

# SUMMER SCHOOL

## HUMAN RIGHTS & PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY

16 – 19 June 2026  
5<sup>th</sup> Edition

The deadline for submission of applications is Monday, 4 May 2026  
Successful candidates will be informed on Friday, 8 May 2026

### PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Date:** from Tuesday 16 June to Friday 19 June 2026

**Time:** Every day from 13.50h until 17.00h (Brussels time)

**Language:** English

**Place:** Virtually via Microsoft Teams

**Course fee:** 100 Euro

**Certificate of attendance:** All students who satisfactorily complete the course will be awarded a Certificate of Attendance. To qualify for this, participants must attend all lectures.

**Requirements:** All applications must be completed via the [Summer School online application platform](#). All candidates are required to upload the following documents: a Motivation Letter (max 1 page) and a curriculum vitae (max 2 pages).

**Some Scholarships** will be awarded to participants from the Global South. When applying for this course, the candidates should upload a motivation letter (max 1 page). Candidates will be informed about the scholarship decision on Friday, 8 May 2026.

### DESCRIPTION

The course aims to provide an immersion in issues related to persons deprived of liberty from the perspective of international human rights law, public health, criminal law, and practice. More broadly, the Summer School ‘Human Rights and Persons Deprived of Liberty’ aims to prepare participants to understand the structural problems surrounding prisons and to contribute to the improvement of the human rights of persons deprived of liberty in their homeland and around the world. The summer course gives participants the opportunity to interact with world-renowned scholars and experts in the field.

The course is intended for persons interested in issues surrounding prisons, such as master’s, LL.Ms, PhDs, and postdoctoral researchers with a background in law, political science, public health, or criminology, as well as staff of civil society organisations and policymakers.

Upon completion of the summer course, participants will have acquired:

- Knowledge about international standards for the protection of the human rights of persons deprived of liberty;
- Knowledge about the most important institutions and mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights at the global, regional and national levels;
- The ability to identify some legal, political and social strategies to safeguard the human rights of persons deprived of liberty;
- Knowledge of recommendations to bring about change and improvements.

The course is offered by the ERC IMPACTUM project, the Programme for Studies on Human Rights in Context (Ghent University, Belgium), and the Global Campus of Human Rights (Austria). We are committed to promoting human rights. Our goal is to preserve the standards of quality education and to continue our mission of preparing students to meet the growing challenges to the rule of law, democracy and human rights around the world. Candidates who self-identify as belonging to vulnerable or minority groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

## PROGRAMME

Each lecture will last 40 minutes and will be live-streamed via Microsoft Teams. After each lecture, there will be 10 minutes for participants to interact with the lecturer and each other on the topic.

### Daily Schedule

Time	Tuesday 16 June	Wednesday 17 June	Thursday 18 June	Friday 19 June
13.50-14.00h	Welcome Prof Dr M Nowak and Prof Dr Clara Burbano	Introduction Prof Dr Clara Burbano Herrera	Introduction Prof Dr Clara Burbano Herrera	Introduction Prof Dr Clara Burbano Herrera
14.00-14.40h	Lecture 1	Lecture 4	Lecture 7	Lecture 10
14.40-14.50h	Interaction moment	Interaction moment	Interaction moment	Interaction moment
14.50h-15.00h	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
15.00-15.40h	Lecture 2	Lecture 5	Lecture 8	Lecture 11
15.40-15.50h	Interaction moment	Interaction moment	Interaction moment	Interaction moment
15.50-16.10h	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
16.10-16.50h	Lecture 3	Lecture 6	Lecture 9	Lecture 12
16.50-17.00h	Interaction moment	Interaction moment	Interaction moment	Interaction moment
17.00-17.40h				Lecture 13
17.40-18.00h				Interaction moment & Evaluation
End				

These times apply to the Belgian time zone: **UTC+2** (during summer). Please be aware that these times may vary for you, depending on your time zone. [Click here to calculate your time difference.](#)

The course is articulated in four days/modules as follows:

**Day 1** focuses on the international human rights framework of persons deprived of liberty and looks at international human rights bodies, legal standards, and their jurisprudence

**Lecturer 1** *Prof Dr Manfred Nowak, Global Campus of Human Rights, University of Vienna, Austria*  
Persons Deprived of Liberty & the UN Human Rights System

**Lecturer 2** *Prof Dr Paulo Pinto de Albuquerque, former judge of the European Court of Human Rights, Catholic University of Lisbon, Portugal*  
Persons Deprived of Liberty & the European Human Rights System

**Lecturer 3** *Prof Sofía Galván, Associate Director University Network for Human Rights, USA*  
Persons Deprived of Liberty & the Inter-American Human Rights System

**Day 2** deals with the cross-cutting themes on 3 focus areas

**Lecturer 4** *Prof Dr Pauline Jacobs, Tilburg University, The Netherlands*  
Transgender Persons Deprived of Liberty Mental Health & Persons Deprived of Liberty

**Lecturer 5** *Prof Dr Par Engstrom, University College London, UK*  
Torture Prevention in Latin America: Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty and the Role of National Preventive Mechanisms

**Lecturer 6** *Dr Krešimir Kamber, Adviser Private Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, France*  
Solitary Confinement in European Legal Standards

**Day 3** looks at specific countries and discusses specific problems, challenges, opportunities, recommendations, and the way forward. The lectures will examine some contextual situations, examples, and practices from specific countries

**Lecturer 7** *Prof Dr Benyam Dawit Mezmur, independent expert of the United Nation's Committee on the Rights of the Child, University of the Western Cape, South Africa*  
Persons Deprived of Liberty in Africa

**Lecturer 8** *Prof Dr Tom Daems, University of Leuven, Belgium*  
Imprisonment and Human Rights in Belgium

**Lecturer 9** *Mr Daniel Cerqueira, Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF), USA*  
The Role of Human Rights Organizations in the Protection of Persons Deprived of Liberty in Latin America

**Day 4** is dedicated to vulnerable groups in the 4 focus areas

**Lecturer 10** *Mr Manu Krishan, Global Campus of Human Rights, Austria*  
Children Deprived of Liberty

**Lecturer 11** *Prof Dr Bernice Elger, University of Basel, Switzerland*  
Elderly Persons Deprived of Liberty

**Lecturer 12** *Prof Dr Heino Stöver, Frankfurt University of Applied Science, Germany*  
Mental Health & Persons Deprived of Liberty

**Lecturer 13** *Prof Julissa Mantilla, Former President Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Universidad Católica de Perú, Perú.*  
Gender and Persons Deprived of Liberty

## LECTURERS

**Prof Dr Clara Burbano Herrera**, Research Professor of Human Rights, Director of the Programme for Studies on Human Rights in Context, Principal Investigator ERC Consolidator Grant *IMPACTUM*, Ghent University, Belgium

**Mr Daniel Cerqueira**, Brazilian lawyer, Program Director, Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF), United States. Former Specialist Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Washington DC, USA

**Prof Dr Tom Daems**, Professor of Criminology, Leuven Institute for Criminology, University of Leuven, Belgium

**Prof Dr Benyam Dawit Mezmur**, Independent expert of the United Nation's Committee on the Rights of the Child, Professor of Law University of the Western Cape, South Africa

**Prof Dr Bernice Elger**, Professor of Ethics and Health Law, Head of Institute for Biomedical Ethics, University of Basel, Switzerland

**Prof Dr Par Engström**, Associate Professor of Human Rights, University College London and Programme Director of the MSc International Relations of the Americas, University College London, United Kingdom

**Prof Sofía Galván**, Associate Director at the University Network for Human Rights (USA)

**Prof Dr Pauline Jacobs**, Associate Professor in Criminal (Procedure) Law, Tilburg University, The Netherlands

**Dr Krešimir Kamber**, Adviser Private Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, France

**Mr Manu Krishan**, Lecturer and Coordinator of the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, University of Vienna, Austria

**Prof Dr Manfred Nowak**, Former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment; Independent Expert leading the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty; Secretary General of the Global Campus of Human Rights

**Prof Julissa Mantilla**, Former President, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Professor, Universidad Católica del Perú, Peru

**Prof Dr Paulo Pinto de Albuquerque**, Former Judge of the European Court of Human Rights, Professor at the Catholic University of Lisbon, Portugal

**Prof Dr Heino Stöver**, Professor at the Department of Health and Social Work, Institute of Addiction Research (ISFF), Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, Germany

## COURSE DIRECTORS

### **Prof Dr Clara Burbano Herrera**

Principal investigator ERC Consolidator Grant **IMPACTUM**, Director Programme for Studies on Human Rights in Context; Ghent University, Belgium

### **Prof Dr Manfred Nowak**

Former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Secretary General of the Global Campus of Human Rights University of Vienna, Austria

## Payment Options - Fee and Invoicing

### **Payment will be due by Friday, 22 May 2026**

The 100 euro fee can be paid online using a credit or debit card: Visa, Mastercard, Maestro, or Bancontact/MisterCash. There is no option to pay in cash.

Successful applicants will receive an official acceptance letter for the Summer School via email, including a link to the payment platform. Admitted participants should enter the same personal details used on the application form when making the payment so that payments and applications can be matched. If the information does not match, the processing of your application may be delayed.

Applicants who pay online with a credit card will get an automated email receipt right after completing their payment.

Please note that:

- A student's place on the summer course is not confirmed until the fee has been paid in full;
- Places will not be held for students whose fees are not paid in full by the due date; and
- In no circumstances will students be admitted to the course unless the fee has been paid in full.

## Cancellation/refund policy

Registered participants can cancel their registration until Friday, June 5, 2026. If they cancel before this date, they will receive an 80% refund of the registration fee, with 20 euros retained to cover administrative and transaction costs. Please note that cancellations after June 5, 2026, will not qualify for any refund.

Admitted participants who wish to cancel their place on the Summer School must inform the Course Administrator by email at: [summerschoolprisons@gmail.com](mailto:summerschoolprisons@gmail.com)

## MORE INFORMATION

<p>Follow us on X <a href="#">@RightsContext</a> &amp; <a href="#">@IMPACTUM_ERC</a> LinkedIn <a href="#">Human Rights in Context</a> &amp; <a href="#">IMPACTUM_ERC</a> Instagram <a href="#">impactum_erc</a> Spotify <a href="#">IMPACTUM in CONTEXT the Podcast</a> YouTube channel <a href="#">HumanRightsinContext</a></p>	<p>For more information about the course, please visit our website: <a href="#">Programme for Studies on Human Rights in Context</a> If you have any queries, please contact us <a href="mailto:summerschoolprisons@gmail.com">summerschoolprisons@gmail.com</a></p>
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### The Organising Team

**Prof Dr Clara Burbano Herrera**, PI ERC-IMPACTUM, Director Human Rights in Context, Ghent University, Belgium

**Dr Alessandra Cuppini**, Project Manager, Human Rights in Context, Ghent University, Belgium

*The Summer Course is part of the IMPACTUM project led by Prof Clara Burbano-Herrera, which investigates the impact of urgent measures on persons deprived of liberty. IMPACTUM is a Horizon 2021 project funded by the European Research Council. Grant agreement 101044852. It is based at Ghent University*