

RAOUL WALLENBERG INSTITUTE

OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW

Press information

The Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian law – In Short

Head Office: Lund

Staff members: 45

Field Presences: Amman, Istanbul, Jakarta, Nairobi and Beijing

Director: Marie Tuma

Independent academic institution focusing on the promotion of human rights and humanitarian law

The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law is a charitable trust and a non-profit organisation, founded in 1984. The Institute is an independent academic institution, with a mission to promote universal respect for human rights and humanitarian law. The Institute engages in research and academic education, as well as in institutional capacity development activities such as training, advice, etc., for government agencies (mainly in the field of administration of justice), national human rights institutions and academic institutions in Sweden and abroad. The Institute is named after the Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg to honour his work in the cause of humanity.

Vision and core values

The Institute's vision is to be a centre of excellence in all fields of activities, contributing to the development of societies based on a human rights culture. This ambition is *inter alia* reflected in the Institute's core values; *Respect, Integrity, Inclusiveness* och *Inspiration*.

Academic activities

The Institute maintains a close cooperation with Lund University and several other academic institutions in Sweden and abroad. In cooperation with the Institute, the Faculty of Law at Lund University has for more than 20 years been organising a master's programme on international human rights law. The Institute also contributes to other academic programmes in Sweden and abroad, *inter alia* the European Commission coordinated programme "European Master of Arts in Human Rights and Democratization", in Venice.

Through its academic and policy research, the Institute actively contributes to developing, concretising and advancing the discourse on international human rights law. The Institute maintains an extensive publications programme and in

cooperation with the Dutch publisher Brill, the Institute publishes several series of monographs, journals, compilations of documents and educational material.

The Institute has one of Northern Europe's largest research libraries in international law, with particular focus on international human rights law and related topics.

Programme activities

In addition to its academic activities, the Institute implements extensive programmes focusing on supporting to and developing the work of institutions and organisations to promote and protect human rights. The programmes primarily target institutions in developing countries and countries in transition. Cooperation with academic institutions, institutions in field of the administration of justice, and national human rights institutions are in particular focus for RWI's international programmes, which are mainly financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

Through its work with both academic activities and programme activities, the Institute has a unique platform where theory and practice can be combined. This combination promotes synergy effects between the two activity areas which contribute to even further strengthening the application of international human rights law.

Networking

In addition to the close cooperation with Lund University, the Institute maintains relations with other academic institutions, international organisations, government agencies and civil society organisations. The Institute is member of several Nordic, European and international networks within the framework of its mandate.

Restrictions in the Scope of Activities

The Institute's activities do not include monitoring of state compliance in the human rights field or any other activities that could be interpreted to be of confrontational character. The activities of the Institute are often implemented in cooperation with and upon request from governments, public authorities and other institutions and are characterised by a constructive dialogue. This dialogue is based on the international system for the promotion and protection of human rights, which has been developed by the international community and contains a vast number of standards that states have undertaken to comply with.

Furthermore, the Institute does not handle individual complaints regarding alleged human rights violations.

Board of Directors

The Institute has a Board of Directors consisting of ten members. The current chairman of the Board is Ambassador Hans Corell.

Press contacts

For questions, interviews, photos and information – please contact:
Marie Tuma, Director of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute

Phone: + 46 46 222 12 63, Mobile: + 46 70 350 3234
E-mail: marie.tuma@rwi.lu.se

For more information – visit: www.rwi.lu.se

More about the Raoul Wallenberg Institute's activities

Research and academic education

Research is a fundamental part of the Institute's activities. In addition to its employed researchers, the Institute also provides the opportunity for guest researchers to spend a limited time at the Institute in order to research in human rights and related topics. RWI's ambition is to carry out academic research as well as policy research of high quality in a Swedish as well as in an international perspective. Ongoing research projects are presented on the Institute's website.

The Faculty of Law at Lund University has, since more than 20 years back, in close cooperation with the Institute, been implementing master's programme in international human rights law. The programme runs over two years providing the students with in-depth knowledge in international human rights law and humanitarian law. Within the framework of this programme, students who so wish, are provided with the opportunity to specialise in intellectual property rights law or international labour law. The programme is open for foreign students and since the beginning of the programme, approximately 130 students from developing countries have graduated from the programme with scholarships provided by the Institute through funding from Sida.

Within the framework of its international programme activities, the Institute contributes to initiating and developing academic human rights education in other countries. One example is the research direction in human rights at post-graduate level at Peking University, where the Institute also has a visiting professor.

Programme Activities

With funding from primarily Sida, the Institute implements extensive programmes aimed at advancing the practical application of human rights and humanitarian law. The programmes primarily target state agencies in the field of administration of justice, academic institutions and national human rights institutions in developing countries and in countries in transition. The programmes are in most cases long-term commitments implemented over several years. They include building and developing knowledge, skills and tools aimed at strengthening institutional capacity to promote, respect, protect and fulfill human rights in line with the state's international commitments.

The international system for human rights provides the basis for the activities, which are implemented on regional as well as on bilateral level. Education and training, curricula development, literature support, opportunities for networking and exchange, support to the establishment of resource centres and advice in management and organisational matters are all important components generally of the programmes.

The Institute is carrying out programme activities in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. In addition to the activities carried out from the Institute's head office in Lund programmes are also implemented from the Institute's offices abroad, which are based in Amman, Beijing, Istanbul, Jakarta och Nairobi. The

programmes are developed and implemented in close cooperation with local partners.

During the 20 years that the Institute so far has been implementing international programmes there are many positive results.

- Out of the approximately 130 students from developing countries who have been awarded scholarships for attending the master's programme in international human rights law in Lund, the vast majority are today in different ways working with human rights within state agencies, international organisations, universities or other academic institutions and civil society organisations.
- In 2004, the Institute supported the establishment of the first academic programme in human rights at post-graduate level in China. The support provided by the Institute to Chinese academic institutions in general over the last ten years has contributed to the number of university human rights courses in China increasing from a handful to around 90 today.
- The Institute has over the last 15 years strengthened the capacity of more than 20 national human rights commissions in Africa and Asia, thus strengthened these institutions' capacity to promote and protect human rights.
- Through the work of the Institute, human rights has been further incorporated into the education and training for correctional officers in Indonesia as well as in Kenya with the aim to ultimately strengthen the protection of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty.

These are but a few of the many results achieved through RWI's international programmes and which have been possible due to the Institute's long-term and confidence-building work on the basis of a combination of theory and practice in the area of human rights.

Library

The Institute maintains one of Northern Europe's largest research libraries in international law, with emphasis on international human rights law and related areas. Today, the library contains approximately 30.000 volumes and with this collection and a growing access to electronic material, the library is an invaluable resource for researchers, teachers and students. The library is a reference library and is also open to the public.

About Raoul Wallenberg

The Institute is named after Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat and humanitarian who during later stages of the 2nd world war rescued tens of thousands of Jews in Nazi-occupied Hungary from the Holocaust. On January 17, 1945, in connection with meeting with the approaching Soviet Red Army Raoul Wallenberg was detained by Soviet authorities and subsequently disappeared. Although several speculations and investigations, until today his fate remains unknown.

Raoul Wallenberg's name is immediately associated with outstanding individual courage, humanity and decisiveness and for the Institute it is an honour to bear his name and to work in his spirit.