



Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research

September 2026 Newsletter

Calls & Opportunities



[Call for Abstracts] 2026 NNHRR Doctoral Research Forum

- **Date:** 19 November 2026
- **Location:** University of Amsterdam
- **Deadline:** 2 October 2026

The NNHRR invites PhD members to submit abstracts for the **2026 Doctoral Research Forum**. This event offers PhD candidates at all stages of their doctoral research the opportunity to present their work in a supportive academic environment, receive feedback from senior human rights scholars, and engage with fellow researchers from across the Network. Abstracts may relate to a research proposal, dissertation chapter, or article in progress.

The deadline for abstract submissions is **2 October 2026**. Participation is open to NNHRR PhD members, and travel and accommodation grants are available. Registration and submission of abstracts can be completed via the [online registration form](#).

[Call for Papers] Workshop Age-Appropriate Design of Online Platforms

- **Date:** 19 February 2027
- **Location:** Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam



- **Deadline: 16 October 2026**

The workshop '[Age-appropriate design of online platforms: questions for EU law and children's rights](#)' will take place at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam on 19 February 2027. The workshop will bring together scholars working on the protection of minors online, from the perspective of children's rights and EU law. Are you interested in presenting your work during this workshop?

The deadline for submitting abstracts is **16 October 2026**. Work in progress is specifically welcomed, allowing authors to benefit from the wide range of views that the workshop aims to bring together. Early-career scholars, including doctoral candidates, are also encouraged to submit an abstract.

More information [here](#).



[Call for Abstracts] Gender and Criminal Law: Global Perspectives & Local Lessons

- **Date:** 29 and 30 January 2027
- **Location:** Leiden University
- **Deadline:** 31 October 2026

Together with **Mojan Samadi** (University of Utrecht) and **Marloes van Noorloos** (University of Leiden), **Julie Fraser** (University of Utrecht) is organising a **conference** on 'Gender and Criminal Law: Global Perspectives & Local Lessons - Gendered Perspectives on Criminal Justice', taking place at Leiden University on 29 and 30 January 2027.

The deadline for abstract submission is **31 October 2026**. Submissions from early-career scholars and from underrepresented regions and perspectives are encouraged. Priority will be given to submissions that adopt critical approaches to related concepts and categories, engage with a solid theoretical framework, and are based on empirical research.

More information [here](#).

[Call for Abstracts] Human Rights Strategies for the Future in an Age of Contestation: Revisiting Theo van Boven's Legacy

- **Date:** 7 and 8 June 2027
- **Location:** Maastricht University
- **Deadline:** 31 October 2026



This [two-day international symposium](#), convened in memory of **Theo van Boven**, focuses on effective future human rights strategies. As Director of the UN Human Rights Division, UN Special Rapporteur, member of UN human rights treaty bodies, and leading advocate for victims' rights and remedies, Theo played a foundational role in strengthening the normative and operational dimensions of the UN human rights architecture, particularly with regard to accountability and implementation. Now, at a time when the international human rights system faces unprecedented political contestation, his legacy invites renewed reflection on the strategic dimensions of human rights practice.

Through this call for abstracts, the organisers invite scholars to explore forward-looking, effective human rights strategies to respond to today's increasingly contested human rights environment in respect of the following four themes:

1. From Exclusion to Inclusion
2. From Racial to Intersectional discrimination
3. Reparations & Redress
4. The Role of the UN in the face of Gross Violations of human Rights

The deadline for abstract submission is **31 October 2026**. Accepted and presented papers will be considered for publication in an edited volume. The volume will combine symposium papers with a selection of Theo van Boven's own writings on the themes addressed during the symposium.

More information [here](#).

[Call for Abstracts] Conference on 'Hosting Global Justice: The Netherlands as Host State of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC)'



- **Date:** 15 April 2027
- **Location:** Leiden University (The Hague)
- **Deadline:** 1 December 2026

Organised by **Otto Spijkers** and **Letizia Lo Giacco**, and supported by a KIEM grant, the 'Conference on Hosting Global Justice: The Netherlands as Host State of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC)' will take place at Leiden University in The Hague on **15 April 2027**.

The conference explores the unique role of the Netherlands as host state of two of the world's most important international courts. It brings together scholars, practitioners and activists to examine the legal, political and societal dimensions of hosting global justice. The organisers invite abstract submissions by **1 December 2026**.

More information [here](#).



[Call for Abstracts] Workshop 'Community Interests in International Law: Theory, Adjudication and Human Rights'

- **Date:** 11 June 2027
- **Location:** Radboud University (Faculty of Law)
- **Deadline:** 15 January 2027

The workshop 'Community Interests in International Law: Theory, Adjudication and Human Rights' will take place in person at Radboud University, Nijmegen (Faculty of Law) on 11 June 2027.

The deadline for abstract submissions is **15 January 2027**. The workshop organisers invite submissions examining how community interest norms are conceptualized, addressed by international courts and tribunals, and how the nexus between serious human rights violations and breaches of community interests norms can be assessed.

More information [here](#).

[Opportunity] Shine a Spotlight on your PhD Research

- **Deadline:** ongoing



Are you conducting innovative human rights research during your PhD, or know someone who is? We would love to interview you on our newest initiative for PhD members: **PhD Spotlight**! To participate, send a portrait picture and a filled out version of [the following document](#) to nnhrr@asser.nl with the subject line "PhD Spotlight - [your name]".

Events & Education



[Writing Retreat] VSR Utrecht

- **Date:** 27 and 28 October 2026
- **Location:** University Library, Utrecht city centre

Following last year's successful edition, VSR is organising another writing retreat on **Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 October 2026**. Want to finish a paper before Christmas—or finally put that long-standing idea onto paper?

The retreat offers protected writing time, shared writing sessions, motivation and connection with fellow researchers. The retreat is open to researchers based in the Netherlands or Belgium with an affinity for socio-legal research. If places are limited, priority will be given to VSR members, particularly PhD candidates.

Register by sending an email to vsr.email@gmail.com, with the subject 'Registration VSR writing retreat'.

[Event] Collective Voices Shaping Accountability

- **Date:** 30 October 2026
- **Time:** 15:00–19:00 CET
- **Location:** Neude Library, Utrecht University



Join OECD Watch on **30 October 2026** for a special event marking 50 years of the OECD Guidelines and celebrating the launch of OECD Watch as an independent charitable organisation.

Bringing together voices from civil society, government, business, trade unions, academia and beyond, the event will explore the impact of the OECD Guidelines, the future of responsible business conduct and corporate accountability, and the role of collective action in driving change.

The programme will be followed by drinks, snacks and networking, providing an opportunity to connect with colleagues and celebrate this important milestone together. The event is **free** to attend, but **registration is required**.

Register [here](#).



[Webinar] Book Discussion: Hate Speech and the European Court of Human Rights

- **Date:** 18 November 2026
- **Time:** 14:00 CET

- **Location:** Online (Registration Required)

Join **Katerina Tsampi** (University of Groningen) and **Christos Giannopoulos** for a discussion of the book '[Hate Speech and the European Court of Human Rights](#)' written by **Natalie Alkiviadou** (Vanderbilt University).

The webinar is organised and moderated by **Lauren Bakir** (University of Strasbourg) and will be held online Wednesday **18 November 2026**, at 14:00 CET. The webinar is **free** to attend, but **registration is required**.

Register [here](#).

[Symposium] INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON RECOGNITION, DIALOGUE AND REDRESS AFTER INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

- **Date:** 19 and 20 November 2026
- **Location:** University of Humanistic Studies (UvH) Utrecht



What does meaningful recognition and redress after intercountry adoption require? How can we foster dialogue about the lasting consequences of past intercountry adoption, and what should follow from them for the present and the future?

19 and 20 November 2026, scholars, practitioners, and people with lived experience from different countries will come together at the **University of Humanistic Studies (UvH) in Utrecht** to explore these questions. [Across two days](#), the recent inquiries and developments in receiving countries and countries of origin, the long-term impact of intercountry adoption, and different approaches to recognition, redress, and repair will be discussed.

The symposium is organised on the occasion of the **inaugural lecture** of **Elvira Loibl** as Endowed Professor of Recognition, Dialogue and Redress after Intercountry Adoption. The inaugural lecture will take place on **19 November 2026, 15.30 CET**, at the Pieterskerk in Utrecht.

Participation in the symposium and inaugural lecture is **free**, but **registration is required**.

You can **register** for the event [here](#).



[Online Course] Ethics, Law and Governance for Climate and Environmental Action in Public Health

- **Format:** Live virtual course
- **Number of Sessions:** 10

- **Day and Time:** Wednesdays, 16:30-18:00 CET
- **Course Period:** 23 September - 2 December 2026

ASPHER and the European Climate and Health Observatory are hosting a **free APHEA-accredited CTEE course** on 'Ethics, Law and Governance for Climate Environmental Action in Public Health'. **Marlies Hesselman** (University of Groningen) is the lecturer for Session 3. During her lecture, she will discuss how human rights-based litigation has been used to advocate for climate action and will address the *Bonaire* case.

More information [here](#).

[Short Course] Climate Litigation and Regulation – International and European Perspectives

- **Date:** 7–8 December 2026
- **Location:** T.M.C. Asser Institute, The Hague



The T.M.C. Asser Institute, in collaboration with [SEVEN – the University of Amsterdam's interdisciplinary climate institute](#), is offering a two-day short course on **Climate Litigation and Regulation – International and European Perspectives**.

The programme provides participants with a practical understanding of the rapidly evolving landscape of international and European climate law. Topics include human rights and the climate, the UN climate regime, the ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Change, strategic climate litigation, the European Climate Law, the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), and corporate climate obligations.

Designed for legal and non-legal professionals alike, the course is open to policymakers, corporate counsel, NGOs, academics, diplomats, and practitioners seeking to deepen their understanding of climate law and its practical implications.

More information [here](#).



[Save the date] Inaugural Lecture – Prof. Nadia Bernaz

- **Date:** 5 March 2027
- **Location:** Wageningen University

Please save the date for the inaugural lecture of NNHRR Steering Committee member **Nadia Bernaz**, Professor of Law and Corporate Justice at Wageningen University, which will take place on **5 March 2027 at 16:00** at Wageningen University.

An official invitation, including further details on the programme and registration, will be shared in due course.

Publications

Call for Contributions!

Would you like us to feature your recent or upcoming publication in the NNHRR Newsletter? Reach out to nnhrr@asser.nl.



Human Rights Here Blog

Call for Submissions!

Submissions to the Human Rights Here blog are invited from scholars and practitioners both inside and outside of the Netherlands on topics related to human rights. Members of the NNHRR and early career scholars are especially welcomed to submit blog content. Please send your contribution to humanrightshere@asser.nl and check [here](#) for the requirements.



Biological Motherhood, Adoption and the Right to Be Heard: Rethinking Identity after Legal Separation

- Flamur Hyseni

In his blog, **Flamur Hyseni** examines whether human rights law should recognise a procedural space between forced contact and complete institutional silence in

adoption cases. Drawing on Article 8 ECHR and the Kosovo case KI01/21, he argues for a model of notification without obligation that protects both identity and autonomy.

You can read the blog post [here](#).

Domicide: The Mass Destruction of Homes Under Human Rights Law

- Anna Puigderrajols Triadó



In her blog, **Anna Puigderrajols Triadó** introduces the concept of domicide to capture the mass destruction of homes during armed conflict. It examines how the loss of home constitutes a mass human rights violation while linking it to the definition of existing international crimes.

You can read the blog post [here](#).



The Value of Protest for Democracy: Contribution to the Annual Political Science Workshops of the Low Countries 2026

- Noor Swart

Across Europe, the right to protest is under increasing pressure. This presents a worrying trend, given the close connection of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly to the state of a democracy. In her blog, **Noor Swart** therefore argues that it is crucial that authorities foster a more positive approach to this democratic right.

You can read the blog post [here](#).

Why Human Rights Lawyers Should Care About Intellectual Property

- Christophe Geiger
- Elena Izyumenko



Intellectual property is increasingly becoming a human rights issue before the European courts. This post by **Elena Izyumenko** and **Christophe Geiger** explores how the ECtHR and CJEU are bringing IP into conversation with freedom of expression,

privacy, non-discrimination, procedural rights and emerging concerns such as artistic freedom and environmental protection.

You can read the blog post [here](#).



Where Doctrinal Public International Law Meets Human Trafficking Reality: Reflections from the 5th Human Trafficking Research Network Conference

• Hye-min Kim

How can international human rights law close the 'reparation gap' for transnational trafficking survivors? **Hye-min Kim's** blog post, reflecting on the 5th Human Trafficking Research Network (HTRN) Conference, introduces a doctrinal bypass that anchors reparative debt to the victim's indivisible harm rather than a State's proportional contribution.

You can read the blog post [here](#).

Sustainable Development in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights' Advisory Opinion on the Climate Emergency - Blog Series: Developments on Human Rights and the Environment in the Global South

• Lisa Mardikian

While the IACtHR's Advisory Opinion on the Climate Emergency and Human Rights has attracted attention for its treatment of new rights and obligations, its engagement with the concept of sustainable development has received less attention. In her blog, **Lisa Mardikian** explores how the Court linked sustainable development to concrete obligations under the right to a healthy environment and contrasts its approach with that of the ICJ in its Advisory Opinion on climate change.

You can read the blog post [here](#).





Ecological Integrity: What Rights of Nature Reveal About Climate and Biodiversity Litigation

- Engin Firat

Climate and biodiversity litigation are often treated as distinct fields. In his blog, **Engin Firat** argues that both ultimately protect the same underlying legal interest: ecological integrity. It suggests that Rights of Nature, exemplified by those recognised for the Spanish lagoon 'Mar Menor', make that interest directly justiciable, with important implications for future human rights and environmental litigation.

You can read the blog post [here](#).

Beyond the "Global South": Indigenous Peoples and the Reconfiguration of Environmental Human Rights

- Elena Kavanagh



Elena Kavanagh argues that the "Global South/North" binary is an inadequate lens for understanding Indigenous peoples' experiences in environmental human rights discourse. While "Global South" has replaced the outdated "Third World," both terms can obscure more than they reveal. Indigenous communities across both the geographic South and North – from the Amazon to the Arctic – face similar patterns of dispossession and legal marginalisation, as demonstrated by Norway's Fosen case. Drawing on Acharya's relational reconceptualisation of the "Global South," the post contends that Indigenous peoples occupy a "Global South position" within international legal hierarchies, yet remain distinct collective rights-holders under UNDRIP and ILO 169. It also explores how Indigenous cosmologies have shaped Rights of Nature jurisprudence and argues that Indigenous perspectives are reshaping environmental human rights by offering relational alternatives that link ecological integrity with collective identity and survival.

This entry is part of the Blog Series on Developments on Human Rights and the Environment in the Global South.

You can read the blog post [here](#).

Would you like your news item included in the next newsletter?

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Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research

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