

Recent political, economic and social crises seem to increasingly challenge the normative value and practical relevance of human rights. Such crises include the rise of (neo-)nationalist populist politics, a growing number of authoritarian states and challenges to international law and multilateralism. While some have started to fundamentally question the value of human rights, others maintain that current crises call for more and better human rights implementation not less. Both perspectives are perspectives of contestation: Human rights are contested, but they may also be used to contest illiberal and authoritarian politics.

Leading international human rights scholars, activists, and representatives of the UN and other international institutions will discuss, analyse and propose reactions to human rights in times of contestation. They will convene in Nuremberg – a city that has seen both: Human rights being contested through their complete annihilation by the Nazi regime and human rights as source of contestation of the most barbarous acts during the trials bringing the leading figures of the Nazi regime to justice.



© Michael Mertens / Wikimedia Commons

Practical information

To attend the conference please register at humanrights-centre@fau.de.

The conference fee (which includes refreshments and lunches) is 50 €. A reduced rate of 25 € is available for persons with a low income. Students of the FAU may attend free of charge.

The conference is hosted jointly by the Centre for Human Rights Erlangen-Nürnberg (CHREN) of Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU), the City of Nuremberg and the Nuremberg Human Rights Centre (NMRZ).

Supported by



International Conference Human Rights in Times of Contestation

**27 + 28 June
2019**

Historic Council
Chamber, City Hall,
Nuremberg



Programme

Thursday 27 June 2019

9:00 Welcoming addresses

- Joachim Hornegger, President of FAU
- Ulrich Maly, Lord Mayor of Nuremberg
- Markus Krajewski, CHREN

9:30 Opening Lecture:

Human Rights in Crisis – New developments, old challenges?

- Kate Gilmore, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

Introduction and Moderation: *Martina Mittenhuber, City of Nuremberg*

11:00 Coffee

11:30 Round table discussion: Lessons from and for Europe

- Başak Çalı, Hertie School of Governance
- Morton Kjaerum, Raoul Wallenberg Institute
- Manfred Nowak, University of Vienna
- Beate Rudolf, German Institute for Human Rights

Moderator: *Rainer Huhle, NMRZ and UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances*

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Panel 1: Religious Freedom and Gender Equality – Conflicts, Controversies, Potential Synergies

Speakers

- Jane Connors, UN Advocate for the Rights of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
- Elisabeth Holzleithner, University of Vienna

Moderator: *Heiner Bielefeldt, CHREN*

16:00 Coffee

16:30 Panel 2: Universal human rights for migrants and refugees: challenge or chance?

Speakers

- Cathryn Costello, University of Oxford
- Felipe Gonzalez Morales, Diego Portales University, Santiago de Chile and UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants

Moderators: *Petra Bendel and Anuscheh Farahat, CHREN*

18:00 Reception

19:00 Debate:

Do we live in a post-human rights era?

- Chetan Bhatt, London School of Economics and Political Science
- Ingrid Wuerth, Vanderbilt Law School

Moderator: *Christoph Safferling, CHREN*

Friday, 28 June 2019

9:00 Panel 3: Political Contestation of Human Rights and Liberal Democracy

Speakers

- Kathryn Sikkink, Harvard University
- Tanja Börzel, Free University of Berlin

Moderator: *Michael Krennerich, CHREN and NMRZ*

10:30 Coffee

11:00 Panel 4: Part of the Problem or Part of the Solution? Business and Human Rights

Speakers

- Michael Addo, University of Notre Dame
- Anita Ramasastry, University of Washington and UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights

Comment: *Claire Methven O'Brien, Danish Institute for Human Rights*

Moderator: *Eduardo Toledo, International Nuremberg Principles Academy*

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Panel 5: Challenges for Human Rights Courts and Institutions

Speakers

- Laurence Burgorgue-Larsen, University of Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne
- Yuval Shany, Hebrew University of Jerusalem and UN Human Rights Committee

Comment: *Ivana Jelić, European Court for Human Rights (tbc)*

Moderators: *Laura Clerico and Patricia Wiater, CHREN*

15:30 Coffee

16:00 Closing Lecture: Re-thinking human rights

• Cesar Rodriguez Garavito, *Dejusticia, Bogotá*
Introduction and Moderation: *Katrin Kinzelbach, Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi), Berlin*

17:00 End of the conference