

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 HLSenteret in cooperation with scholars from PRIO and other research institutions and organizations affiliated with a network (see attached information). 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 by the network initiator and coordinator, Ingvill Plesner, who is also responsible for the program and planning of this conference (i.t.plesner@hlsenteret.no).

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)

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

Moderator **Ingvill Plesner**, Project manager and network coordinator, HL

Opening addresses **Guri Hjeltnes**, Director HL, **Henrik Syse**, research professor, PRIO

Opening panel – keynote speakers

Fernand de Varennes, 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

10.45 – 11.00: Coffee

11.00 – 13.00 Panel 1

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

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

Panel **Georges Fahmi**, European University Institute, Florence

Sonja Biserko, Helsinki committee for Human Rights in Serbia

Eric Hirari, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Jakarta

Anne Julie Semb, University of Oslo

Marta Erdal, 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

Henrik Thune, NOREF

15.30 – 15.45 Coffee

15.45 – 17.30 Panel 3

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

Moderator **Gunnar Ekeløve-Slydal**, Ass. Secretary General, Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC)

Presentation **Maha Yahya**, director of Carnegie Middle East Center (*tbc*)

Panel **Dian A. H. Shah** Centre for Asian Legal Studies (CALS), National University of Singapore

Sai Oo, Pyidaungsu Institute for Peace and Dialogue, Myanmar

Tine Gade, NUPI, Oslo

Nils Butenschøn, Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo

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19th June

Venue: Fritt ord

9.00 – 16.30

9.00 – 10.45: Panel 4

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

Moderator **Henrik Syse**, Research professor PRIO
Presentation **Gunnar Stålsett**, Religions for Peace
Panel **Nayla Tabbara**, ADYAN foundation, Lebanon
Iselin Frydenlund, Norwegian School of Theology, Oslo
Michel Nseir, World Council of Churches, Geneva
Greg Reichberg, PRIO

10.45 – 11.00 Coffee

11.00 – 12.45 Panel 5

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

Moderator: **Claudia Lenz**, Ass. professor MF/ HL
Presentation **Audrey Osler**, University College of South-East Norway
Panel **Fadi Daou**, ADYAN Foundation, Lebanon
Steinar Bryhn, Nansen Dialogue Center
Kjetil Selvik, NUPI
Marte Nilsen, PRIO

12.45– 13.30 Lunch

13.30 – 15.00 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
Panel **Michelle Staggs**, HRRC, Indonesia
Cindy Horst, PRIO
Seng Raw Lapai, Metta Foundation, Myanmar

15.00 – 15.15 Coffee break

15.15 – 16.30 Closing session – plenary discussion

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

Moderator **Ed Brown**, IPPFoRB/ NHC
Plenary discussion