

Covid-19 Pandemic and Economic and Social Rights

7 - 10 June 2021

Online

Co-funded by the European Union
and AICS Italy

Organised by

Coordinated by the University of Sarajevo
and University of Bologna



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Global Campus
of Human Rights



Description

The Global Classroom, one of the flagship activities of the Global Campus, is designed to bring together students, professors and experts from our seven regions. It is a research programme focussed on a topic of current interest, different every year, whereby students from across the Global Campus network study, analyse and discuss the selected topic through the lenses of regional perspectives. The uniqueness of this annual event lies in the possibility to deepen the understanding of global human rights challenges and foster inter-regional academic exchange and collaboration. Students, alumni and research coordinators will convene in a four-day online event, including a high-level panel discussion that will be live-streamed and open to anyone.

The focus of this year's Global Classroom is on Covid-19 Pandemic and Economic and Social Rights. COVID-19 is a global public health emergency without parallel since 1918 and has affected not only the right to health but also a range of other socio-economic rights.

Millions of people are out of work, lack adequate social protection, and have been unable to pay for essential needs. Those who are marginalised and disadvantaged by income and non-income indicators, however, are exposed to even greater risks, experience more extreme forms of deprivation and discrimination, and are denied a range of socio-economic rights. The right to Education also has been severely compromised in different countries and regions. Schools have been closed and attempts have been made to provide children with on-line education. Here, too, existing inequalities have been exacerbated and the pre-existing limitations of educational systems have hit vulnerable children in developing countries who often have problems of internet access, lack computers and other necessary infrastructure, and teachers lacking preparation and capabilities of dealing with the situation. All these factors result in children in disadvantaged groups particularly being denied the right to education.

The research carried out by the seven Regional Research teams of the Global Classroom and the discussion with experts at the live event will provide analysis and critical reflection in response to the following questions: In which ways has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted economic and social rights of individuals and groups, including the dynamics and dialectics of these interactions and the role of social resilience in meeting these challenges? How have responses to COVID-19 revealed preexisting weaknesses in access to economic, cultural, and social rights by groups and communities that are relatively disadvantaged? How might long-term approaches for mitigating future human rights harms like those caused by COVID-19 be developed and implemented in future crises?

Programme

7 June 2021

- 12:00 - 12:10** WELCOMING
Asim Mujkić, ERMA/GCSEE Co-director, University of Sarajevo
Manfred Nowak, Global Campus Secretary General
Veronica Gomez, Global Campus President
- 12:10 - 12:30** KEY NOTE SPEECH
Tlaleng Mofokeng, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health
- 12:30 - 12:40** INTRODUCTION
Rachel Kurian, GC Research Coordinator, Institute of Social Studies (ISS, Netherlands); ERMA/GC SEE, University of Sarajevo and University of Bologna
- 12:40 - 12:50** *Break*
- 12:50 - 13:40** HIGH-LEVEL EXPERT PANEL + Q&A
Moderator:
Thérèse Murphy, EMA Chairperson and Co-founder of the GC Human Rights Preparedness
Speakers:
Joshua Castellino, Executive Director, Minority Rights Group
Meskerem Geset Techane, Member of the UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls

8 June 2021

- 12:00 - 12:05** Quick recap by Rachel Kurian, GC Research Coordinator
- 12:05 - 12:50** Working Group 1 (GC Europe Research): video presentation and discussion
- 12:50 - 13:00** *Break*
- 13:00 - 13:45** Working Group 2 (GC South East Europe Research): video presentation and discussion
- 13:45 - 14:00** *Break*
- 14:00 - 15:00** VIRTUAL COFFEE WITH
Ignacio Saiz, Executive Director of the Center for Economic and Social Rights

Programme

9 June 2021

- 12:00 - 13:00 E-PERITIF WITH **Kalliope Agapiou-Josephides**, GC Council member and Co-founder, GC Human Rights Preparedness
- 13:00 - 13:10 *Break*
- 13:10 - 13:15 Quick recap by Rachel Kurian, GC Research Coordinator
- 13:15 - 14:00 Working Group 3 (GC Asia-Pacific Research): video presentation and discussion
- 14:00 - 14:10 *Break*
- 14:10 - 14:55 Working Group 4 (GC Caucasus Research): video presentation and discussion

10 June 2021

- 12:00 - 12:05 Quick recap by Rachel Kurian, GC Research Coordinator
- 12:05 - 12:50 Working Group 5 (GC Africa): video presentation and discussion
- 12:50 - 13:00 *Break*
- 13:00 - 13:45 Working Group 6 (GC Latin America and the Caribbean): video presentation and discussion
- 13:45 - 14:00 *Break*
- 14:00 - 14:30 Summary learning points by Rachel Kurian, GC Research Coordinator
- 14:30 - 14:45 Concluding remarks by Veronica Gomez, Global Campus President

Conference registration and ZOOM link:
<http://bit.ly/GC-Classroom2021-Day1>

Hosting institution / Programme:
Global Campus South East Europe / European Regional MA Programme in Democracy and Human Rights in South East Europe, University of Sarajevo and University of Bologna.