

26-27 January 2024  
New Bulgarian University  
21, Montevideo Str., Sofia, Bulgaria  
Room 205, corpus 1

## **Effective Human Rights Law Teaching: Train the Teachers Course**

### **Context of the project**

The Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR) have been working with the New Bulgarian University (NBU) and the Bulgarian Ministry of Justice to build up the capacity of Bulgarian universities for the introduction of human rights legal education with practical orientation. In such cooperation, the Government Agent's Office at the Bulgarian Ministry of Justice, the Department of Law at the NBU, and the NCHR have undertaken a series of capacity building measures to ensure that international and European human rights law are taught effectively, by qualified academic staff, and with consideration to its domestic law dimension.

### **Expert review of existing curricula**

As part of the activity, NCHR experts carried out a review of the existing curricula. Through cooperation with the Bulgarian Ministry of Justice and the New Bulgarian University, they collected information from university management, academic staff and students, respectively. They also reviewed relevant documents and other sources. As a result, the team has drafted guidelines on the implementation of human rights in horizontal training (included in other disciplines) and vertical training (as a compulsory subject and/or specialised Master's program).

### **Introduction of human rights in the mandatory legal education**

The Project actively advocated for the introduction of Human Rights as a compulsory study in the legal higher education curricula. That has become a fact in July 2022 with the passing of a new Ordinance on the Unified State Requirements for Acquisition of a Higher Education in Law.

### **Drafting of an model PhD program in Human Rights**

Academic staff from the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights and the New Bulgarian University have drafted PhD courses for the establishment of an accredited human rights doctoral program at a Bulgarian university. Upon completion of the Project in April 2024, the program shall undertake its course to acquire accreditation before the competent Bulgarian national authority.

### **Trainings of teachers**

Another key aspect of the project activity is the support to training initiatives aimed at strengthening the teaching capacity of the academia. Offered in this respect were short-term participations in study visits at the University of Oslo. These trainings are a logical continuation of ensuring mutual transfer of knowledge and teaching practices among Norwegian partners and their Bulgarian counterparts. As part of the training of teachers' component of the project, a one-week training was organized in Oslo with Bulgarian teachers on 25-29 September 2023. Two trainings are planned to be held in Sofia, respectively on 12-13 and 26-27 January 2024. These trainings are aimed at addressing various forms of teaching, quality assurance and student assessment, curriculum building, and experiential legal learning, especially legal clinics and human rights moot courts.

### **Trainers/Speakers:**

[Gentian Zyberi](#) is a Professor of International Law and Human Rights at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights. He has 20 years of professional experience in the field of international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and public international law. Professor Zyberi has been a member of the UN Human Rights Committee (2019-2022); member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the Netherlands (2016-2028); and Defense team member at the ICTY (2004-2012). He is a member of the Scientific Committee of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency for the period 2023-2028.

[Nina Reiners](#) is Associate Professor for Human Rights and Social Sciences at the University of Oslo. She is also affiliated as research associate with The Graduate Institute Geneva's Global Governance Centre. Her research was honoured with several awards, among them the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) book award 2022 for her monograph "Transnational Lawmaking Coalitions for Human Rights."

[Matthew Saul](#) is Associate Professor of Law at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Oslo. He publishes on aspects of general international law, international human rights law, and international adjudication. Saul is co-editor of *International Law and Dispute Settlement: New Techniques and Problems* (2010), *International Law and Post-Conflict Reconstruction Policy* (2015), and *The International Human Rights Judiciary and National Parliaments* (2017). His monograph *Popular Governance of Post-Conflict Reconstruction: The Role of International Law* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2014.



[Janneke Gerards](#) is professor of fundamental rights law at the Montaigne Centre for Rule of Law and Administration of Justice of Utrecht University (the Netherlands). She conducts research mainly in the fields of European fundamental rights, equal treatment law, judicial review and new technologies. In addition to her university work, among other things, she is an auxiliary Judge in the Appeals Court of The Hague, a member of the Scientific Committee of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, and a substitute member of the Venice Commission.

# Draft program

First day, Friday, 26 January 2024

**9.00 - 9.30 Registration**

**9.30 – 9.35 Introduction**

- **Welcome and summary of the project activities** by *Assist. Prof. Emilia Dimitrova, Vice-Rector “Research and Creative Activity”, New Bulgarian University*

**9.35 – 9.45 Training introduction. Feedback on the course curriculum development exercise**

- *Prof. Gentian Zyberi, Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo*

**9.45 – 11.15 Human Rights in History, Philosophy, and Politics**

- *Assoc. Prof. Nina Reiners, Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo*

**11.15 – 11.30 Coffee break**

**11.30 – 13.00 Human Rights in International and National Law**

- *Assoc. Prof. Matthew Saul, Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo*

**13.00 – 14.00 Lunch break**

**14.00 – 15.00 Human Rights Law in Context**

- *Prof. Gentian Zyberi, Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo*

**15.00 – 15.15 Coffee break**

**15.15 – 16.00 Cooperation with NGOs & NHRIs in Human Rights Legal Education**

- *Prof. Gentian Zyberi, Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo*

**16.00 – 16.15 General discussion and summing up**

*End of first day*

**Second day, Saturday, 27 January 2024**

**9.30 – 11.30 Teaching European Fundamental Rights (with a short break)**

*Prof. Janneke Gerards, University of Utrecht*

**11.30 – 11.45 Coffee break**

**11.45 – 12.30 Dealing with Ethical Issues in Teaching and Supervision**

- *Prof. Gentian Zyberi, Assoc. Prof. Nina Reinert, and Assoc. Prof. Matthew Saul, Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo*

**12.30 – 14.00 Lunch**

**14.00 – 15.00 Human Rights Legal Education and Artificial Intelligence**

- *Prof. Gentian Zyberi, Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo*

**15.00 – 15.30** General discussion and conclusion of the training.

*End of the second day and of the seminar*

*Training will be delivered in English*

*Moderator: Assist. Prof. Ekaterina Tsvetanova, director of School of Professional and Continuing Studies, New Bulgarian University*

## MAIN READING MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

### Human Rights in History, Philosophy and Politics

- [HUMR5131 – Human Rights in History, Philosophy and Politics](#)
- Hafner-Burton, Emilie M., and James Ron (2009), [Seeing Double: Human Rights Impact through Qualitative and Quantitative Eyes](#). *World Politics* 61(2): 360–401.
- Walling, Carrie B., & Waltz, Susan (2014). [Putting the Puzzle Pieces Together: Human Rights Advocacy and the History of International Human Rights Standards Website](#). *Human Rights Quarterly* 36(4): 905-914.

### Teaching European Fundamental Rights

- Course guide on Rule of law and fundamental rights (Master level).
- Course guide for Fundamental Rights in Europe (Bachelor level).

### Human Rights in International and National Law

- [HUMR5140 – Human rights in international and national law](#)
- Matthew Saul, ‘[Judicial Methodology for the Application of International Human Rights Law](#)’, in Aksel Tømte and Eko Riyadi (eds.) *International Human Rights and Local Courts: Human Rights Interpretation in Indonesia* (Routledge, 2024, forthcoming).

### Cooperation with NGOs and NHRIs in Human Rights (Legal) Education

- Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions: [Responsibilities of NHRIs: Human rights education \(website\)](#).
- EU Fundamental Rights Agency, Strong and Effective National Human Rights Institutions: Challenges, Promising Practices and Opportunities ([summary, 2021](#)).
- [Human Rights Education: A Manual for National Human Rights Institutions](#) (Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions July 2013 (updated October 2019), pp. 49-91.
- Amnesty International – [Human Rights Education](#).
- Human Rights Watch – [Human Rights Education](#).
- Wergeland Centre – [Educating for Democracy and Human Rights](#).

### Human Rights Law in Context

- [HUMR5132 – Human Rights Law in Context](#)
- Frans Viljoen, [Contemporary Challenges to International Human Rights Law and the Role of Human Rights Education](#), *De Jure* (2011), pp. 207-231.
- Felisa Tibbitts, [Human Rights-Based Approach Handbook for Higher Education](#) (Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law 2022).

### Dealing with Ethical Issues in Teaching and Supervision

- Paula Baron, Thriving in the Legal Academy, 17(1) Legal Education Review (2007), pp. 27-52.
- Mariya Chankova, Teaching Academic Integrity: The Missing Link, 18(2) Journal of Academic Ethics (2020), pp. 155-173.
- Kimberly D. Becker, [Graduate Students' Experiences of Plagiarism by Their Professors](#), 73(2) Higher Education Quarterly (2019), pp. 251-265.

### Human Rights Legal Education and Artificial Intelligence

- Emma Sabzalieva and Arianna Valentini, [ChatGPT and Artificial Intelligence in higher education: Quick start guide](#) (UNESCO 2023).
- Bosen Lily Liu, Diana Morales, Jaime Félix Roser Chinchilla, Emma Sabzalieva, Arianna Valentini, Daniele Vieira do Nascimento, and Clarisa Yerovi, [Harnessing the Era of Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education: A Primer for Higher Education Stakeholders](#) (UNESCO 2023), pp. 52-79.