



GENEVA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS Global Training

GENEVE POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME
Formation Internationale

On the occasion of the 40th session of the UN Human Rights Council

44TH TRAINING COURSE FOR DEFENDERS FROM THE REGIONS

*'Course on the Human Rights Council, international human rights
and humanitarian law, international procedures and diplomacy'*

(Geneva, 25 February - 8 March 2019)

'Geneva for Human Rights – Global Training' (GHR) conducts its 44th Geneva Course from 25 February to 8 March 2019. The Course takes place on the occasion of the 40th session of the UN Human Rights Council (25 February - 22 March 2019).

GENEVA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

GHR is an international training organization contributing to human rights **implementation** inside the countries. It trains human rights NGOs and defenders and all those involved in human rights at national level. Aim is to **empower** them in the elaboration and realization of strategies, and in the use of domestic, regional and international procedures.

Since the creation in 2006 of the Human Rights Council ('*HR-Council*'), GHR conducted its Geneva Course at each ordinary session of the HR-Council.

GHR realized with its partners in the field dozens of follow-up In-Country Courses for defenders, more recently in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Russia, Botswana, Kenya, Bangladesh, Indonesia (Papua), Pakistan, Nepal, India, and Sri-Lanka.

GHR also animates Geneva Seminars (mainly for national NGOs coalitions) during of *treaty bodies* sessions and during the Working Group on the *Universal Periodic Review*. GHR convenes Experts Seminars on the main issues on the agenda of the HR-Council.

THE GENEVA COURSE (GSC)

The *Geneva Course* takes place during the regular session of the HR-Council. It is an **interactive and intensive training**. Trainees acquire basic knowledge in international human rights, humanitarian and criminal laws; transitional justice; inter-governmental organisations (IGOs); the UN, its structure, its reform and the role of its main organs; the trends in international relations; the functioning of the HR-Council and its mechanisms; the human rights standard setting process; and the human rights treaty bodies.

With the wide training experience of its trainers in Geneva, GHR *Geneva Courses* are unique. They combine the **theory**, the exchanges on the experience of the participants (**field situations**) and the **exposure** to the multilateral **reality**, which the trainees monitor. Composed of its researchers and interns from different universities, GHR *Department of Human Rights Policy Studies (HPS)* assists the trainees during the HR-Council's session.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE 44TH GENEVA COURSE

The *Geneva Courses* are part of a Programme, aiming at a **full and effective participation** of **defenders from the regions** in the work of the HR-Council. This is essential for quality of the HR-Council's deliberations. Priority in the **selection** is given to defenders and NGOs from the regions, in particular to potential trainers, and to those using international procedures. The Course also welcomes members of national and regional NGOs delegations attending the HR-Council session, and trainees from regional and international human rights organisations having their seat or representation at the UN Office in Geneva.

PROGRAMME OF THE TRAINING COURSE

Taking place in Geneva **during** the 40th session of the HR-Council's, the Course GSC-44 has **two parts**: the General Course (Week-1) on the international system; and the Course on the proceedings of the Council (Week-2) with **daily morning classes** to discuss the debates in the HR-Council (which the trainees monitor), to learn drafting communications to the UN special procedures, and to analyze the reports submitted by the Experts and the Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR), whose summaries will be presented by the trainers.

GENERAL COURSE

Themes presented during the **General Course** (25 February to 1 March) will be the fundamentals of international human rights, humanitarian and criminal laws; transitional justice; trends in international relations; the UN mechanisms and procedures; the work of the HR-Council and of the OHCHR; the use of the special procedures, treaty bodies and UPR; and the strategies to foster human rights implementation inside countries. Specific Courses will also be given on women's rights, religious freedom, and the protection of human rights defenders. It includes a full-day Course on Tuesday 26 February.

COURSE ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE HR-COUNCIL

The Course is conducted each morning, from 8:30 to 12:00. During the **classes of the second week** (5 – 9 March), the trainers will introduce and analyze most of the **thematic reports submitted to the 40th session** of the HR-Council by OHCHR and the Special Rapporteurs (freedom of religion or belief; human rights and counter-terrorism; torture; environment and human rights; adequate housing; human rights defenders; minority issues; sales of children; cultural rights, foreign debt, etc), as well as themes of High level Panels. The **country reports** will also be commented, such as those on Iran, North Korea, Myanmar, Palestine and Syria, Central African Republic, and Mali.

The *Geneva Course* will end with GHR Course on **human rights implementation in the countries** (MDG's, national plans, technical assistance, NGOs strategies inside the countries), the **assessment and follow-up**, and the general recapitulation of the Course.

*To obtain the **Course's certificate**, trainees have to comply with several tasks: reading reports submitted to the HR-Council, drafting a country paper, reporting on the HR-Council debates, and a communication to the UN thematic procedures; there are two written tests.*

ADMINISTRATION AND REGISTRATION

1. GHR wishes to **train trainers and organisations**. It therefore requests a recommendation from the NGO and/or network of the applicant.
2. **Deadline for applications** is 25 January 2019.
3. **Visas**. Once the application has been approved, GHR will prepare a letter to the Embassy concerned requesting a visa for the selected trainee. Please, note that obtaining a Schengen visa takes time. Don't wait until the last moment.
4. **Tuition fees** for the Course is 1'200.- Swiss francs, CHF. Applicants from the regions having no sponsor may request a reduction for the registration fees (500.- CHF).
5. It is a 2-week Course. **Accommodation and living expenses in Geneva** are costly. For two weeks in Geneva, expenses are estimated 1'710.00 CHF.

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