



Geneva Institute for Human Rights

Annual Activity Report 2023

Consolidated Annual Activity Report of the Geneva Institute for Human Rights 2023

ABOUT THE GENEVA INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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 in 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.

Mission

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

CORE VALUES

1. Dignity and Respect- Every human being is entitled to have their dignity and human rights respected equally whatever their gender, age, religion or disability
2. Knowledge – knowledge is an asset, through promotion of human rights principles effective social change can occur.
3. Integrity - Transparency, democracy and integrity are crucial to enable empowerment of the community.

OVERVIEW OF OUR YEAR:

Despite the negative social and economic effects of the pandemic that subsequently created a global financial crisis and generated extraordinary needs, GIHR was able to contribute towards ensuring a thriving culture of human rights and positive change on the ground through various activities. It must be said that this was only possible with the support of our donors.



Geneva Institute for Human Rights

Project Title:	Realising Human Rights in the MENA Region
Document:	Report for period of 1st January – 29 December 2023
Date:	31 December 2023

I. Activities Undertaken

Below details of the activities undertaken by GIHR:

Nr	Project	Dates
1	Protection of Children Rights	16-20 January 2023
2	First Training Course “The International Human Rights Protection Mechanisms” co organized with the Kuwait Union of Women’s Association	05 – 09 March 2023 Kuwait - Kuwait
3	Rights of Persons with Disabilities	06-17 March 2023 Geneva - Switzerland
4	Training Course on the Human Rights Mechanisms, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights	27-31 March 2023 Geneva - Switzerland
5	The Universal Periodic Review (UPR)	06 - 10 May 2023 Geneva - Switzerland
6	Human Rights Protection Mechanisms	09-11 May 2023 Geneva - Switzerland
7	Regional consultation with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its	16-18 May 2023 Kuwait- Kuwait

	causes and consequences, Ms. Reem Al Salem (Jordan), co organized with the Kuwait Union of Women's Association.	
8	Second Training Course "The International Human Rights Protection Mechanisms" co organized with the Kuwait Union of Women's Association	20-25 May 2023
9	International Partners Advocacy Conference "Education Above All (EAA)- "Reach Out to Asia (Rota)	25 – 27 June 2023 Doha - Qatar
10	The Role of the Human Rights Council	10-14 July 2023 Geneva - Switzerland
11	The role of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	25 – 28 September 2023 Geneva – Switzerland
12	From Data to Development: The SDG-Telecom Nexus	27 November – 1 December 2023 Geneva - Switzerland
13	From Data to Development: The SDG-Telecom Nexus	11-15 December 2023 Geneva - Switzerland

MoUs



CHALLENGES FACED

Despite the numerous events and the successful outcomes of the work of the Institute, GIHR has faced several challenges for 2023, which included:

- A high demand for GIHR's participation in several events, which has led to being overstretched to the maximum.
- Minimal funding to the organization, which has provided difficulty in conducting all the activities which were set for 2023. This has in fact affected and reduced some of the major projects for the institute.
- Despite the poor availability of financial resources, GIHR felt that it was crucial to implement the activities it has undertaken throughout the year.

IMPACT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- GIHR has trained a total of 176 participants from over 18 different countries, with a female predominance. These included representatives from governmental institutions, from national human rights institutions and participants from NGOs and human rights defenders.
- GIHR has been supportive in the activities of the Human Rights Council; the Universal Periodic Review and the Treaty Monitoring Bodies.

FUTURE WORK

Despite the heavy workload and the diverse activities which were not always planned, GIHR was able to conduct and achieve several discussions despite being overstretched to the maximum with regard to both human and financial resources.

Annex I

Posters

24 January International Day of Education
6 February International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
11 February International Day of Women and Girls in Science
20 February World Day of Social Justice
21 February International Mother Language Day
1 March Zero Discrimination Day
8 March International Women's Day
20 March International Day of Happiness
21 March International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
22 March World Water Day
24 March International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims
25 March International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
02 April World Autism Awareness Day

04 April International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action
06 April International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
07 April International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda
07 April World Health Day
24 April International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace
28 April World Day for Safety and Health at Work
30 April Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare
3 May World Press Freedom Day
8-9 May Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War
15 May International Day of Families
16 May International Day of Living Together in Peace
29 May International Day of UN Peacekeepers
12 June World Day Against Child Labour
13 June International Albinism Awareness Day

15 June World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
19 June International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict
20 June World Refugee Day
23 June International Widows' Day
26 June International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
26 June International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
11 July International World Population Day
18 July Nelson Mandela International Day



Advanced Training Course

International Mechanisms for the Protection of Children's Rights

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child

On the margins of discussing the periodic report of the Sultanate of Oman

16 - 20 January 2023

United Nations Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland



Advanced Training Course on

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

on the margins of the 28th session of the CRPD and the review of the periodic report of Tunisia

6-17 March 2023

Geneva - Switzerland



Advanced Training Course on

The United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Mechanism

On the margins of the 43rd Session of the UPR Working Group discussing the human rights situation in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

6 - 10 May 2023

Geneva - Switzerland



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
PERMANENT COMMITTEE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



الإمارات العربية المتحدة
اللجنة الدائمة لحقوق
الإنسان

ورشة عمل

آليات الأمم المتحدة لحقوق الإنسان

9 - 11 مايو 2023م
جنيف . سويسرا



معهد جنيف لحقوق الإنسان
Geneva Institute for Human Rights



اتحاد النسوة الكويتيات
Kuwait Union of Women's Associations

حلقة تشاورية إقليمية حول

العنف ضد المرأة والفتاة في منطقة الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا

مع مقرة الأمم المتحدة المعنية بالعنف ضد النساء والفتيات

16 - 18 مايو / أيار 2023م فندق هوليداي إن - الكويت



معهد جنيف لحقوق الإنسان
Geneva Institute for Human Rights



اتحاد النسوة الكويتيات
Kuwait Union of Women's Associations

مشروع تعزيز قدرات أعضاء الإتحاد الكويتي
للجمعيات النسائية في مجال حقوق المرأة

الدورة التدريبية الثانية

الآليات الدولية لحماية حقوق المرأة

20 - 25 مايو / أيار 2023م
فندق هوليداي إن - الكويت



Advanced Training Course

The Role of the Human Rights Council (HRC)

Coinciding with its 53rd Session

10-14 July 2023

Geneva – Switzerland



Advanced Training Course

The role of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

On the margins of its 74th session and the review of the periodic report of the State of Palestine

25 – 29 September 2023

Geneva – Switzerland



Geneva Institute for Human Rights

Chemin de Balexert 9

1219 Châtelaine

Geneva, Switzerland

E-Mail: info@gihr.org

Website: www.gihr.org