



PROGRAMME

HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE

Tuesday, 20 November 2018, 14:45 – 19:00

Brussels | Hemicycle

70th ANNIVERSARY

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS



BACKGROUND



The European Parliament has always made full use of its democratic scrutiny powers to contribute to shaping the EU's policies and instruments in advancing human rights both inside and outside the EU.

The high-level conference on Tuesday 20 November 2018 to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights launches the European Parliament's Human Rights Week, 19 to 22 November 2018. It offers the opportunity for the European Parliament and for representatives from academia and international organisations to reflect on the core principles of human rights as set out in the UDHR: universality, inter-dependence and indivisibility, equality and non-discrimination, while at the same time addressing new challenges in a global and digital world.

Universality and indivisibility of human rights

Over the last 70 years, international cooperation has helped to codify human rights in a universally recognised regime of treaties and norms. Efforts at national, regional and international level have involved a dynamic and decentralised network of civil-society actors. Today's global environment is marked by uncertainties, nationalist rhetoric, cultural relativism, and trampling of rule of law and democratic principles. Defending existing standards, strengthening the international human rights system and promoting new norms remain significant challenges. Against this backdrop, climates of hope emerge across the globe. Positive experiences and significant achievements show that the drive to defend human rights is alive and irreversible.

The first panel of the conference will therefore focus on:

- Defending the central role of the UN Human Rights Council
- Addressing the counter-narrative on universality and reaffirming indivisibility of HR
- Defending targeted rights holders: migrants/refugees/women/children/LGBTI
- Reinforcing international accountability and fight against impunity
- Learning from good human rights stories

Synergies in strengthening the global human rights

Many people perceive human rights as irrelevant as persecution, social exclusion, discrimination and mass-crimes that the international community had pledged to tolerate never again but that, nevertheless, still continue across the globe. Some feel excluded from the debates, while others wonder if denouncing abuses is limited to vanishing words. Tackling this widespread feeling requires joint efforts and strategic action to defend the global human rights system, and to build broader support with the involvement of emerging players (small and middle-sized states, regional institutions and NGOs). Thus making sure that no one feels left behind, which can eventually help to regain credibility for the fight for human rights.

The second panel of the conference will therefore focus on:

- Improving prevention, early response and accountability
- Engaging with emerging states and actors stepping into leadership roles
- Enhancing national and regional institutions' monitoring activities on democracy and human rights
- Reaching out towards broader sections of society on the importance of human rights
- Safeguarding human rights in new environments: digital technology/ climate change

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PROGRAMME – High-level conference

13:30 Registration of participants

14:45 - 14:50 *Jeunesses Musicales* performs with the cooperation of BOZAR

15:00 - 15:30 Opening speeches

Mr Antonio TAJANI, President of the European Parliament

Ms Federica MOGHERINI, Vice-President of the European Commission and High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Mr António GUTERRES, Secretary-General of the United Nations (video message)

15:30 - 17:00 Panel I

Universality and indivisibility of Human Rights in today's global and digital world

Chair: Mr Pier Antonio PANZERI, Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights

Speakers: Ms Michelle BACHELET, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Ms Fatou BENSOUDA, Prosecutor, International Criminal Court

Mr Stavros LAMBRINIDIS, EU Special Representative on Human Rights

Ms Emily O'REILLY, European Ombudsman

Mr Patrick GASPARD, President of the Open Society Foundations

Q&A session with the active participation of UNICEF and EU-NGOs Forum

Closing remarks by Mr Claude MORAES, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

17:10 - 17:25 Video stories – Human rights defenders: journeys and struggles

17:30 - 19:00 Panel II

Synergies in strengthening the global Human Rights architectures and mechanisms

Chair: Mr David MCALLISTER, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

Speakers: Mr Thorbjørn JAGLAND, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe (video message)

Mr Joel HERNÁNDEZ GARCÍA, Commissioner of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and vice-president of the Inter-American Juridical Committee

Prof. Rémy NGOY LUMBU, Commissioner of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights

Ms Katarzyna GARDAPKHADZE, First Deputy Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Prof. Beate RUDOLF, Chair of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) and Member of the Board of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI)

Prof. Pamela PALMATER, Lawyer and Professor at Ryerson University

Q&A session with the active participation of UNICEF and the EU-NGOs Forum

