

2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE GENEVA HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM

TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2024, 09:15-15:00
PÉTALE 5, ROOM C1, MAISON DE LA PAIX, GENEVA

The Geneva Human Rights Platform Annual Conference was established in 2019 and is dedicated to the concept of connectivity in the field of human rights.

The 2024 edition will focus on the connectivity between the manifold policy areas addressed in Geneva, in their human rights dimensions. To this end, panels are co-organized with specific organizations on the human rights aspects in various policy areas. It is aimed at the international community both within and beyond Geneva—including diplomats, experts, NGOs, UN agency staff, international organizations, National Human Rights Institutions, and academics.



The human rights system is currently facing unprecedented pressure. A financial crisis threatens the functionality of UN human rights bodies, with significant implications for the work carried out by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Additionally, the deteriorating global situation is creating or intensifying human rights crises, while political support for human rights continues to wane, leading to a growing perception that the UN Human Rights System is failing to deliver on its promises in specific country contexts.

This perceived failure is particularly stark as the world recently commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights described the UDHR as a map containing “the steps that would build societies that would be more fair, more equal and therefore more resilient.” Yet, at this critical juncture, calls to ‘rescue’ human rights by refocusing on ‘core human rights’ have emerged, drawing parallels to the concept of a ‘human rights réduit’—a notion wisely abandoned by Switzerland’s security policy over a decade ago.

Despite the challenges, human rights remain the guiding principles that unite humanity and offer a path through the current crises, as recently emphasized by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. In these turbulent times, the interconnections between human rights and various policy areas are becoming increasingly evident, including global health, internet governance and new technologies, environmental issues, and climate change.

As human rights intersect with a wide range of policy domains, the Sixth Annual Conference of the Geneva Human Rights Platform will delve into these connections. The conference aims to explore how the strength and potential of human rights can be harnessed to benefit the work of other actors, even those who may not traditionally view human rights protection as their primary mission.

PROGRAMME

9.15 - 9:30	Opening
9:30 - 10:00	Keynote
10:00 - 11:00	Academic plenary panel
11:00 - 12.30	Workshops (incl. coffee break) with other ‘Geneva Platforms’
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 15:00	High-level inter-agency panel on human rights

The full programme is available here:

<https://bit.ly/3YfTn0Q>

REGISTRATION

Register via the form on our website to attend:

<https://bit.ly/3Nh9fdm>

