

HUMAN RIGHTS AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP

CONDITIONS FOR CO-EXISTENCE IN CONFLICT-RIDDEN SOCIETIES

Venues: Norwegian Nobel Peace Institute and Fritt ord, Oslo

This international conference will address the complex relationship between citizenship, power-sharing and equal human rights across ethnic and religious divides in conflict-ridden societies. Financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the conference is organized to mark the 70th anniversary of the 1948 UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights. The UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, Dr. Fernand de Varennes, is among the keynote speakers.

Several countries are experiencing conflicts along ethnic and religious divides, making people belonging to some groups particularly vulnerable, sometimes with internal displacement or migration as a consequence. People in a minority situation are often the most vulnerable. The main aim of the conference is to address conditions for co-existence in conflict-ridden societies, asking in particular:

- *What approaches to power-sharing and democracy may ensure the human rights of people belonging to various ethnic and/or religious groups?*
- *How can inclusive national identity and citizenship be built in ethnically and/or religiously divided societies?*

The conference will critically assess different measures such as equal citizenship; political rights, representation and regional self-governance on the basis of ethnic and/or religious identities; education; and inter-faith dialogue. The main sessions are structured with presentations and panels, followed by discussion.

Main cases for discussion will be countries of transition in the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA), in particular Iraq and Lebanon, and in South-East Asia, in particular Myanmar and Indonesia. Best practices and lessons learned from other regions will also be addressed in the discussions, e.g. from the Balkans. The conference gathers scholars and NGO experts working in the fields of human rights, citizenship and minority/majority relations from or specializing on the various regions.

The conference is organized by a network initiative on human rights, inclusive citizenship and minority/majority relations, coordinated from **HL-senteret** in cooperation with scholars from other research institutions and organizations affiliated with the network, in particular PRIO and NHC. Questions addressed at the conference reflect topics that have been discussed at network events organized in Oslo as well as in the selected regions in cooperation with local partners and with participation of Norwegian network partners. The network initiator and coordinator is also responsible for the program and planning of this conference (i.t.plesner@hlsenteret.no).



Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70: International Conference in Oslo 18th – 19th June 2018

18th June

Venue: Nobel Peace Institute

9.00 – 17.00

09.00 – 10.45 Opening session

Opening addresses

Guri Hjeltnes, Director Center for the Study of Holocaust and Religious Minorities (HL)
Henrik Syse, Research director PRIO

Opening panel – keynote speakers

Fernand de Vareennes, UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues
Autonomy, internal self-determination and other approaches for maintaining peace, stability and effectively protecting minorities

Heiner Bielefeldt, Professor (prev. UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief):
Human rights foundations of inclusive citizenship and minority rights

Sriprapha Petcharamesree, Dir. Institute of Peace and Human Rights, Mahidol University
Inclusive citizenship, human rights and identity politics

Moderator **Ingvill Plesner**, Network coordinator and researcher, HL

10.45 – 11.00: Coffee

11.00 – 13.00 Panel 1

Citizenship, national identity, power-sharing and diversity: Common challenges in different contexts?

Panel **Georges Fahmi**, European University Institute, Florence: The MENA region
Sonja Biserko, Helsinki committee for Human Rights in Serbia: The Balkans
Eric Hirari, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Jakarta
Anne Julie Semb, University of Oslo
Marta Erdal, PRIO

Moderator **Kristian Berg-Harpviken**, Research professor, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

13.00 – 13.45 Lunch

13.45 – 15.30 Panel 2

Can “minorities within the minority” be protected with regional ethnic self-determination? Iraq as a case

Presentation **Saad Salloum**, Dir. Masarat for Cultural and Media Development, Iraq

Panel **Miriam Puttinck**, Minority Rights Group
Muslih Irwani, Center for Peace and Human Security, American University of Kurdistan
Jaje Ameer, Iraqi Council for Inter-Faith Dialogue

Moderator **Henrik Thune**, Director Norwegian Institute of Conflict Resolution (NOREF)

15.30 – 15.45 Coffee

15.45 – 17.30 Panel 3

Can identity-based rights contribute to inclusive citizenship and equal human rights?

Panel **Dian A. H. Shah**, Centre for Asian Legal Studies (CALs), National University of Singapore
Sai Oo, Pyidaungsu Institute for Peace and Dialogue, Myanmar
Yong Zhou, Faculty of Law, University of Oslo
Tine Gade, NUPI, Oslo

Moderator **Nils Butenschøn**, Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo
Gunnar Ekeløve-Slydal, Ass. Secretary General, Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC)

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19th June

Venue: Fritt ord

9.00 – 16.30

9.00 –10.45: Panel 4

What is the role of inter-faith relations for conflict resolution and reconciliation?

Presentation **Gunnar Stålsett**, Religions for Peace

Panel **Nayla Tabbara**, ADYAN foundation, Lebanon

Iselin Frydenlund, Norwegian School of Theology (MF), Oslo

Michel Nseir, World Council of Churches (WCC), Geneva

Greg Reichberg, PRIO

Moderator **Henrik Syse**, Research professor PRIO

10.45 – 11.00 Coffee

11.00 – 12.30 Panel 5

How can education contribute to co-existence and inclusive, human rights based citizenship?

Presentation **Audrey Osler**, University College of South-East Norway

Panel **Fadi Daou**, ADYAN Foundation, Lebanon

Steinar Bryhn, Nansen Dialogue Center

Marte Nilsen, PRIO

Moderator **Claudia Lenz**, Professor Norwegian School of Theology (MF) and Research professor, HL

12.30 – 13.15 Lunch

13.15 – 14.45 Panel 6

What is the role of civil society, academia and the international community in conflict prevention and resolution?

Moderator **Ellen Stensrud**, Senior researcher and project coordinator, HL

Presentation **Carl Söderberg**, Minority Rights Group (MRG)

Panel **Cindy Horst**, PRIO

Seng Raw Lapai, Metta Foundation, Myanmar

Kjetil Selvik, NUPI

14.45 – 15.00 Coffee break

15.00 – 16.30 Closing session – plenary discussion

Good practices and lessons learned: Conditions for co-existence in conflict-ridden societies

Moderator **Ed Brown**, NHC and International Panel of Parliamentarians on Freedom of Religion or Belief

Plenary discussion

The conference is free and open to all, but has limited access. Information about registration and about the participants of the different panels is available on the website of the network (www.minoritynetwork.no).