



## Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research

# April 2026 Newsletter

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### Important announcements



#### Notice about the NNHRR and Human Rights Here websites

Please note that the NNHRR and Human Rights Here websites are currently unavailable due to technical issues. We are working to resolve this as soon as possible, and both websites are expected to be back online shortly.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

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#### [Steering Committee Update] Welcome Julie Fraser and thank you Antoine Buyse!

The NNHRR is pleased to welcome [Dr. Julie Fraser](#) (Utrecht University) as a new member of the Steering Committee, representing Utrecht Law School. At the same time, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to [Prof. Dr. Antoine Buyse](#) for his many years of dedicated service on the Steering Committee. His commitment has played an important role in strengthening the Network and fostering its vibrant community.

We warmly welcome Julie and thank Antoine for his outstanding contributions to the NNHRR!

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# Calls & Opportunities

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## [Annual conference] 2026 NNHRR Toogdag: Safeguarding Human Rights in the Technological Age

- **Date and time:** Wednesday 10 June, 15:30-17:30 (PhD member event) and Thursday 11 June, 9:00-17:30 (main event)
- **Location:** Erasmus University Rotterdam

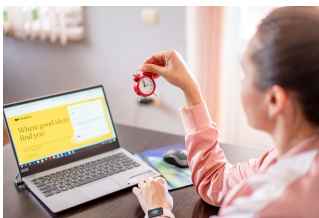
The 2026 NNHRR Toogdag, hosted by the [Erasmus School of Law](#) and the [Erasmus Center of Law and Digitalization](#) is now open, we encourage you to secure your place in advance via the registration link. The full programme will be made available once the website is back online. This year's edition will explore the complex relationship between technology, digitalisation, and human rights.

As technological developments continue to reshape societies, the conference will examine both their potential to enhance human rights protection and the risks they pose. Particular attention will be given to current challenges in the Dutch and European context, including algorithmic governance, data protection, and access to justice.

The programme includes plenary sessions and parallel panels on themes such as business and human rights, migration, climate, and economic and social rights. A PhD-focused event will take place on 10 June, followed by the main conference on 11 June.

Participation is free of charge, but registration is required.

[More information and registration](#)



## [Workshop] Human Rights Due Diligence Beyond Compliance: Up and Down the Value Chain

- **Date:** 1 June 2026
- **Time:** 08:45–18:00
- **Location:** Erasmus University Rotterdam
- **Application deadline:** 5 May 2026



The **NNHRR Working Group on Business and Human Rights** is organising a full-day workshop on ["Human Rights Due Diligence Beyond Compliance: Up and Down the Value Chain."](#) This interactive, in-person event explores how human rights due diligence (HRDD) can remain a meaningful, risk-based process in light of emerging legal frameworks such as the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD).

The programme combines expert presentations with hands-on case studies addressing upstream and downstream challenges, including forced labour in global supply chains and corporate complicity in conflict-affected contexts. Participants will engage in interdisciplinary discussions and practical exercises alongside leading scholars and practitioners.

Participation is free of charge, including lunch and refreshments, but places are limited (25 participants). A limited number of travel grants may be available.

[More information and registration](#)

## **[Summer School] Utrecht Summer School on Human Rights 2026**

- **Date:** 6–10 July 2026
- **Location:** Utrecht University
- **Application deadline:** 1 May 2026



The [Netherlands Institute of Human Rights \(SIM\)](#) is pleased to announce the **Utrecht Summer School on Human Rights 2026**, offering an intensive and interdisciplinary programme on international human rights law.

The one-week course, *"International Human Rights Law: An Introduction,"* provides a comprehensive overview of the theory and practice of human rights protection. Participants will explore key legal frameworks and institutions at the international and regional levels, with particular attention to issues such as equality and non-discrimination, the right to protest, and environmental rights. The programme combines lectures, interactive sessions, and engagement with leading scholars and practitioners.

The course is open to advanced Bachelor students, graduate students, and professionals with an interest in human rights law. **Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.**

[More information and registration](#)



## [Online Event] ESIL IG on International Human Rights Law – Monthly Breakfast Sessions

- **Date:** Monthly (last Wednesday of the month)
- **Time:** 08:00–09:00
- **Format:** Online

The [ESIL Interest Group on International Human Rights Law](#) launched a new initiative: **Monthly Breakfast Sessions**, starting with an inaugural session that took place on **29 April 2026**. These informal, one-hour online meetings - held on the last Wednesday of each month - aim to create a supportive space for discussing ongoing research and current developments in international human rights law.

The sessions provide an opportunity for participants to present work in progress and receive constructive feedback in a relaxed setting. Early-career researchers are particularly encouraged to present and engage with the broader community. Presentations will be followed by discussion and feedback.

Those interested in presenting can contact [esilighumanrightslaw@gmail.com](mailto:esilighumanrightslaw@gmail.com) with a short description of their topic and availability.

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## [Summer Course] International Law Applicable to Peace Operations

- **Date:** 19–25 July 2026
- **Location:** University of Łódź, Poland
- **No deadline, but limited places available.**



The Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Łódź is pleased to announce its **Summer Course on the International Law Applicable to Peace Operations**, taking place from **19 to 25 July 2026**.

This English-taught programme will explore key legal frameworks governing United Nations and other peace operations. The course combines lectures by international scholars and practitioners with interactive sessions, covering topics such as human rights and humanitarian law in peace operations, use of force, protection of civilians, accountability, and emerging challenges.

Places are limited and applications are accepted on a rolling basis until capacity is reached. Apply via [the online form](#).



## [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](mailto:nnhrr@asser.nl) with the subject line "PhD Spotlight - [your name]".

## [Deadline approaching] Conference Attendance Grants for PhD Members

- **Deadline: 15 May 2026**



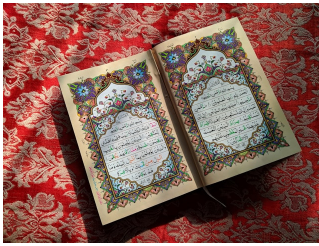
Are you a PhD student, member of the NNHRR, and interested in attending a conference relevant to your human rights research? We are offering four conference attendance grants of up to €1,000 to cover your conference fee, as well as travel and hotel costs.

To be eligible, you must be:

- A member of the NNHRR
- Affiliated with a NNHRR member university
- Have not yet defended your PhD by the time of the conference
- Attending a conference connected to your human rights research
- Attending a conference taking place within 6 months of the application deadline

More information [here](#).

## Events & Education



## [Seminar] Islam in the ECtHR: The Process and Implications of Securitization

- **Date:** 6 May 2026
- **Time:** 15:00–16:30
- **Location:** University of Amsterdam, Roeterseilandcampus, building A (REC A3.01)

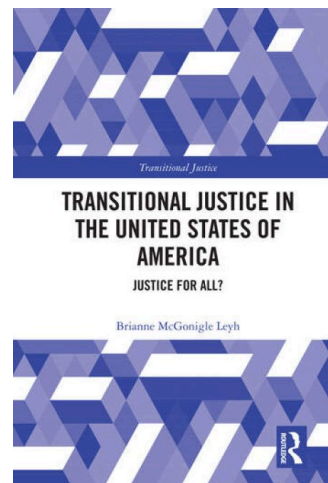
The [Amsterdam Centre for Constitutional Culture and Democratic Governance \(ACCu\)](#) is hosting a seminar by Dr Stephanie Berry (University of Sussex) on “*Islam in the ECtHR: The Process and Implications of Securitization*.”

The seminar will explore how Islam has been securitized in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, drawing on sociological approaches to securitization and detailed case analysis. It will examine the broader historical, institutional, and power dynamics shaping the Court’s reasoning, and reflect on the implications of these developments for human rights adjudication and the rule of law.

[More information](#)

## [Book Launch] Transitional Justice in the United States of America

- **Date:** 18 May 2026
- **Time:** 16:15–17:30
- **Location:** Belle van Zuylenzaal, Academieggebouw, Utrecht University, Domplein Utrecht



The launch of [Transitional Justice in the United States of America](#) (Routledge, 2026) by Prof. Brianne McGonigle Leyh will take place on May 18, 2026. The book applies a transitional justice lens to the United States, offering a comprehensive analysis of justice initiatives addressing historical and contemporary injustices. It expands the traditionally post-conflict focus of transitional justice to a new context, highlighting both the potential and limitations of this framework in the U.S. setting.

The programme includes a presentation by the author, followed by a panel discussion with Tine Destrooper, Linda Nooitmeer, James Kennedy, and Julie Fraser, moderated by

Barrie Sander, and concludes with a reception. More information [here](#).

Registration



## [Save the Date] Seminar – Who Are Fundamental Rights For?

- **Date:** Wednesday, 13 May 2026
- **Time:** 12:30–15:15
- **Location:** Utrecht University, Johanna Hudiggebouw (Alex Brenninkmeijerzaal), Utrecht
- **Language:** Dutch

A seminar titled “*Who Are Fundamental Rights For?*” will take place on 13 May 2026 at Utrecht University, preceding the inaugural lecture of Prof. Karin de Vries. The seminar will explore the assumed universality of fundamental rights and critically reflect on who is effectively protected within current legal frameworks. It will address questions of structural inequality, representation, and blind spots in the interpretation and application of fundamental rights, including issues such as discrimination, intersectionality, and the uneven protection of social rights.

A registration link will be shared closer to the date.

## [Inaugural Lecture] A Critical Look at Fundamental Rights

- **Date:** Wednesday, 13 May 2026
- **Time:** 16:15
- **Location:** Academy Building, Utrecht University
- **Language:** Dutch



Prof. Karin de Vries, Professor of Fundamental Rights Law at Utrecht University, will deliver her inaugural lecture entitled “A Critical Look at Fundamental Rights” on Wednesday 13 May 2026. The lecture will take place at 16:15 in the Academy Building of Utrecht University and will be held in Dutch. A registration link will be shared closer to the date.

## [Book Launch & Expert Roundtable] Sustaining the Rule of Law: The Future of Judicial Independence in Europe

- **Date:** 5 June 2026
- **Time:** 14:00–17:30
- **Location:** Supreme Court of the Netherlands, The Hague



This event marks the launch of the edited volume [Sustaining the Rule of Law: The Future of Judicial Independence in Europe](#) (Bárd & Krommendijk, eds.), and brings together leading scholars, judges, and practitioners to reflect on the current challenges facing judicial independence in Europe.

In a context of democratic backsliding and growing pressure on courts, the event will explore strategies to safeguard the rule of law and strengthen judicial resilience. The programme combines a book launch with short interventions by contributing authors, followed by an interactive expert roundtable addressing key questions on judicial independence, professional resilience, and the role of judges in public debate.

Participation is free of charge, but registration is required. You can register [here](#).

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## 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](mailto:nnhrr@asser.nl).

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## [New Book] The Human Cost of Development - Situating Development- Induced Displacement in International Human Rights Law



Roman Girma Teshome's new book, [The Human Cost of Development – Situating Development-Induced Displacement in International Human Rights Law](#), has been published as part of the [NNHRR Human Rights Research Series](#) (T.M.C. Asser Press, 2026).

The book offers a comprehensive legal analysis of development-induced displacement (DID), examining how involuntary displacement linked to development projects can be understood and addressed through international human rights law.

Happy reading!

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## 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](mailto:humanrightshere@asser.nl) and check [here](#) for the requirements.

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### Rainy Days and Rays of Sunshine: Reflections from the 14th United Nations Business and Human Rights Forum by Silvia Ciacchi

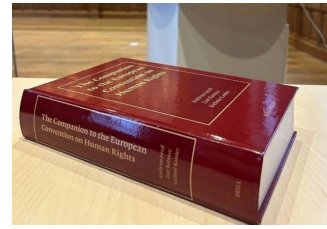
Reflecting on the 14th United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights, in her blog post [Silvia Ciacchi](#) explores what emerged from a gathering held at a challenging moment for the business and human rights field. Amid shrinking political support and mounting global crises, The Forum highlighted both the fragilities of the field and the determination of the BHR community to keep advancing the agenda.

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

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## Book Launch: The Companion to the European Convention on Human Rights by Naz Yilancioglu and Kushtrim Istrefi



On 7 January 2026, scholars, lawyers, and judges from the [European Court of Human Rights / Cour européenne des droits de l'homme](#) gathered together at [Universiteit Utrecht](#) for the book launch of 'The Companion to the European Convention on Human Rights', edited by [Kushtrim Istrefi](#), Zane Ratniece, and [Kresimir Kamber](#).

In their blog, [Kushtrim Istrefi](#) and [Naz Yilancioglu](#) comment on the event which traced the journey of the Companion, including how the project began, and reflected on the future of the Convention system.

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



## Water Governance through a Human Rights Lens: Advancing Equality for Women and Girls by Tadesse Kebebew, Caroline Pellaton, Erik Schnetzler and Mara Tignino

On the occasion of World Water Day (22 March), in their blog [Tadesse Kebebew](#), [Caroline Pellaton](#), [Erik A. Schnetzler](#) and [Mara Tignino](#) reflect on persistent global water inequalities and their disproportionate impacts on women and girls. The blog argues that equitable water sharing and protection from armed conflicts are essential for peace, as unequal access often exacerbates conflict and instability.

The analysis advocates for centering women and girls in water governance across levels, adopting a human-rights-based approach to foster equity, inclusion and sustainability.

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

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

Email [nnhrr@asser.nl](mailto:nnhrr@asser.nl) with the desired text and image before the end of the month!

Was this email forwarded to you? Sign up for our newsletter [here](#).

**Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research**

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