



Wilton Park

Programme

Strengthening human rights in the crisis of peace and security

Monday 16 – Wednesday 18 January 2023 | WP3013

Seventy five years since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, armed conflict and insecurity in regions around the world have increasingly put the international human rights framework to the test. Some of the most serious human rights abuses take place in times of crisis, impacting thousands of civilians and with a disproportionate effect on women and girls as well as persons and communities in vulnerable positions.

Overall, the multi-lateral system is under pressure with critics questioning its legitimacy and some states challenging the founding principles. These threats are compounded by rapidly shifting and increasingly polarised political stances around the world. In this context- and with some states robustly offering their own interpretation- human rights appear increasingly fragile. However, global responses to the invasion of Ukraine have highlighted the importance of the existing international architecture, demonstrating the need for swift action as well as revealing some shortcomings.

This conference will consider the effectiveness of human rights mechanisms and responses in the context of international crises in peace and security, drawing on learning from a range of countries and regions affected by conflict. In particular it will focus on: the ability of the UN system to address serious human rights violations in conflict, the relationship between the UN Human Rights Council, the UN Security Council and related mechanisms; the need to further embed human rights based approaches in conflict response; and ways in which to address gaps in protection through the complementarity between international humanitarian law and human rights.

Drawing on the experience and expertise of participants, and learning from conflict affected regions and countries, the meeting aims to:

- Identify examples of good practice and highlight potential for improved responses
- Generate proposals and recommendations for ways in which human rights can be strengthened in response to conflict and insecurity
- strengthen links amongst key agencies and actors across a spectrum of policy-makers, human rights experts and civil society organisations
- promote activity amongst expert networks to take forward emerging actions and proposals

This invitation only [Wilton Park](#) conference is the 17th in the annual series.

In partnership with:



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Affairs of Finland

Monday 16 January

1300	Participants arrive and buffet lunch available
1500-1515	Welcome and introduction Julia Purcell Programme Director, Wilton Park Jenny Piaget Head, Human Rights Diplomacy Section, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Bern
1515-1645	1. The interface between human rights and peace and security: Major trends and effective responses <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What's worked and what hasn't? The effectiveness of HR mechanisms in achieving their core aims in conflict settings, but also their immediate use to mitigate conflict/suffering on the ground.• Tensions/trade-offs? Areas that need more work? What's changed at the human rights-security nexus over the last two years? Ilze Brands Kehris Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), New York Federico Villegas Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Argentina to the International Organizations in Geneva
1645-1730	Photograph followed by tea/coffee
1730-1845	2. Perspectives on the ground <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Case studies of effective HR mechanisms (e.g., Commissions of Inquiry, rapid evidence gathering of human rights abuses)• What lessons can be learnt from successful collaboration between peacebuilding and human rights groups on the ground?• How to apply this to improve policy and practice at a multilateral level?• How to address the disconnect between the local and global levels? Shaharзад Akbar Former Chair, Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), Kabul Tahir Aziz Senior Adviser, Conciliation Resources, London Osai Ojigbo Country Director, Amnesty International, Abuja
1845	Reception followed by dinner
2200	Bar closes

Tuesday 17 January

0800-0900

Breakfast

0915-1045

3. Practical and policy shifts: how to ensure gender-sensitive responses?

- How to ensure that women's and girls' specific needs/issues are addressed at every stage of the conflict lifecycle?
How to promote inclusivity and maximise women's unique contributions to human rights protection and durable peacebuilding processes?

Session Chair

Katri Viinikka

Ambassador for Gender Equality, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Helsinki

Rosa Emilia Salamanca

Director, Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Economía (CIASE), Carrera

Reem Alsalem

UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Geneva

1045-1115

Tea/coffee

1115-1245

4. Addressing the needs of those in the most vulnerable situations

- How to ensure inclusive responses that protect the needs of groups in the most vulnerable situations?
- What mechanisms, frameworks and safeguards can be applied?
- What more can be done to ensure the experiences of those in the most vulnerable situations inform policymaking and practice?

Virginia Gamba

Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, New York

Julia Ehart

Executive Director, International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA), Geneva

Joshua Castellino

Executive Director, Minority Rights Group International, London

1300-1400

Lunch

1400-1500

Free time

1400-1430

Facilitator briefing in the Library

1500-1630

5. What role do narratives play in the human rights-security nexus?

- What are the current trends and flashpoints?
- How to tackle disinformation while ensuring protection of human rights?
How to promote and amplify human rights messages and support human rights defenders?

	<p>Eiman Kheir Diaspora Policy Manager for Africa, Middle East and Turkey, Meta, United Kingdom</p> <p>Natalia Krapiva Tech-Legal Counsel, Access Now, Berlin</p>
1630-1700	Tea/coffee
1700-1830	<p>6. Recommendations for more effective integration moving forward</p> <p>Break out session</p> <p>Facilitators:</p> <p>Rhuks Temitope Ako Senior Analyst, African Union, Addis Ababa</p> <p>Nino Bakradze Counsellor – Human Rights Expert, Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva</p> <p>Hazel Cameron Head, Open Societies and Human Rights Directorate, FCDO, London</p> <p>Debbie Kohner Secretary General, European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, Brussels</p> <p>Taryn Lesser Human Rights Adviser, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (UN PBSO), New York</p> <p>Patricia McCullagh Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva</p> <p>Cecilia Ruthström-Ruin Ambassador for Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Stockholm</p> <p>Tim Segessemann Human Rights Officer, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Bern</p>
1830-1850	Facilitator debrief in the Library
1900	Reception followed by dinner
2200	Bar closes

Wednesday 18 January

0800-0900	Breakfast and checkout (key cards will not work after 0900)
0915-1045	<p>7. Feedback from groups</p> <p>Followed by roundtable discussion</p>
1045-1115	Tea/coffee

1115-1125

8. Evaluation survey

Completion of evaluation survey

1125-1245

9. Next steps and closing remarks

Panel discussion chaired by:

Julia Purcell

Programme Director, Wilton Park

Omar Hilale

Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the UN, New York

Clare Ovey

Head, Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, Council of Europe, France

Emmanuel D Joof

Chairman, National Human Rights Commission, The Gambia

1300

Lunch

1400

Participants depart

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This is an invitation only conference.

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