



# GLOBAL MINORITY RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

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TOM  
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# SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON MINORITY ISSUES

## UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues Says States Must Act to End Discrimination and Racism towards Roma

In conjunction with International Romani Day, observed on 8 April, the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Fernand de Varennes, issued a statement appealing to states to fulfil their human rights commitments and take measures to combat intolerance, discrimination, and hate towards Roma and other minorities.

In his statement, the Special Rapporteur condemned recent reports of cases of intimidation, discrimination, and violence towards Roma people in Europe, and highlighted the difficulties and barriers they face in all areas of life. In addition to implementing comprehensive antidiscrimination measures, and legislative and policy

initiatives aimed at protecting and promoting the human rights of Roma minorities, their identity, and culture, the Special Rapporteur also called upon states to strengthen public knowledge about Roma history and the Roma Holocaust.

The Special Rapporteur also highlighted the need to engage with Roma communities and Roma minority organizations to ensure that they are meaningfully involved in decision-making processes, and have effective participation in all areas of economic, social, and cultural life.

## UN Special Rapporteur Publishes the Recommendations of the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Forum on Minority Issues

Following the 11th session of the Forum on Minority Issues held in November 2018 on the theme “Statelessness: A Minority Issue”, the Special Rapporteur on minority issues published a set of recommendations on the issue of statelessness. The recommendations draw from the discussions and contributions made by participants at the Forum, and are divided into four sections based on the thematic panel discussions held at the Forum: (a) root causes and consequences of statelessness affecting minorities: preventing statelessness through a human rights approach; (b) statelessness resulting from conflicts, forced population movements and migration affecting minorities: main challenges and possible solutions; (c) ensuring the right to a nationality for persons belonging to minorities through facilitation of birth registration, naturalization and citizenship for stateless minorities; and (d) minority women and children affected by statelessness: advancing gender equality in nationality laws.

The recommendations were developed based on international law and human and minority rights standards. They aim to provide guidance for the further implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, as well as to address the pervasive issue of statelessness that disproportionately affects minorities. The full set of recommendations can be found at this link.

## UN Special Rapporteur Joins Other UN Experts Urging Yemen Court Not to Punish Faith

Following the death sentence handed down to Hamid Kamali bin Haydara, a follower of the Baha’i faith, by a Yemen Court, UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Fernand de Varennes, along with other UN experts issued a statement condemning the decision. Haydara was sentenced to death on 2 January, 2018 based on unfounded

allegations of his collaboration with Israel and members of the global Jewish community, and for spreading the Baha’i faith in the country. In their statement, the experts made it clear that “We cannot accept the injustice of having anyone punished by death on the grounds of his religion or belief and for belonging to a religious minority. The right to life and the right to freedom of religion or belief are non-derogable rights and must be respected at all times.” In addition, the experts urged the Yemeni government to end the persecution of the Baha’i community in Yemen. The Special Rapporteur on minority issues was joined by Seong-Phil Hong, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; Agnes Callamard, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; Diego Garcia-Sayan, Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers; and Ahmed Shaheed, Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. The statement can be found on the website of the OHCHR.

## UN Special Rapporteur to Participate at the 2019 Global Minority Rights Summer School

The 2019 Global Minority Rights Summer School will take place from 7-13 July in Budapest, Hungary. The summer school is organized jointly by the Tom Lantos Institute, the National University of Public Service, and Middlesex University London. This year is the seventh edition of the summer school and will focus on the theme of “Labour, Land and Development from a Minority Perspective”. The six-day interactive summer school will address contemporary trends, developments, and challenges related to the economic rights of minorities, and examine specific case studies related to these issues. The United



Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Fernand de Varennes, will participate in the summer school, and discuss his mandate and the work he has done since his appointment in 2017.

The Summer School will host approximately 30 participants from around the world, offering a discussion forum on issues related to minorities and indigenous peoples with leading experts and practitioners in the field of international human rights law, political science, international relations, economics, and journalism. Lecturers will:

- Provide an overview of the normative framework governing the economic rights of minorities and indigenous peoples at the international and

regional levels;

- Discuss key issues affecting the rights to labour, land, and development from a minority and indigenous perspective;
- Explore the role that civil society and other non-state actors play in the protection of the economic rights of minorities and indigenous peoples;
- Examine case studies related to specific minority groups or individual economic issues;
- Moderate discussions to allow participants to express their views and debate the issues.

More information about the program can be found on the website of the Global Minority Rights Summer School.

# OTHER

# UNITED NATIONS

# NEWS

## 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council

The 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) will take place from 24 June to 12 July in Geneva, Switzerland. The Annual Report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General will be reviewed, including on human rights and indigenous peoples, the prevention of genocide, the right to education, and the human rights of migrants. In addition, special attention will be given to the issue of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance as part of the follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

The previous session of the HRC, which took place from 25 February to 22 March, resulted in the adoption of resolutions on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief; the promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity; and on the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights. Thus, participation in and the outcomes of HRC sessions are of vital importance for the protection of minorities and indigenous peoples.

More information about the upcoming session can be found on the website of the OHCHR.

## UN Human Rights Experts Condemn Rohingya Deportations

Five United Nations human rights experts including the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Fernand de Varennes, condemned a decision of the Indian government to deport Rohingya refugees to Myanmar. They called on Indian authorities to put an end to forced deportations, which are prohibited under international law. The principle of international law known as non-refoulement prohibits States from forcing individuals to return to countries when there are substantial grounds for believing that they would be at risk of persecution, torture, ill-treatment or other serious human rights violations.

The three Rohingyas that were deported had been imprisoned in India since 2013 due to a lack of documentation.

In their statement, the experts noted that: “The deportation of Rohingya to Myanmar speaks to a system of refugee status determination that fails to account for the ongoing, credible reports of ethnic and religious minority persecution in that country. We also remain concerned with the systemic use of indefinite detention of Rohingya in India, which is indicative of the unacceptable conditions of discrimination and intolerance they face in the country where they have sought refuge.”

In addition to Fernand de Varennes, the other experts included E. Tendayi Achiume, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; Felipe González Morales, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants; Seong-Phil Hong, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; and Yanghee Lee, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar.



## Report on the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Published

As reported in the previous issue of the Global Minority Rights Newsletter, the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) took place from 22 April to 3 May at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, United States. The theme of the 18th session of the UNPFII was “Traditional knowledge: Generation, transmission and protection.” The agenda for the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the UNPFII provided for dialogue with indigenous peoples, Member States, and UN agencies, discussion on the session’s theme, as well as a review of the implementation of the six mandated areas related to indigenous issues, including economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health, and human rights.

Following the closing of the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the UNPFII, a report on the session was published. The report contains a summary of the draft decisions recommended by the Permanent Forum for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, as well as an overview of the discussions and meetings that took place at the session. The report is available on the website of the 18th session of the UNPFII in 6 UN languages.

## 98<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination held in Geneva

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination held its 98<sup>th</sup> session from 23 April to 10 May in Geneva, Switzerland. The states under review included Andorra, Guatemala, Hungary, Lithuania, and Zambia. As part of the session, the Committee received reports and other input from representatives of states, non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions, and other UN agencies. It issued concluding observations and recommendations on the reports of the five states under review. The Committee also published its findings on the countries examined during the session. The findings contain positive aspects related to the states’ implementation of the International Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, highlight matters of concern, and make specific recommendations. These documents are available on the webpage of the 98<sup>th</sup> session.

The Committee will hold its 99<sup>th</sup> session from 5–29 May, 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. The states under review will be Czech Republic, El Salvador, Iceland, Mexico, Mongolia, Poland, and Palestine. Registration for the session will open on 6 July, 2019 and can be accessed at this link.

The deportation of Rohingya to Myanmar speaks to a system of refugee status determination that fails to account for the ongoing, credible reports of ethnic and religious minority persecution in that country. We also remain concerned with the systemic use of indefinite detention of Rohingya in India, which is indicative of the unacceptable conditions of discrimination and intolerance they face in the country where they have sought refuge.



The Rwandan refugee camp in Benako, Tanzania, in 1994 Credit: Sebastiao Salgado

## UN Experts Call for Wider Ratification of Child Rights Protocol

12 April, 2019 marked the five-year anniversary of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communication Procedure (OPIC), which allows children who face human rights violations to make complaints directly to the Child Rights Committee in Geneva. The OPIC has been ratified by 43 states, while the Child Rights Convention is the most widely ratified human rights treaty with 196 states parties. Under the OPIC, if a child has exhausted all legal channels in their own country and if their country has ratified the OPIC, they may submit an individual complaint to the Child Rights Committee.

In commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the

OPIC, UN human rights experts urged “the 153 States parties to the Convention who haven’t yet joined the OPIC to strengthen children’s protections by ratifying the OPIC and ensuring the realization of all human rights of children around the world.”

The Child Rights Convention is particularly important for the protection of minorities, as its article 30 provides that “in those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such a minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practice his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language.”

The Committee’s webpage has more information for children wishing to submit complaints.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide

UNESCO observed the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rwandan genocide this April in conjunction with the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2003. This day, observed on 7 April, marks the beginning of the genocide committed against the Tutsi minority by the Hutu extremist-led government in Rwanda. During the course of the 100-day genocide that took place in 1994, more than 800,000 Tutsi were systematically killed. Moderate Hutu and others who opposed the genocidal acts were also murdered during this period.

On 9 April, UNESCO commemorated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the genocide with a ceremony and round table talk entitled “Memory, research and transmission”. The exhibition “Upright Men” by Bruce Clarke and the Shoah Memorial exhibition “The Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda” were also exhibited as part of the occasion.

UNESCO promotes education about genocides in order to sensitize learners about the causes, dynamics, and consequences of such crimes and to combat all forms of discrimination. More information about the anniversary of the genocide and about UNESCO’s actions against genocide can be found on its website.

Ambassador Shara Duncan Villalobos, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, highlighted the need to ensure that the desires of people of African descent for recognition, justice, and development are met.

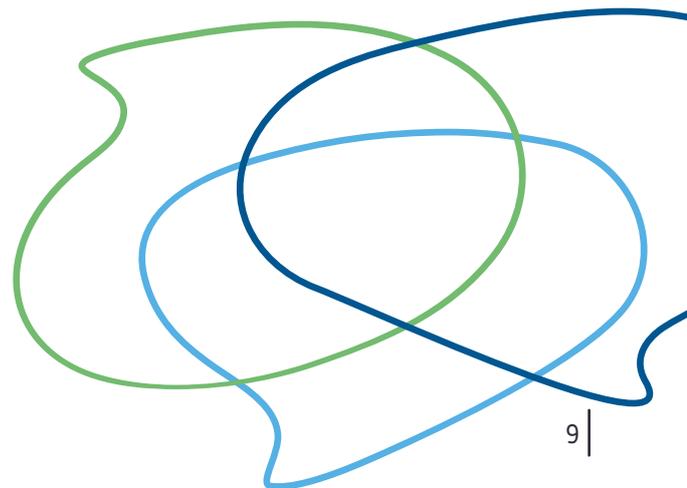
## Consultation on the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent

Pursuant to General Assembly Resolution A/RES/73/262, a one-day consultation on the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent was held on 10 May in Geneva, Switzerland. The consultation focused on “the modalities, format and substantive and procedural aspects of the permanent forum.” The consultation was attended by over 200 participants that included representatives of states, United Nations mechanisms, bodies and specialized agencies, civil society representatives, and people of African descent from all regions.

In 2018, the United Nations General Assembly decided “to establish a permanent forum on people of African descent, which will serve as a consultation mechanism for people of African descent and other interested stakeholders as a platform for improving the quality of life and livelihoods of people of African descent and to contribute to elaborating a United Nations declaration [...] on the promotion and full respect of human rights of people of African descent.”

Pursuant to this goal, the aim of the consultation was to finalize the modalities of the Permanent Forum, such as its mandate and substantive objectives, procedures, structure, format, and reporting modalities. The Chairperson of the consultation, Ambassador Shara Duncan Villalobos, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, highlighted the need to ensure that the desires of people of African descent for recognition, justice, and development are met, particularly given that the International Decade for people of African descent is reaching its mid-point.

The Chairperson’s report on the consultation can be accessed at [this link](#).



# REGIONAL

## NEWS

### First European Forum on Minority Issues Held in Brussels

The European Regional Forum on Education, Language and the Human Rights of Minorities, the first-ever European forum on minority issues, was held at the European Parliament in Brussels on 6-7 May, 2019. The Forum was organized by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues and the Tom Lantos Institute, in cooperation with the European Language Equality Network (ELEN), EURAC Research, the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN), the Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies, Minority Rights Group Europe, the Human Rights Consortium, and the Unrecognized Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO). Discussions were structured around four main key issue areas related to education in and of minority languages. These included 1) human rights and minority language education; 2) public policy objectives and practices for education in minority languages; 3) effective practices in teaching of and education in minority languages, and 4) resources and management for the effective implementation of human rights obligations.

The Forum was attended by approximately 150 participants representing governments, United Nations mechanisms, bodies and specialized agencies, inter-governmental organizations, regional organizations and mechanisms in the field of human rights, academics and experts on minority issues, civil society representatives, and minority groups. This wide range of stakeholders used this platform to share their knowledge and experience in the area of minority language education. The discussions held at the Forum will help to provide regional insight on the topic, and will serve as the basis for the development of draft recommendations related to minority language education ahead of the 12<sup>th</sup> United Nations Forum on Minority Issues to be held in Geneva in November.

### European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages Classroom Activities Guide

In order to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, a classroom activities guide has been published to enhance the visibility of the Charter through the school system. The guide provides the educational community with a useful tool to disseminate information about the Charter and minority languages, and to raise awareness about language diversity.

The publication is composed of three parts: a general presentation of language diversity and a description of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages as a legal instrument; three prototypical examples of country profiles of states that ratified the Charter; and ten teaching activities on minority language issues. The guide will act as a starting point for a Council of Europe web-based project, which will include additional country profiles and teaching activities. The guide can be found on the website of the Council of Europe.

### Call for Good Practices Relating to Regional and Minority Languages in Europe

The Secretariat of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is looking for good practices relating to regional and minority languages in Europe. The practices should have been implemented within the past 3-5 years. The examples will serve as models for knowledge transfer across Europe. Good practices related to the provisions of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages

will be published in a guide to be disseminated to all Council of Europe member states.

For more information about submitting best practices related to regional and minority languages in Europe, visit the website of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages.

## Impressions on Minorities and Minority Languages in a Changing Europe

Following the conference “Minorities and Minority Languages in a Changing Europe”, held on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in June 2018, the Council of Europe has published a brochure featuring the conclusions and final remarks of the conference rapporteur, Philippe Boillat, as well as quotations from high-level speakers.

The conference, organized under the Croatian Chairmanship of the Council of Europe, examined key questions, such as (1) which political, social, and technological developments shape the situation of national minorities and minority languages today?; (2) what is the role of language and education policies in the interplay between minority and official languages?; and, (3) which challenges and opportunities do technological innovations around digitalization create for persons belong to minorities?

Copies of the brochure, entitled “Impressions on minorities and minority languages in a changing Europe”, can be ordered by filling out the contact form available at this webpage.

## European Network Against Racism (ENAR) and the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma Publish New Book on Antigypsyism in Europe

The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) and the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma have issued a new publication, the book “Dimensions of Antigypsyism in Europe”. The book compiles academic and activist writing, and explores the complex issue of antigypsyism in Europe. The book examines how racialized discourses shape knowledge, policies, and racist practices and behaviors, analyzes the role of European policies, and presents case studies of structural discrimination against Roma in Europe. In addition, the book seeks to provide a path towards addressing antigypsyism in Europe and ensuring the rights of the Roma people. The book can be downloaded on the website of ENAR.

## Mapping Roma Children in the European Union 2014–2017

In May, the European Union published a report on mapping research related to Roma children across seventeen European countries. The purpose of the research was to address the acknowledged scarcity of quality, disaggregated, child-focused data on Roma children, which acts as a barrier to the development of positive policies and programs to promote the full realization of their rights. The research was carried out in seventeen countries. Seventy-four research areas were identified, divided into nine thematic

The acknowledged scarcity of quality, disaggregated, child-focused data on Roma children acts as a barrier to the development of positive policies and programs to promote the full realization of their rights.



areas: child protection, civil registration, discrimination, education, employment, health, housing, migration, and social protection. 486 studies and research initiatives were mapped between May and September 2018 with the researchers of this study assessing their mapping relevance and impact, identifying gaps in research, and assessing child rights-based approaches.

The report “Mapping of research on Roma children in the European Union” presents the research findings. It is available on the website of the European Union, which can be accessed at this link.

## EU Presidency Affirms Commitment to Fighting Anti-Semitism

The two-day meeting, “Perspective to a Future Strategy to Prevent and Fight Antisemitism, Racism, Xenophobia, Radicalization and Hate Speech”, was organized as a joint effort of the World Jewish Congress, the Romanian Prime Minister and EU Council President, Viorica Dancila, and the Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania. The

meeting brought together representatives of more than 50 Jewish communities from around the world and 30 government representatives to identify key issues and best practices related to combating antisemitism, racism, and xenophobia.

At the end of the meeting, the EU presidency issued an official declaration declaring its commitment to contribute to and support international initiatives aimed at addressing the challenges faced by Jewish communities. Four priority areas were identified including: 1) improving dialogue and cooperation to ensure the security of Jewish communities; 2) promoting the endorsement of the non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance; 3) financing Holocaust research, education, and remembrance; and 4) improving the recording and collecting of hate crime data, including specialized training programs for law enforcement and criminal justice authorities and providing support to organizations actively involved with collection of data regarding hate crimes.

The full text of the declaration of the EU presidency can be read here.

## Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities Visits Portugal

From 28 to 31 May, a delegation of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities made an official visit to Portugal to evaluate progress made in the protection of national minorities in the country. The delegation visited the cities of Porto, Figueira da Foz, Torres Vedras, Moura, and Lisbon, and met with local authorities, representatives of the government, civil society organizations, and national minorities in order to discuss good practices and challenges related to the implementation of the Framework Convention.

The discussions and observations of the visit will be used by the Advisory Committee to draft its fourth opinion on the implementation of the Framework Convention in Portugal. The report will contain specific findings of the Advisory Committee and will include recommendations for follow-up and more effective protection of minorities in the country. The report is expected to be published in the summer of 2019.

## Former OHCHR Minority Fellows Organize Panel Discussion at the Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum

The Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum is the leading world forum for media professionals. This year, the Forum took place on 27–28 May in Bonn, Germany and gathered over 2000 participants. As part of the Forum, an informal network of former OHCHR Minority Fellows organized a panel discussion entitled “Shifting Powers: Giving Microphones to Minorities” on 28 May.

Former OHCHR Minority Fellows Marian Luka (Roma politologist from Romania/Germany), Sofia Melikova (Tsakhur documentary photographer from Russia), and Marina Shupac (Russian linguistic and Bulgarian national minority from Moldova) highlighted the issue of minority representation in mass-media. They were joined by UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Fernand de Varennes, who participated in the panel as a speaker. Former Special Rapporteur on minority issues

and current CERD Rapporteur, Rita Izsak, also attended the panel discussion. The messages of fellows from other regions who were unable to attend the event due to visa constraints were collected and disseminated in the panel in written format.

## OSCE HCNM Co-organizes Conference on Multilingual Education in Moldova

The conference “Multilingual education in the OSCE region: experiences and perspectives for Moldova” took place on 11 April, 2019 in Chisinau, Moldova. The conference was organized jointly by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Research of Moldova. The conference gathered approximately 70 experts and practitioners involved in the field of multilingual education. The participants were able to share experiences related to multilingual education in both Moldova and other OSCE countries, and to present a variety of multilingual education models that are adaptable to various regional contexts. The Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities highlighted the need to strike a balance between preserving and developing the languages of minorities and creating opportunities to learn the state language. More information about the conference can be found on the website of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

## 172<sup>nd</sup> Period of Sessions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) held its 172<sup>nd</sup> period of sessions from 3–10 May, 2019 in Kingston, Jamaica. The period of sessions included a meeting between IACHR and CARICOM officials, a promotional event on “The inter-American human rights system and access to justice”, public hearings on regional and national human rights issues, and meetings aimed at strengthening cooperation between the IACHR and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The public hearings addressed a number of issues relevant to the protection of minorities and indigenous peoples. These included: the situation of indigenous and afro-descendant peoples of the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua, the protection and guarantee of the rights of indigenous peoples in Brazil, the criminalization of human rights defenders of indigenous peoples and the extractive industry in the United States, the human rights of indigenous peoples and the situation of isolation in the Peruvian Amazon, criminalization and indigenous justice in the Americas, and the criminal system and alleged violations of the rights of African descendants in Brazil.

More information about and relevant documents from the 172<sup>nd</sup> Period of Sessions of the IACHR can be found at [this link](#).

## Costa Rica Signs the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance

In April, Costa Rica signed the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance at the headquarters of the Organization of American States. It is now the fifth country in the Americas, along with Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, and Uruguay, to have signed all American human rights conventions.

OAS Secretary General, Luis Almagro, noted the importance of having a coordinated effort aimed at combating discrimination and intolerance. He stated that “we celebrate the signing of Costa Rica, which sows the country’s commitment to guarantee the respect of international regulations, a gesture that strengthens a diverse and equitable hemisphere.”

The Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance has now been signed by eleven states: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Costa Rica. It awaits ratification by the legislative branch of the Costa Rican government.

## 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies to Take Place in December

The Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies is the largest annual international gathering of Jewish studies scholars in the world. Every year, over 1000 attendees participate in nearly 200 sessions that include book launches, cultural programs, and academic discussions. The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies will take place from 15-17 December in San Diego, California, USA. The deadline for registration is 31 August. The conference program will be made available in September. More information about the conference can be found on the website of the Association for Jewish Studies.

## 64<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights

The 64<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights took place from 24 April to 14 May in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. The African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights is a quasi-judicial body tasked with promoting and protecting human rights and collective rights across Africa, interpreting the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, and considering individual complaints of violations of the Charter. The session gathered representatives of states, the African Union, intergovernmental and international organizations, national human rights institutions, and NGOs.

During the session, the human rights situation in Africa, as well as the reports of member states were considered. In addition, the Chairperson of the Commission and the Chairperson of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities in Africa presented activity reports about their work carried out since the previous session. One afternoon of the session was devoted to a Consultation on Combatting Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Other Related Intolerances. All documents related to the 64<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session, including agendas, reports, statements, etc., can be found on the website of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights.



## #NoCasteLeftBehind Side-event at the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council

A side-event, “#NoCasteLeftBehind”, was organized jointly by IDSN and IMADR, Minority Rights Group International, Human Rights Watch, Anti-Slavery International, Lutheran World Federation, CIVICUS, and Franciscans International, on the issue of Dalit women and gender justice. The side-event took place on 25 June as part of the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland. The side-event was aimed at promoting a dialogue between Dalit women human rights defenders and UN experts about practical means to leverage the UN human rights system to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) for over 100 million caste-affected women. More information about the side-event can be found [here](#).

## ASEAN Issues Statement about Protecting the Rights and Safety of the Rohingya

ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR), the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), and Progressive Voice issued a joint statement calling on the government of Myanmar to uphold the human rights of the Rohingya community and to ensure that safe conditions are in place before any refugees are repatriated to the country. The call was made in advance of the 34<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit held in Bangkok, Thailand from 20-23 June. The statement also called upon ASEAN to take meaningful steps towards the promotion and protection of the rights of the Rohingya community by acknowledging their identity, restoring their full citizenship, and by ensuring their participation in decisions concerning them. The full text of the joint statement can be found on the [website of FORUM-ASIA](#).

# UPCOMING

# EVENTS

24 June to 12 July, 2019

Geneva, Switzerland

41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council

7-13 July, 2019

Budapest, Hungary

7<sup>th</sup> Global Minority Rights Summer School

22 July to 9 August, 2019

Geneva, Switzerland

67<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee Against Torture

5-29 August, 2019

Geneva, Switzerland

99<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

7-27 September, 2019

Geneva, Switzerland

82<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

15-17 December, 2019

San Diego, California, USA

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The Tom Lantos Institute (TLI) is an independent human and minority rights organisation with a particular focus on Jewish and Roma communities, and on Hungarian and other ethnic or national, linguistic and religious minorities. It is a Budapest-based organisation with a multi-party Board of Trustees, an international Executive Committee, and Advisory Board. TLI operates internationally in terms of scope, funding, staff and partners. As a research and education platform, TLI aims to bridge the gaps between research and policy, norms and practice. TLI focuses on human rights and identity issues in general, and also works on three specific issue areas. These include: Jewish life and antisemitism; Roma rights and citizenship; and Hungarian minorities.

## CONTACT US

The Global Minority Rights Newsletter is a publication of the Tom Lantos Institute that gathers recent information about normative developments, events, and other opportunities related to the institutional frameworks and mechanisms for the protection of the human rights of minorities.

The Newsletter is published quarterly and is available in electronic format.

For more information, or if you have any submissions or feedback, please contact Marcus Oda at [marcus.oda@tomlantosinstitute.hu](mailto:marcus.oda@tomlantosinstitute.hu).

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