



Can we promote environmental protection through existing human rights (HR) mechanisms? What protection does international law afford to ‘climate refugees’? What are the synergies and tensions between the legal protection of HR and the environment?

From the contamination of water bodies to the effects of climate change, the impact of environmental degradation on human life is one of the most pressing issues in contemporary international law.

This training course provides participants with a deep understanding of the international legal framework for the protection of HR and the environment as well as in-depth knowledge of how to promote environmental protection through existing HR mechanisms.

## PROGRAMME

The training course covers the following issues:

- The main international HR and environmental law instruments and mechanisms and the nature of state obligations under the two legal regimes
- Rights to information and participation in environment-related decision-making and the mandate of the Aarhus Compliance Committee
- Corporate social responsibility
- The rights of indigenous peoples, traditional local communities and environmental migrants
- The protection of human rights and environmental defenders
- The HR dimension of climate change, land, water, and biodiversity degradation
- Strategies to use international HR mechanisms to litigate and advocate for

- environmental protection
- A visit to the Human Rights Council and the Aarhus Compliance Committee session

## FOCUS ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

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This 2019 edition will dedicate special attention to plastic pollution. Course attendants will participate in a week-long exercise discussing the impacts of plastic pollution on the marine environment and human health, the responsibilities of states and businesses, vulnerable actors and environmental justice, and mechanisms at national and international levels to address actual and potential human rights violations.

## BENEFITS

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The training course covers the following issues:

- Familiar with the major international legal instruments for the promotion of HR and the conservation of the environment (e.g. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UN Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, Convention on Biological Diversity and Protocols, Aarhus Convention, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNESCO World Heritage Convention)
- Knowledgeable about the different UN mechanisms mandated to protect and promote human rights and the conservation of the environment, and how the agendas of the specialized agencies intersect
- Conversant with the role of civil society, national and international environmental and HR institutions, governments and non-state actors in relation to the protection of human rights and the environment
- Able to identify and effectively describe synergies and tensions in the realization of HR and the protection of the environment, to re-think their advocacy plans and devise new strategies for making better use of the UN HR mechanisms
- Able to address, via a rights-based approach, specific environmental challenges related to plastic pollution and its impact on human life.

## AUDIENCE

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This training course is designed for staff of NGOs, business companies and research centres, national environmental and HR institutions, UN bodies and other international organizations, as well as representatives of governments and members of academia.

## CERTIFICATE

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Participants who successfully complete the training course receive a certificate of participation from the Geneva Academy

## HOW TO APPLY

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Applications must be submitted via the online form available on our website.

## DEADLINES AND TUITION FEE

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The fee includes tuition costs, course materials, lunch and refreshments during coffee breaks.

Fee: **CHF 1'530 (50 percent discount for PhD and master students)**

Deadlines:

- Application end (with visa): 20 May 2019
- Application end (without visa): 24 June 2019