



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Chair in
Human Rights and Human Security
University of Graz, Austria



ZENTRUM ZUR FÖRDERUNG DER PROMOTION OF
MENSCHENRECHTE HUMAN RIGHTS
IN GEMEINDEN AT THE LOCAL AND
UND REGIONEN REGIONAL LEVELS

Under the auspices of UNESCO

HUMAN RIGHTS GO LOCAL: WHAT WORKS

BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS

9 February 2021

Outcome Document and Explanatory Remarks

Prepared under the organization of the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO and the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Habitat, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, the Provincial Government Styria, the City of Graz and the University of Graz.





UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security
International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights
at the Local and Regional Levels

Elisabethstrasse 50B | 8010 Graz | Austria
humanrightsgolocal.org

Introduction

From 1-9 February 2021, the online Academy and Conference “Human Rights Go Local – What Works: Field-proven Research Methods on Human Rights” took place. It was the first in an upcoming event series seeking to mobilise knowledge, moderate exchange, and build bridges between all governance levels, disciplines, and regions. The Academy and Conference brought together human rights experts from local governments, international and regional organisations, and the research community to exchange innovative approaches and proven practices for making cities and human settlements safe, resilient, and sustainable following a human rights-based approach.

The event was organized by the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO and the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Habitat, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, the Provincial Government Styria, the City of Graz and the University of Graz.

During five intensive Academy days, over 40 experts from all over the globe met at eye level in 10 interactive workshops to share proven research methods on human rights at the local level. The practices, findings and proposals were synthesised into the present Outcome Document “Building Bridges between Local Governments and the Scientific Community to Promote Human Rights”. This tangible output of the event comprises fourteen Encouragements to local governments worldwide on how to reinforce their policies through evidence based on human rights research. The Encouragements underline the benefits of research on human rights at the local level and the use of human rights indicators; they point at the synergies between human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals; finally, they stress the importance for local governments to exchange and cooperate with local, national, regional, and international stakeholders, including researchers.

The Outcome Document was presented on 9 February 2021 at the Conference on Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels organised in the context of celebrating the 20th anniversary of Graz (Austria) as Europe’s first Human Rights City, as well as officially opening the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels – the first UNESCO Category II Centre of its kind. High level politicians, policy-makers, and human rights experts gathered online together with 200 international guests to lay the groundwork for the future of implementing human rights at the local level.

The addressees of these Encouragements are local level authorities, in particular mayors and the administrative staff of cities and smaller settlements around the globe. With the present explanatory remarks, we intend to facilitate the further use of the Outcome Document as reference point and instrument. We explain the meaning of each Encouragement, link them to the Preamble, present related findings of the plenary and workshop sessions of the 2021 Academy, and provide links to examples and relevant materials presented or discussed at the Academy for further reading and inspiration.



Participants in the high-level panel discussion on the Outcome Document held on 9 February 2021: Morten Kjærum (Director of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Sweden), Gabriela Ramos (Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO), Nada Al-Nashif (United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights), Siegfried Nagl (Mayor of Graz), Michael O’Flaherty (Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights) and Gerd Oberleitner (UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security at the University of Graz).

“Building Bridges between Local Governments and the Scientific Community to Promote Human Rights”

OUTCOME DOCUMENT

of Human Rights Go Local: What Works - Academy and Conference on Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels 2021 on Field-proven Research Methods on Human Rights, 1-9 February 2021.

9 February 2021

We, the participants of the first Academy and Conference on Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels,

- a. recalling the United Nations Human Rights Council Resolutions on local government and human rights, in particular Resolution A/HRC/RES/45/7,
- b. recognising the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights, without any prejudice to the primary responsibility of the national government in this regard,
- c. recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948, which provides in Article 27.1 that everyone has the right to share in scientific advancement and its benefits, which encompasses the freedom indispensable for scientific research as well as the conservation, development, and diffusion of science,
- d. recalling the recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its 39th session on 13 November 2017 and the Education 2030 Agenda,
- e. recalling General Comment No. 25 (2020) on science and economic, social and cultural rights by the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,
- f. recalling that the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training (A/C.3/66/L.65) and the Plan of Action for the second phase (2010-2014) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (A/HRC/15/28) stress the relevance and importance of human rights education at the local level,
- g. recalling that conceptual frameworks and key principles for Human Rights Cities have been discussed in various forms, including in the Gwangju Guiding Principles on a Human Rights City, the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City, and the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City,
- h. underlining the indispensability of local governments to protect, respect, and fulfil all human rights of everyone without discrimination of any kind within their function and competence provided for in the respective constitutional and legal system of the state concerned,
- i. recalling that the proximity of local governments to the people is an important asset for the provision of public services that address local needs and priorities compliant with human rights obligations, standards, and principles, including gender equality,

- j. recalling that local governments are key actors for the implementation of the commitments set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is further concretised in particular by the Sustainable Development Goal 11 on making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, as well as by the United Nations New Urban Agenda,
- k. recalling that the 2030 Agenda aims at realising human rights for all, in particular by calling upon local governments to leave no one behind, ensuring that the rights of people in vulnerable situations, including those suffering from multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, are also defended,
- l. acknowledging that a human rights-based approach to local governance needs to be reinforced by the results of locally-owned or accepted participatory research on human rights,
- m. recognising that human rights research is a valuable means to foster evidence-based decision-making on promoting human rights enjoyment at the local level and to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of local public services and responses to human rights issues and thereby the accountability of local governments,
- n. acknowledging that research on human rights at the local level should build on human rights principles and standards and requires participatory methods tailored to the specific context,
- o. recognising the importance and impact of the collaboration between political decision-makers and scientists, researchers, or other evidence-providers to ensure a high level of quality in human rights research,
- p. recognising that scientific freedom is a prerequisite for the credibility and quality of research on human rights at the local level,
- q. bearing in mind the vulnerability of the scientific community, including human rights researchers, to political pressures which could undermine scientific freedom,
- r. noting with concern trends that are putting civil society under severe pressure, weakening also the protection of Human Rights Defenders, and resulting in poor conditions for conducting research,
- s. affirming the necessity of multi-level-governance approaches for the delivery of human rights at the local and regional levels,
- t. acknowledging the efforts made by city networks and further regional and international initiatives to promote human rights at the local level,
- u. recognising the importance of partnering with civil society and relevant stakeholders in the pursuit of promoting human rights at the local level,
- v. recognising the importance of building the capacities of local governments and encouraging innovation in the implementation, protection, and promotion of human rights, as well as the importance of human rights actors providing guidance, including peer-to-peer advice, and sharing tools and instruments to all levels of governance,
- w. recalling that the Human Rights City movement is a valuable part of the larger trend toward the localisation of human rights norms recognising cities as key players in the promotion and protection of human rights,



- x. appreciating that self-declared Human Rights Cities increasingly resort to international human rights standards and principles as guidance for urban policies, local programming, and city development,
- y. taking note of the report A/HRC/42/22 of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on effective methods to foster cooperation between local governments and local stakeholders, including civil society, for the promotion and protection of human rights at their level, which underlines, inter alia, that partnerships between local governments, civil society, and international actors are an important way to overcome local challenges, and presents key lessons for local governments on the methodology developed on human rights indicators and the guidance provided by a human rights-based approach to data,

encourage all local level governments worldwide to

1. base the development of their key policies, programmes, and decision-making processes as well as their monitoring and evaluation on research on human rights at the local level,
2. resort to, cooperate in, and promote research pursuing established and field-proven human rights research methods for the local level upholding highest quality standards and to refine them within their specific context, also by way of community-based needs assessment and participatory action research,
3. resort to or commission research building on human rights indicators giving account of the respect, the protection, and the fulfilment of human rights, where methodologically adequate and feasible, as well as to commit to making local data on human rights publicly available,
4. use the synergies between local efforts to measure the progress in the enjoyment of human rights by everyone and local efforts to measure the progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,
5. review existing qualitative and quantitative data in light of the requirements for relevant human rights information and the call to leave no one behind,
6. complement already existing qualitative and quantitative data with information deemed necessary to fill data gaps, including data on groups left behind or at risk of being left behind,
7. collect further relevant human rights data upholding the data protection provisions and respecting concerns of marginalised groups,
8. strengthen collaborative platforms among the human rights communities, and statistics and data communities to implement and abide by the principles of a human rights-based approach to data, and to provide support for the consultation and participation of communities in data collection,
9. acknowledge the benefits of a collaboration with local, national, international research institutions and academia to conduct research on human rights at the local level, including young researchers and innovative research methods,
10. ensure transparency and availability of research data and respect and ensure the scientific freedom of researchers, as well as their freedoms of information, expression, and association, which imply their rights to seek and receive information, to freely communicate research results to others, and to publish and publicise them without censorship, and to collaborate with others both within and across the country's borders,



11. strengthen the engagement with civil society, the local populations, and all relevant stakeholders and create the space for them to participate in research on human rights at the local level,
12. cooperate with National Human Rights Institutions, as well as regional and international organisations to identify areas where existing research and results can benefit, promote, and strengthen efforts at the local level,
13. exchange knowledge and innovation with other local governments, including by joining and collaborating with city networks and human rights cities in order to promote human rights at the local level and globally,
14. exchange knowledge and innovation with research institutions worldwide with the aim to build bridges between local governments and the scientific community in order to globally promote human rights at the local level.



Encouragement No. 1

Base the development of their key policies, programmes, and decision-making processes, as well as their monitoring and evaluation on research on human rights at the local level.

Explanatory remarks

The Encouragement to base both the development of key policies, programmes, and decision-making processes, as well as their monitoring and evaluation on research on human rights at the local level expresses the fundamental call upon local level authorities to base their policies on relevant and reliable evidence. It is based on the conviction that local governments can benefit from having more evidence on human rights at the level of their responsibility. The Encouragement for a better connection between policy-making and research represents the core of the Outcome Document.

The Encouragement focuses on „key“ policies, programmes, and decision-making processes, because it seems overambitious and impractical to call for a human-rights informed research base for all local policies, programmes, and decision-making processes. When determining, which policies are „key“, the local human rights situation as perceived by the rights-holders and duty-bearers is decisive.

By encouraging local level authorities to also resort to research for the monitoring and evaluation stages, this Encouragement demonstrates clearly that all phases of the policy cycle should be informed and accompanied by research on human rights. Monitoring the progress of local policies shall help to identify and explain successes and failures of policies, and to hold local authorities accountable.

So far, it can be observed in practice that researchers at universities, human rights centres, or think tanks start the process of conducting human rights assessments or measurements. The Outcome Document is more innovative as it encourages local governments to actively engage and collaborate with researchers in order to gather relevant evidence.

Related paragraphs of the Preamble

- Paragraph (a) refers to the pertinent [Human Rights Council](#) documents on local government and human rights, with explicit mentioning of [A/HRC/RES/45/7](#) as the most recent Resolution at the time of the adoption of the Outcome Document.
- Paragraph (b) of the Preamble recalls that the local government has a role in the promotion and protection of human rights and demonstrates clearly that this role is without prejudice to the primary responsibility of states in this respect. It underlines that the local level is an additional, complementary layer for the promotion and protection of human rights.
- Paragraph (c) refers to the entire [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), while underlining Article 27.1 thereof, which outlines the right to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.
- Paragraph (d) refers to the relevant UNESCO framework on research at the time of the adoption of the Outcome Document, namely the [recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its 39th session on 13 November 2017](#) and the [Education 2030 Agenda](#).
- Paragraph (e) refers to the entire [General Comment No. 25 \(2020\)](#) on science and economic, social and cultural rights by the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- Paragraph (f) underlines the role and relevance of human rights education at the local level as described in the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training ([A/C.3/66/L.65](#)) and the Plan of Action for the second phase (2010-2014) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education ([A/HRC/15/28](#)).
- Paragraph (h) emphasises that local level governments are indispensable duty-bearers of indivisible human rights within the legal framework given by the respective state. While competences of the different level of government may vary, the duty is collective.

- Paragraph (i) emphasises why the local level is particularly important for the implementation of human rights. The proximity of local governments to their citizens is well reflected in the functions of local governments as democratic institutions, rule-makers, service providers, employers, and contractors (economic actors).
- Paragraph (m) emphasises that evidence-based decision-making fosters accountability at the local level and thus, describes the overall purpose of research on human rights at the local level. Research is accepted as a valuable means for decisions promoting human rights enjoyment and for strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of local public services and responses to human rights issues.

2021 Academy findings

Challenges and solutions identified

- Local authorities sometimes need to be convinced about the need for more human rights data. They also have to understand that solely data collection is not sufficient, but needs to be followed by concrete measures. Local governments need to acknowledge their responsibilities so that they do not transfer their responsibility to other levels of governance.
- When communicating the message of the Outcome Document to local authorities, the tone and language is important in order to not dismiss the authorities. The Encouragements should be communicated as „eye-openers“ to local level authorities.
- Applying a human rights-based approach can contribute to the openness of local governments to monitor their policies. Mayors who are already interested in research on human rights might be open to the Encouragements of the Outcome Document. However, some cities might be more reluctant to accept and implement them. One solution to overcome the reluctance would be to address already dedicated experts within the city administration with these Encouragements.
- Some local governments also have a growing interest and/or necessity in human rights because of central state failures or policies.
- When framing human rights concerns the added value of human rights policies to local authorities should be communicated. They have to be convinced that the inclusion of human rights is an advantage for all, not only the ones directly affected, e.g. marginalised groups.
- Human rights are often perceived by local governments as big ideas to live up to. This can be overwhelming. Therefore, it is important to communicate that no new action taken has to be perfect right from the start.

Materials and links

- Human Rights Council Resolution [A/HRC/RES/45/7](#)
- UNESCO, 39th General Conference, [Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers](#), 13 November 2017
- UNESCO, [Education 2030](#): Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, 2016.
- United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, [General Comment No. 25 \(2020\)](#) on science and economic, social and cultural rights (article 15 (1) (b), (2), (3) and (4) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), 30 April 2020.
- United Nations General Assembly, [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), Paris, 10 December 1948.
- United Nations Human Rights Council, Plan of Action for the second phase (2010-2014) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (A/HRC/15/28), 27 July 2010.
- United Nations, General Assembly, United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, [A/C.3/66/L.65](#), 2 November 2011.



Encouragement No. 2

Resort to, cooperate in, and promote research pursuing established and field-proven human rights research methods for the local level upholding highest quality standards and to refine them within their specific context, also by way of community-based needs assessment and participatory action research.

Explanatory remarks

Local level authorities are encouraged to conduct research on human rights in-house if the required capacities and expertise is available, e.g. at local human rights departments or affiliated offices, and cooperate with independent researchers that are not affiliated with the local authority (e.g. universities, human rights organisations, think tanks, etc.). The Encouragement to promote research on human rights at the local level implicitly includes the call to commission and finance this type of third-party research, for instance by way of public calls for tenders, or cooperation agreements with research institutes.

The highest quality standards are defined by the scientific state of the art in socio-legal research on human rights. Collected field-proven methods and applications deemed successful by leading researchers set the respective standards. The Encouragement is to be understood as the call to uphold the highest possible standards, which implies that specific circumstances on the ground might justify pragmatic choices in terms of scope and methodology.

The Encouragement to adapt and refine the field-proven research methods where needed is developed because the specific contexts (comprising the local population needs, the legal and institutional framework, data availability, etc.) vary not only across regions and countries but also among the entities at the local level.

The refinement of the research methods should be preceded by a needs assessment of the individuals concerned. Further, it should be participatory. Action research is named as an example for a participatory approach.

Related paragraphs of the Preamble

- Paragraph (l) emphasises that the human rights-based approach to local governance should be informed by research on human rights. The results of this research should be attained by participatory research approaches and be locally owned or accepted.
- Paragraph (n) underlines the relevance of a human rights-based approach in the given context and makes clear that there are no one-size-fits-all tools available for research on human rights at the local level. It stresses that tailor-made research approaches should include participatory methods.

2021 Academy findings

Challenges and solutions identified

- Human rights research must not be conducted on the local community but with the local community.
- Participation is a key factor for the success of research on human rights, including in particular for human rights indicator development and population. The question „What needs to be measured?“ should serve as a starting point. Top-down approaches starting with international law and the localisation of international instruments should only complement this approach.
- Explorative studies were identified as a good way to render research more participatory. It was stated as helpful to include researchers and mediators coming from the target group. Mediators can explain to the target group the purpose of the research, thereby achieving more transparency. Further, they can anticipate potential fears of the target group and react to them by providing reassurance to the individuals



in order to ensure their participation. It was considered to be of particular importance to already present preliminary results in order to examine whether the findings are mirroring the way people think about the issues at stake. When launching the results, however, it is important to engage with all stakeholders, namely the responsible politicians, NGOs, etc. and representatives of the target group.

- A closer look is needed to understand and respond to the challenges of managing compliance with human rights on the local level. Research on local human rights compliance needs to consider that the great variety of local contexts raises different questions on the local level than on the national level. This means that research must be context-specific. Interdisciplinarity can help overcome blind spots.
- Local administration, service providers, civil society, as well as the people concerned must find a common ground and a common language for local human rights.

Practical examples

- The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has a lot of experience with data collection on discrimination and harassment and produced large datasets. Local level authorities could use OHCHR questions and technical guidance for surveys on the local level.
- The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) follows the approach of the EU on the collection of equality data. Guidelines on how to collect equality data were developed which can be helpful for local authorities as well. The work of FRA mirrors the situation at the local level. The issues Roma face, for instance, are closely linked to the work that is carried out at the local level. The purpose of FRA data collection is to provide evidence, data, and practices for all those on the ground so that they can make use of them and inform their policies. In order to gain accurate results, participation of all relevant concerned parties is an important element for all those working in the area of equality data. This also comprises the participation of the relevant target group not only by responding to surveys but also by actively being included in the project design phase.
- Region Västra Götaland (Sweden): A pilot project focused on testing a human rights-based approach in the psychiatry. As a result of this project, empowerment and participation of rights-holders and duty-bearers have increased through the integration of human rights within the staff's working mission. The use of coercive measures, in particular belting, has decreased at the wards that were involved in the project from approximately four beltings per month before the project started to four beltings per year during the project.
- Barcelona (Spain): The Office for Non-Discrimination is a key mechanism for guaranteeing human rights in Barcelona, and is primarily aimed at dealing with discrimination-related human rights violations. The Barcelona Discrimination Observatory is a highly relevant tool for monitoring human rights. It is a tool to measure the magnitude, typology, and severity of discrimination, as well as to size and design the actions to face them. Since 2018, the Observatory publishes an annual report, which includes detailed data regarding the discrimination situations that occurred throughout the year, the actions and strategies that have been carried out to face them, and future challenges.
- Research on the incidence and types of hate crimes help local governments to target policies for particularly affected groups of victims and to provide enough staff. Research may also help in dealing with mistrust between civil society organisations and local authorities.

Materials and further links

- European Commission, High Level Group on Non-discrimination, Equality and Diversity, Subgroup on Equality Data, [Guidelines on improving the collection and use of equality data](#), 2018.
- Meier Isabella, [Research on Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels: Methods, Practices, Approaches](#), in: Gerd Oberleitner and Klaus Starl (series eds.), Human Rights Go Local Publication Series, Volume 2, HRGL Publishing, Graz, 2021.
- OHCHR, [OHCHR Guidance Note for Implementation of Survey Module on SDG Indicator 16.b.1 & 10.3.1 \(Discrimination\)](#).
- Website of the [Barcelona Discrimination Observatory](#).



Encouragement No. 3

Resort to or commission research building on human rights indicators giving account of the respect, the protection and the fulfilment of human rights, where methodologically adequate and feasible, as well as to commit to making local data on human rights publicly available.

Explanatory remarks

This Encouragement calls on local level authorities to pay particular attention to research resorting to human rights indicators. The Encouragement to resort to or commission research outlined in Paragraph 2 is therefore repeated with an emphasis on human rights indicators.

Human rights indicators deserve particular attention because they can give a comprehensive account of the respect, the protection, and the fulfilment of human rights at local level, track progress over time, and may be used for benchmarking. The human rights indicator model developed by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights laid down in the publication on [Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation](#) deserves particular consideration in this respect as all three dimensions can be reflected in structural, process, and outcome indicators.

Resorting to research methods applying human rights indicators might not be useful for all research questions and it might be impossible to apply them under certain circumstances (e.g. lack of funds to generate data for the population of indicators). Therefore, the Encouragement acknowledges that human rights indicators are not a panacea, but should be applied preferably if this is methodologically adequate and feasible from a practical point of view.

Related paragraphs of the Preamble

- Paragraph (y) introduces the report [A/HRC/42/22](#) by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and some of its findings in relation human rights indicators.

2021 Academy findings

Challenges and solutions identified

- There are no ready-made indicator schemes available for human rights monitoring at the local level. Indicator schemes at the local level are highly contextualised and apply to a particular region or city only. More exchange between cities, who already have applied indicator-based human rights monitoring, was recommended.
- Local policies are only rarely informed by research that resorts to human rights indicators. Challenges for developing and/or applying human rights indicators that are relevant to the local level include: methodological skills needed for human rights research are not always available to local governments; lack of political will; data accessibility and data quality; lack of financial resources; bringing together different stakeholders, such as NGOs and local authorities. These challenges reflect the complexity of human rights implementation.
- Applying human rights indicators is easier if there is awareness for human rights data and information on it available. Existing awareness and information lead to a local authorities' commitment to implement human rights indicators. A three-step process to apply human rights indicators was discussed: education, mobilisation, and realisation.
- Researchers and civil society have the necessary methodological and technical knowledge to develop meaningful indicators. However, indicators need to be "owned" by local residents. They have to be



accessible and easy to use for people in the local administration as well as for members of the public. Therefore, human rights indicators should be developed on the basis of a participatory bottom-up approach. Local authorities and the relevant sectors of society should be included. Everyone involved in this process should understand the human rights at stake, as well as the related data requirements.

- Pragmatic decisions might have to be taken when developing human rights indicators at the local level. The selection of the rights that are to be monitored, as well as the question which indicators should be used is often a political question made in view of other (national) commitments, e.g. national development plans, or the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Structural, process, or outcome indicators are all important, but at the local level a focus should be put on process and outcome indicators.
- The human rights performance of cities can be measured by setting and reviewing benchmarks. The dimensions to be measured depend on the subject at hand. However, it was found to be important to assess the outcomes, and also the processes leading to these outcomes.
- Qualitative and quantitative methods need to be applied for assessing the performance of cities. Methods include human rights reports, action research, and monitoring. Performance assessments should be simple, practical, selective, as well as done frequently and in a dialogue with stakeholders. They need to be contextualised, but linked to the international agenda.

Practical examples

- York (United Kingdom): Participatory research was important for the process of York becoming a human rights city. In the course of a participatory process, York identified priority rights and developed two indicators per right.
- The OHCHR applied the structural, process, and outcome indicators at the local level. Thereby, workshops with municipality actors were carried out to agree on the most important issues and the corresponding focus of data collection. The OHCHR provides a database for a standardised collection of data on municipal action in relation to human rights. The purpose of this database is to understand the practices of municipalities and to standardise them. All municipal actors are trained on how to enter and use the data base.
- EU project ADPOLIS analysed effective policies to combat racist discrimination and made use of the structure-process-outcome indicator scheme to assess the success of these policies. Moreover, interview-based research methods were used to conduct an in-depth analysis of effective policies.
- The FRA works with the indicators scheme using structural, process, and outcome indicators operationally in the context of the EU Roma Strategy.
- Structural, process, and outcome indicators were applied in the context of assessing cities' initiatives and human rights actions for the Council of Europe.
- In Hawaii, indigenous knowledge was incorporated and used to develop indicators on the right to housing.

Materials and further links

- United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Local government and human rights, 2 July 2019, [A/HRC/42/22](#).
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights laid down in the publication on [Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation](#)
- Website of [York - Human Rights City](#).



Encouragement No. 4

Use the synergies between local efforts to measure the progress in the enjoyment of human rights by everyone and local efforts to measure the progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Explanatory remarks

This Encouragement calls on local level authorities to use synergies for measuring human rights and tracking progress in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It builds on the conviction that human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals are closely interconnected and offer potential for being implemented concurrently at the local level.

Related paragraphs of the Preamble

- Paragraph (j) refers to the role of local governments in implementing the global development agenda laid down in the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) and the [New Urban Agenda](#). Sustainable Development Goal 11 is mentioned as a prime example as it explicitly addresses the goal for cities and human settlements to be inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Further, the other most relevant Sustainable Development Goals are Goals 1 (no poverty), 3 (good health and well-being), 4 (quality education), 5 (gender equality), 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions).
- Paragraph (k) reminds that human rights and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) are closely interconnected and that the 'leave no one behind' imperative calls on local governments to ensure that the rights of all, including those suffering from multiple and intersection forms of discrimination, are defended.

2021 Academy findings

Challenges and solutions identified

- The SDGs should be linked to human rights at local level, because local authorities tend to be more aware of the SDGs than on human rights. In the course of this, human rights need to be demystified, e.g. by pointing out that human rights are not only a legal concept, but municipalities already implement human rights in their daily work.
- Some of the SDGs are directly linked to human rights obligations and create a momentum at the local level, as local level engagement is required by the SDGs. The implementation of the SDGs at the local level can be regarded as an operational opportunity for localising human rights in this respect.
- Around two-thirds of SDG indicators can be regarded as human rights indicators, out of which around 10% are structural, 40% are process and 50% are outcome indicators. However, no analysis about their applicability to the local level was made during the development of the SDG indicators. When the SDG indicators were developed, the state reporting obligations already existing under international conventions and treaties were taken into consideration. However, many countries refused to include human rights indicators in their reporting on the SDGs.
- SDG indicators need to be translated to the local level. Not all SDG goals, targets, and indicators are equally relevant, applicable, and suitable to the local level. Some SDG indicators need to be prioritised and new ones might need to be developed to be useful at the local level. Criteria should be based on local needs, local mandates, and local capacities.



- Despite of the communalities between the SDGs and human rights, there are also differences which to be considered, e.g., political vs. legal obligations, broadness of scope, timeframe of obligation, review of achievements. Development policies might often go into the same direction as human rights policies, but they do not necessarily seek to respect, protect, and fulfil the human rights of all residents. As a result, some residents could be left behind or the needs of specific groups could be neglected.
- The review process of the development agenda is clearly distinct from the judicial and quasi-judicial review and monitoring mechanisms established for human rights treaties.
- The voluntary national review process is often a promotional exercise that needs to be substantiated with human rights. A human rights-based approach to the 2030 Agenda could be employed for this purpose.

Practical examples

- Utrecht (The Netherlands): A SDG monitor and dashboard was set up for Utrecht on the basis of which a first local 'voluntary report' will be made. This is an attempt to align a SDG report with a human rights reporting mechanism at the local level.
- Bristol (United Kingdom): Bristol developed a plan beyond 2030 that was based on the international legal framework and focused on equality. They found that equality and sufficiency matter most in cities. The indicator chosen was life expectancy. Bristol found that equality cannot be sufficiently measured in terms of human rights obligations, as they are not precise enough and applicable to the local level. Bristol communicated the need that the international community should come up with a normative text to tell the story that equality matters most for cities. This may be regarded as a prime example for the potential strategic impact of cities.

Materials and further links

- Karina Gomes and Markus Möstl, [Implementing Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the Local Level: Key Issues and Examples](#), in: Gerd Oberleitner and Klaus Starl (series eds.), Human Rights Go Local Publications Series, Volume 1, HRGL Publishing, Graz, 2020.
- The International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights (CIPDH), [The SDGs and cities handbook: International human mobility. Practical Handbook for local governments in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), Buenos Aires, 2018.
- Website on the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).
- Website on the [New Urban Agenda](#).
- Website on the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).



Encouragement No. 5

Review existing qualitative and quantitative data in light of the requirements for relevant human rights information and the call to leave no one behind.

Explanatory remarks

A large amount of data potentially relevant for human rights policies and the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals is already collected at different levels of governance. The relevance of these data for informing human rights policies might often not be immediately obvious, in particular because these data are collected for various other purposes. This Encouragement therefore calls on local level authorities to review existing data to determine, if they are relevant for research on human rights or for measuring progress in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Encouragement emphasises that qualitative and quantitative data are to be reviewed and thereby acknowledges that both types of data are important for research that should inform evidence-based decision-making.

Related paragraphs of the Preamble

- Paragraph (d) refers to the relevant UNESCO framework on research at the time of the adoption of the Outcome Document, mentioning also the [Education 2030 Agenda](#), which addresses manifold aspects of data collection that are relevant for evidence-based policies.
- Paragraph (y) introduces the report [A/HRC/42/22](#) by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which underlines that collecting data about the situation in municipalities is crucial to sound policymaking for human rights protection.

2021 Academy findings

Challenges and solutions identified

- Existing data can be a tool to raise awareness on human rights within the city. However, often human rights data is hardly available at the local level.
- Public officials are to be made aware on how to access existing data and statistics and on how to use them as human rights information. The statistical community does not necessarily follow a human rights-based approach when collecting data, but still produces data relevant to human rights. Thus, dialogues between statisticians, human rights experts, and public officials are recommended.
- Existing equality data is often biased along reported cases. Underreporting is a big issue. Due to underreporting, the picture of discrimination in the city is not complete. Moreover, data on reported cases hardly covers structural discrimination. Initiatives focussing on building trust in the reporting system by making success stories more visible are needed.
- Large-scale surveys are often used as equality data. However, they are mainly helpful for national authorities and not so useful at the local level, simply because the local level is more specific. Therefore, it is crucial to conduct smaller, more precise surveys at the local level (for example in each neighbourhood), in order to decide where to put consequent efforts and measures.
- Politically motivated bias may pose a challenge to human rights data at the local level, e.g. if aggregated data is collected to populate poverty indicators, certain groups at high risk of poverty (e.g. indigenous people) are invisible.



- Data is sometimes used to serve political interests (e.g. indicate the performance of a government). Contextualising data and making it more tangible, as well as developing minimum standards for data collection are solutions to overcome these challenges.
- „Anti-human-rights data“ from radicals and fake news might distort data and information on human rights for the public.

Practical examples

- Barcelona (Spain): Local authorities in Barcelona provided a good example of local surveys. A specific survey was conducted in all neighbourhoods under the title “How we live together”. The survey aimed at finding out how neighbours perceived each other, if they had been discriminated against or knew people who suffered discrimination. The purpose of the survey was to reach a community perspective on what discrimination is.

Materials and further links

Website of the [National equity atlas in the U.S.](#)



Encouragement No. 6

Complement already existing qualitative and quantitative data with information deemed necessary to fill data gaps, including data on groups left behind or at risk of being left behind.

Explanatory remarks

A review of existing qualitative and quantitative data done in line with Encouragement 5 might reveal gaps in existing data. These gaps need to be filled in order to be relevant for evidence-based policy-making. Thus, Encouragement 6 builds on the previous Encouragement, but takes it even further by calling on local level authorities to complement existing qualitative and quantitative data with additional relevant information. Local level authorities are encouraged to collect this additional qualitative and quantitative information in-house or with the support of affiliated offices, and to facilitate and support data collection efforts by independent researchers that are not affiliated with the local authority (e.g. universities, human rights organisations, think tanks, etc.).

Relevant and reliable data on groups left behind or at risk of being left behind might often not be available at the local level. Therefore, this Encouragement puts a particular emphasis on the collection of this kind of data.

Related paragraphs of the Preamble

- Paragraph (d) refers to the relevant UNESCO framework on research at the time of the adoption of the Outcome Document, mentioning also the [Education 2030 Agenda](#), which addresses manifold aspects of data collection that are relevant for evidence-based policies.
- Paragraph (y) introduces the report [A/HRC/42/22](#) by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which underlines that collecting data about the situation in municipalities is crucial to sound policymaking for human rights protection.

2021 Academy findings

Challenges and solutions identified

- The additional collection of human rights data enables local authorities to apply a human rights-based approach to policy-making. Having relevant and reliable data is also key for human rights monitoring.
- There are many arguments for conducting assessments of the cities' performance: prevention, non-discrimination, attractiveness, quality of life, using tax money, efficiency.
- A strategy for gaining the interest of local authorities in issues related to marginalised groups is to bring them together with representatives of these groups who are facing discrimination or exclusion at the local level. City councils or public consultations and meetings have been reported to be effective in this respect. The media was identified as another potential driver for getting policy analysis started. If racism in rental housing is reported by the media, for example, then municipalities might want to have the problem carefully analysed.
- A combination of qualitative and quantitative data is necessary to complement existing data. Qualitative methods should complement quantitative data in particular if sensitive issues are at stake. Even though policy-makers usually prefer data sets populated with quantitative data because of their supposed significance, they can be misleading in the case of marginalised groups. Qualitative data might reflect the situations of marginalised groups much better than mere quantitative data. Relying on only one research project or data source is not enough. Ideally, a mix of sources/studies and methods should be used to get



a viable picture of the situation on the ground, e.g. in case of underreporting, other ways of monitoring (survey, exploratory research) must be found to create a complete picture of the situation.

- A network approach was proposed for complementing existing data: data and expertise have to be shared in order to start collective action plans and strategies.
- Local authorities have a dual role. They are data providers and addressees of the research results that are based on this data. Researchers need to collaborate with and involve local authorities also during data collection. Engaging local authorities during the data gathering stage can be done, for instance, by having them host meetings.
- The coordination of data collection efforts and the centralisation of data collection measures at the local level serves an efficient use of resources. In case of lacking capacities and resources to access and analyse data at the local level, a cooperation with local universities was recommended. Universities often have an interest in accessing public authorities' data anyway.
- Training those who collect data is important and often not done sufficiently.
- Bottom-up approaches to engage citizens to collect relevant data could be considered. Communities themselves can generate data to elaborate their human rights claims.
- Standardised data collection mechanisms in different municipalities would allow for the sharing of data and mutual learning of local authorities.

Practical examples

- The City of Heidelberg (Germany) has strong ties to the civil society. The city carried out round tables and focus group discussions with civil society organisation and has close connections to counselling services. The city regularly sends out questionnaires to counselling services to be informed about recent challenges and to know how to react. One current example is the Covid-19 pandemic which led to higher rates of domestic violence. The existing women shelters were overcrowded. Thus, the city offered space in hotels for affected women. This is also a good example of the link between data collection and policy-making.
- The City of Heidelberg (Germany) carried out an online survey among inhabitants on discrimination and hate crime. The aim of the survey was to identify unreported cases of LGBTIQ hate crimes. As a result of the findings, the police developed awareness raising measures on LGBTIQ hate crime and a campaign to encourage victims to report to the police. Moreover, the survey revealed the problems and challenges of LGBTIQ refugees.
- The City of Leuven (Belgium) developed a strategy against homelessness in 2018. As there was no data available, a study on the number of homeless people was carried out together with the University of Leuven and other organisations. The number of homeless persons was counted and a profile of term "homeless" was made. Counting was done as a one „point in time“ study. Then, a detailed analysis of the ages of homeless people was carried out, which provided useful information: It was found, for instance that young individuals have different needs than older ones and refugees have different needs than others. The existence of the data was found to be extremely useful, as it shows to local authorities that homelessness does exist in these demographic groups and the reasons for homelessness vary greatly. The outcome of the counting was published in a report and an action plan containing ten strategic goals and actions was adopted.
- In Barcelona (Spain), a survey was conducted in all neighborhoods under the title "How we live together". The survey aimed at finding out how neighbors perceived each other, if they had been discriminated against or knew people who suffered discrimination. The purpose of the survey was to reach a community perspective on what discrimination is.
- In Barcelona (Spain), a situation testing on housing was conducted. Answers were sent to about 1000 rent advertisements, some with a native Catalan name and others with names of Arabic origin. The results showed that answering to rent adds with names of Arabic origin resulted in a 20% lower chance of getting an answer. There was a similar situation testing conducted in Ghent (Belgium).



Materials and further links

- Göth Margret and Jäger Angela, [Sicher Out? Geschützt vor Diskriminierung und Gewalt in der Region Rhein-Neckar? Dokumentation zur Kurzbefragung 2018.](#)
- Tschalaer Mengia and Held Nina, [Queer Asylum in Germany: Better visibility and access to legal and social support needed for LGBTQI+ people seeking asylum in Germany.](#) Policy Briefing 77, October 2019.
- Tschalaer Mengia, [The Effects of COVID-19 on Queer Asylum Claimants in Germany.](#) Policy Briefing 87, June 2020.



Encouragement No. 7

Collect further relevant human rights data upholding the data protection provisions and respecting concerns of marginalised groups.

Explanatory remarks

This Encouragement first specifies that any data collection that is done to inform evidence-based human rights policies has to comply with the relevant data protection provisions. This implies that local level authorities need to ensure that data collection efforts made in-house by local level authorities, by affiliated offices, and/or by independent researchers are in line with the applicable data protection provisions.

Data collection efforts might face reluctance or even fear by marginalised groups. Therefore, this Encouragement secondly calls on local level authorities to respect the concerns of marginalised groups when collecting data.

Building and ensuring trust between the rights-holders and the duty-bearers by ways of lawful and respectful collection and use of data is an important purpose of this Encouragement.

Related paragraphs of the Preamble

- Paragraph (n) underlines that research on human rights at the local level should also build on human rights principles and standards, which also includes the call for upholding data protection provisions and respecting concerns of marginalised groups.

2021 Academy findings

Challenges and solutions identified

- Data protection policies, but also a mistrust between public officials and civil society often hinder the collection of meaningful data. Mutual trust needs to be built up, namely trust in valid data, trust in data protection and appropriate use of data, and trust in the appropriate use of research outcomes for local policy-making.
- Obtaining data on sensitive issues is very difficult, takes time, and needs trust building. As traditional data collection systems might be unable to fulfil these requirements, a human rights-based approach to data collection can help to overcome this problem, in particular as this approach calls for participation.

Practical examples

- The General Data Protection Regulation of the European Union (GDPR) prohibits the collection of sensitive data unless the data subject has given its explicit consent (conscious, not under pressure) and the data processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest, a research interest or a statistical interest. Therefore, data collection efforts need to be proportionate and respect data protection provisions (informed consent, limited to the purpose of research, being transparent, data collection kept to a minimum, limitations in storage of data, confidentiality, and accountability).



Encouragement No. 8

Strengthen collaborative platforms among the human rights communities, and statistics and data communities to implement and abide by the principles of a human rights-based approach to data, and to provide support for the consultation and participation of communities in data collection.

Explanatory remarks

This Encouragement builds on the insight that different actors, which are currently not or only loosely connected, work with data that is relevant for evidence-based human rights policies at the local level. The actors expressly mentioned are „human rights communities“ (including different types of actors, such as reporting offices, researchers at universities, think tanks, or NGOs) as well as „statistics and data communities“ (statistical offices at all levels of governance, and other data collectors that do not primarily focus on human rights). The Encouragement calls on local level authorities to strengthen collaborative platforms between these actors with the overall aim to implement and abide by the principles of a human rights-based approach to data. The publication by the United Nations Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights describes this approach in the publication [A Human Rights Based Approach to Data - Leaving No One Behind in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

Moreover, local level authorities are called upon to strengthen collaborative platforms between these actors so that they may provide support for the consultation and participation of communities (rights-holders at the local level) in data collection.

Related paragraphs of the Preamble

- Paragraph (y) introduces the report [A/HRC/42/22](#) by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and some of its findings in relation to the human rights-based approach to data.

2021 Academy findings

Challenges and solutions identified

- The people who collect data and the people who develop policies based on the data might have very different interests. This gap has to be bridged and strategic links need to be established between them. Formalised (memorandum of understanding), collaborative platforms of various stakeholders can help to facilitate exchange of data needs, availability, and accessibility.
- Local authorities, researchers, and civil society organisations are initiating and conducting assessments of cities' human rights performance, but they might pursue different objectives. Local authorities might often lack a culture of assessment. Self-evaluation methods on performance are preferred by the authorities. Instead of talking about good practices (which often are not transferable), it was proposed to talk about what did not work to find appropriate solutions. Cities do not dare to talk freely about their failures and problems in terms of human rights implementation and assessment. In this regard, a need for safe spaces can be identified, which city networks can provide.

Practical examples

- The Norwegian National Human Rights Institution implemented a human rights-based approach to Sámi statistics in Norway.
- The European Coalition of Cities against Racism (ECCAR) offers safe spaces, where cities can carry out



open dialogues in the framework of working groups between peers (local authorities). The FRA and other international organisations create this safe space for exchange (also on failures).

Materials and further links

- Norwegian National Human Rights Institution, [A Human Rights-Based Approach to Sámi Statistics in Norway](#).
- United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Local government and human rights, 2 July 2019, [A/HRC/42/22](#).
- United Nations Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights, [A Human Rights Based Approach to Data - Leaving No One Behind in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).
- Website of the [European Coalition of Cities against Racism](#).



Encouragement No. 9

Acknowledge the benefits of a collaboration with local, national, and international research institutions and academia to conduct research on human rights at the local level, including young researchers and innovative research methods.

Explanatory remarks

This Encouragement calls on local governments to acknowledge the benefits of a close collaboration with research. According to the rationale of the Outcome Document, the main benefit for local authorities is that research can provide information relevant for evidence-based policy-making. Local, national, and international research institutions, as well as academia have proven to have a rich expertise to offer for local governments. Applying field-proven methods enables them to produce research results on human rights at the local level that are highly relevant for the local level and may thus inform evidence-based policy-making.

Encouragement 9 does not fall short of acknowledging that also next-generation researchers can contribute substantially in this respect.

Moreover, this Encouragement further calls on local governments to welcome innovative research methods. This includes the appreciation of pilot applications.

Related paragraphs of the Preamble

- Paragraph (o) recalls the necessity for local governments to collaborate with all relevant researchers and evidence-providers. This collaboration serves the prime purpose of ensuring a high level of quality in research on human rights issues.

2021 Academy findings

Challenges and solutions identified

- Research on human rights at the local level can help mayors and city officials to better understand the situation of all city dwellers, and to plan, implement, and evaluate human rights-based policies in every field of municipal activity accordingly. Human rights research is a valuable means to foster evidence-based decision-making at the local level and to strengthen the accountability of local level governments. From an academic point of view, a human rights-based approach to local governance is ideally always informed by the results of contextualised, high-quality research, which also encompasses issues of data availability, data collection, and contextualised human rights indicators. Yet, in practice this is certainly not yet the case for many local governments.
- Human rights research, education, and communication should be seen as an asset for cities and communities: human rights in the city are not a set of restrictive norms, but can provide an area where the community comes together, discusses, becomes creative and induces human rights-based change and progress in cities, communities, and regions.
- The research community can act as a supporting structure to foster human rights at the local level. Higher education institutions have a role in educating about human rights or train human rights trainers on the local level. Knowing your rights is a precondition for claiming rights. Examples discussed in the Academy show that academia is active in preparing, creating, implementing, and sustaining cities/local authorities with scientific expertise. Universities worldwide highlight their “third mission” to be relevant for societies.



Practical examples

- In York (United Kingdom), the Centre for Applied Human Rights (CAHR) is the leading member of the York Human Rights City network which campaigned for the declaration and champions social justice in the city.
- Lund municipality (Sweden) collaborates with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.
- The City of Graz (Austria) collaborates with the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy hosting the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO.
- There are many of such cooperations in all regions of the world.



Encouragement No. 10

Ensure transparency and availability of research data and respect and ensure the scientific freedom of researchers, as well as their freedoms of information, expression, and association, which imply their rights to seek and receive information, to freely communicate research results to others, and to publish and publicise them without censorship, and to collaborate with others both within and across the country's borders.

Explanatory remarks

This Encouragement calls on local governments to ensure the framework conditions necessary to carry out research on human rights at the local level.

First, transparency and availability of research data are mentioned to demonstrate that local level governments can and should foster these principles.

Secondly, local level governments are encouraged to respect and ensure the scientific freedom of researchers and the related freedoms of information, expression, and association. The Encouragement includes a broad understanding of scientific freedom, which is understood to include in particular the rights to seek and receive information, to freely communicate research results to others, to publish and publicise them without censorship, and to collaborate with others both within and across the country's borders.

Related paragraphs of the Preamble

- Paragraph (p) recalls that scientific freedom is a requirement for research on human rights at local level and establishes scientific freedom as prerequisite for the credibility and quality of research.
- Paragraph (q) reminds that the scientific community including all relevant researchers and evidence-providers might be at risk in many situations as they might be subject to political pressures.
- Paragraph (r) reminds with concern of a trend observable in many parts of the world that civil society is put under pressure. Negative effects on Human Rights Defenders and poor conditions for conducting research are given as examples to illustrate this trend.

2021 Academy findings

Challenges and solutions identified

- Scientific freedom is a prerequisite for the credibility and quality of research on human rights also at the local level. (Human Rights) Cities must stand up for this. Where human rights are not respected there is usually also no respect for independent research.
- Engaging local governments throughout the monitoring process is key in order to get results published. Putting a focus on aspirations and targets (not on what goes wrong) makes local governments more responsive to engage in such processes and helps to avoid that results of commissioned studies, that do not reflect the expectations of local governments, remain unpublished. It is also important how to "package and sell" the findings. Considerations in this regard include when to publish, how to publish, and anticipating reactions of the media to the results.
- The results of performance assessments should be made publicly available.
- Results of a monitoring can also be (ab)used politically. Therefore, the participation of local governments throughout the process is important (work together to analyse and understand the data).



Practical examples

- Region Västra Götaland (Sweden): The project on applying a human rights-based approach in psychiatric care published [videos](#) to share the experiences of the duty-bearers and the right-holders.



Encouragement No. 11

Strengthen the engagement with civil society, the local populations, and all relevant stakeholders and create the space for them to participate in research on human rights at the local level.

Explanatory remarks

This Encouragement calls on local governments to strengthen the engagement of relevant stakeholders in research on human rights at the local level. Civil society actors are mentioned explicitly as they will often be in the best position to stand up for specific parts of the population or bring in the expertise they acquired in their specific fields of activity. As not all parts of the local population might be organised in civil society organisations, this Encouragement also calls on local governments to find ways on how to strengthen the direct engagement of the local population as well. The local circumstances will determine which other „relevant stakeholders“ should be taken on board.

The Encouragement calls on local governments to create the space for these actors to participate in research. It is thus a call to actively seek ways on how to engage them in research in an accessible and acceptable manner.

The rationale behind this Encouragement is that the participation of everyone mentioned will promote ownership of the research among local populations.

Related paragraphs of the Preamble

- Paragraph (u) reminds local governments that the partnering with civil society and others benefits the promotion of human rights at the local level.

2021 Academy findings

Challenges and solutions identified

- Various institutions in the human rights landscape are engaged in research, advocacy, and/or litigation. The engagement of such institutions as researchers, who are called on to implement participatory research methods, might attain a problematic role through this direct engagement with people concerned. This (dual) role could be problematic in the sense of taking sides with the target group, while there is an obligation to remain neutral as researcher. Yet, in practice human rights researchers applying participatory approaches naturally have such a dual role. The bias problem has to be overcome as simply resorting to quantitative research (without participation and direct engagement of the target group) would not be satisfactory from a methodological point of view.
- Approaches to overcome the bias problem include transparency in respect to the methodology used for data collection; explanation of the limitations of data - data as such is not to be equated with knowledge; taking responsibility for data by answering questions such as: Who produced these data? What was the purpose? How can the data be used correctly without creating bias?
- The idea to develop local monitoring systems on the basis of (bottom-up) indicators that people find interesting themselves and on the basis of which they can collect data themselves was presented. By this, a type of citizen science could be developed, which might also give the concept of the human rights city a new meaning.



Encouragement No. 12

Cooperate with National Human Rights Institutions, as well as regional and international organisations to identify areas where existing research and results can benefit, promote, and strengthen efforts at the local level.

Explanatory remarks

This Encouragement calls on local governments to cooperate with relevant organisations established at national, regional, and international level. The purpose of this cooperation is to transfer the actors' experience with research on human rights to the local level. The existing work and research by these institutions could inspire new projects or be used as a basis for new research endeavours at the local level. This Encouragement also includes the call on local governments to thereby connect the different levels of governance.

National Human Rights Institutions, being independent institutions established by law and in compliance with the Paris Principles, are mentioned explicitly as partners for cooperation at the national level. They are the prime elements mandated to protect and promote human rights at the national level. Furthermore, regional and international organisations conduct relevant research and have acquired results local governments can build on to benefit, promote, and strengthen research efforts.

Related paragraphs of the Preamble

- Paragraph (s) affirms the importance of following a multi-level-governance approach to bring human rights to the local and regional levels.

2021 Academy findings

Challenges and solutions identified

- It is a particular challenge to connect the different levels of governance to promote and strengthen human rights at the local level.
- National Human Rights Institutions often have access to the rights-holders and enjoy the trust of the population. Some National Human Rights Institutions have already established a cooperation with actors at the local level.

Materials and further links

- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, [Strong and effective national human rights institutions – challenges, promising practices and opportunities](#) (September 2020).
- Website of the [European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights](#).
- Website of the [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization](#).
- Website of the [United Nations Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#).



Encouragement No. 13

Exchange knowledge and innovation with other local governments, including by joining and collaborating with city networks and human rights cities in order to promote human rights at the local level and globally.

Explanatory remarks

Encouragement 13 contains a broad call on local governments to exchange with peers. It makes clear that such an exchange can be achieved not only by bilateral contacts but also by ways of joining and/or actively collaborating with city networks and human rights cities. Such networks are in particular the [International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities \(ICCAR\)](#), and [United Cities and Local Governments \(UCLG\)](#).

On the one hand, the Encouragement proposes that this exchange should cover existing knowledge. On the other hand, the word „innovation“ indicates that the peer-to-peer exchange should also entail the development and application of new ideas, concepts, and policies.

Promoting human rights at the local level worldwide is the overall purpose of the Encouragement to exchange knowledge and innovation.

Related paragraphs of the Preamble

- Paragraph (g) refers to the emerging framework for human rights cities, namely the [Gwangju Guiding Principles on a Human Rights City](#), the [Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City](#), and the [European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City](#).
- Paragraph (t) reminds of existing city networks, as well as regional and international initiatives to promote human rights at the local level.
- Paragraph (v) reminds that capacity building and encouraging innovation in the implementation, protection, and promotion of human rights is important. Moreover, this paragraph reminds that various human rights actors are important for providing guidance to all levels of governance, including the local level. Such guidance can be provided, for instance, as peer-to-peer advice, or by sharing relevant tools and instruments.
- Paragraph (w) introduces the worldwide Human Rights City movement as a valuable contribution to the localisation of human rights norms, which recognises cities as key players in the promotion and protection of human rights.
- Paragraph (x) praises Human Rights Cities as a model for local government building on human rights (research) as a tool of governance.

2021 Academy findings

Challenges and solutions identified

- An accreditation mechanism for local authorities could be adopted. This could be based on the framework of commitments currently developed by the FRA for European human rights cities, which could be exported to the world. Further, the mechanism established for the National Human Rights Institutes (Paris principles and peer2peer accreditation) could serve as an example.
- More cities are needed to ensure that the human rights city movement is moving forward and becomes an even bigger project.



Practical examples

- Cologne (Germany) conducted a survey among German and other European cities. This study found that the vast majority of the responding city administrations intended to give human rights a more prominent place in city-to-city partnerships and international city networks. The link between SDGs and human rights was also one of the topics of interest for city-to-city partnerships.
- Examples of cities resorting to human rights research for urban policies, local programming, and city development include for instance Graz (Austria), Gwangju (South Korea), Lund (Sweden), and York (United Kingdom).

Materials and further links

- Website of the [International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities \(ICCAR\)](#).
- Website of the [United Cities and Local Governments \(UCLG\)](#).



Encouragement No. 14

Exchange knowledge and innovation with research institutions worldwide with the aim to build bridges between local governments and the scientific community in order to globally promote human rights at the local level.

Explanatory remarks

This Encouragement calls on local governments to exchange knowledge and innovation with research institutions working on the topic of human rights at the local level. Around the globe, various research institutions have acquired knowledge on the implementation of human rights at the local level and actively seek innovation in this respect. An exchange between local governments and the scientific community shall foster a closer collaboration between local authorities and researchers, which shall again serve the overall goal of globally promoting human rights at the local level.

This Encouragement is based on the conviction that lessons learned and good practices, or at least elements thereof, can be transferred to other local settings.

Related paragraphs of the Preamble

- Paragraph (y) introduces the report [A/HRC/42/22](#) by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and some of its findings in relation to partnerships and cooperation.

2021 Academy findings

Challenges and solutions identified

- Specific expertise, e.g. on how to make a good evaluation, is often missing among local authorities, but the scientific community can provide this knowledge.
- Research needs to be multi-disciplinary and collaborative; there need to be spaces and places where this can happen. In many cases, the expertise for conducting research on human rights is not available in-house. Some cities are thriving research communities (university, a think tank, or a National Human Rights Institute), others are not. A broad exchange of knowledge and innovation is needed particularly in order to support those local governments that do not have access to universities, think tanks, or researchers working on human rights at the local level. Moreover, a systematic exchange on positive examples of applications of human rights research (e.g., indicators) is needed.

Materials and further links

- United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Local government and human rights, 2 July 2019, [A/HRC/42/22](#).
- Website of the [Centre for Applied Human Rights at the University of York](#).
- Website of the [Emerga Institute](#).
- Website of the [International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO](#).
- Website of the [Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law](#).



Participants

Encouraging all local level governments worldwide with this Outcome Document

Abiri	Elisabeth	EMERGA, Sweden
Achterbosch	Nora	Ministry of Internal Affairs the Netherlands
Adamiczek	Anita	private
Alevizos	Stefanos	The Smile Of The Child, Greece
Al-Hamadani	Khaleel I. Kadhum	private
Alkan	Ilhami	Director of RWI's Turkey Programme
Al-Nashif	Nada	Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights
Altottersbach	Tamara	Radio Helsinki, Graz, Austria
Alves	Mário	ACI-Centro InterCulturaCidade
Amerstorfer	Ute	private
Anderwald	Heinz	private
Andjelkovic	Jelena	Journalist, Graz, Austria
Andrade	Fabio	Human Rights and Equity Analyst at City Manager's Office Eurone, Oregon, USA
André	Graca	International Federation of Social Workers European Region representative at FRP - FRA
Apostolovski	Veronika	FH Joanneum, Graz, Austria
Arf Rayfield	Irem	University of Essex, United Kingdom
Arrondo	Maite	private
Asadi	Shams	Human Rights Commissioner, Vienna
Aufischer	Max	Human Rights Advisory Council, Graz, Austria
Awwad	Fatima	University of Graz, Austria
Awwad Khraisat	Akram	Greater Amman Municipality, Jordan
Bada	Rosa	Turisme de Barcelona, Spain
Baloch	Saeed	Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum
Barbaresco	Rebecca	Student - University of Padova, Italy
Bardaki	Vasiliki	The Smile Of The Child, Greece
Bartsch	Sebastian	Chair of the Cologne Human Rights City Initiative, Germany
Barzon	Lucia	Student - University of Padova, Italy
Bauer	Susanne	Austrian Trade Union
Bauer-Dorner	Waltraud	Land Steiermark, Austria
Baumgartner	Anna-Maria	Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria
Beaumont	Sylvie	HIV Justice Network, the Netherlands
Benavides	Esteban	City of Montréal, Canada



Benedek	Wolfgang	University of Graz, Austria
Berry	Gregory	Accountability Counsel
Bezemek	Christoph	University of Graz (Institute for Public Law and Political Sciences), Austria
Bilic	Sanja	European Forum of Muslim Women
Binder	Christina	Bundeswehr University Munich, Germany
Binder	Sigrid	Human Rights Advisory Council, Graz, Austria
Bochenek	Adrianna	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
Borges da Costa	Maria Isabel	APMJ
Brezovszky	Peter	Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria
Broberg	Emma	Regional Developer in Västra Götaland Region, Sweden
Broderstad	Anders	Advisor at NHRI Norway
Budimlic	Sabina	University of Graz, Austria
Byrne	Iain	Amnesty International
Cebreros	Marc	OHCHR
Chambalson	Jorge	University of York, United Kingdom
Charlie	Lydia	Association of the Districts of Victoria, Seychelles
Cianetti	Licia	Research fellow at Royal Holloway, University of London, United Kingdom
Claessen	Dorien	University of Applied Sciences Utrecht, the Netherlands
Clancy	Helen	City Councillor, Swansea, United Kingdom
Clement	Felicia	MA Student at Balsillie School of International Affairs, Waterloo, Canada
Colini	Laura	EU UA
Cooper	Joshua	Director of Hawaii Institute for Human Rights, USA
Coral	Audrey	Hyphen
Corneillie	Lies	City Councillor for Housing, Equal Rights and Local Global Policy in Leuven, Belgium
Crespo Fernandez	Rita	Inclusion Europe
Cristescu	Claudia	West University of Timisoara, Faculty of Political Science, Romania
Crocitta	Silvia	EuroDemos Youth Mobility NGO
Cubelic	Danijel	City of Heidelberg, Germany
Cusuamano	Mariaclaudia	PhD Student at Kore University of Enna, Italy
Davas	Asli	Human Rights Foundation of Turkey
De Feyter	Koen	University of Antwerp, Research Group on Law and Development, Belgium
de Oliveira	Emellin	NOVA School of Law, Portugal
de Perini	Pietro	University of Padova, Human Rights Centre, Italy
de Stefani	Paolo	University of Padova, Human Rights Centre, Italy



Deininger	Anna-Katharina	Oberlandesgericht Wien, Austria
Delicati	Simone	Student - University of Padova, Italy
Denison	Caroline	University of Graz, Austria
Dibbits	Alicia	Human rights consultant, the Netherlands
Dier	Jutta	Friedensbüro Graz, Austria
Dimitraki	Metaxia	The Smile Of The Child, Greece
Djaiz	Samir	PMC EUROPE
Drishti	Karkar	City of Ghent, Belgium
Duarte Moreira	Tomaz	University of York, United Kingdom
Duong	Anh Thu	Geneva Cities Hub, Switzerland
Dürnfeld	Christine	Plattform für Menschenrechte Salzburg, Austria
Eirini Pavlidou	Freideriki	University of Padova, Italy
El-Baba	Jana	UNESCO Cairo Office
Elong Mbassi	Jean Pierre	Secretary General of UCLG-Africa
Eterovic	Heidi	Croatian Law Centre
Fan	Rebecca C.	Research Center for Information Technology Innovation, Taiwan
Félix	Sara	Nova Refugee Legal Clinic, Portugal
Fernandes Pimentel	Nathália	UFG
Fischer	Gregor	European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz, Austria
Fischer	Gabriele	Medical University Vienna, Austria
Fragkou	Dimitra	NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal
Frederique	Hanotier	Human Rights Cities Network, Belgium
Freiberger-Geistberger	Christian	University of Graz, Austria
Fuchs	Manuela	Land Steiermark / Referat Europa und Internationales, Austria
Gakire	Thomas	International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO, Austria
Gamauf-Eberhardt	Ursula	ASPR - Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution
Georgantzi	Athina Eleni	AGE Platform Europe
Georgiou	Rafaella	Hope For Children, CRC Policy Center, Cyprus
Ghazi	Bahram	OHCHR
Ghosheh	Dania	Student - University of Padova, Italy
Gkika	Ioanna	The Smile Of The Child, Greece
Godio	Marie Joyce	Indigenous Peoples Rights International, Philippines
Gorjanc Prelevic	Tea	Human Rights Action, Montenegro
Goulis	Anastasios	European Center Young South Europe (E.C.Y.S.E)
Govender	Kb	ACCORD



Grans	Lisa	Abo Akademi University, Finland
Grasser	Stephanie	Student - University of Graz, Austria
Gready	Paul	University of York, Centre for Applied Human Rights, United Kingdom
Grieshofer	Ulrike	International Ombudsman Institution
Grimheden	Jonas	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
Gruber	David	University of Graz, Austria
Gugl	Karin	Pädagogische Hochschule Steiermark, Austria
Guille	Geraldine	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
Guillén Lanzarote	Aida	Director of the Department of Citizens' Rights in the City Council of Barcelona, Spain
Günlük Senesen	Gülay	Academic coordinator of RWI's Turkey Programme
Güntner	Simon	TU Wien, Austria
Haag	Sabine	President of the UNESCO Commission for Austria
Hada	Rio	OHCHR
Hagenaars	Polli	EFPA Board Human Rights and Psychology / Global Network of Psychologists for Human Rights
Hausegger	Elisabeth	Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung, Austria
Heine	Katja	University of Graz (Institute for Public Law and Political Sciences), Austria
Henriques	Marina	Researcher at Centre for Social Studies at the University of Coimbra, Portugal
Hergenröther	Xaver	University of Graz, Austria
Hernández	Nacho	Fundación Cepaim, Spain
Herper	Karl-Heinz	former City Councillor, City of Graz, Austria
Heschl	Lisa	European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz, Austria
Hirschmugl-Fuchs	Monika	D.M.A.T Consulting, Austria
Ho	Jeehyun	Coordinator/World Human Rights Cities Forum Secretariat, Republic of Korea
Hochsteiner	Laura	University of Graz, Austria
Holter	Elisabeth	Südwind Entwicklungspolitik Steiermark, Austria
Horvat	Klara	Human Rights House Zagreb, Croatia
Hörzer	Anna Lena	University of Graz, Austria
Hosemann	Lukas	NEOS, Austria
Indjein	Teresa	Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria
Ivanov	Andrey	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
Jacobson	Anna	Regional Developer in Västra Götaland Region, Sweden
Janisch	Kathrin	WKÖ, Austrian Chamber of Commerce
Jankovic	Patrizia	Austrian Commission for UNESCO
Jean	Ndayisaba	Groupement Global Hygiene System, Rwanda



Jimenez	Ezequiel	Middlesex University Law School, United Kingdom
Jukic	Klaudia	University of Graz, Austria
Kaindl	Michael	Grüne Austria
Kampus	Doris	Styrian Regional Government Minister, Austria
Khan	Gamaliel	Executive at the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Kari	Aicha	ADFM Maroc, Amnesty International
Karrer	Barbara	private
Kasa	Tuija	University of Helsinki, Finland
Kicker	Renate	University of Graz, Austria
Kim	Angela	City of Los Angeles, USA
Kissich	Susanne	University of Graz, Austria
Kjaerum	Morten	Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights, Sweden
Klic	Rafaela	University of Graz, Austria
Klumpner	Linus	Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria
Knauder	Bernadette	International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO, Austria
Köck	Alexandra	ZEBRA, Graz, Austria
Kocuvan	Sandra	Land Steiermark, Department 9 / Culture, Europa, Sports, Austria
Köhle	Bernhard	Europify - Independent Institute for European Integration & Education
Korolova	Tetiana	Student - University of Padova, Italy
Körükmez	Lülüfer	Human Rights Foundation of Turkey
Kragulj	Tijana	University of Graz, Austria
Krotzer	Robert	City Councillor, City of Graz, Austria
Kulhanek	Stephan	Volksanwaltschaft (Austrian Ombudman Board)
Kulundzija	Nikolina	University of Graz, Institute of European Law, Austria
Kurz	Rosemarie	Student Association University Graz, Austria
Kuti	Furat	MA Student at Dortmund University, Germany
Laback	Elisabeth	Sprach-und Lebensschule der Stadt Graz, Austria
Lamien Ouando	Adiza	NEGABONON
Lamloum	Inès	World Organisation Against Torture, Tunisia
Landahl	Zophie	Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights, Sweden
Lang	Ramon	University of Graz, Austria
Leal	Juliana	MA Student at the University of York, United Kingdom
Leitao	Sofia	Hope For Children, CRC Policy Center, Cyprus
Lennkh	Georg	Bruno Kreisky Forum für Internationalen Dialog, Austria
Lesigang	Alexander	Österreichischer Städtebund - Austrian Association



of Cities and Towns

Lewis	Tamara	private
Lichem	Walther	Peoples' Movement for Human Rights Learning (PDHRE)
Lindinger	Sophie	University of Graz, Austria
Luckgei	Vera	International Council of Psychology, University of Graz, Austria
Luckner	Kerstin	University of Graz, Austria
Lujansky-Lammer	Elke	Ombud for Equal Treatment, Regional Office Styria, Austria
Lyu	Dasol	MINBYUN - Lawyers for a Democratic Society, Republic of Korea
Machatsch	Wolfram	private
Marat	Eva	LKH Graz, Austria
Markovic	Milan	Head of human rights team in Serbia, OHCHR
Marquez	Marynka	University of York, United Kingdom
Martin	Steve	Africa Afya Initiative
Mattheisen	Emily	FIAN International
Mayerhofer	Birgit Anna	Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR)
Mazaheri	Amirhossein	Student - University of Padova, Italy
McDonnell	Frances	International Federation of Social Work Europe
Meier	Isabella	International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO, Austria
Mengistu Truneh	Frew	private
Metz	Gabriele	Ombudsstelle für Grazer Mädchen und Frauen, Graz, Austria
Michael	Rose	private
Mihajlovic	Anja	B.a.B.e. Be active. Be emancipated.
Molinari	Monica	The People for Change Foundation
Moll	Vera	Student - University of Padova, Italy
Morris	Tara	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
Möstl	Markus	International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO, Austria
Möstl	Maria	private
Mourtzaki	Maria	ActionAid Hellas
Mulder	Arienne	Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations of the Netherlands
Muschick	Michael	private
Mustajärvi	Tuija	City of Helsinki, Finland
Nagl	Siegfried	Mayor of Graz, Austria
Nasco	Maria	Student - University of Padova, Italy



Nayak-Oliver	Misha	Justfair, United Kingdom
Ngandeu	Hugue	UNESCO
Ngatta Nugue	Ngandeu	UNESCO
Nicoletti	Ingrid	private
Niedermayer	Joe	RosaLila PantherInnen, Graz, Austria
Nurieva	Elvira	Former FAO UN
Nygren-Krug	Helena	UNAIDS
Oberleitner	Gerd	UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security, University of Graz, Austria
O'Flaherty	Michael	Director, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
Oliveira	Daniel	CMLisboa, Portugal
Owusuah Lamptey	Perpetual Nana	Local Government Service, Ghana
Pachoinig	Larissa	University of Graz, Austria
Pammer	Martin	Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria
Paraíso	Ariana N.	Nova Refugee Legal Clinic, Portugal
Park	Hyo-eun	Gwangju International Center, Republic of Korea
Pereira	Rita	Nova Refugee Legal Clinic, Portugal
Perschy	Livia	International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO, Austria
Petre	Gabriela	National School for Political and Administrative Studies, Romania
Philipp	Simone	European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, Austria
Pichler	Franz Albert	AEPL, Brussels
Pirjatanniemi	Elina	Abo Akademi University, Finland
Platt	Jennifer	University of Graz, Austria
Polaschek	Martin	Rector University of Graz, Austria
Polido Baeta	Vera	Oxford Brookes University, United Kingdom
Primas	Heidrun	Forum Stadtpark, Graz, Austria
Prouvez	Nathalie	Former OHCHR
Pugh	Alyson	City Councillor, Swansea, United Kingdom
Rahman	Sattar Jabbar	The European Centre for Middle East Studies-ECMES
Raholinarivo Solonavalona	Paolo Emilio	Association des Jeunes pour la protection des droits de l'homme, Madagascar
Ramont	Christophe	City of Ghent, Belgium
Ramos	Gabriela	Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO
Ramos Margarido	Silvina	Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
Ransmayr	Sophia	Federal Chancellery, Austria
Rautio	Sirpa	NHRI/Human Rights Centre Finland



Reinprecht	Claudia	Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria
Reinprecht	Enya	University of Graz, Austria
Reiterer	Kirsten	Verein JUKUS, Graz, Austria
Riedel	Maximilian	private
Riedl	Helga	City of Nuremberg, Human Rights Office, Germany
Rishmawi	Mervat	Human Rights Consultant
Robin Sroller	Kim	IIBSA - International Institute for Education and Research on Antisemitism, Chair of the Board of Directors, Germany
Rodriguez	Anabel	City Council of Barcelona, Spain
Romanin	Agnes	European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz, Austria
Rørnes Tucker	Anja	Coordinator seminar series Bergen as a Human Rights City at the University of Bergen, Norway
Roth	Roswith	International Council of Psychology, University of Graz, Austria
Roth	Birgit	University of Graz, Austria
Rótoli	Beatriz	Student - University of Padova, Italy
Rudolf	Elke	Kinder- und Jugendanwaltschaft Steiermark, Austria
Ruggiero	Roberta	Centre for Children's Rights Studies - University of Geneva, Switzerland
Saidy	Lamin	Regional Disaster Coordinator, National Disaster Management Agency, the Gambia
Sakkers	Hans	Human Rights Consultant at City of Utrecht, Netherlands
Samady	Abdul Saboor	University of Vienna, Austria
Samantara	Prafulla	Lok Shakti Abhiyan
Samson	Irina	Student - University of Padova, Italy
Sanden	Helle	Advisor at NHRI Norway
Sanico Steffan	Grace	OHCHR
Sanogo	Karim	GPEDD, Oregon, USA
Sartori Costa	Luiza	Student - University of Padova, Italy
Schallenberg	Alexander	Federal Minister for European and International Affairs, Austria
Schechla	Joseph	Housing and Land Rights Network, Habitat International Coalition
Schmidlechner	Karin	private
Schreiberova	Zuzana	Multicultural Center Prague, Czech Republic
Schubert	Denise	AQ Austria
Schuftan	Claudio	People's Health Movement
Schuller	Katharina	Human Rights Space, Austria
Schulze-Bauer	Sabine	Equality Body Styria, Austria
Schuppert	Ioanna A.	METAdraSi - Action for Migration and Development



Schützenhöfer	Hermann	Governor of Styria, Austria
Schwartz	Britton	SCU IHRC
Schweiner	Cornelia	Abgeordnete zum Landtag Steiermark - SPÖ Landtagsklub, Austria
Seereiter	Wolfgang	Zukunft braucht Erinnerung, Austria
Shin	Gyonggu	Senior Advisor for Human Rights, City of Gwangju, Republic of Korea
Shrestha	Naresh	National Campaign for Sustainable Development Nepal
Siciarek	Marta	Migration & Integration expert at Pomerania Marshalls' office, Poland
Singh	Ankita	Institute for Education and Training, India
Skrijelj-Mehmedovic	Ramela	University of Graz, Austria
Smirnova	Elena	Hilfswerk International, Austria
Soboleva	Kamilla	Student - University of Padova, Italy
Soliman	Menna	Human rights practitioner, Cairo, Egypt
Sood	Nitin	City of Helsinki, Finland
Sosic	Milena	Initiative for Development and Cooperation, Serbia
Sperl	Louise	WUS Austria
Stankovic	Alma	University of Graz, Austria
Starl	Klaus	Director, International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO, Austria
Starl	Helga	private
Staud	Sophie	University of Graz, Austria
Stefani	Aikaterini	The Smile Of The Child, Greece
Steigler	Alida	Seminar series coordinator at CMI-UiB LawTransform, Bergen, Norway
Steinbach	Johannes	Land Steiermark / Referat Europa und Internationales, Austria
Steiner	Anna	Ludwig Boltzmann Institut für Kriegsfolgenforschung, Austria
Stephan	Steinwider	VinziWerke Graz-Eggenberg, Austria
Stingl	Alfred	former Mayor of Graz, Austria
Stocker	Alexandra	International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO, Austria
Strohal	Christian	Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria
Suano	Bethânia	University of Aveiro, Portugal
Sylla	Aboubakari	Mairie de la commune d'Abobo, Côte d'Ivoire
Szabó	Attila	Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU)
Taibl	Agnes	Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights, Austria



Tajmel	Tanja	Concordia University, Montreal, Canada
Takada	Miya Rebecca	Student - University of Padova, Italy
Tappatá Valdez	Patricia	CIPDH-UNESCO, Argentina
Tararas	Konstantinos	UNESCO
Taxacher	Isabell	Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria
Tibbitts	Felisa	SIM, Utrecht University, the Netherlands
Tiefenbacher	Carina	Austrian Commission for UNESCO
Tiefenbacher	Wanda	International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO, Austria
Tilak	Urvashi	Counsel to Secure Justice
Tinio Le-Douarin	Linda	UNESCO
Traschkowitsch	Peter	Gewerkschaft vida, Austria
Trauner	Christine	University of Graz, Austria
Trausch	Nora	Association au Soutien des Travailleurs Immigrés (ASTI), Luxembourg
Treweller	Christian	Runder Tisch Menschenrechte der Stadt Salzburg, Austria
Tsioukas	Grigorios	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
Tuke	Tsegaye	Mayor of Hawassa, Ethiopia
Uitz	Markus	Fonds zur Förderung der Menschenrechte in Gemeinden und Regionen, Austria
Urrutia	Gorka	Human Rights Institute, University of Deusto, Spain
Vainio	Kristiina	Institute for Human Rights, Abo Akademi University, Finland
Van der Bellen	Alexander	Federal President of the Republic of Austria
van der Have	Nienke	Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Netherlands
van Grunderbeek	Dagmar	City Councillor for Housing, Equal Rights and Local Global Policy in Leuven, Belgium
Van Vliet	Gerard	Liga voor de Rechten van de Mens, Belgium
Visan	Letitia	Student - University of Padova, Italy
Vistagiannaki	Chrisa	The Smile Of The Child, Greece
Voelcker	Ina	BAGSO e.V.
Vögl	Stefanie	Alumni University of Graz, Austria
Walz	Hans	Hochschule Ravensburg-Weingarten, Germany
Weigel	Johannes	Human Rights Office Nuremberg, Germany
Weiss	David	PhD Student at the University of Graz, Austria
Wilhelm	Josef	private
Wimmer	Georg	Plattform für Menschenrechte Salzburg, Austria
Wisinger	Marion	Österreichische Liga für Menschenrechte - Austrian League for Human Rights



Woldeyesus	Elshaday	University of Graz, Austria
Wurzer	Regina	University of Graz, Austria
Xavier	Sergio	Researcher at University of Coimbra, Centre for Social Studies, Portugal
Yilmaz	Betül	Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights, Sweden
Yong-sup	Lee	Mayor of Gwangju, Republic of Korea
Zamfirescu	Irina	ActiveWatch
Zaragoza Tellez	Maria Fernanda	San Pedro Garza Garcoa, Mexico
Zarrouk	Najat	Director of the African Local Government Academy of UCLG Africa
Zebinger	Sabrina	Student - University of Padova, Italy
Zeppezauer	Helene	NEOS Landtagsklub Steiermark, Austria
Zoubid	Rachida	Universität Mohammed V Rabat, Morocco
Zuecco	Sara	Student - University of Padova, Italy
Zwischenberger	Magdalena	University of Graz, Austria





UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security
International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights
at the Local and Regional Levels

Elisabethstrasse 50B | 8010 Graz | Austria
humanrightsgolocal.org

