

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Venice School for Human Rights Defenders

14 – 20 June 2026 | Lido of Venice, Italy



Page 1

This project is funded by the European Union and implemented with the United Nations Development Programme as part of HeP II



About the Course

The [Venice School for Human Rights Defenders](#) is a Global Campus flagship initiative aimed at activists and human rights defenders wishing to address contemporary challenges and cross-cutting issues in the field of human rights protection. The school aims to empower participants with the knowledge, skills, and networks necessary to drive meaningful change in their communities and strengthen the global movement for human rights and social justice. Diversity is a core value of the programme, enhancing mutual exchange, personal growth and peer learning through the varied backgrounds and experiences of the participants.

Why choose this course?

By taking this course, you will:

- *Examine today's pressing human rights challenges, analyze root causes and explore solutions*
- *Build advocacy expertise, and translate academic and institutional knowledge into impactful public action*
- *Leverage UN mechanisms to bolster national-level human rights work*
- *Amplify your voice in global decision-making processes around human rights through sharing knowledge and expertise*
- *Develop strategies and techniques to increase the impact of defenders' national and regional advocacy work, especially in fragile states*
- *Expand your professional network and connect with fellow human rights defenders and practitioners from all over the world.*

The speakers

An international team of experts in the fields of human rights, advocacy, and human rights monitoring and evidence collection, media, digital security and wellbeing will guide participants through the programme.

Key Facts

- Course dates: 14-20 June 2026
- Venue: Monastery of San Nicolò, Venice – Lido
- Target audience: the Venice School is designed for human rights activists worldwide as well as students, PhD candidates, researchers, social workers, journalists, and IGOs and NGOs officials who aspire to become effective agents for change in their communities while advocating the rights of all individuals

This project is funded by the European Union and implemented with the United Nations Development Programme as part of HeP II



All costs — including travel, visa, accommodation, insurance, and course fees — will be fully covered for selected students.

Eligibility & How to Apply

1. Be enrolled at one of the four consortium universities - University of Peshawar, Habib University, University of Balochistan and Lahore University of Management Sciences.
2. Demonstrate genuine interest in human rights with a record of practical experience work
3. Submit:
 - The application form + your short CV (max 2 pages) to the focal point person at your university. Merge the documents into a single PDF file, naming the file as "Surname_Name"

Note: This call for applications is issued under the Huqooq-e-Pakistan II programme (2024–2028) supported by the European Union and the Government of Pakistan, and will allow for a special quota of Pakistani applicants. Interested students are asked to disregard any other web application regarding the activity and apply exclusively through this Call for Applications.



"A very good chance that refuels human rights defenders with new energy, experience, network, and a bright flash of inspiration for new goals set ahead."

Tamar, Georgia

This project is funded by the European Union and implemented with the United Nations Development Programme as part of HeP II



Tentative schedule of the 2026 edition:

Sunday 14 June Opening		Monday 15 June Introduction & Legal Frameworks	Tuesday 16 June Media Advocacy & Disinformation Resilience	Wednesday 17 June Wellbeing & Resilience	Thursday 18 June Documentation & Evidence Collection	Friday 19 June Digital and Physical Security	Saturday 20 June Human Rights in Play
15.00 Registration 15.30 Welcoming by Secretary General of Global Campus of Human Rights	9.30 11.00	International & Regional Human Rights Mechanisms	How Disinformation Works: Narratives, Power, and Human Rights	Mental Health, Stress & Burnout Prevention	Human Rights Monitoring and Documentation	Risk Assessment & Protection Planning	Gamified Tools for Human Rights Practice
Brief introduction to Venice School programme	11.00 11.30	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break
16.00 Participants introductions <i>Objects of resistance</i>	11.30 13.00	Understanding the role of HRDs	AI, Deepfakes, and Manipulated Media: What HRDs Need to Understand	Holistic Protection for HRDs	Strategic Use of Documentation	Digital Security for HRDs	Gamified Tools for Human Rights Practice
17.00 Keynote speech followed by Q&A							
18.00 Theatre performance	13.00 14.30	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break
18.45 Group photo	14.30 16.30	Workshop Unpacking real-life dilemmas faced by HRDs	Workshop Detecting and Responding to Disinformation Targeting HRDs	Workshop Collective self-care strategies and resilience	Workshop Filming video as evidence for effective advocacy	Workshop Risk mapping and threat modeling	DEPARTURE
19.00 Welcome aperitif served in the garden of the Hotel Villa Mabapa	16.30	Closing circle	Closing circle	Closing circle	Closing circle	Closing circle	

For more information, visit:

[Venice School for Human Rights Defenders – Global Campus of Human Rights](#)

This project is funded by the European Union and implemented with the United Nations Development Programme as part of HeP II





“The ways each of us has to deal with human rights causes in our local and regional contexts are different, but here (at the Venice School) we have a common sense of belonging, and we are able to connect and to put in common our experiences and lessons learned to be more performant and more efficient when responding to human rights violations.”

Oumayma, Tunisia



The **Global Campus of Human Rights** (Headquartered in Venice, Italy) is the world's largest network of universities specializing in human rights education, with over 100 members in all continents.

Through education and research, the Global Campus works across eight regional hubs, including for the Asia region, and is committed to fostering new generations of human rights defenders able to contribute to a world in which all human rights are realized.

In 2023 the GC was awarded the **North-South Prize by the Council of Europe** "in recognition of its crucial work in ensuring a high-quality accessible Human Rights education"

From 2025, the Global Campus partners with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Union to advance human rights education in Pakistan under the EU's programme **Huqooq-e-Pakistan II (2024–2028)**. During this period, the Global Campus— together with its Asia-Pacific and Central Asia hubs—will collaborate with four leading Pakistani universities to establish a Human Rights Education Centre in Lahore, develop innovative curricula and learning tools, and create international mobility opportunities for students and scholars. The initiative aims at strengthening academic institutions, empowering civil society, and contributing to the broader protection and realisation of human rights in Pakistan.

This project is funded by the European Union and implemented with the United Nations Development Programme as part of HeP II

