

# **Annual Venice Conference on the Global State of Human Rights 16 July 2021**

## **Global Campus of Human Rights and the European Parliament**

Hybrid event

Programme

**10:00 - 10:10 Welcome Addresses**

Luigi BRUGNARO, Mayor of Venice (tbc)

**10:10 - 10:20 Opening**

Welcome by David SASSOLI, President of the European Parliament (video message)

Welcome by Veronica GOMEZ, Global Campus of Human Rights President

**10:20 - 10:30 Video clip**

**10:30 - 12:00 Panel 1: Improving the Business and Human Rights relationship:  
What role can due diligence and a values-centred approach play?**

With a Commission proposal for an EU directive defining due diligence obligations in the context of Sustainable Corporate Governance expected in 2021, the panel gives occasion to discuss the potential impact of the directive with partners and stakeholders. The Commission's initiative is an example for other regions and countries, and demonstrates the EU's commitment to ensuring businesses promote, and protect human rights. Taking into account the experiences of environmental and human rights lawyers and defenders and globally engaged businesses, the panel should also look at the broader context in which the EU legislation unfolds. The role of multilateral diplomacy, dialogue with like-minded partners, or support for civil society could be discussed as complementary tools in the broader strategy on business and human rights.

▪ *Moderators*

- Heidi HAUTALA, Vice-President of the European Parliament

- Dzidek KEDZIA, Honorary President of the Global Campus of Human Rights

▪ *Testimony*

- Claudelice SANTOS, Brazil, Sakharov Prize finalist 2019

▪ *Keynote speaker*

- Didier REYNDERS, European Commissioner for Justice (video message)

▪ *Panellists*

- Raphael GLUCKSMANN, DROI/AFET Rapporteur on “Corporate due diligence and Corporate accountability” (video message)
  - Radu MARES, Associate Professor, Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Lund University
  - Maria Soraya RODRIGUEZ, DROI/AFET Rapporteur on “The effects of climate change and the role of environmental human rights defenders on the matter”
  - German PSC Ambassador HE Mr Thomas OSSOWSKI
  - James GOMME, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), a global, CEO-led organization of over 200 leading companies
  - Gaëlle DUSEPULCHRE, Permanent Representative to the EU Brussels, FIDH -International Federation for Human Rights
  - Steven DONZINGER, US lawyer
- *Interactive dialogue with alumni, students and audience*

**12:00 – 13:45** *Break*

**13:45 – 15:15 Panel 2: A Pandemic of Impunity: Why Does Accountability Matter?**

The panel, bringing together human rights and legal expertise, will explore the evolving international justice landscape. It should map potential pathways to overcome the growing challenges to accountability and respond to the needs of human rights defenders. At the eve of the Day of International Criminal Justice, the panel will gather ideas for upholding and strengthening the ICC, for supporting universal jurisdiction, and transitional justice processes, as well as experiences with new investigative mechanisms and recent ICJ proceedings.

- *Moderators*
  - Fabio CASTALDO, Vice President of the European Parliament
  - Maria Daniella MAROUDA, Assistant Professor at Panteion University Athens and Chair of European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)
- *Testimony*
  - Denis MUKWEGE, Nobel Peace Prize Recipient 2018 and Sakharov Prize Laureate 2014
  - Lorent SALEH, Venezuela Sakharov Prize Laureate 2017
- *Keynote Speakers*
  - Michelle BACHELET, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
  - Jutta URPILAINEN, Commissioner for International Partnerships (video message)
- *Panellists*
  - Isabel SANTOS, DROI/AFET Rapporteur on DROI/AFET Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the world in 2019
  - Jorge Enrique TAIANA, Director General of Global Campus Latin America and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Argentina

- Karol KARSKI, DROI/AFET Rapporteur on “The persecution of minorities on the ground of religion or belief”
- Anja MIHR, DAAD Associate Professor at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- Lotte LEICHT, EU Director at Human Rights Watch
- Hiba Ismael ALHAMED, Member of the Coalition of Families of Persons Kidnapped by ISIS (Massar)
- Niccolò FIGÀ-TALAMANCA, Secretary-General of No Peace Without Justice

- *Interactive dialogue with alumni, students and audience*

**15:15 – 15:45** Break

**15:45 – 17:15 Panel 3: What is a values-based foreign policy worth when responding to human rights and democracy issues around the world?**

The main objective of this panel is to explore the understanding of a values-based approach in responding to human rights and democracy concerns, bringing in perspectives of policy makers, activists and academia. The US administration’s commitment to a values based foreign policy, values that overlap with the EU, was described as a [once-in-a-generation](#) opportunity to design a new transatlantic agenda. The discussion aims to strengthen the understanding of potential tensions between human rights values and other policy priorities, and avenues for reconciliation. Policy areas to be addressed include the EU external migration policy, geopolitical relationships, digital technology development and the EU trade policy review.

In concluding the conference, the panel may also build on the outcome of the previous two panels by exploring more specific values-based instruments and frameworks.

- *Moderators*
  - Maria ARENA, Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights
  - Manfred NOWAK, Secretary-General of the Global Campus of Human Rights
- *Testimony*
  - Jewher ILHAM, Uyghur activist and daughter of 2019 Sakharov Prize laureate Ilham TOHTI, China
- *Keynote Speakers*
  - Congressman Gregory MEEKS, Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, US Congress
  - Agnès CALLAMARD, Secretary General of Amnesty International
- *Panellists:*
  - Isabel WISELER, DROI/AFET Rapporteur on the annual report on human rights and democracy in the world in 2018
  - Eamon GILMORE, EU Special Representative for Human Rights
  - Morten KJÆRUM, Director, Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

- Tineke STRIK, DROI/AFET Rapporteur on “The EU human rights protection framework and the EU external migration policy”
- Italian PSC Ambassador HE Mr Marco PERONACI
- Jeremy GUNN, Representative for Global Campus Arab World and Associate Professor at University of Rabat
- Austrian PSC Ambassador HE Ms Christina KOKKINAKIS
- Benedetto DELLA VEDOVA, Italian Deputy Minister Foreign Affairs (Human Rights mandate)

- *Interactive dialogue with alumni, students and audience*
- *Wrap up: Maria Soraya RODRIGUEZ, DROI/AFET Rapporteur on the Annual report on human rights and democracy in the world 2018 and the European Union’s policy on the matter*

### **17:20-17:30 Concluding Remarks**

- Stefano SANNINO, Secretary-General of the European External Action Service

### **18.30-19.30 White Torture - underground poetry - a performance by Lorent Saleh**

Venezuelan activist and Sakharov Prize laureate 2017, Lorent spent more than two years in ‘La Tumba’, the Venezuelan secret service prison, five floors underground in Caracas. In his white cell, exposed to a white light 24/7, in a shiny loneliness and a complete silence, he would lose awareness of time and space.

<https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/webstreaming?d=20210716&lv=ALL>

Through videos, pictures, sounds and poetry that he wrote during his confinement, he lets us experience the suffering of political prisoners all around the world.