



GENEVA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
Global Training

GENEVE POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME  
Formation Internationale

**Geneva for Human Rights' 48<sup>th</sup> Geneva Course  
From 30 November to 4 December 2020**

# **'Mechanisms of the United Nations Human Rights Council' (Forums 2020 and EMRIP-13)**

## **Geneva for Human Rights**

*Geneva for Human Rights – Global Training* (GHR) is an international training organization. To contribute to human rights **implementation** in the countries, GHR trains human rights NGOs, 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 human rights procedures.

Since the creation in 2006 of the *UN Human Rights Council* ('HR-Council'), GHR conducted its Geneva Courses at most of the ordinary sessions of the HR-Council. GHR also organized with its partners dozens of (3-4 days) in-Country Courses for defenders in particular in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Russia, Botswana, Kenya, Bangladesh, Indonesia (Papua), Pakistan, Nepal, India, Thailand and Sri-Lanka.

GHR also convenes Experts Seminars on the main themes on the HR-Council's agenda, and gives briefings (especially for national NGOs coalitions) during sessions of the treaty bodies and of the Working group on the *Universal Periodic Review* (UPR).

**TRAIN & EMPOWER HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

**LINK THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE & PRACTICE**

**DEVELOP NATIONAL CAPACITIES**

**IMPLEMENTATION NOW !**



**information & application :**

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## Virtual Geneva Course

### Mechanisms of the UN HR Council' (Forums 2020 and EMRIP-13)

The next *Geneva Course* (GSC-48) will take place **online from 30 November to 4 December 2020** on the occasion of the meetings of several organs of the HR-Council.

The HR-Council has a diversity of '**mechanisms**' preparing its deliberations. Most of these organs meet in the last quarter of the year:



- the *Forum on Business and Human Rights* (from 16 to 18 November, 9<sup>th</sup> session);
- the *Forum on Minority Issues* (19-20 November, 13<sup>th</sup> session);
- the 3<sup>rd</sup> *Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law* (26-27 November);
- and the *EMRIP (Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)* (from 30 November to 4 December 2020, 13<sup>th</sup> session) <sup>1</sup>.

Facing the new wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, many States, took further restrictive measures to contain the virus.

Most forthcoming UN sessions will take place online.

This Geneva Course will also **be conducted online**.

As a result, the 48<sup>th</sup> Geneva Course has been limited to **one week only with five morning units of 3 ½ hours each**.



**Hate Speech, Social Media and Minorities  
Thirteenth session of the Forum on Minority Issues**

<sup>1</sup> Recently, the 13<sup>th</sup> session of EMRIP was converted into four regional virtual sessions, followed by a synthesis meeting for *EMRIP* members and Secretariat only. Dates of *EMRIP* virtual sessions are: Monday 30 November (Africa and North America), Tuesday 1 December (Pacific and Asia), Wednesday 2 December (Arctic, Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia) and Thursday 3 December (Central and South America, and Caribbean).

## **Programme of the 48th Geneva Course**

*Reading material to be sent in advance: GHR background paper on UN and HR*

### **Monday 30 November 2020**

- 09.30 - 10.00 Opening, presentation of the participants  
10.00 - 10.30 Course 1. **Introduction to the international system.**  
10.30 - 11.00 Questions and answers.  
11.00 - 11.30 Course 2. **The UN, structure & main organs.**  
11.30 - 12.00 Questions and answers.  
12.00 - 12.30 Course 3. **UN human rights mechanisms and procedures.**  
12.30 - 13.00 Questions and answers.

*Reading material: GHR appeal on Covid-19, GHR summary on main HR standards*

### **Tuesday 1 December 2020**

- 09.30 - 10.00 Questions on previous day.  
10.00 - 10.30 Course 4. **Human rights standards.**  
10.30 - 11.00 Questions and answers.  
11.00 - 11.30 Course 5. **Business and human rights.**  
11.30 - 12.00 Questions and answers.  
12.00 - 12.30 Course 6. **Towards a treaty on business and human rights.**  
12.30 - 13.00 Discussion.

*Reading material: GHR Background paper on Business and Human Rights*

### **Wednesday 2 December 2020**

- 09.30 - 10.00 Questions on previous day  
10.00 - 10.30 Course 7. **Minority Rights in the UN.**  
10.30 - 11.00 Questions and answers.  
11.00 - 11.30 Course 8. **UN mechanisms and procedures on minorities.**  
11.30 - 12.00 Questions and answers.  
12.00 - 12.30 Course 9. **Freedom of Religion or Belief in the UN.**  
12.30 - 13.00 Questions and answers.

*Reading material: GHR background paper on the UN and minority rights.*

### **Thursday 3 December 2020**

- 09.30 - 10.00 Questions on previous day  
10.00 - 10.30 Course 10. **Indigenous Peoples' Rights in the UN.**  
10.30 - 11.00 Questions and answers.  
11.00 - 11.30 Course 11. **The UN mechanisms regarding indigenous peoples.**  
11.30 - 12.00 Questions and answers.  
12.00 - 12.30 Course 12. **Covid and indigenous peoples.**  
12.30 - 13.00 Discussion.

*Reading material: GHR background paper on the UN and indigenous peoples.*

### **Friday 4 December 2020**

- 09.30 - 10.00 Recapitulation on minority and indigenous peoples' rights.  
10:00 - 10:30 Course 13. **Covid and women's rights.**  
10.30 - 11.00 Discussion.  
11.00 - 11.30 Course 14. **Recapitulation**  
11.30 - 12.00 Questions and answers.  
12.00 - 12.30 Course 15. **Follow-up: implementation inside the countries.**  
12.30 - 13.00 Comments, questions.

*Reading material: GHR background paper on implementation.*

## Organisation of the Course

GHR Courses aim at **full and effective participation of defenders from the regions** in the HR-Council and its mechanisms. This Course has to be conducted virtually, and trainees will not have the live exposure to UN human rights sessions. Instead, they will be invited to follow several recorded UN sessions on 'UN Web TV'.

On-line courses do not offer the same opportunities to **exchange with the participants**. Applicants are therefore kindly invited to fill an application form outlining their activities, needs and priorities. The programme therefore includes short presentations and space for questions and answers and for discussion.

The **time-table** of the Course (five mornings in Geneva) implies that the Course could easily be opened for participants from Africa (similar times) and from Asia (evenings there).

**Deadline for applications** is Saturday 28 November 2020. As GHR wishes to **train trainers**, priority in the selection will be given to defenders working for an NGO or network. A recommendation from the NGO and/or network of the applicant would be welcome.

You can apply by sending a mail to [info@gdh-ghr.org](mailto:info@gdh-ghr.org) with copy to [hps-smt@gdh-ghr.org](mailto:hps-smt@gdh-ghr.org) to the attention of Arta and Niahm. You can also download the InfoSheet and Application Form on our website : <https://gdh-ghr.org>.

**Tuition Fees** for the Course is 500.- Swiss francs (CHF). Fees may be reduced on demand to 100.- CHF for human rights defender applicants from the regions having no sponsor. This fee **includes the full documentation and background papers** as well as a **personalized follow-up and implementation strategy briefing**. During the course **Q & A as well as interactive dialogue** and exchanges are included. Trainees having attended all the five morning classes will receive a certificate.

**Students and Academics are invited for free** to attend the training on line and to watch the internet stream.

We offer an alternative for those academics and practitioners willing to receive more information and documentation. The registration fees of 50.- CHF gives access to the training video stream, to **reading material as well as our background documents**. Such participants will receive a **Certificate of Attendance** (provided that they were on line during the sessions),

## More on GHR Trainings : Courses & Seminars

With the wide experience of its trainers, GHR *Geneva Courses* combine the **theory**, the exchanges between the participants on their experiences (**field situations**) and the **exposure** to the multilateral **reality** (the HR-Council's session which the trainees monitor).

GHR's Courses often offer an **interactive and intensive training** during the HR-Council's session.

Trainees acquire basic knowledge in international human rights, humanitarian and criminal laws; transitional justice; the UN, its structure, its main organs; the trends in international relations; the functioning of the HR-Council and its mechanisms; the human rights standard setting process; and human rights treaty bodies.

The Department HPS (HR Policies Studies) constitutes the hard core of GHR activities. It is an indispensable support to our training programs. It monitors international human rights negotiations and covers U.N. human rights meetings; it **analyses the main trends and developments and quickly inform our trainers and our main partners** in the field.

Geneva, 24 November 2020