



## GENEVA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS Global Training

GENEVE POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME  
Formation Internationale

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*On the occasion of the 34<sup>st</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council*

### **40<sup>TH</sup> TRAINING COURSE FOR DEFENDERS FROM THE REGIONS**

***'Course on the Human Rights Council, international human rights  
and humanitarian law, international procedures and diplomacy'***

**(Geneva, 25 February - 10 March 2017)**

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'Geneva for Human Rights – Global Training' (GHR) conducts its 40<sup>th</sup> Geneva Course from 25 February to 10 March 2017. The Course takes place on the occasion of the 34<sup>st</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council (27 February - 24 March 2017).

#### **GENEVA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

GHR is an international training organization contributing to human rights **implementation** in the countries. It trains human rights NGOs and defenders and all those involved in human rights at national level, to **empower** them in the elaboration and realization of strategies, and in the use of domestic, regional and international procedures.

Since the creation of the Human Rights Council ('*HR-Council*') in 2006, GHR conducted its Geneva Course at each ordinary session of the HR-Council. In recent years, GHR also organized with its partners in the field many (3-4 days) In-Country Courses for defenders in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Russia, Botswana, Kenya, Bangladesh, Indonesia (Papua), Pakistan, Nepal, India, and Sri-Lanka.

GHR also gives Geneva Seminars (especially for national NGOs coalitions) during sessions of the treaty bodies and of the Working group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). It convenes Experts Seminars on the main issues on the agenda of the HR-Council.

#### **THE GENEVA COURSE (GSC)**

The *Geneva Course* takes place on the occasion of an ordinary session of the HR-Council. It is an **interactive and intensive training**. Trainees acquire basic knowledge in international human rights, humanitarian and criminal laws; transitional justice; inter-governmental organisations (IGOs); the UN, its structure, its reform and the role of its main organs; the trends in international relations; the functioning of the HR-Council and its mechanisms; the human rights standard setting process; and the human rights treaty bodies.

With the wide training experience of its trainers in Geneva, GHR *Geneva Courses* are unique. They combine the **theory**, the exchanges on the experience of the participants (**field situations**) and the **exposure** to the multilateral **reality**, which the trainees monitor. Composed of its researchers and interns from different universities, GHR *Department of Human Rights Policy Studies (HPS)* assists the trainees during the HR-Council's session.

#### **PARTICIPANTS IN THE 40<sup>TH</sup> GENEVA COURSE**

The *Geneva Courses* are part of a GHR Programme, aiming at a **full and effective participation** of **defenders from the regions** in the work of the HR-Council. This is essential for quality of the HR-Council's deliberations. Priority in the **selection** is given to defenders and NGOs from the regions, in particular to potential trainers, and to those using international procedures. GHR also welcomes members of national and regional NGOs delegations attending the HR-Council session, and trainees from regional and international human rights organisations having their seat or representation at the UN Office in Geneva.

## PROGRAMME OF THE TRAINING COURSE

Taking place in Geneva **during** the 34<sup>st</sup> HR-Council's session, the Course GSC-40 has **two parts**: the General Course (Week-1) on the international system; and the Course on the proceedings of the Council (Week-2) with **daily morning classes** to discuss the debates in the HR-Council (which the trainees monitor), to learn drafting communications to the UN special procedures, and to analyze the reports submitted by the Experts and the Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR), whose summaries will be presented by the trainers.

### GENERAL COURSE

Themes of the **General Course** (25 February to 3 March 2017) will be an overview on international human rights, humanitarian and criminal laws; justice in period of transition; international relations; the UN mechanisms and procedures; the work of the HR-Council and of the OHCHR; the use of the special procedures, treaty bodies and UPR; and the strategies to foster human rights implementation inside countries. Specific Courses will also be given on women's rights, religious freedom, and the protection of human rights defenders. This part of the Course starts with a full-day Course on Saturday 25 February.

### COURSE ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE HR-COUNCIL

The Course is conducted each morning, from 8:00 to 12:00. During the **classes of the second week** (6 – 10 March), the trainers will introduce and analyze most of the **thematic reports submitted to the 34<sup>st</sup> session** of the HR-Council by OHCHR and the Special Rapporteurs (freedom of religion or belief; human rights and counter-terrorism; torture; human rights obligations and sustainable environment; adequate housing; human rights defenders; minority issues; sales of children; cultural rights, foreign debt, etc), as well as themes of High level Panels. The **country reports** will also be commented, such as those on Iran, North Korea, Myanmar, Palestine and Syria, C. African Republic, Mali, and Haiti.

The *Geneva Course* will end with GHR Course on **human rights implementation in the countries** (MDG's, national plans, technical assistance, NGOs strategies inside the countries), the **assessment and follow-up**, and the general recapitulation of the Course.

*To obtain the **Course's certificate**, trainees have to comply with several tasks: reading reports submitted to the HR-Council, drafting a country paper, reports on the HR-Council debates, and a communication to the UN thematic procedures; there are two written tests.*

### ADMINISTRATION AND REGISTRATION

1. The **main trainer** of the Geneva Course GSC-40 will be Adrien-Claude Zoller (Switzerland).
2. GHR wishes to **train trainers and organisations**. It therefore requests a recommendation from the NGO and/or network of the applicant. **Deadline for applications** is 10 February 2017.
3. **Visas**. Once the application has been approved, GHR will prepare a letter to the Embassy concerned requesting a visa for the selected trainee. Please, don't wait until the last moment, and note that obtaining a Schengen visa takes at least one month.
4. **Tuition fees** for the Course is 1'200.- Swiss francs (CHF). Applicants from the regions having no sponsor may obtain a reduction for the tuition fees (500.- CHF).
5. It is a 2-week Course. **Accommodation and living expenses in Geneva** are high. For two weeks in Geneva, expenses are estimated 1'460 CHF.

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**(PROVISIONAL) PROGRAMME OF THE GENEVA COURSE GSC-40**

**A. GENERAL COURSE (25 FEBRUARY - 3 MARCH 2017)**

Friday 24 February: Arrival in Geneva

**All the classes (except on Monday 27 February) will take place in the Conference Room Caecilia, 18, Rue Schaub, Geneva.**

***tram 14 & 18, Direction 'Meyrin' of 'CERN', halt 'Poterie'.  
or trolleybus 3, direction 'Gardiol', halt 'Poterie'.***

**Daily planning:**

- *Morning classes (08.05 - 12.00): Course*
- *Afternoons (12.30 - 18.00): attending the HR-Council.*

**Saturday 25 February** **WHOLE DAY COURSE ON THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM**

09.00 - 10.00	<b>Presentation on HR situation in the Countries by the participants.</b>
10.30 - 12.00	<b>Course-1. Introduction to the international system:</b> international human rights, humanitarian and criminal laws; international relations; IGO's; UN structure, organs and programmes; HR-Council and its institution building.
12.00 - 13.00	<b>Course-2. Religious freedom on the UN agenda.</b>
Lunch in the Conference Room	
14.00 - 15.00	<b>Course-3. UN human rights standards:</b> universality of rights, equality, non discrimination; violations; non State actors.
15.00 - 16.00	<b>Course-4. The UN Reform (1997 – 2013), MDG and SDG.</b>
16.30 - 18.00	<b>Course-5. Special procedures, treaty Bodies &amp; Universal Periodic Review.</b>
20.00	<i>Dinner of the General Course.</i>

Sunday 26 February Reading reports submitted to the HR-Council.

**Monday 27 February** Introduction to the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the Human Rights Council

**Course location: Palais des Nations (main UN building)**  
*('Pregny Gate', bus 8 direction 'OMS', halt 'Appia')*

08.00	<i>Meeting for badges at the UN, 'Pregny Gate'.</i>
09.00 - 13.00	<i>Attending the <b>opening of the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the HR-Council.</b></i>
14.00 - 15.00	<i>Meeting at the cafeteria &amp; visit of the Palais des Nations.</i>
15.15 - 17.00	<b>Course-6. GHR Briefing on the tools of the HR-Council</b> (Agenda, programme of work, Annotated Agenda).

**Tuesday 28 February:**

08.00 - 10.30	<b>Course-7. Course on the UN and Human Rights.</b>
10.30 - 12.00	<b>Course-8. Introduction to the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council.</b> Its mandate, special procedures, Universal Periodic Review, Advisory Committee, Working groups, EMRIP, Forums, and special sessions).

**Wednesday 1 March:**

08.00 - 09.00	Briefing on the High-Level Segment of the HR-Council.
09.00 - 10.30	<b>Course-9. Course on the Special Procedures.</b>
11.00 - 12.00	How to write <b>communications to the Special Procedures.</b>

**Thursday 2 March:**

08.00 - 09.00	Notes and exchanges on the High-Level Segment.
09.00 - 10.30	<b>Course-10.</b> The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
11.00 - 12.00	<b>Course-11.</b> The Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

19.00 Self-made dinner

**Friday 3 March:** **Deadline for paper on human rights patterns in the countries.**  
**1<sup>st</sup> test for the participants (Week-1)**

08.00 - 09.15	Reports and discussion on debates in the HR-Council.
09.30 - 10.30	<b>Course-12.</b> The reports of the High Commissioner.
11.00 - 12.00	<b>Course-13.</b> The UN and Women's Rights.

**B. COURSE ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL (6 – 10 March)**

**Monday 6 March:**

08.00 - 10.00  
10.30 - 12.00

**Course-14.** Reports of the SR on torture and human rights defenders  
**Course-15.** Human Rights defenders and Civil Society

**Tuesday 7 March:**

08.00 - 09.15  
09.15 - 11.30  
14:00 - 17:30

Analysis of the debates of the previous day in the HR-Council.  
**Course-16. International Humanitarian Law.**  
Walk outside Geneva (meeting location to be confirmed). **Q & A Session.**

**Wednesday 8 March:** *Deadline for letters to Special Procedures*

08.00 - 10.30  
10.30 - 12.00

**Course-17. International Criminal Law and the HR-Council.**  
**Course-18.** Human Rights Treaty Bodies.

**Thursday 9 March:**

08.00 - 09.00  
09.15 - 10.30  
  
10.30 - 12.00

*2<sup>nd</sup> test for the participants*  
**Course-19. Economic, social and cultural rights.** Analysis of the reports of the SR on adequate housing, right to food and ESC rights.  
Discussing **letters to the Special Rapporteurs.**

**Friday 10 March:**

08.00 - 10.15  
10.15 - 12.00  
12.00 - 13.30  
19.00 - 22.30

**Final morning class**  
**Course-20.** Recapitulation of the Course.  
**Course-21.** GHR Course on Implementation in the Countries.  
Evaluation and Follow-up.  
*Closing dinner of the Course. Certificates.*

**Saturday 11 March**

*Leaving Geneva.*

**Main trainer of the Course:**  
Adrien-Claude Zoller (Switzerland)

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