



[ e-learning course ]

# Introduction to International Protection of Human Rights

[ From 1st to 30th June ]



## DESCRIPTION

The worldwide recognition and protection of human rights is a process that began in the twentieth century, when many of these rights were already guaranteed at the constitutional level, at least in some states. Since then, the human rights regulatory framework built by the international community has achieved a solid legal basis that is widely developed with fundamental universal legal norms

However, this international recognition of human rights does not resolve the question of their effective enjoyment at both the individual and collective levels. While it is true that the responsibility to respect human rights lies within each and every one of the states that form the international community, it is no less true that the internationalisation of human rights has generated the expectation that an effective protection of such rights should also have an international dimension.

In the course we will examine the process of internationalisation of human rights at the universal level, from an essentially normative perspective. We will discuss the foundations and evolution of human rights and study the main international human rights protection instruments, with a specific focus on the United Nations and European systems. The existence of these instruments and mechanisms is often unknown by citizens and they are underutilised in the guarantee and protection of human rights. This course aims to increase students' skills and knowledge in order for them to be used within their fields of work.

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### UN Photo/MB

Draft of Universal Declaration of Human Rights Adopted by General Assembly.

Prof. René Cassin (France) addresses the Third Session of the United Nations General Assembly prior to the adoption of the Declaration of Human Rights, in Palais de Chaillot (Paris) on 10 December 1948



## PROGRAMME / CONTENT

### ■ UNIT 1. INTERNATIONALISATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS: CONCEPT, FOUNDATIONS AND GUARANTEES (01/06 – 12/06)

In this first unit we will examine the internationalisation of human rights at the universal level with an essentially normative perspective, a process that was led largely by the United Nations. We will begin with a discussion on the foundations and evolution of human rights, followed by references to the main international human rights instruments.

1. Notion and characteristics of human rights
2. The United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
3. Subsequent international developments: guarantee mechanisms

### ■ UNIT 2. INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEMS. (13/06-23/06)

In the second unit we will focus specifically on human rights protection systems. This unit provides an overview of how the promotion and protection of human rights are articulated in the United Nations and the European systems. The UN has a central role in the promotion and protection of human rights, having led the adoption of international treaties that establish universal standards in the field and enabled the development of mechanisms to protect those rights. We will also learn about the functioning of the European system of human rights protection, with a brief overview of its history, characteristics and peculiarities.

1. The International system of human rights protection
2. The European system of human rights protection

### ■ STUDY CASE

Comparative study of the International Conventions and Human Rights Treaties



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## AIMED AT

Human Rights defenders, participants in social movements and other activists.  
Lawyers, prosecutors and other law-enforcement agents.  
People approaching the study of human rights for the first time.

## INSTRUCTORS

- **LÍDIA SERRANO TUR.** PhD in Law, specialised in International Law and the Right to Water and Sanitation with several publications in the field. She collaborates with various NGOs such as Engineers Without Borders and the Human Rights Institute of Catalonia in education and advocacy projects and initiatives.  
She is currently the coordinator of the Alliance for the sustainable management of water in Ibiza and Formentera (Spain).

## TUTOR

- **DIANA MIHAELA OSADCI.** Training coordinator of the Human Rights Institute of Catalonia.

## METHODOLOGY

The course will be held entirely online through the training platform specifically developed for human rights education: [www.aulaIDHC.org](http://www.aulaIDHC.org).

For the study of each unit, students will be provided with training material specifically developed for virtual learning. Additional bibliographical and audiovisual resources will also be available to complement and deepen the study of each unit.

The units are designed to provide theoretical knowledge, while practical skills will be acquired and developed through the completion of a practical exercise requiring students to apply the knowledge acquired. It will consist of a comparative study of the International Covenants.

Students will have access to a discussion room, a forum and other participation and communication tools in order to maximise their virtual learning. The instructor will guide students throughout the learning process. Students will as well be supported by a tutor.

The working hours required to achieve the knowledge and skills of the course are estimated to be 65. The hours of actual dedication may vary depending on previous knowledge and the skills and circumstances of each student. For each unit, it is estimated that students will devote 25 hours (including the study of teaching material and the contributions to the discussion room) and 15 additional hours for the practical exercise.



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## EVALUATION

In order to complete this course students must participate regularly in the discussion rooms and submit the practical exercise in order to demonstrate their understanding of the units' content.

Student participation and the practical exercise will be assessed by the instructor, who will provide feedback and award a grade.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- **Date:** From 01/06/2016 to 30/06/2016 (65 hours of study dedication)
- **Price:** €50 euros
- **Inscription online:** [www.aulaIDHC.org](http://www.aulaIDHC.org)
- **Limited Places:** 30

## CONTACT INFORMATION



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