
National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict-Affected and Fragile Settings: Examining their Contribution to SDG 16 and the Sustaining Peace Agenda

2022 Geneva Peace Week (GPW) Virtual Workshop

Session Description

Time and Date

The virtual workshop will take place on 3 November 2022 at 12:00-13:15.

Logistics

The virtual workshop will be held via Zoom.

Co-hosts

Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) and DCAF Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance

Session Description

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are closely interlinked with human rights, with over 90% of the 169 SDG targets linked to international human rights instruments. National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), as independent institutions established by law to promote and protect human rights, advise governments, and hold them to account, are crucial actors of the institutional architecture to realise the SDGs, in particular SDG 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Present in over 100 countries, NHRIs undertake systematic analysis of the human rights situation in their countries, issue reports and recommendations and advise governments and parliaments on human rights compliance. Some also handle complaints from citizens, thereby facilitating access to justice, redress, and remedy. Through these functions, NHRIs also play an important role in preventing the outbreak, continuation, and recurrence of conflicts, a role acknowledged in the Kyiv Declaration on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations. In doing so, by working to address the inequalities, exclusion and injustices that often drive conflict, they simultaneously contribute to the 2030 Agenda, SDG 16, and the Sustaining Peace Agenda.

Within this context, NHRIs have a particularly important role to play with regard to oversight of the security sector. Security and justice institutions that operate fairly and in alignment with the rule

of law are essential to preventing violence and sustaining peace. Despite this, there remains limited awareness amongst security as well as development actors of the importance of collaborating with each other and NHRIs to prevent, manage and resolve conflict.

This session, hosted by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) and DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, will provide a platform for NHRIs from the Global South to share innovative practices, experiences, and stories on how their work has contributed to preventing, managing, and resolving conflict; to achieving the 2030 Agenda; and to strengthening cooperation between the human rights, sustainable development, security and peacebuilding sectors.

Speakers


Catalina Crespo Sancho, National Ombudsperson of Costa Rica

Dr Crespo Sancho has been National Ombudsperson of Costa Rica since 2018 and was the President for the Central American and Caribbean Council for National Institutions of Human Rights. She is a human rights specialist with over fifteen years of experience in international development. Dr Crespo Sancho worked at the World Bank on the prevention of violent conflict and co-authored the UN/World Bank report 'Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict'. At the World Bank and at the Inter-American Development Bank she also focused on mainstreaming gender and youth issues on conflict and violence prevention, transport, energy, extractives, and climate change. Dr Crespo Sancho has worked as a gender advisor for governments including Costa Rica and Madagascar. Additionally, she collaborated with the private sector on corporate social responsibility.

As an academic, Dr Crespo Sancho was a professor at Teachers College-Columbia University and at the University of Georgia where she taught and conducted research on topics such as immigration, gender, and education. Dr Crespo Sancho holds a PhD in Sociology of Education from the State University of New York at Buffalo where she attended with a Fulbright Scholarship. She has an MA in International Education from Framingham State University and a BA in Psychology from Universidad de Monterrey in Costa Rica.

Jacqueline Ann Cruz de Guia, Executive Director of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP)

Lawyer Jacqueline Ann Cruz de Guia became the Executive Director (ED) of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP) in 2018. As the Spokesperson of the Commission since September 2016, she amplified the work of the CHRP on pressing human rights issues. She was previously the Director of the Public Affairs and Strategic Communication Office (PASCO). Concurrently, as ED, she continues to head the Strategic Communications Division and the Citizen's Help and Action Division. She was the Regional Director of the Southern Tagalog and MIMAROPA for six years and used to be a college and law professor. She has been the Philippine's Torture Prevention Ambassador for the APT- APF joint initiative. She is also an alumna of the International



Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) of the US State Department. She is a graduate of the University of the Philippines College Baguio having obtained a degree in Bachelor of Social Sciences, Double Major in Psychology and Political Science, and finished her law studies at the University of the Cordilleras.

Meri Kochlamazashvili, Senior Adviser to the Ombudsman of Georgia

Dr Kochlamazashvili has been working as Senior Adviser on the human rights issues of conflict affected population for the Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia since 2010. In her role, she advises the ombuds person drafting annual Parliamentary and Special reports, developing relevant recommendations, conducting field monitoring of conflict affected population, and representing the Ombudsman in international, governmental, and non-governmental organizations. In her current role, she is actively involved in peacebuilding and conflict transformation processes. Indeed, the Ombudsman is a National Human Rights institution uniquely positioned between state institutions and society, at national, regional, and international level with a broad mandate that allows it to play a key role to strengthen human rights.

Dr Kochlamazashvili has a doctorate in International Relations with a dissertation on the Human Rights Situation of Conflict Affected Population in Georgia and the Role of International Organizations. She holds a master's degree in International Law.

Lucas Kimanthi, Assistant Director, Reforms and Accountability, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights

Lucas Kimanthi currently holds the position of Assistant Director, Reforms and Accountability Division at the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR). He specializes in prison reforms, transitional justice and reparations, sexual and gender-based violence, police reform, and electoral monitoring, having participated and coordination electoral monitoring projects in 2002, 2007, 2012-3, 2017-8 and 2022. Within the KNCHR, he is also the focal point officer on Elections and Electoral Accountability. Prior to this, he held the position of Human Rights Programme Manager at Release Political Prisoners Pressure Group and Project Officer at the Inter-Religious Council of Kenya. He holds a bachelor's degree from Egerton University and is currently reading a Master of Arts in Human Rights at the University of Nairobi. In addition, he holds a number of diplomas and certificates from different institutes, including in senior leadership, management, electoral monitoring, conflict management and meditation.