



Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research

June 2026 Newsletter

Announcements



The NNHRR and Human Rights Here websites are back online

We are happy to announce that the NNHRR and Human Rights Here websites are back online and working as usual. Thank you for your patience!



Call for applications: PhD representative

The NNHRR Steering Committee has a vacancy for one PhD representative. This role involves attending Steering Committee meetings four times per year, providing input from the perspective of our PhD members, surveying PhD members for their feedback and ideas for Network activities and occasionally organising social events. To apply, please send your CV and a short motivation email to nnhrr@asser.nl by **31 August**. Applicants will ideally be in the first or second year of their PhD.

Calls & Opportunities



[Call for Applications] Third Round of the Doctoral Workshop on Sustainability and Law in Context

- **Date:** 9 December 2026
- **Location:** Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Germany
- **Deadline:** 1 August 2026

Radboud University's Sustainability and Public Law PhDs, and the Law and Transformation Programme at the Joachim Herz Doctoral School of Law, Leuphana University of Lüneburg (Germany), kindly invite you to the third round of our **Doctoral Workshop on Sustainability and Law in Context on 9th of December 2026**. At the Workshop, PhD candidates researching one or more aspects of the intersection between sustainability and law will have the opportunity to present their research (around 10 minutes) in moderated thematic panels and engage in discussions with the other participants. Further information can be found [here](#). Interested PhD candidates are invited to submit their applications [here](#) by **1 August 2026**.

[Call for Applications] Research Workshops on Human Rights

- **Deadline:** 15 July 2026



We invite Network members to submit proposals for research workshops on human rights before **15 July 2026**. Workshops should involve at least two members of the Network, at least two member universities, and should be scheduled to take place after **1 September 2026**. Each round, three grants of up to 2,000 euros will be awarded to the successful applicants. Research workshops may consist of a variety of event formats, including (but not limited to) panels, keynote speeches, meet and greets, and events with artistic elements.

[More information](#)



[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 with a short description of their topic and availability.

[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 with the subject line "PhD Spotlight - [your name]".

Events & Education

[Conference] The Relevance of ICJ Advisory Opinions: Nuclear Weapons, Climate Change and Other Global Issues



- **Dates:** 8–9 July 2026
- **Location:** T.M.C. Asser Institute, The Hague

To mark the **80th anniversary of the International Court of Justice** and the **30th anniversary of the ICJ Advisory Opinion on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons**, this international conference will bring together leading judges, scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to discuss the relevance of ICJ advisory opinions in addressing today's global challenges.

The event will discuss, among other topics, the legacy of the 1996 Nuclear Weapons Advisory Opinion, the implementation of the recent ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Change, and proposals for future advisory opinions on global issues.

[More information and registration](#)

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

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



Please save the date for the inaugural lecture of Prof. 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.



The Chişinău Declaration and the Future of the ECHR: What Role We All Have to Play by Giulia Belgrado and Kushtrim Istrefi

In their blog post, Giulia Belgrado and Kushtrim Istrefi comment on the event entitled "The ECHR Under Pressure". The event was the first meeting of the recently established AGORA Group, an informal, independent, pan-European platform committed to open dialogue, rigorous inquiry, and balanced, evidence-based debate on key issues concerning the European Convention on Human Rights. The event focused on the ongoing discussions and future ministerial declaration, known as the Chişinău Declaration on the ECHR.

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

Trade Agreements as Instruments to Promote Labor Standards: The Role of Enforcement in Ensuring Effectiveness by Madalina Stoican



Amid political turbulence in international trade, States continue to negotiate trade agreements that promote human rights through labour standards. In her blog post, Madalina Stoican examines the growing inclusion of stronger enforcement mechanisms, including trade sanctions and facility-specific accountability measures, highlighting the increasing intersection between international trade and human rights.

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



Climate Litigation Across Jurisdictions: Climate Litigation for Future Generations Series by Otto Spijkers

How are courts around the world addressing the rights and interests of future generations in climate litigation? In his new introductory blog post, Otto Spijkers introduces the symposium on Climate Litigation for Future Generations, developed following the Research Clinic on Climate Litigation for Future Generations convened at

Leiden University College The Hague. The symposium brings together nine contributions that examine how courts across different jurisdictions are engaging with questions of intergenerational justice, climate policies, and the rights of future generations. Drawing on examples from Europe, North and South America, the symposium explores both the promise and the limitations of climate litigation.

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

Italy Recognizes Future Generations – But Are Courts Enforcing Their Rights? By Eva Persichetti



Italy now constitutionally protects future generations, yet courts are not enforcing these commitments. As part of symposium on Climate Litigation for Future Generations, developed following the Research Clinic on Climate Litigation for Future Generations convened at [Leiden University College The Hague](#), in her blog [Eva Persichetti](#) comments on the The A Sud case, reflecting on its implications. The A Sud case reveals a widening gap between legal recognition and judicial practice, questioning whether constitutional promises can effectively address the climate crisis.

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



The Promise of the Pact? What the EU promised but the Pact on Migration and Asylum does not deliver by Karen Geertsema, Lynn Hillary, Annick Pijnenburg, Amy Weatherburn and Karin Zwaan

The EU Pact on Migration and Asylum is applicable as of 12 June 2026. This post reflects on what the EU promised when the Pact was proposed in 2020, and what the state of play is six years down the line.

Drawing on presentations at a closed workshop, funded by the Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research, held on 22 May 2026 at Radboud University Nijmegen, this post both examines the impact of the Pact's biggest broken promise - to facilitate harmonisation - and reflects on a number of issues that have been forgotten, including, for instance, the impact of digitalisation on asylum and migration management and issues that were not anticipated. In their post, Karen Geertsema, Lynn Hillary, Annick Pijnenburg, Amy Weatherburn and Karin Zwaan conclude by reflecting "beyond the Pact" with a note of caution relating to the extent to which the new rules on asylum and migration in the EU will better protect and safeguard the fundamental rights of migrants.

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

The Successes and Failures of Rights-Based Climate Litigation in Canada - Implications for Future Generations and Indigenous Peoples: Climate Litigation for Future Generations Series by Sadie Damianidis



Climate litigation in Canada is an emerging field shaped by three key cases: *La Rose v. His Majesty the King*, *Lho'imggin et al. v. Her Majesty the Queen*, and *Mathur et al. v. His Majesty the King in Right of Ontario*. In her blog, Sadie Damianidis reflects on how these cases challenge the adequacy of Canadian climate policy and allege discrimination based on generational outcomes and ethnicity. The decisions issued by the Canadian Supreme Court and the Ontario Supreme Court demonstrate the intersection of climate change's impact on future generations and Indigenous peoples. Upon further analysis, Canadian jurisprudence demonstrates how justiciability issues and limitations in rights-based claims can obstruct climate litigation. However, *Mathur* signals a potential pathway forward, how more narrowly framed and innovative claims may help advance climate accountability.

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



The Living Instrument Doctrine in Rights-based Climate Litigation by Lianne Baars

The 2025 TU Dresden Summer School, titled "Navigating Change – Contemporary Perspectives on Human Rights," explored how human rights law can develop in the face of emerging global challenges such as climate change, artificial intelligence, and public

health crises. Lianne Baars' blog contribution draws upon the material discussed at the 4th edition of the International Summer School "Human Rights in Theory and Practice" at the TU Dresden, and upon the author's own doctoral research. The author's attendance at the conference was facilitated with the aid of a conference attendance grant from the Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research (NNHRR).

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

'Should I Stay or Should I Go?': The Implications of the ADDE Case in Relation to the Schengen Acquis and the Rights of Third Country Nationals by Estephany Ximena Leon Rodriguez



When internal borders reappear, do rights disappear? At a time of expanding internal border controls within the EU, the ADDE case of the Court of Justice of the European Union has important implications for third-country nationals in the EU. In her blog, Estephany León Rodríguez argues that the judgment reinforces the applicability of the Return Directive and strengthens fundamental rights, specifically procedural, within the Schengen area. In her blog, the author comments on the ADDE judgement and on its implications for the Schengen acquis and the rights of TCNs.

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

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

Email nnhrr@asser.nl with the desired text and image before the end of the month!

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Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research

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R.J. Schimmelpennincklaan 20-22, 2517 JN Den Haag, The Netherlands

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