science has transitioned from a niche technical concern to a fundamental challenge for global human rights. In 2026, the proliferation of generative AI and predictive analytics is not merely changing how we govern—it is fundamentally altering the “Social Contract.” For the international political science community, specifically those focused on human rights, this shift demands a new vocabulary of resistance and a reimagined framework for justice.

One of the most pressing political issues today is the erosion of “Epistemic Security”—the ability of a society to distinguish fact from fabrication. Generative AI has weaponized the “marketplace of ideas.” With hyper-realistic deep-

deepfakes, we have entered an era of “The Liar’s Dividend,” where the very existence of AI allows bad actors to dismiss real evidence of human rights abuses as “synthetic.”

From a political science perspective, this shatters the foundation of democratic accountability. When the public cannot agree on a shared reality, the right to free and fair elections—and the right to information—is compromised. We are seeing a shift in political strategy where the goal is no longer to convince the electorate of a particular truth, but to exhaust them with so much “synthetic noise” that they withdraw from the political process entirely.

There is another problem and that is accountability Gap

The transition from traditional bureaucracy to “Algocracy”—governance by algorithm—represents a significant shift in state power. AI systems are now routinely used in judicial sentencing, social welfare distribution, and migration management. While proponents argue this brings “Scientific Management” and efficiency, human rights advocates see a “Black Box” problem.

In political theory, the legitimacy of the state rests on the transparency of its decisions. However, many AI models are proprietary and inscrutable. If a citizen is denied asylum or a social safety net based on a biased algorithm, whom do they hold accountable? The programmer? The data set? The machine? This lack of transparency violates the right to due process and creates a new form of “digital disenfranchisement” that disproportionately affects marginalized populations.

AI has also enabled a level of “Ubiquitous Surveillance” that would have been unimaginable to 20th-century theorists. The combination of facial recognition, gait analysis, and predictive policing has turned the “Panopticon” into a digital reality.

For the IPSA Human Rights Committee, the concern is how these tools are used to stifle dissent. In several regions, AI is used to monitor political activists in real-time, predicting protests before they happen and “pre-emptively” neutralizing opposition. This “Predictive Authoritarianism” chills the freedom of assembly and association, as the mere knowledge of being watched by an infallible algorithm forces citizens to self-censor their political expressions.

AI has also resulted in the Geopolitics of the “Compute Divide”.

In International Relations (IR), power is being redefined by access to “Compute”—the hardware and data necessary to run advanced AI. This is creating a dangerous “North-South” divide. We are witnessing a form of “Data Colonialism,” where the Global South provides the raw data (often generated by its citizens without consent), while the Global North controls the refined AI models.

This “Compute Divide” has direct human rights implications. Countries without sovereign AI capabilities are forced to rely on foreign platforms that may not align with their cultural values or legal protections. It creates a hierarchy of nations where “digital sovereignty” is a luxury, leaving the rights of billions of people at the mercy of a few transnational corporations.

Perhaps the most profound impact is on the nature of political agency. If algorithms can predict—and influence—voter behavior with 99% accuracy, what remains of the “Autonomous Individual”? Political science must now grapple with the idea that the “voter” is being replaced by a “data profile.”

The challenge for the 21st century is to draft a “Digital Bill of Rights” that treats AI not just as a tool, but as a systemic force that requires global oversight. We must move toward “Human-in-the-Loop” governance, where the final decision in any matter affecting a person’s life, liberty, or livelihood remains a human responsibility.

Conclusion: A Call to Action for Political Scientists

The integration of AI into the political sphere is an “orbit-shifting” event. For the members of the IPSA, our task is to ensure that while technology evolves, the “Compass of Human Rights” remains fixed. We must advocate for the Decolonization of Data, the Auditability of Algorithms, and the Protection of the Epistemic Truth.

The new horizon of politics is digital, but our commitment must remain resolutely human. As we analyze these shifting power dynamics, let us ensure that innovation serves to expand human dignity, rather than providing new tools for its suppression.

Digital version: <https://humanrights.webphilosophia.com/archivos/349>

## **IPSA REGIONAL CONFERENCE WROCLAW - 14 TO 16 OCTOBER 2026**

From 14 to 16 October 2026, Wrocław will host the IPSA Regional Conference Wrocław 2026, a three-day in-person academic conference organised in cooperation with the International Political Science Association (IPSA), the Polish Political Science Association (PTNP) and the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Wrocław.

The conference aims to examine the resilience of democracy in a world divided by polarisation, populism, autocratisation and global challenges. Five main thematic tracks have been designed, covering, among other things, threats to and the erosion of democracy; the impact of information, media, and technology (including disinformation, digital authoritarianism, AI, and governance); forms of citizenship, participation, and identity; institutional innovations; and global and environmental challenges.

Call for papers and panels.

The Call for Proposals (for papers and closed panels) is open from 1 April to 13 May 2026. The conference invites theoretical, empirical, and comparative papers on any regions and periods. Each panel lasts 90 minutes, consists of 4–5 short presentations (up to 15 minutes each), and does not allow remote presentations – all sessions take place exclusively in person.

Organisation and dates

The conference will take place in the Auditorium of the Faculty of Law, Administration and Economics at the University of Wrocław, at 22/26 Uniwersytecka Street. Registration for participants opens on 17 June, and the deadline to remain on the programme is 5 August 2026. Accepted participants may also submit the full version of their paper by 30 September 2026.

Further information, including the full programme and submission guidelines, can be found on the official IPSA website:

<https://www.ipsa.org/events/wroclaw2026.ipsa>

## **ASTOLA AT RISK: WHY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IS A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE**

Yasir Ali,  
Teaching Associate and Research Officer at University of Karachi, Pakistan.  
Furqan Ahmed,  
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Extreme weather, food insecurity, health issues are associated with air and water pollution, and the loss of land, biodiversity, and livelihoods are just a few catastrophic repercussions that environmental crises are having on people worldwide. Human rights violations are caused by inadequate enforcement of ecologically harmful economic activities such as mining, agricultural commodities, highly polluting fossil fuel industries. In order to keep global warming under 1.5 degree Celsius and stop additional environmental destruction, governments continue to fail to take swift and significant action. The main victims of environmental harm are often underprivileged and marginalized communities that have no access to independent courts for accountability and restitution and little opportunities to actively engage in public discourse and decision-making on environmental issues.

The issue of environmental protection must be taken seriously, and reason must prevail before it is too late. There are roughly 16,000 marine protected areas worldwide, covering nearly 8% of the oceans, while Pakistan has only three, protecting less than 1% of its waters. In this context, recent comments by one of the most influential ministers, Mr. Mohsin Naqvi, about establishing resorts and populating Astola Island in the name of development, while comparing it to the Maldives—are concerning. Promoting fragile ecosystems like Astola in this manner is not development; it is negligence.

Astola Island, Pakistan's secluded gem in the Arabian Sea, offers a rare glimpse of unspoiled natural beauty. Situated off the coast near Pasni (Baluchistan), this remote island is a haven for adventure seekers and nature enthusiasts alike. Its ru-

-gged cliffs, clear turquoise waters, and complete absence of permanent human settlement create a landscape that feels both raw and extraordinary. Recognized as the country's first marine protected area, Astola supports unique wildlife, including green turtles and migratory birds. Whether it's camping beneath a star-filled sky or exploring its pristine waters through snorkeling, Astola provides a remarkable escape for those in search of tranquility, adventure, and untouched nature.

Ms. Afia Salam, a renowned environmental journalist and trainer, and a member of the National Coordinating Body (NCB) for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) under Pakistan's Ministry of Climate Change, has expressed strong concern over the recent remarks made by the interior minister of the incumbent government. In a social media post, she urged him to retract his statement. She also reiterated her stance on LinkedIn, calling on Dr. Musadik Malik and Secretary Aisha Moriani, who oversee the NCB, to brief Mohsin Naqvi and ask him to publicly withdraw what she described as a "dangerous" statement. Afia emphasized that the minister should retract his remarks and encourage people to continue visiting the Maldives instead, while promoting her new hashtag, #HandsOffAstola.

She further urged supporters to amplify the call by turning #HandsOffAstola into #SaveAstolaIsland, warning against what she described as "DEVIL-ops" threatening the island's fragile ecosystem. Astola is Pakistan's first Marine Protected Area (MPA) and we need to 'protect the protected', lest we have a hoard of people with 'Bailcha and Kudaal' (Shovel and Fence) heading to Pasni. Most importantly, the matter falls under the jurisdiction of the Balochistan Forest and Wildlife Department—so why is the Federal Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi, commenting on it?" Afia added. She warned that such remarks could have serious repercussions, as clearly outlined in the management plan.

She called on conservationists to raise their voices and urged the Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan, to hold a briefing for the Ministry of Interior as soon as possible, as recommended in the NCB's last meeting. She also noted that timely pushback from environmental organizations could help nip the issue in the bud. We need to raise awareness and inform the public as well about the importance of preserving marine protected areas like Astola to prevent environmental degradation. We can ill afford to further

exacerbate our already polluted environment and must act seriously before it is too late.

When activists and ordinary citizens stand up for their rights to land and the environment, they counter intimidation, legal harassment, and deadly violence. We must advocate for human rights law and compel governments to safeguard citizens and stop corporations from causing severe environmental degradation.

Digital version: <https://humanrights.webphilosophia.com/archivos/352>

## **RC26 WEBINAR ON 8 APRIL 2026: “HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE IN THE EU AND ASEAN”**

On 8 April 2026, the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, in cooperation with the Faculty of International and Strategic Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya (UM), organised an international webinar on “Human Rights and Governance in the EU and ASEAN”. The event was held under the auspices of the IPSA Research Committee 26 on Human Rights and the Interdisciplinary Human Rights Research Committee at AMU, and took place online from 9:00 a.m. Warsaw/Madrid time (4:00 p.m. Kuala Lumpur time).

The webinar brought together scholars and practitioners from Europe, Southeast Asia, India and Brazil to explore conceptual and institutional convergences and divergences in human rights protection and governance architectures across the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and in other regions. The meeting was moderated by Associate Prof. Dr Najimdeen Bakares (University of Malaya), who guided the discussion and delivered opening remarks that underlined the importance of comparative human rights based approaches to regional governance and knowledge exchange between the EU and ASEAN.

The first presentation was given by Associate Prof. Dr Khoo Ying Hooi (University of Malaya), who addressed “Human Rights and Governance – ASEAN Perspective”. Her talk highlighted the particular features of ASEAN’s regional order, including the role of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, the emphasis on consensus based decision making, and the interplay between sovereignty, non interference, and emerging human rights related norms. She also reflected on the challenges posed by authoritarian or semi authoritarian regimes in the region and on the prospects for strengthening regional accountability mechanisms.

Professor Jędrzej Skrzypczak (Adam Mickiewicz University) presented on “Human Rights and Governance from a European Perspective: Protection of Freedom of Expression – Similarities and Differences in Europe and ASEAN”. Focusing on the Council of Europe system, the European Court of Human Rights, and European Union law, he outlined the dense network of hard law and soft law instruments that structure freedom of expression guarantees in Europe. He then compared these mechanisms with ASEAN’s softer, more politically constrained arrangements, highlighting the respective strengths and limitations of legal formalism versus intergovernmental cooperation in preventing censorship and protecting civil society space.

Dr Anju Gupta (Associate Dean & Head, Liberal Studies and Political Science, JECRC University, India), presented on “Deepfake Gender Based Violence as a Non Traditional Security Threat: A Feminist Comparative Analysis of Enforceability and Effectiveness in EU AI Governance versus ASEAN’s Soft Regulatory Frameworks”. Their contribution examined how synthetic media and AI enabled deepfakes are used to perpetrate gender based violence online and offline, and how differing regulatory approaches in the EU and ASEAN shape the protection of women and marginalised groups. They argued that the EU’s more binding, rights based AI governance offers stronger accountability tools, while ASEAN’s reliance on soft law often reduces enforcement capacity and leaves victims vulnerable.

Professor CÁSSIUS Guimarães CHAI (Full Professor, Faculty of Law of Vitória, Brazil, and Federal University of Maranhão) delivered a presentation on “Epistemic Security as a Regional Human Rights Challenge: Comparative Lessons from EU and ASEAN Responses to Bioinformational Asymmetry”. He introduced the concept of epistemic security, linking it to the control of scientific knowledge, data, and bioinformation, and showed how asymmetries in access to biometric and health related data can translate into structural human rights risks. Drawing on examples from both regions, he proposed that regional human rights architectures should pay greater attention to the governance of emerging technologies and the distribution of scientific power.

The academic discussion was further enriched by the comments of Dr Sheila Devi Michael, Senior Lecturer at the Department of International and Strategic Studies, University of Malaya, who served as discussant. She connected the different contributions by highlighting the need for a more explicitly decolonial and intersectional lens in regional human rights governance studies, and called for greater South South and North South dialogue on digital rights related issues. A lively Q&A session followed, with participants from Poland, Malaysia, India, Brazil, and other countries engaging the speakers on topics such as normative convergence, enforcement gaps, and the role of civil society in shaping regional agendas.

The webinar reaffirmed the importance of institutional collaboration between Adam Mickiewicz University and the University of Malaya, as well as the added value of the IPSA RC26 and the Interdisciplinary Human Rights Research Committee at AMU as platforms for comparative research on human rights and governance. It also demonstrated the growing relevance of Asia–Europe dialogues in understanding how regional organisations respond to new security, technological, and gender related challenges while striving to uphold human rights standards.

## IPSA RC26 CELEBRATED HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2025 - “NEVER AGAIN IS ... NOW”

On 12 December 2025, the 9th edition of the international conference series “Beyond Europe” was held as a webinar at the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. This is the fourth year in a row that RC26 has joined the UN in celebrating International Human Rights Day. The event was jointly organised by the Research Committee 26 on Human Rights of the International Political Science Association (IPSA RC26) and the Interdisciplinary Research Committee on Human Rights at Adam Mickiewicz University, under the Human Rights Day 2025 framework “Never Again is ... Now”, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the founding of the United Nations.

The webinar brought together scholars and practitioners from Europe, the Americas, and Asia to address the evolving relationship between human rights, international law, constitutionalism, disinformation, hate speech, and global governance.

Prof. Carlos Ramón Fernández Liesa (Carlos III University of Madrid, Spain, member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, an expert in the OSCE Moscow Mechanism, a full member of the Aragonese Academy of Jurisprudence and Legislation, and an editor of several international journals on human rights and international law) spoke on “Human Rights and International Law 80 Years after the Second World War and the Founding of the United Nations”.

Prof. Anna Potyrała (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland, a political scientist and lawyer, works at the Department of International Relations, Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, and has published extensively on international humanitarian law, international criminal law and the refugee regime. Prof. Potyrała served as Vice Dean for Research and Internationalisation at the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism at UAM) presented on issues at the intersection of international law, human rights, and forced migration.

Prof. Alex Sander Pires (Autonomous University of Lisbon, Portugal) is an Associate Professor of Law at the Autonomous University of Lisbon, holds a PhD in Political

Science (Brazil) and a PhD in Legal and Social Sciences (Argentina), and is Chair of IPSA Research Committee 26 on Human Rights. He coordinates a research group on Culture of Peace and Democracy and is affiliated with several international networks in law, politics, and human rights) delivered a lecture titled “Constitutionalism in Crisis: Democratic Deficit and Contemporary Challenges to Human Rights”.

Dr Anju Gupta (JECRC University, Jaipur, India) is Associate Dean and Head of the Department of Liberal Studies & Political Science at JECRC University, with over 26 years of teaching and academic leadership experience. Dr Gupta holds a doctorate in Political Science and undergraduate and master’s degrees in Law; her research focuses on women’s mobilisation for legal reforms, human rights, governance, education policy, and socio political issues. She is Chair Elect of the Human Rights Committee (IPSA RC26), presented on “Never Again in a Perpetual Present: Re engineering Human Rights for Algorithmic Wars and Automated Atrocities”.

Prof. Oscar Pérez de la Fuente (Carlos III University of Madrid, Spain) is an Associate Professor (accredited as Full Professor) of Philosophy of Law and Political Philosophy at UC3M, and served as Chair of IPSA RC26 (2021–2023), addressed “Disinformation and Human Rights”.

Prof. Cassius Chai (Federal University of Maranhão and Faculty of Law of Vitória, Brazil, is a Full Professor of Law and Geopolitics and a Permanent Professor at the Faculty of Law of Vitória; his scholarship links constitutional theory, international law, and critical studies on technology and governance. He coordinates research networks in Brazil on culture, law and society and geopolitical studies and participates in international academic collaborations with institutions in Europe, Latin America, and China.) examined “Between Promise and Practice: Eighty Years of UN Governance in Light of Structural Inequities Between North and South”.

Prof. Jędrzej Skrzypczak (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland; is

Head of the Department of Media Systems and Media Law at UAM and serves as Chair (2023–2025) and Vice Chair (from 2025) of IPSA RC26, as well as Chair of the Interdisciplinary Human Rights Research Committee at the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism. His research focuses on freedom of expression, censorship, propaganda, and the regulatory challenges posed by hate speech and digital media) presented on “From Words to Atrocity: Fighting Hate Speech during the 80 Years after World War II”.

The discussions emphasised that the pledge “Never Again” must be understood not only as historical remembrance but as an ongoing obligation to defend human dignity, democratic legality, and pluralism in the present. Participants highlighted the need for robust institutional safeguards, interdisciplinary research cooperation, and critical engagement with emerging technologies and geopolitical asymmetries in the field of human rights.

## **THE BRASÍLIA CHARTER: FINAL DECLARATION OF THE XII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF LAW IN THE LUSOPHONE WORLD”, a new debate on ethics in legal institutions guided by human rights**

Alex Sander Pires  
Chair of IPSA RC26 on Human rights

The IPSA RC26 on Human Rights expresses its satisfaction with the holding of the XII International Congress of Law in the Lusophone World, which took place in Brasília between April 27 and 30, 2026, highlighting the excellence of the organization and the warm hospitality provided by the Brazilian Superior Military Court (STM), represented by its President, Minister Maria Elizabeth Guimarães Teixeira Rocha, as well as by the Coordinator of the Lusophone Legal Research Network (REDIL), Professor Mário Ferreira Monte

The meeting brought together judges, researchers, legal scholars, and specialists from several Lusophone countries around fundamental debates on ethics, justice, democracy, and human rights. The high level of participation and the active engagement of the congress participants significantly contributed to the academic and institutional success of the Congress, enriching interdisciplinary dialogues and strengthening cooperation within the Lusophone legal sphere.

RC26 also highlights the contribution of its Chair, Alex Sander Pires, who delivered the lecture entitled “Ethics, Law and Culture of Peace: normative and constitutional foundations for a humanized justice in the Lusophone world.” The presentation emphasized the centrality of ethics and the culture of peace as indispensable pillars for the consolidation of the Democratic Rule of Law, especially in light of contemporary challenges related to human rights, digital transformation, and sustainability.

The IPSA RC26 on Human Rights reaffirms its commitment to promoting international academic dialogue and strengthening initiatives aimed at building a more humane, inclusive justice system committed to the dignity of the human person.

At the conclusion of the Congress, the participants — including judges, jurists, academics, researchers, and legal practitioners from Lusophone countries — approved the “Brasília Charter,” whose central theme, “Ethics in Justice,” argues that the consolidation of the Democratic Rule of Law depends on the integrity, impartiality, and ethical responsibility of judicial institutions.

The document is structured around five main axes. The first emphasizes ethics as the foundation of constitutional and international jurisdiction, reaffirming judicial independence, the culture of peace, and the strengthening of dialogue among international human rights courts. It also advocates that judicial decisions should be guided by rational and ethical criteria in order to prevent arbitrariness.

The second axis addresses the challenges posed by digital transition and artificial intelligence within the judiciary. The declaration warns about the risks of automated decision-making and algorithmic opacity, emphasizing that technology must never replace human responsibility. Furthermore, it condemns the creation of false precedents through AI and reinforces the need for data protection and the fight against digital crimes.

The third axis concerns ethics in Military and Administrative Justice, defending rigorous mechanisms of institutional oversight and highlighting the role of Administrative Courts and Courts of Auditors in the ethical control of public finances and taxation.

The fourth axis discusses criminal ethics and the construction of social peace. The document argues that the State must conduct criminal prosecution with ethical superiority, balancing retributive and restorative justice. It also reaffirms the commitment of the Lusophone community to combating corruption, illicit enrichment, and white-collar crime.

Finally, the fifth axis emphasizes the protection of vulnerable groups and sustainability. The Charter advocates broader access to justice, the protection of elderly persons, persons with disabilities, refugees, and women victims of violence, while also stressing the need for ethical legal responses to the climate crisis and the challenges of sustainability.

In summary, the Brasília Charter reaffirms ethics as an indispensable principle for the functioning of the justice system in the Lusophone world, seeking to balance democracy, technology, human rights, social inclusion, and sustainability.

## CALL, FOR PAPER

### SUMMER SCHOOL ON SPACE HERITAGE AND LAW.

Its details may be found here: <https://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/lawschool/newsevents/summerschoolaterrausqueadastraheritagehumanrightsandspacelaw/>

The event has also been covered recently in great detail by the Journal of the Law Society of Scotland: <https://www.lawscot.org.uk/members/journal-hub/articles/how-do-you-legally-protect-a-boot-print-on-the-moon-scotland-s-new-space-law-camp-has-answers/>

## Call for applications

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Anil Kumar Vaddiraju edited a book with Prof. D. Jeevan Kumar and Dr. K.C. Smitha, *Between Economy and Ecology: Policies and Practices of Sustainable Development* (World Scientific, 2026).

Anil Kumar Vaddiraju most recently authored another monograph along with Dr. K.C. Smitha, *Urbanization in South India: Processes and Policies* (World Scientific, 2026).

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<http://humanrights.webphilosophia.com>

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