



معهد جنيف لحقوق الإنسان
Geneva Institute for Human Rights

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

2022

Our Annual Report provides an overview of the work of the Geneva Institute for Human Rights (GIHR) from January – December 2022. The Report covers the work of the Institute, details joint work and/or collaborations and also provides feedback.

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Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2022

I. MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Geneva Institute for Human Rights witnessed a rise in activities in 2022 after the restrictions imposed by the Swiss health authorities and the rest of the world due to the covid-19 pandemic, were lifted. The Institute continued to implement its various programmes to achieve its statutory objectives of promoting international human rights principles and disseminating a human rights culture by providing training, counselling and research services to civil society organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations and other human rights actors in the Middle East and North Africa region. Above all, the Institute continued to work on making sure that the principles of equality, dignity and respect are incorporated into the actual practices and policies at all levels in the region's public service.

During the past year, the Institute held seven training sessions, five in attendance at its headquarters in Geneva and two online, with the participation of 158 participants (80 male and 78 female trainees) from 24 countries. The Institute also co-organized two conferences: First, on climate and environmental changes and their impact on human and social security. Second, the implications of confrontation on children's rights between protection and care (safety in childhood). Geneva Institute for Human Rights also co-organised an international symposium on the rights of older persons between reality and law, and three lectures targeting young people of both sexes. These activities benefited 865 participants from 18 Arab States. Moreover, the Institute's publications include four books on human rights.

We hope that these activities have succeeded in achieving their objectives, and we hope that 2023 will see greater activity to promote a culture of human rights throughout the world.

We wish to express our gratitude to all those who have contributed to the success of the Institute's various activities and programmes, including donors, trainers, participants, administrators and others, for their service in promoting human rights values and principles.

Yours Truly,

Nazar Abdelgadir
Executive Director

II. About GIHR

Established in 2004, the Geneva Institute for Human Rights was born of the idea that a Geneva-based organization, equipped with the right mix of cultural and language skills could open doors to promote the understanding and application of human rights in the Middle East and North Africa. It grew from a modest grant from the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs for a project for the Iraqi Government, and has since implemented projects in 19 countries of the Middle East and North Africa region.

GIHR works with a broad target audience with the aim of promoting and raising awareness of human rights for all, as a universal language in the MENA+ region. Annually GIHR provides advice and strategic support to governmental and non-governmental actors in defining and implementing their strategies in using international human rights procedures.

The Institute's distinct profile and specialized knowledge has enabled it to foster working relationships of trust with individuals and institutions from civil society and governments of the region.

GIHR's Strategy 2015- 2018 has been informed by a thorough review of its capacities and achievements, a process supported by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. This process included financial and operational audits that examined how far the Institute's financial practices, governance and strategy, programmes and organizational structure and systems rated against accepted best practice for NGOs. The process drew critical findings that frame a robust investment in organizational change and systems.

VISION

GIHR envisages a MENA+ region where States ensure the respect, protection, promotion and fulfilment of the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments, and develop national human rights protection mechanisms that meet the highest international standards.

CORE VALUES

Dignity and Respect- Every human being is entitled to have their dignity and human rights respected equally whatever their gender, age, religion or disability

Knowledge – knowledge is an asset, through promotion of human rights principles effective social change can occur.

Integrity - Transparency, democracy and integrity are crucial to enable empowerment of the community.

MISSION

GIHR works towards a thriving culture of human rights in the MENA+ region through 3 interlinked levels of work:

National awareness and capacity in human rights has been sustainably developed, contributing towards “change from within.”

Human rights have been anchored sustainably in national/regional institutions, processes and protection mechanisms.

MENA+ region is robustly and effectively engaged with Geneva-based human rights bodies and mechanisms.

III. Activities undertaken by GIHR

Advanced training course on Women's rights international protection mechanisms



19- 23 June 2022 - The course was conducted by trainers including Ms.Soumicha Riyaha and Mr. Nazar Abdelgadir, Executive Director of the Geneva Institute for Human Rights, on the margins of the 82nd session of the CEDAW Committee and the discussion of the reports of the Kingdom of Morocco and the United Arab Emirates, with the participation of people from various countries from the MENA region. Mr. Mohammed Al-Nsour, Head of the Middle East and North Africa Division of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, opened the work of the advanced training course on international protection mechanisms for women's rights organized by the Institute at its headquarters.

The advanced training course comes after a more than two-year interruption due to the pandemic and restrictions imposed by the Swiss authorities and in continuation of the Institute's work in raising awareness and defending human rights, citizenship and benevolent human values for the achievement of abuses-free societies where everyone can fully enjoy and exercise their rights, as well as raise awareness of a human rights and fundamental freedoms culture and promote democratic participation.

FES-GIHR annual regional training course on international human rights mechanisms



The annual regional training course organized by the German foundation Friedrich Ebert- Jordan and Iraq Office, in collaboration with the Geneva Institute for Human Rights entitled “International mechanisms for the protection of human rights” took place between 21-25 August 2022 via Zoom.

Participants in the training course included 22 trainees representing 8 Arab countries: Libya, Jordan, Algeria, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Bahrain, Yemen and Lebanon. The course was supervised by a selection of the training staff of the Geneva Institute for Human Rights.

In his opening statement, Mr. Nazar Abdelgadir, Executive Director of the Geneva Institute for Human Rights, noted that the aim of the regional session was to disseminate a culture of human rights and to promote the effective participation of NGOs and NHRIs and to strengthen their influence in discussions and enable them to participate fully and effectively, with a particular focus on human rights protection mechanisms.

The Executive Director also noted that the Geneva Institute for Human Rights was building its strategies to meet the needs of the region’s communities in promoting human rights programmes through interacting with the United Nations system, particularly those dealing with human rights. The Institute also works to protect vulnerable groups and to implement the international standards and the noble and universal principles and values.

The programme of the regional training course includes: global human rights trends, human rights concepts and terminology, United Nations Charter-based mechanisms: Human Rights Council, the Universal periodic

review mechanism, Special Procedures, core international human rights treaties, treaty mechanisms, treaty committees for the protection of human rights, national mechanisms for the protection of human rights, evolution of women's rights in international instruments, information on human rights protection mechanisms on the Internet.

This regional training course on international mechanisms is a continuation of the march initiated by the Geneva Institute for Human Rights with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation since 2007 and is part of the Institute's activities in the defence of human rights, citizenship and the promotion of human rights to bring about change from within.

15 participants from 8 Arab countries participated in the course: Libya, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Bahrain, Yemen and Lebanon. A team of trainers conducted the training among them: Ms. Khulood Al-Khatib, Mr. Kamal al-Mashraqi and Mr. Nazar Abdelgadir from the Geneva Institute for Human Rights, in addition to Professor Bertrand Ramcharan, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights and former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Dr. Saddam Abu Azam, Chief Executive Officer of Lawyers without Borders.

In his closing statement, Nazar Abdelgadir, Executive Director of the Geneva Institute for Human Rights, explained that the completion of this regional session is a source of great pride for the Institute because it is linked to the implementation of the Institute's mission and strategy. Promoting human rights for change and working towards societies free of violations, ensuring the full enjoyment and exercise of human rights, as well as spreading awareness of a human rights, fundamental freedoms culture and promoting democratic participation.

His Excellency, Marin Abbas, Regional Representative of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, expressed his pleasure at convening this regional human rights course to enable young people to interact with the international human rights protection system. His Excellency noted the importance of this long-lasting cooperation with the Geneva Institute for Human Rights in providing the Middle East and North Africa human rights defenders with the basic tools they need in their fight for human rights. In conclusion, he thanked all

the participants, the staff of the Geneva Institute for Human Rights and all the staff of the Office of Jordan and Iraq. Batul Zidane, program coordinator of the Friedrich Ebert Jordan and Iraq Office also stated that the regional course is part of a series of programmes organized by the Foundation in cooperation with the Geneva Institute for Human Rights, which have always been an important starting point for change in the progress of many of its participants in dealing with and interacting with human rights issues on the ground. She explained that there are experiences that have proven that young people are able to engage with the international human rights system that was introduced to them and seek to build a future based on recognition of human dignity and the preservation of human rights.

The third Dr. Amin Makki Madani regional training course



With opening words from Mr. Mazen Shaqoura, representing the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Adel Cherif, representing the Geneva Institute for Human Rights, and from Mr. Abu Bakr Makki Madani, and Mrs. Sarah Amin Makki Madani, the work of the third regional training course for Dr. Amin Makki Madani began on 28 August and ended on 1 September 2022 Organized by the Geneva Institute for Human Rights in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), under the title "Concepts and Mechanisms for the Protection of Human Rights" via Zoom.

44 trainees from 22 African and Asian countries participated in the training course: Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia, Comoros, Chad, Eritrea, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Yemen, Oman and Lebanon.

The regional training course program includes: global human rights trends, concepts and terminology of human rights, United Nations Charter-based mechanisms: the Human Rights Council, the universal periodic review

mechanism, Special Procedures, core international treaties on human rights, Treaty bodies, national mechanisms for the protection of human rights, documentation of human rights violations, civil society and the United Nations mechanisms, human rights and sustainable development goals, information on human rights protection mechanisms on the Internet .

The third regional training course comes as a continuation of the process and tribute for Dr. Amin Makki that was initiated by the Geneva Institute for Human Rights, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Sudan and the United Nations Center for Training and Documentation in the Field of Human Rights for South-West Asia and the Arab Region. It also comes within the Institute's activities in defending and promoting human rights and values in order to bring about change from within.

Dr. Amin Makki was born in the city Wad Madni, a Sudanese professor of trade union law and a human rights defender, with 35 years of academic, judicial and human rights experience at the regional and international levels. He worked with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). He received several awards from reputable human rights organizations.

Advanced training course on international protection of the Rights of the Child



The advanced regional training course organized by the Geneva Institute for Human Rights on international protection of the rights of the child, held on the margins of the 91st Session of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), took place between 12-16 September 2022 at the Institute's headquarters and the United Nations headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Participants in the training course consisted of 20 trainees representing 7 Arab countries: Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, Sudan, Yemen, Tunisia and Egypt.

The programme of the training consisted of: human rights concepts and terminology International conventions on children's rights, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, a workshop on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, non-conventional mechanisms for children's rights, and a discussion on digital threats to children's rights and digital protection. Participants also attended the discussion of Kuwait's periodic report before the Committee on the Rights of the Child at the United Nations.

In the presence of Ms. Otani Mikiko (Japan), Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and experts of the Committee, H.E. Ambassador Jihad Madi (Egypt) and Dr. Hind Idrisi (Morocco), the Geneva Institute for Human Rights concluded on Friday, 16 September 2022 at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, the work of the advanced regional training course.

In his concluding remarks, the Executive Director of the Geneva Institute for Human Rights, emphasized the continuation of the Institute's efforts in disseminating a culture of children's rights and international human rights law and developing theoretical knowledge and practical skills for participants while contributing to real change in societies' behaviour leading to respect and protect the rights of the child. The goal is to also promote their rights by involving them in society and realizing their aspirations and enforce laws and legislation on the ground among their peers and highlight their suffering. The Executive Director also stressed that the relationship between the Institute and the participants in the regional course should not end and should be strengthened after the end of the session, stressing that the doors of the Geneva Institute for Human Rights would remain open to them to benefit from the Institute's expertise and services in all areas of its human rights work.

Participants in the regional course also emphasized the importance of the training course and the Institute's continued implementation of training courses on children's rights in Geneva and within the Middle East and North Africa region, first: the importance of the topic, and second: the Institute's expertise and experience in the field of human rights. One participant highlighted the course's distinctiveness in its rich themes and its contribution to raising participants' awareness of children's rights, the efficiency of trainers and the diverse and interactive training methods used in the management of training sessions.

Annual training course on the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism



The annual training course organized by the Geneva Institute for Human Rights on the Universal Periodic Review was held in the margins of the 41st session of the UPR Working Group and discussed the fourth periodic report of Bahrain, Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria.

The course was attended by trainees from: Kuwait, Sudan, Yemen, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria and Egypt, and was supervised by a selection of trainers. At the end of the closing day, Mr. Mohamed Cherif, President of the Institute, distributed the certificates to the participants.

The course consisted of an introduction to the United Nations human rights mechanisms and specifically the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and witnessed a high interest and interesting discussions from the participants.

Joint activities

39th Conference on of the International Organization for Women's Empowerment and Capacity Building (IOWECB) on Climate and Environmental Change and Human and Social Security

6-8 November

The conference was organised by in collaboration with the Faculty of Life Sciences, Kuwait University and the Regional Network for Social Responsibility (under Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) umbrella) with the participation of other organizations and entities based in Kuwait and abroad including the Geneva Institute for Human Rights.

The conference focused on "Climate and environmental changes and their impact on human and social security" and took place between 6-8 November 2022. One of the most important recommendations included:

- › The development of long-term radical and legislative solutions that require the creation of alternative sources of energy for fossil energy. Therefore, exploration of green energies as alternative sources and clean energy must begin.
- › The phenomenon of climate change's impact on food and agricultural security is not only the quantity of food production but also the quality of food that will lead to the confrontation of so-called hidden hunger, a new threat to humanity.
- › Emphasizing the importance of the role played by the Intellectual Property Training Centre of the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council which hosts the State of Kuwait by strengthening cooperation and partnerships with research centres and university institutions to support research related to the national needs of the GCC countries.

- › Strengthening the Centre's training plans with specialized workshops that contribute to raising green technology innovation indicators, and collaborating with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to benefit from the WIPO Green programme, which provides practical solutions and supports the development of green technology, to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals.
- › Continuing to urge States to implement their commitments and commitments to protect human rights and to translate them into national plans, in addition to contributing to the allocation of budgets responsive to the human rights-based approach.

**40th Conference of the International Organization for Women's
Empowerment and Capacity Building (IOWECB) on the theme:
Children's rights between protection and care
12-14 December, Kuwait**



The conference was co-organised by the International Organization for Women's Empowerment, the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, the Regional Network for Social Responsibility (under Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) umbrella), National Association for Children Protection and the Kuwaiti Social Association, in cooperation with International Child Academy, the Geneva Institute for Human Rights (GIHR) and the Kuwaiti National Diwan For Human Rights, and the Social Development Office, the Department of Family Development as well as a Team from Kuwaiti Trainers without Borders.

The theme of the conference was "Children's Rights between Protection and Care" (Secure Childhood) and its objective was to:

- › discuss ways of defending children's rights and assess the effectiveness of national laws in protecting them;
- › highlight the types of abuse to which children are subjected;
- › take stock of regional and Arab societies' efforts to strengthen child protection and prevention programmes;
- › share best practices, programs and experiences on preventing child abuse and harassment;
- › and to discuss ways to improve child protection and treatment services in relevant institutions.

Online lectures about different topics with distinguished guest speakers

“Dialogue and acceptance of the other”

by Mr. Mahmoud Hishmah – Director of East and West Center for Sustainable Development (WE Center)

Jordan, 15 January

In this series of lectures, Professor Mahmoud Hishmah, Director of the East and West Center for Sustainable Development of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, addressed how to communicate and reach out, talked about the Johari window -which is a technique designed to help people better understand their relationship with themselves and others-, the definition of the correct, effective and constructive dialogue, the difference between dialogue and debate, the definition of “the other” and the principles of acceptance of the other and the difference between acceptance and accepting.

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Geneva Institute for Human Rights

معهد جنيف لحقوق الإنسان
مكتب السودان

محاضرة بعنوان

” الحوار
وقبول الآخر

الأستاذ/ محمود حشمة
مدير مركز الشرق والعرب للتنمية المستدامة

السبت
15 يناير/كانون الثاني 2022م

الساعة 13:00 ظهراً
بتوقيت الخرطوم

بث مباشر على صفحة معهد جنيف لحقوق الإنسان - مكتب السودان

Zoom Meeting ID: 883 1620 6141
Passcode: 351334

There was an extensive dialogue between the participants and the lecturer on the reality of Sudan on how to save the country from the current political deadlock in the light of the inequality and loss of trust in the military component in the country. In conclusion, the Country Director of the Geneva Institute for Human Rights-Sudan Office, Adel Cherif, thanked all participants and Mr. Mahmoud Hashmeh and stressed the fact that the lecture was the nucleus of a series of lectures that were part of the Institute’s activities to promote a culture of human rights and raise awareness among young people and different members of society.

“Right to Change”

Dr. Ghanim Al-Najjar, Professor of Political Science at Kuwait University, 22 January

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Geneva Institute for Human Rights

معهد جنيف لحقوق الإنسان
مكتب السودان

محاضرة بعنوان

“الحق في التغيير”

الدكتور / غانم النجار
الخبير الدولي وأستاذ العلوم السياسية
جامعة الكويت

الساعة 17:00
بتوقيت الخرطوم

السبت
22 يناير/ كانون الثاني 2022م

19:00 مسقط/ أوماني
18:00 الدوحة/ المنامة/ الرياض
الكويت/ صنعاء/ بغداد/ دمشق
17:00 عمان/ بيروت/ القدس
طرابلس/ القاهرة
16:00 الرباط/ تونس
الجزائر/ جنيف
15:00 نواكشوط

بث مباشر على صفحة معهد جنيف لحقوق الإنسان

Zoom Meeting ID: 896 0246 7053 Passcode: 782342

The full lecture and Q&A session can be watched on GIHR's facebook page on the following link : https://fb.watch/hSy_WQBXLg/

“Youth and Politics: Present Challenges and Future Bets”

Dr. Fatima Lamharhar, Professor of Political Studies,
Morocco, 29 January

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محاضرة بعنوان

”الشباب والسياسة“
”تحديات الحاضر...
ورهنات المستقبل“

فاطمة لمحرر
دكتورة في الدراسات السياسية - المملكة المغربية

الساعة 18:00
بتوقيت الخرطوم

السبت
29 يناير/كانون الثاني 2022م

20:00 مسقط/أبوظبي
19:00 الدوحة/المنامة/الرياض
الكويت/ صنعاء/بغداد/دمشق
18:00 عمان/ بيروت/ القدس
طرابلس/القاهرة
17:00 الرباط/ تونس
الجزائر/ جنيف
16:00 نواكشوط

بث مباشر على صفحة معهد جنيف لحقوق الإنسان

Zoom Meeting ID: 896 0246 7053 Passcode: 782342

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International Symposium:
**The Rights of Older Persons
between reality and law,**

co organized with Centre National Des Etudes Juridiques in
Morocco and the American International Center for Peace
and Human Rights,

31 January 2022

International Symposium

ندوة دولية

The Rights of Older Persons
between reality and law

حقوق كبار السن
ما بين الواقع والقانون

Monday 31 January 2022

الإثنين 31 يناير/كانون الثاني 2022 م

14:00 – 18:00 Geneva time

من الساعة 14:00 – 18:00 بتوقيت جنيف

Zoom Meeting ID: 837 1719 5109 Passcode: 816616

Co-organized with le Centre National des Etudes Juridiques in Morocco and the American International Center for Peace and Human Rights, the programme of the Symposium included:

Opening remarks from Mr. Nazar Abdelgadir, Executive Director of the Geneva Institute for Human Rights, Mr. Mohamad Abidi from the American International Center for Peace and Human Rights and Dr. Lamy Moussaed from the Centre National des Etudes Juridiques.

Session I:

- › International Instruments on the rights of older persons, Mr. Mohammad El Nssour (Jordan), Head of the MENA Section at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- › Public Policy and Strategic Plans concerning the rights of older persons (experiences of some countries), Professor Abdulhak Mokbal (Morocco).

Session II:

- › The role of family and civil society in protecting the rights of older persons, Ms. Begum Al-Azani (Yemen).
- › Role of shelter institutions in protecting the rights of the older persons Dr. Lamia Moussaed (Morocco).

Session III:

- › Covid-19 and the Rights of Older Persons, Dr. Samia Bourouba (Algeria).
- › Good practices and lessons learned, Dr. Mohamed Abidi (Mauritania).

The Symposium ended with a fourth session exploring practical proposals and recommendations to ensure the protection and the promotion of the rights of older persons.

GIHR's involvement in the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and Treaty Bodies Sessions



One of our activities that align with our aim of promoting and raising awareness of human rights for all, as a universal language in the MENA+ region is keeping up with International Geneva. GIHR does so by attending but also summarising and writing about different Human Rights Council regular and UPR Working Group and Treaty Bodies sessions.

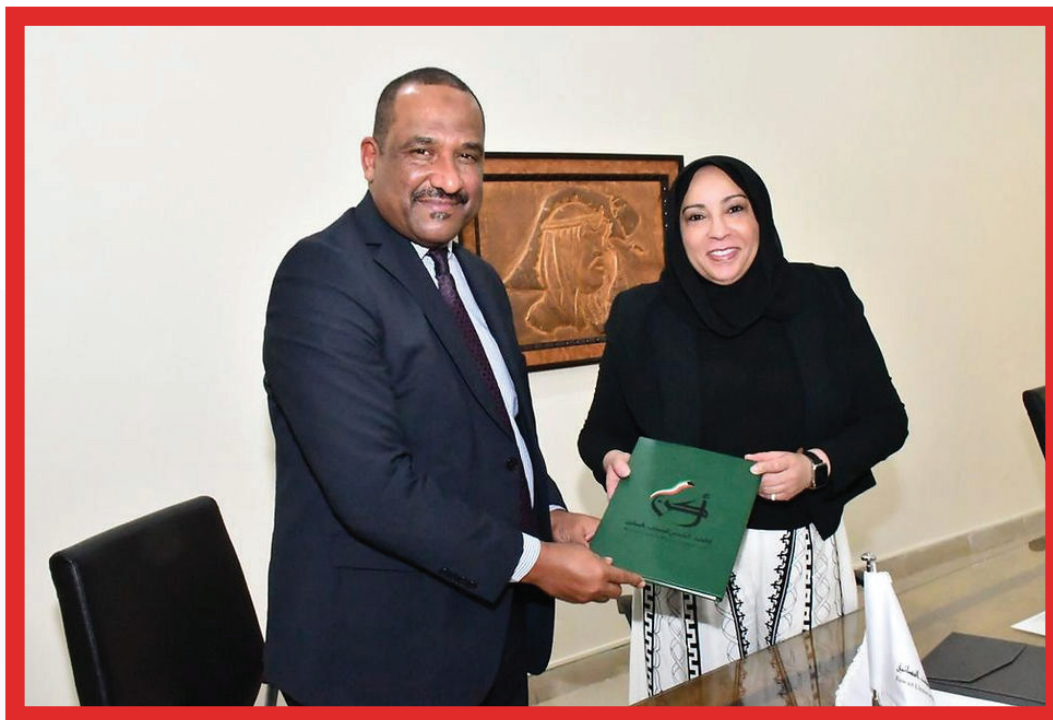
The dissemination of this information in a direct and simple manner pushes people who are subscribed to our newsletter and our social media accounts to be interested in the work of the United Nations mechanisms based in Geneva.

Covering these meetings is one part, but also sharing the reports, recommendations of different country reviews that come out of them is pivotal, because it will contribute to the follow-up process in these countries and keep all stakeholders informed.

You can find out more by checking our website and social media pages.

IV. Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU)

GIHR & the Kuwait Union of Women's Associations



The Kuwaiti Union of Women's Associations (thereafter "the Union") signed on 11 December 2022, a memorandum of understanding with the Geneva Institute for Human Rights (thereafter "the Institute"), which aims to share experiences and promote joint cooperation on the promotion and protection of women's rights and the 2030 Sustainable Human Development Goals.

The President of the Board of Directors of the Union, Sheikha Fadia Saad al-Abdullah, stated that the cooperation between the two institutions had been in place for a while and that this memorandum will help to support the joint work and its continuity and to serve the work of the Union, which will reflect the development of human rights in Kuwait.

The memorandum was based on the common objectives of raising the profile of Kuwaiti women leaders and associations in the area of human rights in general and women's and children's rights in particular, and supported the activation and strengthening of the role of women in society, strengthening their standing and developing their capacities to enhance communication and cooperation with United Nations human rights monitoring and

protection mechanisms. She drew attention to the parties' willingness to coordinate, cooperate and share knowledge regarding the building of the capacities of the members of the Union in the field of human rights defence through the use of available mechanisms, work on the production of knowledge through the preparation of studies and research on the realities of the groups in focus, from a rights perspective, organization of activities and educational visits to reach the desired objective.

She also stated that the signature of the memorandum happened to coincide with the 16th day of the Campaign to Eliminate Violence against Women and the International Human Rights Day. The Institute's support will allow the operationalization of the Kuwaiti Women's Union's local, regional and international role and the exchange of technical cooperation and experiences in organizing human rights training courses. It also aims at strengthening the partnership between the two institutions in the promotion, protection and advancement of women's rights through the development of joint capacity-building programmes and projects and the dissemination of a human rights culture, in the areas of women's rights and international mechanisms on women's rights of common interest, based on Kuwait's ratification of international human rights instruments.

Nazar Abdelgadir Salih, Executive Director of the Geneva Institute for Human Rights, commended the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the Institute and the Union, noting that the Institute's history has been full in working with many governmental and non-governmental institutions in Kuwait since the establishment of the Institute in 2004. The Institute cooperated with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Judicial Institute and a number of Kuwaiti non-governmental organizations working in the field of human rights. He stressed the vital role of NGOs in the development, promotion, protection and realization of human rights at the domestic and international levels, and the Geneva Institute of Human Rights' openness, cooperation and partnerships, particularly with powerful, active and influential organizations, like the Kuwait Federation of Women's Associations.

He noted that the parties would work together to examine interim needs, identify priorities, develop knowledge tools and the training portfolio, with regard to developing their common competencies and expertise, and form a joint committee to establish a series of checks and control measures and mechanisms for the implementation of the memorandum.

V. GIHR Statements

Furthermore, GIHR has released statements on various International Days, shedding light on important human rights issues and illuminating the necessary steps to ensure the protection and promotion of human rights and sustainable peace.

Find out more at:

<https://www.gihr.org/blog/categories/international-day-statements>

► **2 November 2022 - International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists**

Geneva Institute for Human Rights urged States to ensure accountability by conducting impartial, prompt, thorough, independent and effective investigations into all alleged acts of violence against journalists and media workers within their jurisdiction and prosecute perpetrators, including persons ordering or conspiring with the perpetrators, inciting or concealing them, and ensure that victims and their families have access to appropriate remedies; immediate and unconditional release of journalists and media workers who have been arbitrarily arrested, taken hostage or become victims of enforced disappearance;

It furthermore called on all actors to seize the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, in order to enhance the implementation of the Plan of Action over the next decade, including by strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships and building alliances and promote a coherent and comprehensive policy approach that encompasses the three pillars of prevention, protection and prosecution. Finally, the Geneva Institute for Human Rights stated that it puts all its expertise and energies into raising awareness of journalists' rights and preventing impunity for perpetrators of crimes, and called on all States to establish an early warning and rapid response mechanism to enable journalists and media workers, whenever threatened, to resort directly to competent authorities with

sufficient resources to provide effective measures for their protection; the establishment of robust and effective national mechanisms for the protection of journalists, including, but not limited to: (a) the establishment of special investigative units or independent commissions of inquiry; (b) the appointment of a specialized prosecutor; and (c) the adoption of specific protocols, investigative and prosecutorial methods.

Support and capacity-building, training and awareness-raising of judicial personnel, law enforcement officials, military officers and security forces, as well as journalists and civil society, should be provided regarding States' duties and obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law in relation to the safety of journalists; the inclusion of journalists' safety and freedom of information in national development frameworks developed under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

► **20 November 2022 6 World Children's Day**

On this occasion, the Geneva Institute for Human Rights called on all States around the world to:

- ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the three Optional Protocols thereto, withdraw reservations to the Convention and fulfil the obligations imposed by these instruments; through, inter alia, awareness-raising campaigns and all forms of communication, such as the media, targeted interventions to sensitize rural and remote populations and vulnerable groups of society.

- take all necessary measures to ensure that child-friendly versions of the Convention are available in local languages and to expedite the establishment of a children's parliament and an ombudsman for children and to include the prevention of acts of sexual exploitation and abuse, child marriage, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, violence against children, including sexual and gender-based violence. Protection against such acts is at the heart of responses in emergency and humanitarian situations and addressing the underlying factors that make children, especially girls, particularly vulnerable to such practices and to fully investigate all cases of

the use of children in political demonstrations and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice and that adequate reparation and compensation are provided to victims.

The Geneva Institute for Human Rights called on all State actors and national stakeholders to translate the vision of the Convention on the Rights of the Child into reality for children everywhere, through innovations, new techniques, political will, uniting the human conscience on children's issues and concerted efforts to protect them and provide the livelihoods that protect them from frustration and despair due to the loss of protection.

► **26 November 2022- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**

The Institute appealed to all individuals and institutions, national, regional and international, to do more to eradicate this phenomenon and to allocate more resources to combat it.

Every year, a campaign known as the 16 Days Campaign to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls is launched until 10 December, International Human Rights Day, and the idea is that the realisation of all human rights won't happen until violence against women is completely eliminated and eradicated. The activities carried out during this campaign vary in order to analyse and spread awareness about the causes, types and consequences of violence against women from all social, economic, political and cultural angles.

Geneva Institute for Human Rights, on this occasion, renewed its promise by making the utmost efforts to disseminate a culture of human rights and the rights of women and girls in particular, and pledge to devote a significant part of our activities to this important topic. GIHR called on everyone to join forces and coordinate efforts to ensure that our women and girls enjoy a world free of violence.

► **10 December 2022- International Human Rights Day**

This day reminds us of the universality, inalienability and interdependence and the indivisibility of human rights. It also reminds us of the paradigm shift that has taken place in the international community's approach to human rights as a global matter of concern to all nations of the world, at a time when many international powers have been working to consolidate the idea of national human rights.

Geneva Institute for Human Rights paid special tribute to the thousands of women and human rights activists, for the enormous sacrifices they have made towards the realization of the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all the core international conventions in the field of human rights, despite the reprisals and aggression they faced for this noble cause, including the infringement of their right to life, in some cases. GIHR deeply regretted the narrowing campaigns against activists in some countries where they were silenced with heavy restriction on human rights and on public freedoms .

Geneva Institute for Human Rights renewed its commitment to human rights issues everywhere with the hope that today's world will strive to respect and uphold human rights and freedoms.

CHALLENGES FACED

Despite the numerous events and the successful outcomes of the work of the Institute, GIHR has faced several challenges for 2022, some of them that have been ongoing since the start of covid-19 pandemic, which included minimal funding to the organization. The poor availability of financial resources made it difficult to implement all the projects that were set for 2022.

However, GIHR tried to continue its vision of cultivating a human rights culture by approaching people from different backgrounds and nationalities, and more particularly young people and introducing them to human rights, using tools that were available to everyone.

IMPACT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- › GIHR has trained a total of 158 participants from over 24 different countries. These included representatives from governmental institutions, from national human rights institutions and participants from NGOs and human rights defenders.
- › GIHR was able to reach young people who work in the human rights field as well as university students from the MENA region to spread its vision and expertise about human rights and ignite their passion about making the world better.
- › GIHR has been supportive in the activities of the Human Rights Council; the Universal Periodic Review and the Treaty Monitoring Bodies.
- › GIHR continues to reach countries where human rights are not a priority or properly acknowledged. The Institute has won the trust and confidence of some of the major stakeholders in these countries.

VI. ANNEXES

Annex I

Overview of activities

Nr	Project	Dates
1	Lecture: "Dialogue and acceptance of the other" Mahmoud Hishmah – Director of East and West Center for Sustainable Development (WE Center) - Jordan	15 January
2	New Publication: Words in Memory	20 January
3	Lecture: "Right to Change" Dr. Ghanim Al-Najjar, Professor of Political Science at Kuwait University	22 January
4	Lecture: "Youth and Politics: Present Challenges and Future Bets" Dr. Fatima Lamharhar, Professor of Political Studies, Morocco	29 January
5	Symposium: The Rights of Older Persons between reality and law , co organized with Center National Des Etudes Juridiques in Morocco and the American International Center for Peace and Human Rights	31 January
6	Regional Training Course for Human Rights defenders: Concepts and mechanisms of human rights protection	14-18 February Istanbul, Turkey
7	Advance Training Course on the International Protection Mechanisms for Women's Rights	19 -23 June
8	Training Course for Egyptian Junior Diplomats and Supreme Standing Committee on Human Rights Staff on International Human Rights Mechanisms, Organized by the OHCHR	27-30 June 2022

9	Annual regional training course on International Human Rights Protection Mechanisms, organized by the Geneva Institute for Human Rights (GIHR), in collaboration with the German Foundation "Friedrich Ebert Stiftung" (FES Office for Jordan and Iraq)	21-25 August
10	Third Amin Mekki Medani Regional Training Course, organized by the Geneva Institute for Human Rights, in cooperation with the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Sudan.	28 August - 1 September
11	Training Course on Children's Rights International Protection Mechanisms and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	12-16 September
12	Meeting with members of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the delegation to the 51st session of the Human Rights Council	21 September
13	Lecture on the International Protection Mechanisms for Women	25 September
14	International Conference on Climate and Environmental Change and Human and Social Security	7-8 November Kuwait
15	Training Course on the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism on the margins of the discussion of the human rights situation in Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Bahrain	7-11 November
16	GIHR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kuwait Union of the Women's Associations	11 December
17	40th Conference of the International Organization for Women's Empowerment and Capacity Building (IOWECB) on the theme : Children's rights between protection and care	12 -14 December Kuwait
18	Memorial service of the late Mohsen Awad Faris, a human rights theorist and one of the most prominent leaders of the human rights movement in Egypt and the Arab world	18 December Cairo, Egypt

Annex III

Statements and Posters

Nr	Statement	Dates
1	International Day of Education	24 January
2	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People	30 January
3	Arab Women's Day	31 January
4	World Cancer Day	4 February
5	International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation	6 February
6	World Day for Children Recruited for War	12 February
7	International day of Social Justice	20 February
8	International Mother Language Day	21 February
9	Zero Discrimination Day	1 March
10	GIHR Statement on International Women's Day	9 March
11	International Day of Happiness	20 March
12	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	21 March
13	World Water Day	22 March
14	Palestine Land Day	30 March
15	World Orphan Day	2 April
16	World Autism Day	2 April
17	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	April
18	GIHR Statement on World Press Freedom Day	3 May
19	GIHR Statement on the killing of the journalist Shireen Abu-Akleh	12 May
20	GIHR Statement on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	26 June
21	GIHR Statement on World Population Day	11 July

22	Nelson Mandela International Day	18 July
23	International Youth Day	12 August
24	GIHR Statement on World Humanitarian Day	19 August
25	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances	30 August
26	International Day of Charity	5 September
27	GIHR Statement on International Literacy Day	8 September
28	World Suicide Prevention Day	12 September
29	International Day of Democracy	15 September
30	International Day for Peace	21 September
8	GIHR Statement on International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists	2 November
9	GIHR Statement on World Children's Day	20 November
10	GIHR Statement on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	26 November
11	GIHR Statement on International Human Rights Day	10 December

Annex IV Publications

New releases from the “How Do You Rule” Series that deals with a variety of issues In Politics, Law, Culture and Personalities.

Find out more at:

<https://www.gihr.org/publications>

Articles on : Biographies, Politics and Human Rights

A series of articles written between 2019 and 2022 on various events, some of which were posted on the website and social media pages, and some published in Sudanese newspapers. Articles dealing with Sudanese and foreign events and personalities and topics relating to

the Security Council and the Human Rights Council, and an explanation of some of the United Nations Human Rights Conventions, in a simple and conversational

manner, easy and accessible to all, especially to the younger generation, to promote their participation in public affairs and in support of the transitional period in Sudan.



The United Nations Forces in Sudan



Sudan is a nation that was blessed with a lot of richness, fertile lands, rivers and huge mineral and forest wealth, which made the Sudanese people known for their generosity, tolerance and courage.

However, insecurity has spread like wildfire with confrontations and civil wars that left the country and its people divided and unsafe. This book explores the reason behind the presence of United Nations forces in the Sudan and their role in preserving peace and security. In a story-telling style, this book displays the series of events that took place in an accessible and stimulating way.

The Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

The Convention against Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) continues to be criticised by

many extremist groups which have negatively affected the understanding of its objective since its adoption by the United Nations Assembly in the second half of the 20th century to advance women's status in societies and promote the rights of which they have been deprived.

Despite bringing the female half of humanity into the focus of human rights concerns, there is a persistence of criticism

and a refusal to recognize it, claiming that it liberates women from their "female functions" and refusal to free women from marital restrictions without truthfully considering the essence of the Convention, and reading it, provision by provision, which has affected the views of a lot of societies.

This book aims at correcting many of the negative concepts and point of views that exist in order to promote the functioning of justice, and in order to uphold equality between men and women in Rights and Duties. It communicates several messages in a simplified and concise language in the form of a short dialogue, to clarify all the distortions and false theories that were spread over the time about the CEDAW.



Mohsen Awad Pure people don't die.



A Biography in the memory of the professor and prominent jurist, Mr. Mohsen Awad, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Organization for Human Rights, who passed away on the 4th of August 2022.

He was one of the founders of the human rights movement in Egypt and the Arab world, where he participated in the establishment of the Egyptian Arab Organization for Human Rights in the early eighties and served as its general secretary, in addition to his membership in the National Council for Human Rights. He also had many intellectual contributions, including preparing and issuing the Human Rights and Development Manual 2005, and the Legal Empowerment Guide for the Poor 2014.

History will remember Dr. Mohsen Awad for his intellectual contributions and his national role in serving human rights issues in Egypt and the Arab region.

Annex V

Participation

Nr		Date
1	Attending the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) 71 st Session reviewing Bahrain	25 February
2	Attending in the 49 th Session of the UN Human Rights Council	7 -15 March
3	20th Edition of the Doha Forum	26-27 March Doha, Qatar
4	Attending the UN Committee against Torture (CAT) 73 rd Session reviewing Iraq	26-27 April
5	Attending the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 90 th Session reviewing Somalia and Djibouti	9-10 and 12-13 May
6	Human Rights Council - Organizational meeting on the 50th session	30 May
7	Attending the Human Rights Council – 50 th Session	13-29 June
8	Attending UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) 82 nd Session reviewing the United Arab Emirates and Morocco	21-22 June
9	Attending UN Committee against Torture (CAT) 73 rd Session reviewing the United Arab Emirates	13-14 July
10	Attending the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 91 st Session reviewing Kuwait and South Sudan	1-2 September and 14-15 September
11	Human Rights Council – 51 st Session	19 September, 5 October
12	35th special session of the Human Rights Council on the deteriorating situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially with respect to women and children	24 November
13	Participation in the opening of the 16Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence event organised by the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Office in Geneva and UN Women	25 November

Annex VI

FEEDBACK

Adi Noufel of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, participant in the FES-GIHR annual training:

“According to my previous knowledge and skills and experience on human rights and my professional role in training Jordanian youth in Jordanian universities on basic human rights concepts and topics, my experience of participating in this course has expanded my horizons spectacularly as I have corrected a large package of my previous information and knowledge about this area, Through the course, I was able to see this broader and bigger area of human rights. The course was qualitative and full of expertise and experience in the field of human rights advocacy by the experts of the Geneva Institute for Human Rights”.

Farah Abubakar from Libya, participant in the FES-GIHR annual training

“The training staff of the Geneva Institute for Human Rights did the least of what would be described as great work and I have now learned clearly what protection mechanisms I have to deal with and the need of spreading it to all people in an influential framework so that we can all contribute to the preservation of our rights as human beings”. She also adds that “throughout years of civil work filled with training, workshops and lectures in various countries of the world and with various institutions and associations, none of which can compare to what I learned during my five days with the Geneva Institute of Human Rights with their smooth and generous explanation of all the questions”.

Amani Al-Haddad from Bahrain, added that “the training staff of the Geneva Institute for Human Rights has put in great effort to consolidate human rights principles and has worked tirelessly to develop participants’ abilities and skills by communicating information and data on international mechanisms for the protection of human rights, in a clear, simple and distinctive manner, and also in an enriching and interactive manner that left a good impression on everyone”.

Yahya Muhareb from Palestine, lawyer and participant in the 3rd edition of the Dr. Amin Makki regional training course:

“Participating in a course named after Dr. Amin Makki Madani was a great honor for me as a lawyer and human rights defender, with 44 human rights defenders from 23 Asian and African countries out of 887. The large number of applications confirms the value and importance of the course in the field of human rights, in addition to the great value of the trainers’ participation, listening to them and benefiting from them and the methodology of their training. I hope that all human rights defenders will have the golden opportunity to participate in it”.

Professor/Jurist Dominica Amit from South Sudan said: “I am very grateful to the Geneva Institute for Human Rights for the opportunity it granted to South Sudan to be part of the regional session, and I am grateful that I was part of human rights defenders from various Arab and African countries, hoping that there will be an increasing participation from South Sudanese activists in the coming periods. The workshop was a real addition to me in many aspects, and I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the training staff who dealt with us with flexibility and smoothness”.

Mr. Abu Bakr Desouki Hassan (Chad), added, “the course provided me with the opportunity to learn about many topics related to human rights, and that the valuable information I received over the five days represents a strong addition to me towards my commitment to implement human rights requirements while carrying out my humanitarian and charitable work, both in different circumstances and/or during disasters and crises in a way that respects their humanity”.

Mr. Mohamed Salah, a member of the ‘Emergency Lawyer’ in Sudan, added that “the Amin Makki Madani course is a great and a noble goal in laying the foundations for human rights concepts and mechanisms. I now clearly know the mechanisms that I must keep an eye on, because few are the exercises that enable one not only with the knowledge that one needs, but also the tools necessary to achieve the noble end that they seek. I can say that now I am able to defend human rights with the ability and knowledge of the mechanisms necessary to prevent their violation”.

Mohammed Hamad, First Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan, and participant in the annual training on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Mechanism noted :

“The training course was distinguished and of high quality in which Professor Nazar Abdelgadir Salih, Executive Director of the Geneva Institute for Human Rights, made a much “appreciated” effort with the help of Ms. Jihene Fredj and the rest of the staff of the institute. He also added that the topic of the training course is also “vital”, especially as human rights are and have always been a common and universal language to all the people around the world”.

Lawyer Yousof Al-Gharabally, a member of the Kuwaiti Lawyers’ Association, thanked GIHR for organizing the course, which he described as valuable, adding that he had learned a lot in a few days and hoped that the course would be longer in the future so that they would have more important information on human rights and on how to work within the United Nations system.



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The cover features a dark blue background with a lighter blue gradient at the top. A red rectangular shape is positioned on the right side. The text is centered in the lower half of the page.

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2022**