

Norwegian Centre for Human Rights



UiO • Faculty of Law
University of Oslo





Welcome to the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights

The Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR) is a part of the Faculty of Law of the University of Oslo (UiO). The Centre promotes human rights as a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary field of research, and emphasizes the interrelation between research, education and practical efforts for the protection of human rights.

In addition to its highly qualified researchers in the fields of law, political science, philosophy and social anthropology, the Centre has acquired international expertise through its extensive programme activities focusing on different topics and geographic regions.

The Centre has approximately 70 employees and an annual budget of almost NOK 100 million.

Research

Research at the Centre covers four general thematic research areas in addition to a number of individual projects. The Centre's research community is interdisciplinary and combines various methodological, theoretical and empirical approaches. The Centre's research projects reflect the academic and thematic variety of its researchers.

The four research areas are organized into thematic working groups, in which researchers and experts from the various international programmes collaborate.

1: Human rights and conflict

This working group specializes in the human rights dimensions of violent conflicts.

Such conflicts may encompass the entire spectrum from internal unrest, insurgency and acts of violence, to full-blown war.

2: Human rights and constitutionalism

This working group covers a broad range of topics con-

WELCOME:

Some of the approximately 70 employees at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights. Both scholars and administrative employees work internationally, and have an extensive geographical and thematic network.

PUBLICATIONS:

The Norwegian Centre for Human Rights publishes the recognized journal Nordic Journal of Human Rights. This picture shows some of the latest publications written by the Centre's scholars.



nected to human rights and constitutional government. It is concerned with topics such as judicial review, constitutional democracy and international human rights courts.

3: Human rights and development

This thematic working group studies states, various organizations, public and private actors and their activities. The main focus is on how these actors influence the human rights situation in developing countries.

4: Human rights and diversity

This working group studies a number of fundamental issues associated with human rights and diversity, such as the tension between the requirement for equality and non-discrimination on the one hand, and the need for freedom and group rights on the other. The group also investigates minority rights and conflicts between majority and minority populations, as well as the relationship between traditional practices and universal human rights.

Publications

The Centre's research is regularly presented in different publications, from larger works published by recognized international publishing houses, via articles in books and international journals, to newspaper articles, memoranda and the Centre's own Occasional papers series.

The Centre publishes the Nordic Journal of Human Rights (NJHR) in collaboration with Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, the UK publishers. The journal is published in English.

International research collaboration

The Centre has an international visiting scholar programme and regularly hosts researchers who spend anything from a couple of weeks to several months with us. The Centre has an extensive international network of collaboration partners among universities and research institutions.



International programmes

The international programmes at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights work to promote human rights through competence-building, academic exchange and cooperation. Our partners include universities and other academic institutions, authorities such as the police, the armed forces and the judiciary, in addition to journalists, lawyers and other professional groups. The themes we work with stem from international human rights standards and recommendations by the UN and the regular reviews undertaken in the form of Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR). We actively seek out areas which represent major human rights challenges and in which our partner institutions seek greater competence. Several thousand people participate each year at research conferences, courses, workshops and seminars under the auspices of the international programmes.

The Centre's international programme work is mainly funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The programme's activities may be grouped under the following six main priority areas:

- **Rule of Law**
- **Equality and Non-Discrimination**
- **Freedom of Religion or Belief and Freedom of Expression.**
- **Business and Human Rights**
- **Human Rights Mechanisms**
- **Human Rights Education**



HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE MILITARY: The international programmes train, among others, the Indonesian Armed Forces, in human rights and the law relating to armed conflict.

MINORITIES: Minorities in China are among the fields that have engaged the Centre for many years. Photo: Private.

BALLOTS NOT BULLETS: NORDEM – The Norwegian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights sends qualified personnel to UN, OSCE and EU international operations. Photo: Øystein Wiik.

INTRODUCTORY COURSE: The Norwegian Centre for Human Rights Introductory Course in human rights gathers students from all over the world.

Organization of the international programmes

The Centre has both country-specific and thematic programmes. The main **country programmes** focus on **China, Indonesia** and **Vietnam**, while several smaller projects study a number of other countries. In addition we have a regional focus, with particular emphasis on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The Centre also cooperates with several universities in Africa, Latin America, North America and Europe. The Centre works in close collaboration with its Nordic sister institutions, the Raul Wallenberg Institute in Sweden and the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

For more than 20 years **NORDEM, the Norwegian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights**, has

contributed to field operations around the world under the auspices of the UN, OSCE and EU, with experts in human rights, elections, democracy and establishing the rule of law. Each year NORDEM recruits, trains and deploys more than one hundred experts on missions that can last from a couple of weeks to several years.

The Oslo Coalition on Freedom of Religion or Belief is an international network of experts and representatives of religious communities and life stance organizations, academia, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and civil society. The Oslo Coalition works on education and competence building in the field of freedom of religion or belief throughout the world.



STUDIES:

Happy students celebrate their completion of the two-year Master programme at the Centre, «The Theory and Practice of Human Rights». Photo: Lila Zotou.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS:

The Lucy Smith Commemorative seminar gathers experts and interested members of the public to a day with children's rights in focus

TALKSHOW:

The academic talkshow Tea with two ladies brings Director Inga Bostad and researcher Anine Kierulf with a distinguished scholar to discuss human rights and other current issues. Photo: Simon Skreddernes.

DIGNIFIED SURROUNDINGS:

The University of Oslo Auditoriums present a dignified venue for the various seminars, discussions and ceremonies conducted by the Centre.

Studies

The Centre's staff teach on a number of programmes of study at the University of Oslo. The Centre also organizes a considerable number of courses, lectures, seminars and big events both within and outside the university.

Master's programme: The Centre offers a two-year English language master's programme – **Theory and Practice of Human Rights**. This programme, which is by far one of the most popular at the UiO, attracts students from all over the world and offers a unique international study environment in downtown Oslo. The master's programme is multidisciplinary and uses various approaches to human rights, for example:

- Human rights as an aspect of international law and legal mechanisms at global and national level.

- Human rights in a historical, philosophical and social science perspective.
- Human rights in policy development at national and international level.
- A human rights perspective on terrorism, ethnicity, gender, development and religion.

The International Human Rights Summer School:

In cooperation with the University of Oslo, the Centre arranges a month-long introductory human rights course in English for international participants. The course is arranged annually.



NCHR Academy of Human Rights: The Centre offers a number of short courses and training programmes in international human rights for practitioners, decision makers, academics and students. Among the current examples are a week-long introductory course in human rights and a course in freedom of religion or belief.

Seminars: The Centre arranges numerous seminars and open lectures throughout the year, and has established the networks *Human rights forum for lawyers* and *Forum for debate on legal and political philosophy*.

Regular events: Each year the Centre issues an open invitation to attend a memorial lecture for Torkel Opsahl, a leading human rights lawyer who was one of the Centre's founders. The Centre also co-arranges the annual Professor Lucy Smith Children's Rights Day, as well as arranging the academic talk show *Tea with two ladies*.

Scholarships and awards: The Centre annually announces student scholarships in human rights, freedom of expression and democracy, and a scholarship for human rights journalism. The Centre also organizes the academic assessment of candidates for the University of Oslo Human Rights Award.



Senior Librarian Kirsten Fuglestved

CONTACT:

Tel.: +47 22 84 20 01

Email: info@nchr.uio.no

Website: www.jus.uio.no/smr/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UniOslo.smr

Twitter: [@NCHR//SMR](https://twitter.com/NCHR//SMR)

Postal address: P.O. Box 6706 St. Olavs Plass, 0130 Oslo

Visiting address: Cort Adelers gate 30, 0254 Oslo, at Vika

All uncredited photos: © University of Oslo

The library

The Norwegian Centre for Human Rights hosts Norway's largest and most up-to-date collection of human rights literature, which is open to all. The library contains almost 10 000 international and Norwegian titles, and provides access to a comprehensive selection of electronic journals, e-books and databases. The library is used primarily by researchers and students, but also has users from public administration, law firms, organizations and the media.