



GLOBAL CAMPUS POLICY OBSERVATORY

WORKSHOP

**Protecting, promoting and enjoying academic freedom:
trends, challenges and impacts
from a human rights-based approach**

Venice, 26 March 2026

Venue: Antonio Papisca Hall, Monastery of San Nicolò, Venice Lido

PROGRAMME

TIME (CET)	ACTIVITY
9:00	Registration
9:10 – 9:45	<p>Welcome address Manfred Nowak, Secretary General Chiara Altafin, Research Manager</p> <p>Introduction to the research project Chiara Altafin, Research Manager</p>
9:45 – 10:30	<p>‘Upholding the right to academic freedom in Central Asia: policy directions for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan’ Discussion of research and findings in Central Asia Moderator: CA Presenter (20 min): Akylai Tenizbaeva Reactions (20 min): Saniia Toktogazieva (online) & MAHRS Rep. Anja Mihr Q&A (5 min)</p>
10:30 – 10:45	COFFEE & TEA BREAK
10:45 – 11:30	<p>‘Protecting and promoting academic freedom in South East Europe: a human rights-based analysis of challenges and solutions’ Discussion of research and findings in South East Europe Moderator: Chiara Altafin Presenter (20 min): Anida Gjurgjiali Reactions (20 min): Belina Bedini (online) & ERMA Rep. Marco Borraccetti Q&A (5 min)</p>
11:30 – 12:15	<p>‘Academic freedom as an individual and institutional right: the case of South Caucasus’ Discussion of research and findings in the Caucasus Moderator: Chiara Altafin Presenter (20 min): Meline Avagyan Reactions (20 min): Marina Galstyan (online) & CES Rep. Kristine Gevorgyan Q&A (5 min)</p>
12:15 – 13:15	GROUP PHOTO + LUNCH at Nicelli
13:30 – 14:15	<p>‘Censorship at the intersection of academic freedom and freedom of thought, conscience, and religion in Vietnam’ Discussion of research and findings in Asia Pacific Moderator: Chiara Altafin Presenter (20 min): Minh Nguyen (online) Reactions (20 min): Khoo Ying Hooi (online) & APMA Rep. Nyi Nyi Kyaw (online) Q&A (5 min)</p>

14:15 – 15:00	<p>‘Safeguarding the right to science through academic freedom: a human rights-based and action-oriented framework for Europe’</p> <p>Discussion of research and findings in Europe</p> <p>Moderator: Chiara Altafin</p> <p>Presenter (20 min): Nikolaos Sousos</p> <p>Reactions (20 min): Peter Maassen (online) & EMA Rep. George Ulrich</p> <p>Q&A (5 min)</p>
15:00 – 15:15	COFFEE & TEA BREAK
15:15 – 16:00	<p>‘Protecting university autonomy and academic freedom amidst democratic backsliding: a strategic proposal for an IACHR thematic report’</p> <p>Discussion of research and findings in Latin America</p> <p>Moderator: Chiara Altafin</p> <p>Presenter (20 min): Luis Fernando Herrera Martinez</p> <p>Reactions (20 min): Camilla Croso (online) & LATMA Rep. Veronica Gomez</p> <p>Q&A (5 min)</p>
16:00 – 16:45	<p>‘Who fears critical knowledge? Academic freedom in Africa’s most contested debates on religion, gender norms, and sexuality’</p> <p>Discussion of research and findings in Africa</p> <p>Moderator: Chiara Altafin</p> <p>Presenter (20 min): Lakshita Kanhiya</p> <p>Reactions (20 min): Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua (online) & HRDA Rep. Frans Viljoen</p> <p>Q&A (5 min)</p>
16:45 – 17:00	COFFEE & TEA BREAK
17:00 – 17:45	<p>‘University architecture and academic freedom in the Middle East: a case study of Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt’</p> <p>Discussion of research and findings in Arab World</p> <p>Moderator: Chiara Altafin</p> <p>Presenter (20 min): Mostafa Masjedi Arani (<i>online - TBC</i>)</p> <p>Reactions (20 min): Amro Ali (online) & ArMA Rep. Jihad Nammour</p> <p>Q&A (5 min)</p>
17:45 – 18:00	Concluding Remarks
19:45	DINNER in Venice Lido

ABOUT THE GLOBAL CAMPUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The Global Campus of Human Rights (GC) is a network of over 100 partner universities which cooperate through eight regional hubs based in Venice (GC Europe), Sarajevo/Bologna (GC South East Europe), Pretoria (GC Africa), Bangkok (GC Asia-Pacific), Yerevan (GC Caucasus), Buenos Aires (GC Latin America and the Caribbean), Beirut (GC Arab World), and Bishkek (GC Central Asia).

The GC partners have trained and empowered generations of human rights and democracy advocates and defenders, governmental and non-governmental officers, academics and civil servants across the world. A worldwide network of more than 6,000+ graduates from postgraduate courses, professional trainings and massive online courses has come to build on a priceless legacy of front-line commitment, advanced academic and practical skills and passionate service to humanity.

The Global Campus experience is distinguished by its interdisciplinary insights, cross-cultural exchanges, wide range of participants and partners, international mobility, local and global networking opportunities, and the unwavering determination to shape a world culture of human rights. The wealth of human resources connected by global and regional alliances fostered by the GC and its Regional Programmes offer remarkable tools and opportunities to promote human rights and democracy worldwide.

The Global Campus of Human Rights is possible thanks to the financial support of the European Union, Right Livelihood, and other donors. Its headquarters is located in Venice, Italy.