

RAOUL WALLENBERG INSTITUTE

OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW

**Year in Review
2020**

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This is RWI

RWI Around the World

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About Raoul Wallenberg

Who we are

We carry out research based on multi-disciplinary methods using data from the countries we work in and the projects we are involved in.

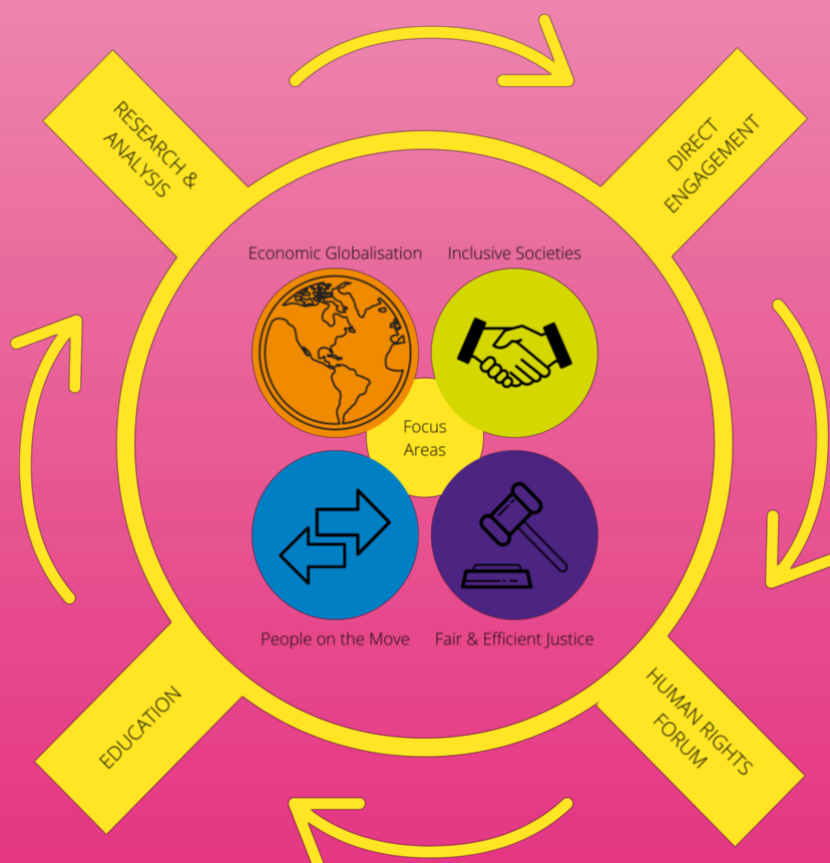
We work in a systematic manner in direct partnership with institutions and organisations to develop capacity to improve the practical application of human rights.

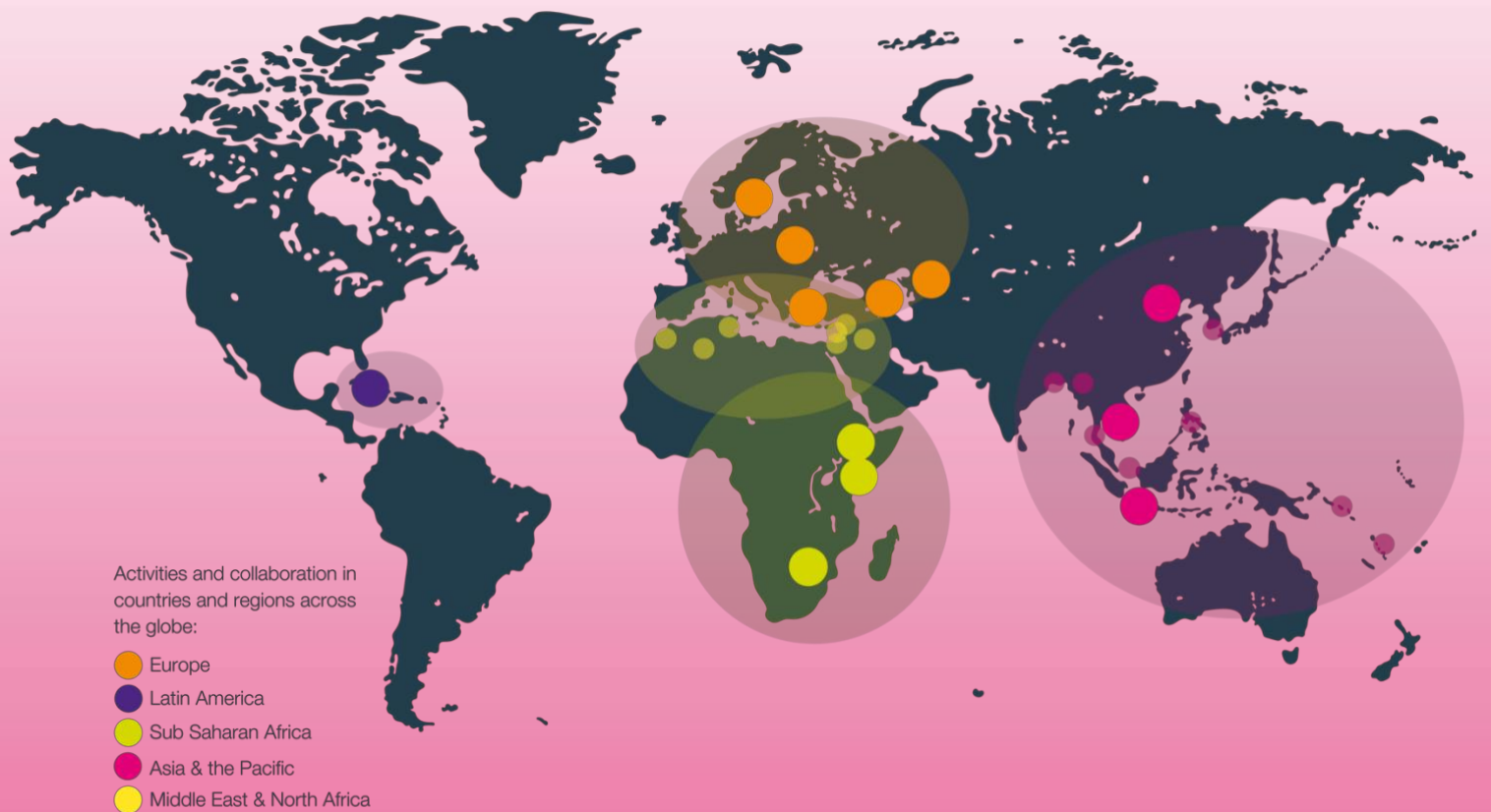
We bring together policy-makers, experts and other human rights professionals to engage in solution-oriented dialogue to advance human rights.

Where we work

We were established in 1984 at Lund University, one of the world's top 100 rated universities. Together with the Faculty of Law in Lund, we offer one of the world's top rated Master Programmes in Human Rights. We are an independent academic institution that has offices, programmes and convening power covering more than 40 countries.

We combine evidence-based human rights research with direct engagement to bring about human rights change. As a network-based organisation, we work through strong partnerships.





Mission

To contribute to a wider understanding of, and respect for, human rights and international humanitarian law.

Vision

Just and inclusive societies with the effective realisation of human rights for all.

36 Years

We have advanced the field of human rights and humanitarian law for over 36 years.

Focus

- People on the Move
- Inclusive Societies
- Fair and Efficient Justice
- Economic Globalisation and Human Rights

To celebrate the Human Rights Day in December 2020, we brought together experts, academics and UN Special Rapporteurs to discuss Poverty and Human Rights. We explored the links between human rights, poverty and inequality, and questioned the success of current paradigms.

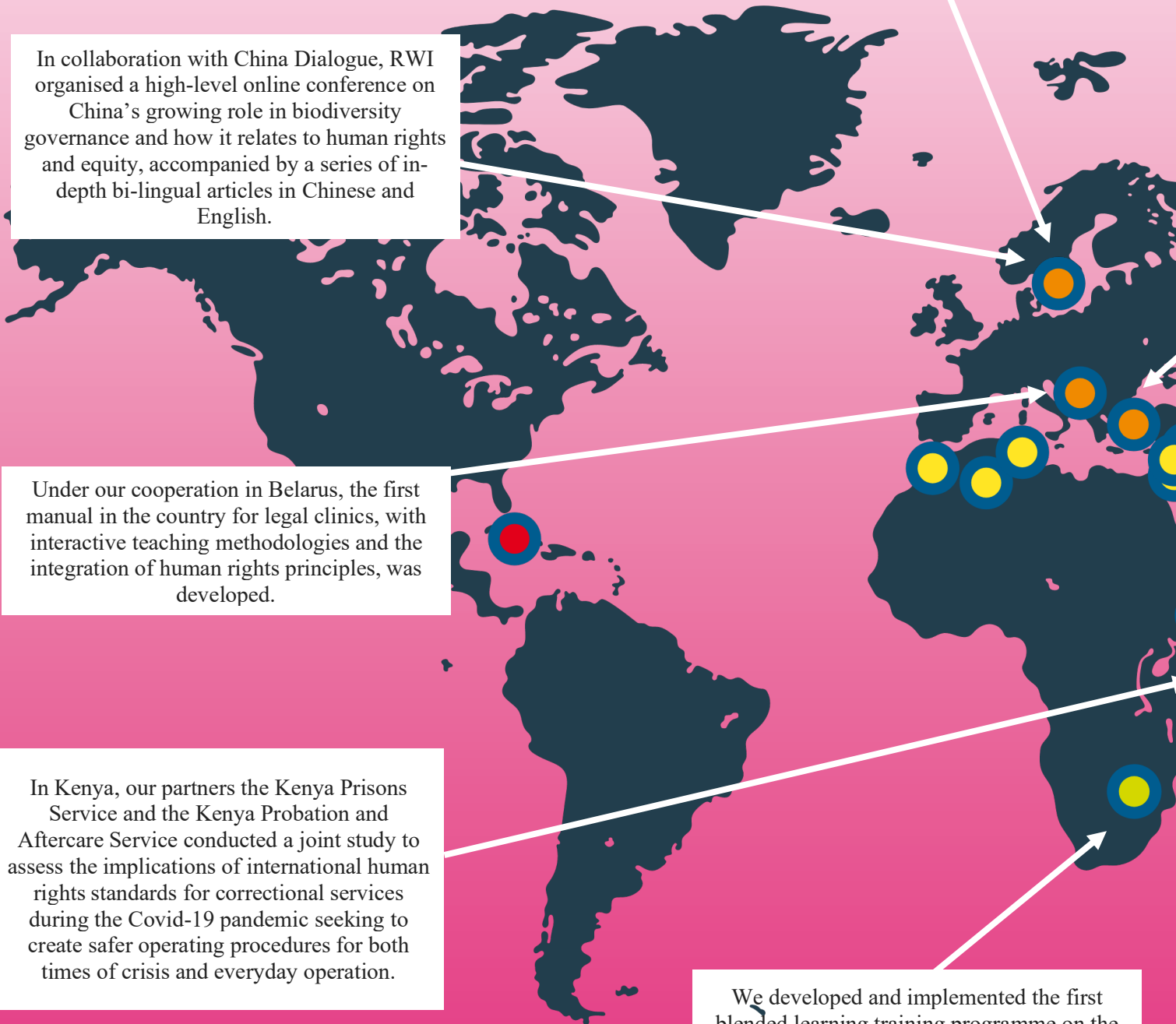
In collaboration with China Dialogue, RWI organised a high-level online conference on China's growing role in biodiversity governance and how it relates to human rights and equity, accompanied by a series of in-depth bi-lingual articles in Chinese and English.

Under our cooperation in Belarus, the first manual in the country for legal clinics, with interactive teaching methodologies and the integration of human rights principles, was developed.

In Kenya, our partners the Kenya Prisons Service and the Kenya Probation and Aftercare Service conducted a joint study to assess the implications of international human rights standards for correctional services during the Covid-19 pandemic seeking to create safer operating procedures for both times of crisis and everyday operation.

We carried out a multi-country research initiative to analyse in particular Covid-19's gendered impacts where RWI partners and researchers in Belarus, Cambodia, China, Turkey and Sub-Saharan Africa conducted studies, addressing a wide variety of themes.

We developed and implemented the first blended learning training programme on the relationship between corruption human rights for the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC). This pilot training was successful and opened the way for further cooperation, formalised in a Memorandum of Understanding between RWI and ZACC.



The so-called Ankara “CityLab” was established in Turkey, in collaboration with Ankara/Çankaya Municipality, Bilkent University, and civil society organisation. The initiative, as a method and platform, aimed to increase participation in the planning and design of inclusive public space and municipal services in line with human rights cities indicators.

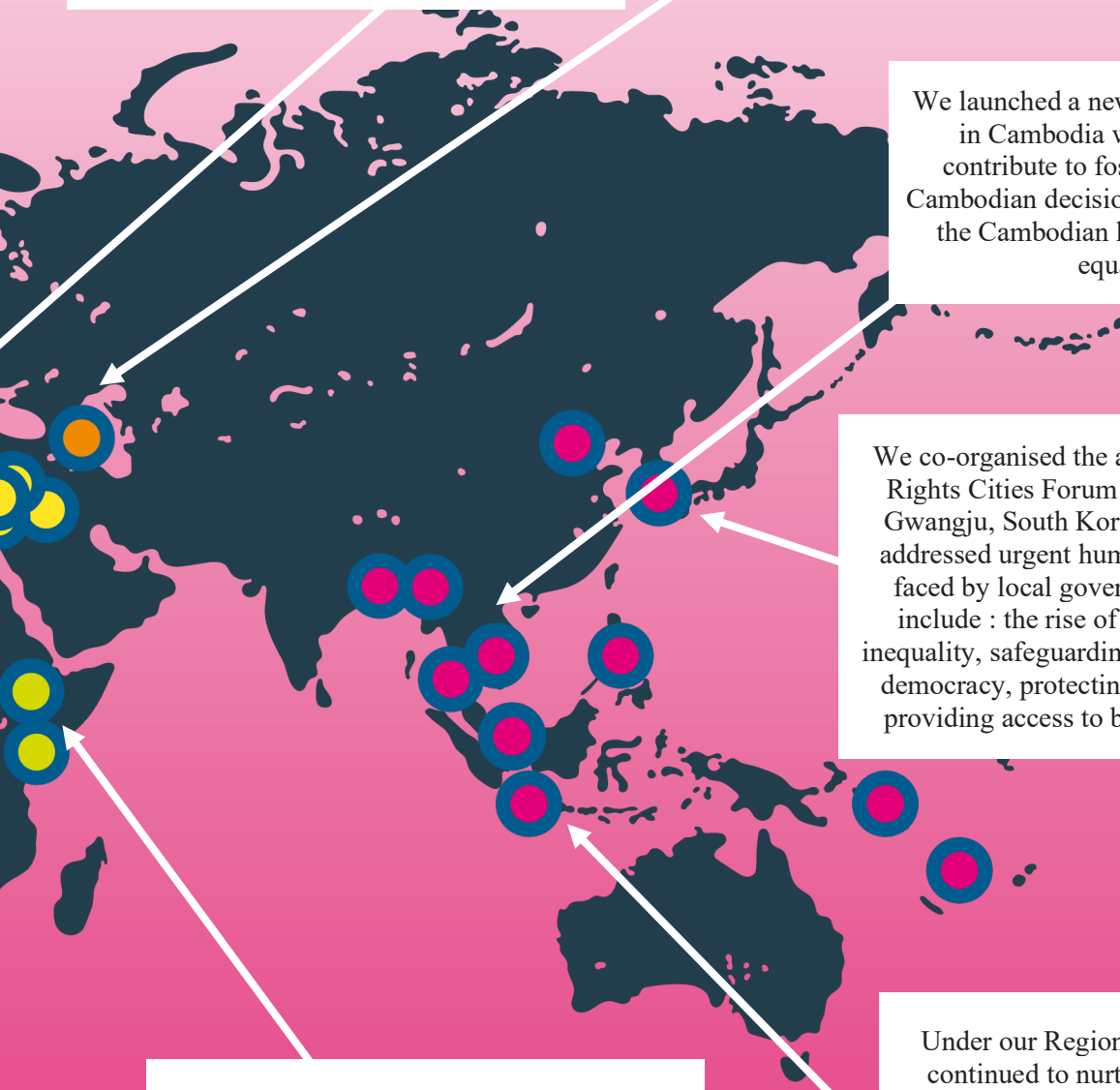
We launched a new two-year cooperation programme in Armenia in support of on-going reforms. This programme focuses on increasing capacities to apply international human rights standards through engagement with various stakeholders, including academia, the judiciary, and civil society.

We launched a new programme (2020-2022) in Cambodia with the overall goal to contribute to foster a next generation of Cambodian decision-makers that can improve the Cambodian human rights and gender equality record.

We co-organised the annual World Human Rights Cities Forum digitally the City of Gwangju, South Korea. The 2020 Forum addressed urgent human rights challenges faced by local governments today. This include : the rise of discrimination and inequality, safeguarding and expanding local democracy, protecting vulnerable groups, providing access to basic services for all.

In cooperation with the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), the EACJ website was upgraded. It now includes, among other things, a live streaming feature. It allows the court proceedings to continue during Covid-19 and the Court to reach out and interact with a wider audience.

Under our Regional Asia Programme, we continued to nurture and grow academic cohorts through partnerships with universities and research institutions in the region. We develop a variety of blended learning courses. They are complemented with strengthened communications, including a social media campaign, on the interlinkages between human rights, gender equality and the environment.



Looking Back at 2020: A Note from Morten Kjaerum, RWI Director

The number - 2020 - had a hopeful ring to it. We were entering a new decade. Unfortunately, however, 2020 turned out to be one of the most dramatic years many of us have ever experienced.

It began with severe bush fires in Australia. Then came the outbreak of an ‘unknown, novel corona virus’ that turned into a pandemic. The year included the killing of George Floyd, followed by global anti-racism protests and ended with the final voting out of President Donald Trump. In between, there were tensions between the US and Iran. The election in Belarus led to major protests that have continued into 2021. Moreover, there was the biggest issue of all: the continuing climate crisis. Despite all of us not travelling anymore, global emissions only dropped by 7%.

Indeed, 2020 was a shocking year.

Covid-19 is a disease that dramatically has changed the way we have lived our lives the past year. As it swept, and still sweeps, through so far having cost the lives of four million people, it has also had dramatic effects on our economies. The pandemic has eradicated years of work against poverty, and increased the level of in-equality in to a level of what some UN agencies name hyper-in-equality.

“The virus does not discriminate” is a sentence that we have heard at times this year. This is certainly not true. The virus has harder hit marginalised groups as catastrophes normally do.

Early on, it was clear that the crisis, that we are still in the midst of, is a resilience test for societies and for governments. It is also a harsh reminder of the importance of protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

RWI during 2020

During the past year, we have sought to address various human rights concerns undertaking a number of activities. We have also worked to support our partners around the world in dealing with challenges that have accelerated in the wake of the corona crisis.

In this edition of the *Year in Review*, you will get a glimpse of some of the Covid-19 related key activities in research, education, and direct engagement that we carried out during 2020.



Although the Covid-19 led to rapidly changed work plans for 2020 the RWI managed as documented in this report to a considerable extent to continue the programs that have been developed in past years.

This could only be realized thanks a very committed, innovative and agile staff that took up the sudden challenges with a great sense of urgency and professionalism. So, a great thanks to them, to our partners and not least the Board of Trustees that always was there to give their support.

I am particularly thankful to our main donor Sida for its great flexibility and understanding during this very difficult year, without which we could not have reached the good outcomes that despite all became the result of our collective efforts.



White Paper

A Note from the Programme Director

2020 was a challenging year for RWI's international programmes given the Covid-19 pandemic. The effects of the pandemic required measures to be taken to, in the first place, protect the health and safety of RWI staff, as well as of cooperation partners and beneficiaries, in relation to the implementation of RWI programmes.

Based on the notion that increased respect for human rights would be the best way to 'fight' the pandemic, considerable work during the year went into adjusting – in view of the challenges posed by Covid-19 to implementation – planned programme interventions to ensure activities would still lead to valuable human rights results. Naturally, many activities were also re-designed to directly deal with human rights consequences of the pandemic.

Since physical interaction in many instances proved impossible, a considerable part of programme adjustments concerned increased digitalisation of the work, being mindful of the technological conditions prevailing in different areas of operation. Online learning methods and tools were scaled up, and many of the innovative solutions put in place are likely to remain important features of future RWI work.

Wrapping up and starting new

We started new programmes in Cambodia, Cuba (within the framework of a programme coordinated by the International Legal Assistance Consortium – ILAC) and Armenia, respectively.

External reviews were finalised during the year of the RWI programmes in Zimbabwe and Turkey, respectively. In both cases, the reviews established many positive results while also providing valuable insights in terms of lessons learned for future improvement of programmes.

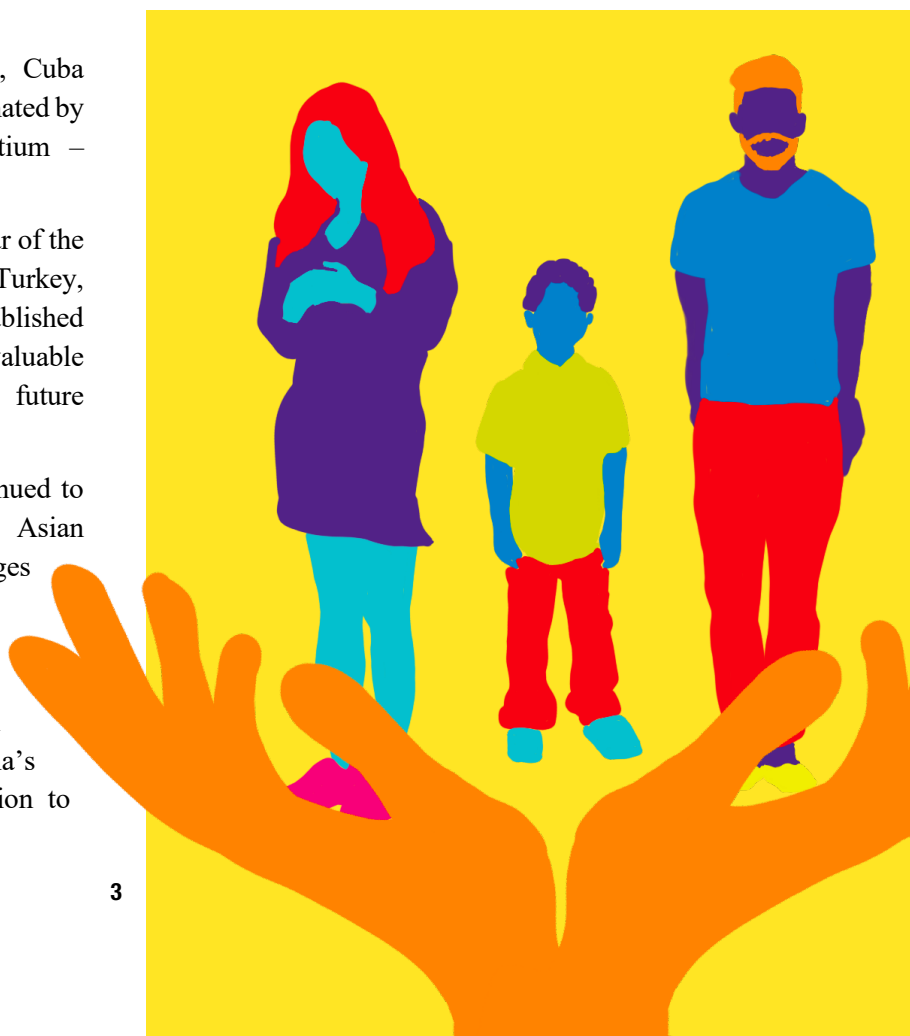
Regionally in Asia and the Pacific, we continued to address, including in cooperation with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, the interlinkages between human rights, disaster risk reduction, gender equality, environment and sustainable development in various settings. This was further complemented by our programme in China, which increasingly focused on China's role regionally as well as globally in relation to

human rights, environment and sustainable development.

Dramatic events during 2020

2020 saw unrest and violence in Ethiopia and Belarus. The developments in Belarus coincided with a phase out and closure of long-standing RWI cooperation in the country. We believe that strengthened academic capacities on human rights and gender equality will now provide the tools to deal with future human rights challenges in Belarus."

Notwithstanding developments in Ethiopia, the Institute could carry on with its cooperation with the Center for Human Rights at Addis Ababa University.



In the Middle East and North Africa region, RWI continued cooperation, under the auspices of a programme coordinated by ILAC, with a focus on enhancing human rights capacity with primarily judicial training institutes.

Regionally in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Institute engaged in cooperation with key regional actors able to follow up the implementation of human rights commitments as well as in direct cooperation with regional institutions to promote such implementation.

Bilaterally in Kenya, RWI continued cooperation on enhancing compliance with international human rights standards in the management of Kenya's correctional system, including through supporting more human rights responsive and coordinated approaches in the administration of justice.

Unless otherwise indicated, all the cooperation and programmes mentioned above were financially supported by Swedish development cooperation.

Johannes Eile
Programme Director

Spring 2021



External Assessments: What We Achieved in Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Turkey

In 2020, external evaluations* of three RWI programmes in Kenya, Zimbabwe and Turkey were completed. The common findings were that all three programmes were very relevant in relation to their contexts and needs. Also, all of the programmes were considered to have achieved expected results at different levels. According to the evaluators, these are some of the reasons that RWI is being referred to as a “trustful, professional, respected, and highly appreciated partner.”

One of the strengths of the RWI Kenya programme was said to be its “constructive and long-term cooperation with partners and its participatory approach to programme design” which provided for strong local ownership, and greater effectiveness and efficiency promoting sustainability.

The Zimbabwe programme was assessed as “very coherent and clear with highly effective implementation” and that it had “contributed to overcoming and debunking stereotypes and myths and building new relations between actors...”.

Regarding the Turkey programme, evaluators concluded: “RWI has under very difficult circumstances succeeded to foster and develop relationships and partnerships and accomplished tangible results in line with its strategic objective”.

The lessons learned from the Turkey programme are of special interest. The evaluation highlighted how RWI “was able to re-orient and re-module their programme under extremely difficult conditions and yet establish new partnerships for human rights in a highly polarised country”.

The lessons learned from this experience are expected to be of use for not only RWI, but also other

organisations supporting human rights in challenging contexts.

Areas of Improvement

The evaluators concluded that, in terms of areas of possible improvement, RWI could further focus on certain aspects of systems, methods, and tools for monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

To support development of these areas, RWI in 2020 established a new Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) position. A Senior Advisor attached to RWI programmes will focus on MEAL and how RWI programme work can be further improved in this respect. Leading this work, the Advisor will aim to complement some of the programme functions already in place. Through this position, RWI has also planned to increase cross-programme and departmental activities.

Moreover, the development of an organisational Theory of Change during 2021 is expected to, in addition to informing the work with a new organisational strategy, further improve the institute’s MEAL framework and enable critical reflection and learning.

** Carried out by: The Stockholm Policy Group (Zimbabwe and Turkey) and the Human Rights Implementation Centre at the University of Bristol Law School and the Centre for Criminology and University of Oxford (Kenya).*

Belarus in Review: Summarising Ten Years of Activities

In Belarus, the regime silences and sanctions most human rights debates. Over the last 12 years, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute has aspired to engage individuals and communities on human rights issues to enable positive change gradually through dialogue instead of isolation and to transfer human rights knowledge across society in more accessible ways.

The Belarus Programme has hence targeted Belarusian academics in various capacities — to increase their ability to produce localised human rights knowledge and expand awareness, in dialogue with stakeholders and other members of society.

2020 has seen turbulent developments. The 2020 presidential election was marked by large-scale protests and the repression of human rights activists by local Belarusian authorities. The political

developments restricted the Institute's decade-long engagement in Belarus. This influenced *Sida*'s decision to freeze the programme's remaining funds.

Limited resources, a challenging political situation, and the Covid-19 pandemic restricted the envisioned activities of the programme. Nevertheless, 2020 should be acknowledged as an effort to conclude engagement as responsibly as possible.



The programme has successfully worked to:

(1) Increase the capacity of Belarusian academics to produce human rights education and research, and to engage with other actors. Help provide more opportunities for academics and students to interact with their international peers through events held in Belarus and abroad:

- Over 4000 copies of human rights and gender publications were distributed to Belarusian teachers and students. In addition, over 1000 online resources are now available through the LibGuide, an open-source human rights database, and Gender Catalogue at the Fundamental Library of the Belarusian State University.

(2) Establish the *Human Rights Centre* at the Belarus State University in Minsk. The Centre has become a platform for academics from across Belarus to produce research on human rights and gender equality.

- At the Centre over 60 researchers applied human rights principles to research across seventeen disciplines, including: law, medicine, tourism and technology.

(3) Provide more opportunities for academics and students to interact with international peers through events held in Belarus and abroad.

- International expertise on human rights and gender equality has been brought to over 1000 students at universities across Belarus. Lectures and seminars provided by RWI visiting lecturers were, in many cases, the very first occasion for universities to host an international professor.

(4) Contribute to the creation of a sound and diverse community of academics promoting human rights and gender equality. This community enables knowledge-sharing and best practices. In addition to mutual support across universities and professions — be it deans, teachers, researchers, legal clinicians, students or librarians. Nowadays, it is also a strong solidarity network, given the external factors hindering further collaboration on human rights in Belarus.

Our achievements are the result of long-term engagement and partnership building. As the RWI's Director of the Europe Office, Zuzana Zalanova notes, "this is perhaps the biggest lesson we have learnt in Belarus that can be beneficial for similar activities elsewhere". We believe our continuous engagement with Belarus was a meaningful and crucial contribution to human rights knowledge-transfer among thousands of Belarusians.

"During the protests of last year, many of our local experts and partners spoke out in favour of respect for human rights. Some faced detention, forced resignation or expulsion from their universities — as a result of expressing their opinions."

Zalanova says.

"The political situation remains extremely challenging for many actors across society and those affiliated with the RWI programme. Indeed, it challenges the local continuation of our initiated activities. We are humbled by the continuous commitment of our partners to cooperation on human rights education and knowledge-transfer, which has enabled us to achieve and sustain many of the impressive results despite these difficulties."

Last years' experience demonstrates the long-lasting results of over a decade's work in Belarus. It also highlights the need for continuing support for local academics on human rights. In light of global patterns which repress academic freedom, devalue academic knowledge and politically repress students and academics. Support to academia is now important more than ever.



RWI Africa Programmes: Our New Director Shares Highlights

2020 was an interesting year full of both challenges and accomplishments for all of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute's programmes and programme offices. We talked to our new Director of the RWI Nairobi Office, Rakel Larsen, to learn about her journey coming to the RWI, and to gain some insights into what 2020 was like for the Regional Africa Programme (RAP), the Kenya Programme, and the Ethiopia Programme.

Meet Rakel Larsen: Director of the Nairobi Office

Rakel Larsen joined the Nairobi Office in December of 2020, bringing with her experience working in human rights in a number of capacities, especially examining how the promotion of human rights relates to different marginalized groups. Her background of studies in human rights and refugee law, led her to work in the areas refugees and displacement. These areas connect to the promotion of access to justice and protection of rights, the intersection of which has always been Larsen's area of interest. Prior to her arrival at RWI, Larsen worked in the humanitarian sector.

"Working in the sector was hands-on and very rewarding [...] but I thought it would be interesting to work with human rights from a different angle. I was attracted to the broad mandate at RWI, encapsulating a multi-dimensional and multi-faceted approach to the global promotion of rights and access to justice."

Rakel Larsen, Director of the Nairobi Office.

She appreciates the way that the Institute collaborates with many actors when working with human rights standards, from academic institutions and organisations to mechanisms on the individual level: "I believe that working with institutions from different angles allows for more sustainable changes to be implemented within the regions we work with", she says.

Larsen also shared how the programmes she works with complement each other greatly: "It has been interesting to see how there are similarities among the programmes and how partners work together across boundaries. For instance, the Regional Africa Programme works with many academics, institutions, and supports regional actors in crafting policies, while the Kenya Programme offers an especially hands-on approach with tangible goals through their work with services involved in improving performance within the Kenyan correctional services system", she says.

Goals for the Programmes

In terms of main goals as Director of the Nairobi office, Larsen hopes to continue to nurture the partnerships created within the three programmes into the coming years. "For instance, within the Ethiopia programme, I hope that though the programme is ending, that the partnerships and collaboration forged in the region continue in new forms", she says. Looking to the future, Larsen hopes to continue furthering her passion for researching in the area of 'People on the Move.' She aims to do more work in the area of human rights and displacement.

Achievements in 2020

Larsen spoke on the interesting work carried out within the Regional Africa Programme (RAP). “The objective of the RAP programme is to look at strengthening human rights commitments by working with a wide range of different actors”, she says. In the programme, the team works with regional mechanisms (such as the African Union and Court of Justice), with economic communities and with stakeholders that hold the regional mechanisms accountable (such as the Alliance for the Courts).

“These partnerships are diverse and interesting and will contribute to the longevity and sustainability of the accomplishments in the region”, Larsen says.

One of the highlights from 2020 she mentioned was a Basic Human Rights Training for correctional officers from Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and Kenya, which RWI organized together with the East Africa Community, and in the end delivered online: “This was a concrete example of how the RWI experience gained through the Kenya Programme was transmitted to a sub-regional level facilitating exchanges and learning across the member states”, she says.

Another result from the RAP, which Larsen found notable, was the update of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) Website.

Challenges in 2020

With these prominent achievements in mind, Larsen also shared the challenges the programmes faced in the midst of changing plans and infrastructures during the onset of Covid-19. “For all programmes”, she explained, “we had to modify the plans.” Different lockdowns and restrictions in different countries made it difficult to predict how the situation would evolve and taking previously in-



person programming and transferring it to online infrastructure was difficult.

Larsen shared that “coming up with alternative ways of carrying out the duties of the Institute were more challenging in some programmes than others”. For example, the Kenya program is hands-on in working with prison correctional services, and in-person visits to correctional facilities are of great importance.

“But, coming up with alternative ways of carrying out the duties of the programmes was one of the biggest achievements of 2020. Despite all of the challenges, partners were able to change to online activities and able to deliver trainings online instead of in-person”, she says. “Many partners used the time to build platforms around new resources within the changing circumstances presented by Covid19.”



Looking to the Future

In her position, Larsen hopes to look into new partnerships, and to expand existing relationships within the regions, even outside of the boundaries of the programmes she works on: “I am interested to see how we can expand the expertise gained from the Kenya Programme in terms of correctional services. We could potentially take insights gained in Kenya and transfer them to other countries.”

Across the board, Larsen hopes to move toward the sustainability element of the programmes, and to make concrete plans to ensure infrastructure and partnerships that promote longevity within the programmes. Part of this would be working on a sub-national strategy approach to rights, and to see how looking at sub-national needs and issues could play a role in creating sustainable relationships.

For more information in our activities in the Regional Africa Programme, please contact:
rakel.larsen@rwi.lu.se

RWI Cambodia: A New Director Takes the Lead

Our work in Cambodia focuses on the young generation; future leaders and decision-makers in companies, politics, and in administration. To reach this group, we collaborate closely with universities, research centres, and judicial training academies.



“The programme adds great value in Cambodia and has a strong focus on human rights education and research at academic institutions”, says Ali Al-Nasani, new RWI Director of Office in Cambodia since early 2020. Focusing on the next generation in

Cambodia is key. More than two thirds of the Cambodian population is below 30 years of age. Also, the country still suffers from the entire educational system having been ruined during the Khmer Rouge period 1975-1979.

With our activities in Cambodia, RWI works to help a number of selected academic institutions develop and deliver high-quality human rights education and research. We also support them in creating and providing an academic platform for human rights debates and dialogue, which is key to democratic development.

“For many years, RWI has successfully established a human rights education programme at Cambodian universities. Coming from a human rights background myself, I was happy to take over the position as Director of the Cambodia Office in 2020.

Building on the successful work of my predecessors at RWI, we currently support five universities and provide scholarships targeting in particular young female law students coming from vulnerable families. We fund translation of educational material from English into Khmer, and publish human rights material in Khmer. We also provide grants for research and support libraries in developing their human rights sections.”

Just when Al-Nasani started at the Cambodia office, Covid-19 started spreading: “We rapidly had to adjust activities, plans, and forecasts. But, I am happy to say that our team managed to turn challenges into opportunities and we all learned a lot while moving forward”.

Al-Nasani thinks back at some of the most interesting things that happened during 2020: “I believe that that one of the highlights, was the online conference on business and human rights with international participation and highly qualified contributions from panelists and participants”, he says.



Prior to joining RWI, Al-Nasani led the Phnom Penh office of a German foundation promoting women’s rights and gender equality in Cambodia.

“During those years, I learned that it is important to create a programme that includes different groups and stakeholders. Diversity is the key to success.” Al-Nasani says.

In the past, he has also worked for Amnesty International as well as the respective Human Rights Committees in the European Parliament and in the German Parliament.

“Now, I am looking forward to taking up new activities with RWI Cambodia such as LGBTIQ+ rights or the cooperation with the Indigenous Peoples Lawyer Groups”, he says and concludes.

“We’ve been operating in Cambodia since 2013. Our main aim is still the same; to implement a human rights capacity development programme that strengthens the environment for human rights promotion and protection in Cambodia.”

Ali Al-Nasani, Director of the Cambodia Office

Hanna Johnsson: New Position, New MEAL System

MEAL stands for ‘monitoring evaluation accountability and learning’. A MEAL officer tracks progress, assesses results, and suggests changes. A MEAL advisor can contribute to fostering change and helping the organisation develop and learn. At RWI, Hanna Johnsson, is the new MEAL officer in place since mid-2020.

Hanna is currently working on creating an RWI approach to MEAL. About this, she says: “It is important not get stuck with one method no matter what, but rather to find a way of monitoring and evaluating that really works for RWI. This might change over time, too. As we improve our system for MEAL, we will let various methods inspire us. It is key that the way we do it will be easy for everyone to understand and to adopt.” Hanna is interested in measuring not only tangible results, but also to see what difference our work makes in the long term. We would like to know if we contributed to a positive change and improvement of the human rights situation.



“Do people work differently thanks to the knowledge that we helped them gain?’ ‘What happened to the participants we trained five to ten years ago?’ ‘What difference did our interventions make for people? Or how can we make sure they do?’ I would like us to become even better at answering these questions.”

Hanna Johnsson, RWI Meal Advisor

Toward a cohesive approach

A crucial step towards knowing how to follow up results long term, is to put a unified system for monitoring and evaluation to use across all programmes in place. “With my new position, we will aim to streamline the process for MEAL – with a system that would work, more or less, for all of our programmes, no matter geography or focus”, she says.

Sharing knowledge also includes sharing results with external stakeholders – underlining what we have achieved: “Learning from and sharing our results is investing in future projects”, Hanna believes. Hanna Johnsson will also support the organisation in becoming more adaptive and agile: “To use a buzzword from my line of work, I would like us to become better at so-called ‘adaptive programming’”. This means that we might have to change plans along the way, to adapt to changes in the political and socio-economic operating environment.” This is where the “learning should come in” she concludes.

RWI Professor Joins the United Nations as Special Rapporteur

This year Gerard Quinn, our affiliated Professor and the previous Raoul Wallenberg Chair of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, was appointed UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The celebrated appointment follows Professor Quinn's previous roles as Vice President of the Council of Europe's treaty monitoring body on social rights, as a temporary civil servant in the European Commission and as Director of Research in the Irish Government's Law Reform Commission. He drafted the leading 2002 UN Study (supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs) that helped start negotiations on the UN Disability Treaty and led global human rights commissions during the final stages of negotiation. Quinn is a professor of law at the University of Leeds.

At the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Quinn has worked closely with Senior Researcher Anna Bruce on international disability rights. Recently they worked together on our 2021 publication *The Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons in a Pandemic: Findings from Two Studies Conducted in China*. Professor Quinn further contributed with an important article to the book co-edited by Morten Kjaerum: *Covid-19 and Human Rights* published at Routledge.



Working to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and further the realisation of human rights, he notes three pressing thematic areas for future research:

“Firstly, **the fragility of support systems**. Not just for people with disabilities but also for older people around the world. Once the support paradigm was kicked away in the pandemic, people were exposed to many, many risks.

The second would be **unequal treatment when it comes to health care**. Access to, for example, ventilators, and now the rationing of vaccines around the world. Inequality in the healthcare system has been with us for a long time, but it has been cruelly exposed by the pandemic.

And finally, the **heightened exposure to risk because of institutionalisation**. Particularly [as] the majority of the COVID-19 deaths have occurred in these congregated institutionalised settings around the world, and that is very problematic.”

Gerard Quinn emphasises that the Raoul Wallenberg Institute has given space and encouragement to primary researchers internationally. He celebrates the *Covid-19 & Human Rights* publication, and he notes that the last year's research in China was able to "[bring] together an exceptionally good interdisciplinary team, whose insights are quite fantastic and have exposed the raw edges of the pandemic." Indeed, he underscores that the project provides granularity to primary research collection in the time of the pandemic, and some positive news — that service providers are radically rethinking how they provide for disabled and older persons in a more continuous and stable manner.

Quinn celebrates the intersection of research at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute with the UN mandate, and we celebrate his new appointment. The RWI's Director, Morten Kjaerum adds, "We are proud and happy that Gerard Quinn has assumed his functions in this important role. Thanks to his extensive knowledge in disability rights, human rights in general, and rich experience from the everyday realities for persons with disabilities he will make an excellent Special Rapporteur. We look forward to supporting him in his task where there is still a long way to achieving the goals."



FAIR AND EFFICIENT JUSTICE



The background of the slide features two abstract paintings. The top painting has a green field with white and black shapes. The bottom painting is a geometric composition of teal, yellow, and dark purple. A white cable runs diagonally across the bottom painting, and a small concrete block is at the bottom center.

Highlights within “Fair and Efficient Justice”

2020 was a critical year for RWI’s work in the field of ‘Fair and Efficient Justice’ despite – and also because of – the Covid-19 pandemic. We had to postpone or adjust numerous planned activities. Many of them were taken online: a tough prospect when the Institute’s approach to justice sector capacity development emphasises hands-on, practical training. The pandemic has proven particularly challenging for our various partnerships with correctional services internationally, with access to prisons generally restricted.

Nonetheless, RWI and partners were able to achieve many significant results during the course of the year.

Highlights included the establishment of a new programme in Armenia, cooperating *inter alia* with the Ministry of Justice on fulfilment of the National Human Rights Action Plan, as well as with academic institutions on clinical legal education. In Cambodia, judge- and prosecutor-students were trained in fair trial rights, including gender equality.

The Institute also developed a course on fair trial rights for the Academy of the General Prosecutor’s Office of Uzbekistan. “We further sought to respond to the justice-related human rights challenges presented by the pandemic,” Josh adds. “This included developing research-driven policy briefs in Kenya, Zimbabwe and regionally in East Africa on the implications for fulfilment of international standards in the justice sector.”

Towards post-pandemic improvements

Looking forward, RWI will continue to develop its work on Fair and Efficient Justice in 2021, including through further expansion of its cooperation on clinical legal education in countries from Armenia to Zimbabwe, by way of Cambodia, Cuba, Ethiopia, Sweden, and beyond.

“While criminal justice cooperation will remain difficult due to the ongoing restrictions, we are currently mapping and analysing developments in the countries where we work”, says Josh, “this to inform future programming geared towards helping ensure that lessons learned from the crisis are translated into new and improved human rights practices post-pandemic.”

We also look forward to contributing to the development of proposed new international human rights standards on the reduction of reoffending, with implications across the spectrum of justice sector agencies.

“The pandemic ‘pause’ also proved a perfect opportunity for RWI to focus in Kenya on regulatory frameworks, supporting the government to develop a progressive new national correctional services policy aligned with relevant human rights standards.”

Josh Ounsted, Head of the Thematic Area ‘Fair and Efficient Justice’

RWI Starts a New Programme in Armenia

Armenia, a small mountainous country in the South Caucasus, has recently embarked on ambitious reform processes. The 2018 “Velvet Revolution” provided a window of opportunity for change. But, it also highly polarised the Armenian society around a number of human rights issues, such as domestic violence and LGBT rights.

Further destabilisation and polarisation came in 2020 with the re-escalation of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and Covid-19 pandemic. Armenia’s impressive reform agenda consequently faces delays, insufficient application in practice and a risk of its discontinuation due to political factors. This reiterates the need for human rights awareness and the compliance with international human rights standards in both design and implementation of reforms.

The complex situation requires a complex response. “Building on our expertise and experience from other contexts, we work with various actors to integrate international human rights standards and contribute to reform” says Zuzana Zalanova, the RWI Director of the Europe Office. “Specifically, we contribute to two areas of research and reform.



Firstly, we work with academic institutions and affiliated professionals, to increase the capacity to produce and disseminate human rights knowledge.

Secondly, we work with justice sector representatives to integrate international human rights standards in the implementation of the respective reform processes. Finally, we support collaboration of actors from across sectors, such as academia and civil society, to discuss, analyse, and address key human rights issues in Armenia.” “We hope to contribute to the ongoing initiatives, such as *National Human Rights Action Plan*, and existing educational and research activities,” says, Zalanova.

“We also intend to initiate catalytic interventions, such as collaborative research on human rights, which can multiply in the future.” RWI will establish

partnerships with both local and international stakeholders that will enable us to sustain results of our work in Armenia and scale it up in the future.

When Zalanova was in Armenia, the resilience of its citizens, despite the many turbulent developments in their country, inspired her:

“Another striking feature I observed was the intersection between the progressive and the traditional, which transcends in many layers of the Armenian society. I hope that the desire for change recently expressed by many Armenians in 2018 can make the most of their strengths while addressing some of the pressing human rights issues in their country, such as women’s rights.”

In 2021, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute’s Programme activities will focus on three directions:

- Firstly, providing expertise to Armenia’s Ministry of Justice to support implementation of the country’s *National Human Rights Action Plan*. This concerns addressing torture by law enforcement officials, protection of persons engaged in human rights activities, children’s rights and other topics.
- Secondly, helping develop clinical legal education initiatives at the Yerevan State University and the American University of Armenia to contribute to legal aid provision — through engagement with vulnerable groups and integration of principles based on human rights and gender equality.
- Finally, working with the local universities to support their human rights educational programmes. In addition to research on human rights based on collaboration of Armenian academics and representatives of civil society.

“Armenia’s highly polarised society needs reforms. It also needs institutions that are depersonalised, legitimate, and inclusive. To make this a reality, human rights principles should be included in the reform design and implementation, discussed by a wide range of stakeholders, and more integrated in educational and research activities - as these help shape opinions of influential parts of Armenian society and future implementers of the reforms. Our aim is to contribute to these efforts.”

Zuzana Zalanova, Director of the Europe Office

HUMAN RIGHTS AND COVID19



How States Better Can Handle Pandemics in the Future

An analysis of national policies and legal frameworks in cooperation with the OHCHR

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, national policies and responses included numerous restrictions. Many of these risk becoming permanent. In the long run, some may affect the protection and enjoyment of human rights. Dr. Matthew Scott, Senior Researcher and Thematic Lead for the focus area People on the Move at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, undertook a pilot study called *“National Covid-19 law and policy in a human rights perspective”*, together with a number of researchers based in Lund and in Geneva.

Can you tell us a bit about why?

When the World Health Organization declared Covid -19 a pandemic in March 2020, we quickly began considering the wide-ranging human rights implications. One of the concerns we had was that states would take steps to try to prevent the spread of infection without carefully considering the implications of such measures for the enjoyment of human rights. We also recognized that other states would use the pandemic as a pretext for restricting civil and political rights, such as freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.

With the support of the *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark*, we worked together with the UN Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to examine the measures states across Asia, Africa, and Latin America were taking in response to the pandemic.

What approach did you decide to use to undertake the study?

In order to ensure a robust and systematic analysis, we developed a human rights-based tool informed by the Secretary General’s Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to Covid -19. This tool underlines issues like access to information, protection from gender-based violence, access to healthcare, health and safety at work, amongst others.

We identified fourteen countries based on a number of considerations, including status on the Development Assistance Committee list and presence and networks of RWI and OHCHR. Countries included, amongst others, Ethiopia, Kenya, Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and India.



Above you mentioned that you decided to undertake a Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to carry out the research. What does that mean in this case?

The human rights-based approach to development cooperation was consolidated in a UN Common Understanding document in 2003. Departing from this, we focused in this research on core human rights principles, including non-discrimination and equality, proportionality, transparency and accountability, as well as key standards and guidelines relating to the substantive rights themselves.

The pandemic affects a range of substantive human rights beyond the right to health, especially when measures taken to limit its spread are taken into account. Rights to freedom of movement, social security, shelter, food, liberty and security of the person, access to information. Many more are directly impacted by legal and policy measures adopted to limit the spread of Covid-19.

Even though the main purpose of the research was to examine the human rights implications of national legal and policy responses to Covid -19, the main aim was to develop a vision of what states might start to think about in terms of a more robust pandemic preparedness and response framework moving forward.

To frame this vision in one sentence, I would say that the aim of a human rights-based approach to pandemic preparedness and response is the progressive realisation of an inclusive, multi-level, multi-stakeholder framework.

It reflects:

- The duty of States to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of all persons within their jurisdiction
- Cross-cutting principles of participation and non-discrimination and equality
- The principle of the rule of law
- Principles of necessity and proportionality
- Specific guidance relating to the scope of particular rights, such as the right to health, freedom of movement, right to information, and so forth"

[Read more](#) on what a human rights-based approach means.

What were the findings?

“Focusing on the ten key issues identified in the UN Secretary General’s Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to Covid -19, we identified a number of areas of concern, but also noted promising practices that reflected a commitment to protecting the human rights of people in the context of the pandemic.”

One of the key areas of concern related to the lack of safeguards built into some of the legal and policy measures developed to respond to the pandemic.

Many documents granted far-reaching powers to government authorities, without clearly defining the scope and limitations of these powers. For instance, so measures granted authorities power to conduct forcible medical examinations and treatment on individuals suspected of being infected with Covid -19.

As none of the countries in the study adopted an expressly human rights-based approach to the pandemic response, legal and policy measures tended to lack systematic consideration of key issues including:

- how to tailor responses to people in situations of particular vulnerability,
- how to ensure access to information, and
- how to balance the public health priority of containing the pandemic against the foreseeable impacts of such containment measures on rights to work, to food, to shelter, to protection from particularly gender-based violence, amongst many others.

However, notwithstanding areas of concern, we also found a range of promising practices, including detailed provisions in some countries for how to address the particular situation of persons with disabilities, children, persons with mental health conditions, amongst others. Broader public health responses that set out to ensure access to critical services were developed in many countries, as were measures to ensure continued access to education for children, protection from eviction, and access to asylum despite general border closures. With multiple issues across 14 countries, the range of insights emerging from this report is extensive.

Moving forward, we make specific recommendations relating to each of the 10 focus areas, as well as some broader recommendations relating to building back better within a human rights-based multi-level pandemic preparedness and response agenda. Some key recommendations include:

- the need to identify and consider the specific rights and needs of people in situations of potential vulnerability in an early stage of a crisis
- to ensure the economic and practical accessibility to the right to health
- to “prevent stigmatisation and the spread of misinformation, through public awareness raising and effectively spreading accurate information pertaining to Covid -19
- for States to invest the maximum of their available resources into both the immediate alleviation of individual suffering caused by the crisis, but also into building functional and equitable systems of social protection for poverty alleviation, the full enjoyment of human rights and equality in the long-term.



Conclusion

Although some states have certainly taken opportunities to curtail human rights in the context of the pandemic, we also see the seeds for future development in most of the countries that we looked at. The states we studied do pay attention to the rights of people in situations of potential vulnerability. There was also a focus on substantive rights and on the access of information. Across all countries, what we see is the scope for a more systematic development of pandemic preparedness and response capabilities.

There is enormous scope for working with a range of actors at national and local levels to better integrate human rights considerations into existing and future legal and policy frameworks, and to strengthen capacities through collaborative research, education and training initiatives.

***“A clear conclusion of this research was that States need to take steps to integrate pandemic preparedness and response measures within a multi-level, multi-stakeholder governance framework, and for such a framework to be informed by human rights principles, as called for under all of the post-2015 development frameworks.*”**

However, it is one thing to call for such action, and something much more challenging to develop in practice.”

Matthew Scott, Senior Researcher at RWI

To further develop what such an approach might look like in practice, and to begin to grapple with the complexities and challenges, we are continuing our collaboration with the OHCHR. In addition, we have partnered with DanChurchAid to undertake a research and knowledge exchange initiative that focuses on how Covid -19 containment measures affected people’s enjoyment of right to health and the right to water in four municipalities in Zimbabwe.

How have you shared the results?

Dissemination of the study

In the follow-up of this project, we organised a webinar with international experts. The report has been widely circulated and findings used extensively by the OHCHR.

[Read the report.](#)

[Check out the webinar.](#)

This project was supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

A Multi-Country Research Initiative: on Covid-19, Gender and Human Rights

Launched in June 2020, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute's multi-programme initiative on Covid-19 and gender equality supported research in six countries. The aim: to create fourteen unique independent research projects surrounding the gendered implications on human rights in the time of Covid-19.



Beginning in June 2020, RWI launched a multi-programme initiative on Covid-19 and gender equality. This multi-country research reflects on the intersection between gender and human rights, and addresses how pre-existing structural inequalities, power asymmetries, and cultural and social norms within various societies shape how marginalized groups are impacted by the ongoing pandemic. Gender was the key dynamic examined within the research.

Sebnem Kenos, Senior Policy Advisor for gender mainstreaming and results-based management at the RWI took the lead on the project.

In order to better understand the human rights implications of Covid-19 through the lens of gender, researchers from RWI's partner universities in six countries - Belarus, Cambodia, China, Ethiopia, Turkey, and Zimbabwe - designed and implemented fourteen independent research projects, each with their own unique findings and recommendations.

Throughout the research and development process, RWI supported the research teams with grants, mentoring support, capacity-building webinars, and editorial support.

The diverse range of researchers presented well-rounded perspectives on the gendered implications of Covid-19 and subsequent lockdowns. As a result of this initiative, RWI's researchers have produced 14 papers. The findings and recommendations will be shared with decision-makers in dialogues to inform the planning and the implementation of effective Covid-19 recovery policies as well as the preparations for similar future crises.

The findings and recommendations stemming from this initiative can be found in two webinars – the first in 2020, and the second in 2021.

Over 200 individuals - including academics, public officials, corporates, representatives of national, regional and international NGOs, students, and staff from multilateral organizations such as United Nations and the Council of Europe - attended the webinars.

Watch the 2020 webinar [here](#).

The key findings from the initiative spanned across multiple areas of gender rights research:

- Researchers in China examined **the support mechanisms available to domestic violence survivors in the time of Covid-19**, finding that stay-at-home measures impacted access to resources and justice for survivors.
- Research in Zimbabwe investigated how **Covid-19 has impeded women's and LGBTI+s' access to such services**, including contraceptives, safe abortion, treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, and other sexual and reproductive services and information.
- Research in China, Zimbabwe, and Ethiopia reveals **reduced incomes caused by loss of jobs and livelihood for women and LGBTI+s** in these contexts, especially for those working within the informal economy.
- Research in Cambodia examined the **gendered impacts of the pandemic on higher education** and found that the pandemic had a disproportionately adverse impact especially on female students coming from rural areas.
- A study in China points out **a rise of unpaid care burdens on women during Covid-19** due to the closure of schools and day-care facilities.
- Research in Ethiopia studied **the impact of Covid-19 on the rights of female children in Ethiopia**, examining how the pandemic has made the predators of sexual abuse during lockdown increasingly become figures closer to home, such as close family members. The research also evaluated the weak legal and institutional framework that has long existed in this area, offering recommendations in response to the findings.

Vulnerable Groups at Risk During a Pandemic

Covid-19 has placed unprecedented challenges on society. Amid the pandemic, persons with disabilities and especially older persons with disabilities have been disproportionately affected. As a result of research undertaken during 2020, the China Programme could present the publication “The Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons in a Pandemic: Findings from two studies conducted in China” early 2021.

The insights the research publication provides are important both in relation to preparing communities for emergencies and for how to create inclusive societies overall. It is important to note that the failure to include the requirements, experiences and knowledge of persons with disabilities and older persons in the design of communal life already existed before the Covid-19 outbreak. However, it has now become acutely visible. With the reduction, and sometimes complete shutdown, of vital services, many persons with disabilities have been left without

human contact, food, and even medicine. There is an urgent need to develop solutions and systems that are more resilient and inclusive in order to reach and protect persons with disabilities and older persons.

In July 2020, RWI launched a research grant within our disability research network in China to address the rights of persons with disabilities and older persons during the COVID-19 pandemic. The result of this grant is the report *The Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons in a Pandemic:*

The report consists of two studies :

The first is *Lessons Learned from Covid-19: A Participatory Action Research Project with People with Disabilities and Seniors in China*. This study explores the experiences of persons with disabilities and older persons during the onset of the pandemic. It documents reported problems, as well as their suggested solutions.

The experiences and knowledge of persons with disabilities and older persons are placed front and centre, with a focus on combining research with action to directly promote their rights. The study reports delayed information, digital divide, and issues with accessing services and healthcare, as well as a lack of accessibility awareness in emergency responses.

The results underscore the urgent need to build a comprehensive emergency response system in which stakeholders, service providers, and policymakers are made aware of the special needs of people with disabilities and seniors.

The second text of the report is entitled *Empowering the community: reflecting on community-based services for persons with disabilities in risks and emergencies*.

The text charts the lack of inclusion of persons with disabilities within their communities, and the shortcomings that were exposed when persons with disabilities re-entered family homes and community settings because of the shutdown of institutionalised and segregated services during Covid-19.

The research gathers the experiences and knowledge of persons with disabilities but also of other key actors for community living such as service providers, family members and (indirectly) neighbors. It is anchored in Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), *Living independently and being included in the community*, providing insight on how to interpret community in such a context, as well the role played by family members in protecting and promoting disability rights in real settings such as the pandemic.

The study underscores that persons with disabilities and their representative organisations must be included in the relevant decision-making processes.

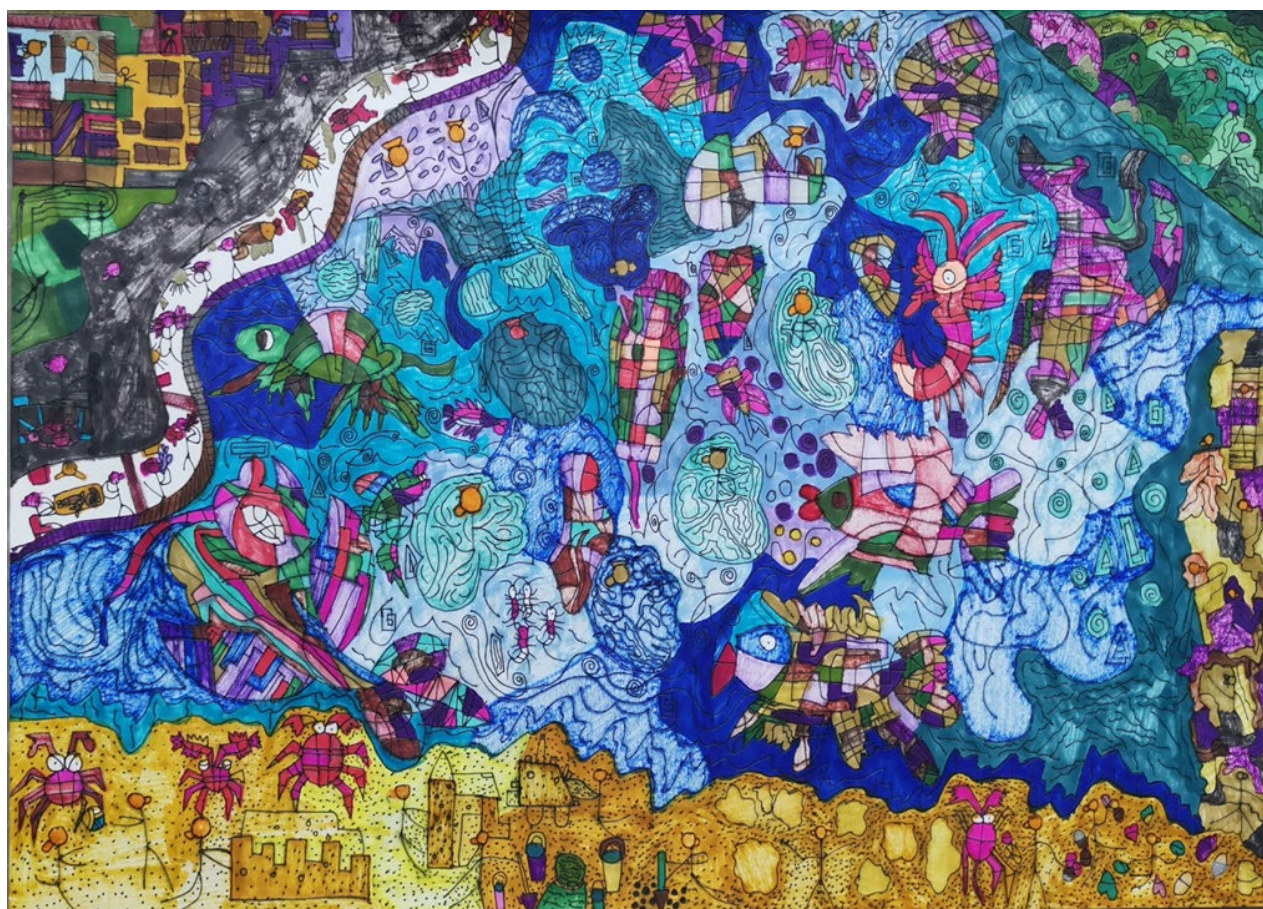
Findings from two studies conducted in China. The report is a collaboration between RWI and two teams of Chinese disability-rights scholars and activists.

The various teams have carried out empirical research on the enjoyment of human rights since the outbreak of Covid-19. The information covers almost every aspect of life, including the enjoyment of a rich plethora of human rights: “The report presents the lived experiences of persons with disabilities and older people, while simultaneously being firmly focused on solutions. All the lessons learned are intended to help prepare for the

continuing impact of Covid-19 and future public crises”, says Malin Oud, Head of Stockholm Office, Director of China Programme, Head of Economic Globalisation and Human Rights Thematic Area. Gerard Quinn, the Raoul Wallenberg Chair of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and as of October 2020 UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, also took part in the project: “I hope and expect that this research will provoke much reflection as well as innovation in China. We all share the vision of building a better and more inclusive future”, he says.

Anna Bruce, Senior Researcher, summarises:

“The research in China confirms what we see on a global scale. Our societies and systems had not made the shift to a human rights approach to persons with disabilities. The existing cracks became abysses during the pandemic. Also, it was not primarily the pandemic as such, but our exclusionary and discriminatory responses to the pandemic which were catastrophic for persons with disabilities. On the bright side, this means we can prevent this from happening again. It is not beyond our control. The research in this report shows us how to move forward. Crucially, it makes plain that persons with disabilities themselves are the experts on their lives and need to lead this process of change.”



The name of the painting is “Xiaoguiwan” (小桂湾), which is a record of Sam’s vacation with his friends in Xiaoguiwan, a resort in Shenzhen, during the pandemic. Sam was very excited by the sandcastles and crabs on the beach, and even the stalls on the roadside. Sam is a 22-year artist with Asperger syndrome from Shenzhen, China.

INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES



Human Rights Cities: Committed to Addressing Human Rights

A human rights city is a place where local government, local parliament, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders are committed to making sure that the city applies international human rights standards. In 2020, RWI co-organized the World Human Rights Cities Forum, a platform where local government, CSOs and other stakeholders from all over the world exchange experiences.



“Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home—so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm, or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination.

Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.”

Eleonore Roosevelt, 1958

Life is in the Cities

It is in cities and local communities that life happens. It is at the local level where social, political and economic issues come into being, where policies are translated into concrete actions, and where rights are vindicate.

A human right city is where institutions will promote, fullfil and protect human rights standards at the local level. In practice this means – among other things – that the city should make sure that its citizens are empowered to understand and claim their rights.

They, especially those marginalised and socially vulnerable, should also fully be able to take part in decision-making and implementation on decisions that have a great impace on their life.

A Human Rights City puts the individual at the centre. Human Rights Cities are a mean to create better policies.

“A Human Rights City is the best way to implement and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”; says Senior Researcher Alejandro Fuentes. “An SDG is a guide and a direction for the future. In this case, we mainly relate to Goal #11: *Make cities and human settlements inclusive, resilient and sustainable.*”

“The Raoul Wallenberg Institute decided to be part of this process six years ago and is actively working with the human rights city concept; for and together with cities.”

Morten Kjaerum, Director of RWI

World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF) 2020

As a part of the work that RWI does in relation human rights cities, the Institute co-organised the World Human Rights Cities Forum 2020 in collaboration with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the city of Gwangju, UNESCO and OHCHR. The conference is the main global forum for local governments to exchange experiences of working with human rights locally.

Since its inception in 2011, the forum is annually hosted by the city of Gwangju – a human rights city. “It is a platform where cities, international organisations experts, human rights organisations, activists and other stakeholders in the field of human rights connect, share knowledge and network”, says Morten Kjaerum, who was both organiser and speaker at the conference.

RWI co-organised and participated in multiple sessions during the 2020 forum. One such session was the panel *The role of cities in combatting corruption and strengthening human rights*, co-organised with the Embassy of Sweden, Seoul. Corruption is a significant impediment both for the realisation of human rights and for the wider sustainable development agenda. The session highlighted the human rights based approach to anti-corruption – an approach that is victim-oriented and helps make corruption a public issue, as well as allowing for different methods of litigation and monitoring. Local Government officials presented

their concrete measures and practical strategies for combatting corruption within their cities.

The institute also participated in the Human Rights Paper Presentation where new research was presented, and held a Blended Learning Course on Local Governments and Human Rights-session. The latter was part of a six month project where local government in the Asia Pacific Region developed human rights projects and strategies to implement in their cities.

A Global City Network: A Key Future Factor

The opening panel was co-hosted by OHCHR and RWI. *Human Rights Cities: Addressing Social Unrest and Learning from the Historical Past*, suggested that the future of the cities is likely to present increased frustration and unrest, due to the climate crisis and the pandemic. It was stated that local governments need to be prepared to address these matters proactively and inclusively, based on human rights and democracy.

The speakers unanimously agreed that a growing city network and movement of human rights cities are hopeful forces for the future. The speakers underlined the importance of the strong connection between local governments and citizens and hence called for a deepened dialogue between duty-bearers and rights-holders. Local governments play a crucial role in protecting and making human rights a concrete reality.

“We need to persist in defending democracy and human rights by making ‘the city’ flourish as a lever for development and economic progress [...] which will help promote a narrative and understanding of inclusion, human rights and democracy’.”

Fadhel Moussa, Mayor of Aryanah. Tunisia

Learn more about human rights cities: [Human Rights Cities - The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law](#)

[Discover](#) the World Human Rights Cities Forum

Confronting Poverty Through More Inclusive & Sustainable Strategies

To mark the UN Human Rights Day 2020, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute hosted a webinar and gathered a panel of international experts to discuss human rights and poverty.



If poverty is sometimes considered an issue for the Global South only, 2020 has certainly proven this wrong. The Covid-19 pandemic forced the Global North - just as much as the Global South - to face not only the importance of building sustainable strategies to tackle poverty on its territories but also the necessity of doing so with a human rights based approach.

As Morten Kjaerum, our Director and moderator of the panel underlined from the start of the event; “Covid-19 has reversed decades of progress on combatting poverty. A conversation on how “we go from there” is therefore needed. RWI will continue to address the poverty issue during 2021 and beyond.

The three experts all agreed on one thing: in the past few years, the concentration of wealth has led to a growing gap between wealthy people and the poorest. Covid-19 has widened the gap. This phenomenon is, as Amira Mali Miller particularly pointed out, “a common pattern in the Global North, even in rich countries such as Sweden”.

“Covid-19 has been a great awakener. It has exposed and exacerbated weaknesses in Human Rights”, said Sabina Lauber. By the end, Martha F. Davis rightly emphasised that, when addressing one of the most important poverty crises the world will have to face in the post pandemic, “political will clearly matters.”

“Poverty and inequality are a reality on all continents. It is a global challenge that demand rethinking of key paradigms.”

Morten Kjaerum, Director of RWI

Professor Olivier De Schutter, from the University of Louvain and UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, offered his analyses of the international community’s answers to the Covid-19 crisis. He particularly stressed the need to adopt a more inclusive strategy to “*leave no one behind*”. De Schutter highlighted multiple ways for the application of human rights to contribute to address poverty. Among them, he says, a human-rights-based approach can shift the relationship from one based on needs, to a relationship “based on duties” towards the beneficiaries of social protection. It also implies the placement of social protection “at the heart of development processes, even in low-income countries” in order to “ensure that any incremental growth will benefit the poorest first”.

From there, we understand the necessity to work on more sustainable and long-term economic measures. **Professor Jihen Chandoul**, from the Tunis Business School, and co-founder of the Tunisian Observatory of Economy, gave us some insights on what it is that the economy should do to ensure the application of sustainable measures. For her “economic transformation is crucial and should put the people and human rights at the center to leave no one behind”. “We have to think of restructuring the debt mechanism” and “promote equality and non-discrimination” to “share the burden in equal ways”, she underlined. “The Covid-19 crisis tells us that it is time to build a human economy that benefits everyone and not just a few privileged ones”, said Jihen Chandoul.

The webinar event was also an opportunity to demonstrate that even though the means and solutions may differ, Northern countries as well as Southern countries still have a long way to go to tackle poverty efficiently.

During the webinar, we highlighted three study cases. **Professor Martha F. Davis**, Northeastern University, Boston and Associate Professor at RWI, presented perspectives from the United States and shared what we can learn from the Global North. Food insufficiency in the U.S. today has increased 81% over rates in 2019, with disparate racial impacts. Afro-Americans have, to a much larger extent than other groups suffered from lack of food during the pandemic. “One lesson learned is that social marginalization, discrimination, and structural inequality lead to poverty. Especially during a pandemic”, Martha F. Davis said. She also underlined “the necessity of political will for protecting and fulfilling human rights during e.g. a crisis such as the pandemic.”

Amira Malik Miller, Strategic Development and Sustainability Advisor at the Municipality of Stockholm made us aware of the increasing inequalities in Sweden and the rise in poverty. She shared facts on the situation in Skärholmen in Sweden, where Covid-19 severely affects the marginalised population short term and long term.

Sabina Lauber, Senior Human Rights Adviser, UN, shared her experiences from working as a human rights advisor in Malawi. Malawi is a young democracy, with an unresponsive government infrastructure, and a high level of corruption. According to Lauber, Covid-19 has exposed and exacerbated weaknesses in Human Rights when it comes to equality and non-discrimination, participation, and empowerment. The result is social unrest. Anger and frustration has reached a boiling point.

Watch the webinar [here](#).

“What Do I Really Get To Decide Myself?”

Self-determination and inclusion in the community in Sweden: Tools for bridging the gap between the rights for persons with disabilities in theory and in practice.

Over a billion people, between 10-15 % of the world's population (WHO), and 2 million people (over 20 %) of the Swedish population have some form of disability (Public Health Agency of Sweden). Because of the way our societies are organized, persons with disabilities are routinely hindered from enjoying their human rights. This was the main reason why the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was adopted in 2006. For the same reason, work must focus on making the rights in the CRPD a reality for the 2 million persons with disabilities worldwide.

For all human beings, leading a dignified life means to be able to live a self-determined and independent life. It also means to be included in the community. For an individual, a self-determined life means having the right to make decisions about your own life. To make choices big and small. To act on those alone and together with others, at home and in the community. Where to live, who to live with. To use city service, go to see a movie, a play or listen to a concert – of your own choice.

Anna Bruce, Senior Researcher at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and expert on the CRPD, says: “These are things most of us take for granted as part of our human rights. We are so used to being allowed to choose for ourselves, that we forget that it is by making these choices in our daily lives we become who we are and who we want to be. But self-determination and inclusion, these key features of a good life, are often denied persons with disabilities.”

But, for a person with disabilities there are many obstacles to leading an independent life.

“Attitudes, laws, policies and practices based on outdated ideas that persons with disabilities do not know their own good and are too ‘different’ to partake in mainstream life’, are typical barriers’. These also include physical structures grounded in conservative ideas; institutions housing persons with disabilities and separate schools for children and youth with disabilities.”

Anna Bruce, Senior Researcher at RWI

Making Self-Determination a Reality

Changing this is what [Article 19 in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) is all about (CRPD).

The [Independent Living Institute](#) (ILI) has been committed to promoting self-determination and inclusion in the community of people with disabilities since 1998. Article 19 is a key tool in this work. In 2019, Independent Living Institute started the project ‘Article 19 as a tool’ together with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute. Part of the project analyses how well Sweden is realising the rights in Article 19. Anna Bruce’s role in the project has been to translate the demands of Article 19, so that they can be applied directly onto the Swedish reality.

She says: “Evidence shows that persons with disabilities do not live the independent, self-determined lives in the community that the CRPD requires Sweden to ensure. But, without a broad and realistic gap analysis of the compliance of Swedish law, policy and practice with Article 19 we cannot use the CRPD as a tool for change. We need to bridge the gap between the CRPD and the lives people are allowed to live. Therefore, the gap analysis is the first step.”

A Self-Assessment Tool for Duty-Bearers and Rights-Holders

Another part of the project is to develop indicators. These indicators, which consist of key questions, are to be used by different duty-bearers, such as local governments, to assess their operations against the demands of Article 19. This way they can find out how well their operations assist in making persons with disabilities lead self-determined lives and how well they ensure their inclusion in the community.

“This is a hands-on tool. A reference group with representatives from municipalities and other public and non-governmental organisations participate in its development, to ensure both relevance and applicability.” says Anna Bruce.

General obligations

Human right indicators are based on the rights and obligations in Article 19. But, like all international human rights law, these rights and obligations are general in nature. To localize these in Swedish reality has been a key part of the project.

To make this possible, Independent Living Institute has run workshops with groups of persons with disabilities whose self-determination and inclusion in the community are dependent on the operation of the municipalities.

Thanks to this, Independent Living Institute, through their network of rights holders, has ensured that the indicators mirror the barriers to self-determination and inclusion in the community in Sweden, as they work in practice.

“It is essential that people, whose rights enjoyment will be measured, have participated in the project and contributed to formulating these indicators”, says Anna Bruce, “We need to come closer to people’s experiences than existing measuring tools do. After all, we must focus on things that matter for real in people’s lives.”

“The basic idea behind the project came from the realization that norms, including international human rights, are not materialized by themselves. Through active measures including legislation, strategic litigation and long-term determination to ensure the rights may the desired social change that is the intention behind the norms actually materialize” says Ola Linder, project leader at the Independent Living Institute. “The work to map and analyse state obligations and framing them in Human Rights Indicators has only been possible through the close cooperation we have with the RWI.”

Other users of the indicators are persons with disabilities themselves. By including indicators for individual self-assessment, persons with disabilities can use these to see if and how they are enjoying the self-determination and inclusion in the community that the Article 19 promises.

This is one of the innovative features of the project: “Indicators for individual self-assessment are in line with the goal of direct empowerment of rights holders in international human rights law”, says Anna Bruce. “But the idea came from ILI, whose rights-based work and focus on the voice of rights holders preceded the CRPD and now joins forces with it. This is where RWI and our expertise of international human rights law fits into the work for change in Sweden.”

The Senex Association for Ageing Studies Research on the Impact of Climate Change

The Raoul Wallenberg Institute's Turkey Capacity Development Programme continued its work on the rights of older persons through its partnership with Senex/Akdeniz University, Antalya. The partnership between the Turkey Programme and the University's Department of Gerontology resulted in the formation of *The Senex Association for Ageing Studies (Senex)* in 2017.

Senex conducts its work on the rights of older persons in Turkey through two mechanisms:

- (1) Organising an annual conference on the rights of older persons titled *Senex Congress of Ageing Studies for Graduate Students*, since 2017.
- (2) Publishing books and journals under the name *Association for Ageing Studies Publications*. Since 2017, the Association also regularly publishes *The Senex Journal of Aging Studies*.

Additionally, Senex conducts policy-relevant research to promote older persons rights. This includes beneficiary policies and practices at municipal level, including preparing research result-based training programmes for municipal experts.

Senex IV Congress of Aging Studies for Graduate Students

The annual *Senex Congress* serves as a platform for graduate students, researchers, academics, and policy makers. They share breakthrough research on topics related to the rights of older persons and discuss related themes. During 2020, the Congress moved online and was held at the end of October. As many as 145 researchers and research students joined. *Senex IV* centred on the theme of 'Inclusive Societies' and emphasised a greater understanding of the regulations, practices, and policies that can be implemented for future generations of older people as right-holders in Turkey.

Publication: The Impact of Climate Change on the Rights of Older Persons in Turkey

The RWI Turkey Programme supported an innovative publication by Senex entitled *The Impact of Climate Change on the Rights of Older Persons in Turkey*. The report is published publicly in both Turkish and English. It responds to the UN Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights' July 2020 call for further information from member states on the effects of climate change on the rights of older persons.

A demographic assessment of Turkish society from 1935-2019 demonstrates that the declining birth rate and parallel increase in life expectancy situates Turkey as an ageing society. Whilst an ageing society is not necessarily a concern, becoming older prior to becoming wealthy introduces significant challenges in the fulfilment of society-wide human rights, including the rights of older persons.

Older people carry a heavy weight

Acknowledging Turkey's ageing population, the report highlights the nexus between the rights of older persons and climate change. Climate change is a global issue, and carries a particularly heavy burden for older persons (in particular older women and persons with disabilities).



Internal migration since the 1980s has resulted in a concentration of older populations in rural Turkey. These older persons are often employed in rural economic activities or engage in small-scale agricultural production for household consumption. In this context, the effects of climate change on quality of land, sustainable food production and agricultural activities has a significant impact on older persons in rural areas.

As a result, Turkey has seen a relocation of the rural elderly populations, as once-income generating agricultural activities are no longer viable or terminated — thus creating migration to urban areas. Migrating older individuals become increasingly dependent on the state or family members.

Given the nature of their previous agricultural activities, older persons are often excluded from social safety nets. They enter situations of discrimination, old age poverty, and associated physical and mental health issues.

Case studies over 30 years

In the report, RWI has utilised case studies from the past three decades. We investigate how ‘development’, in particular extractive and mining activities, have resulted in the destruction of agricultural land, forestland, and watercourses across Turkey.

The loss in ecological diversity further exacerbates the effects of climate change *and* the inability of older persons to engage in decision-making processes prior to expropriation. Such trends further push older persons from their livelihoods, into poverty and towards urban centres. Efforts to seek access to justice often result in ageism and criticisms of ‘challenging the state’.

This finding supports earlier research from April-May 2020 by the RWI titled *‘Perception of Ageing and Rights of Older Persons in Turkey during the Corona Crisis’* which noted an 8% increase in ageism during the pandemic.



Lack of policies

The national government and civil society's approach to the impact of climate change on the rights of older persons in Turkey is limited. There is an absence of policy, practice or strategy from both state and civil society. There is no national data or specific tool to monitor or measure the adverse effects of climate change on the rights of older persons. Our report further highlights that social services have been devolved to local governments, who lack awareness on providing rights-based services and often result in the fragmented delivery of services.

As a result, older people find it harder to access social services, especially in rural areas.

The report recommends that efforts are put in place to promote digital literacy amongst older persons for this sector of society to better access their rights — both generally and in the context of climate change.

In the context of climate change, it is important to ensure the participation of all generations, including older persons, in decision-making processes: to be able to identify problems and achieve climate justice.

The Senex Report will be discussed at the 47th session of the UN Human Rights Council, which will be held in June and July 2021.



PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



Climate Change and Disaster Related Displacement of Persons

Ten Country Study Leads to Recommendations and Trainings

During three years, Matthew Scott, senior researcher from the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and leader of RWI's 'People on the Move' thematic area, together with local and regional academic partners, investigated the legal frameworks and implementation challenges related to displacement of persons in the context of disaster and climate change. In 2020, the research could be presented at a regional launch in Bangkok.

“We have used new methodologies working across several disciplines and engaging a network of scholars at the regional level to identify the legal and implementation challenges at the regional level.”

Morten Kjaerum, Director of RWI

Adopting a Human Rights-based approach

The Asia and Pacific region accounts for the majority of global disaster-related displacement. The experiences of displaced persons differ according to several factors, such as gender, age, ethnicity, (dis)ability, and so forth. However, they also depend on the legal, administrative, social, and economic structures, as well as the processes in place to support them.

This study set out to gain insight into the varieties of disaster- and climate-related displacement in the region and to understand the roles that international human rights standards and guidelines, as well as national legal and policy frameworks, have.

The result is a series of reports that shed light on how states in the region are addressing disaster- and climate related displacement. “More specifically, we looked into ten countries: China, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, the Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Vanuatu, and the Solomon Islands”, says Scott. To carry out this study, Matthew Scott and his team chose to adopt a human rights-



based approach departing from existing international standards and United Nations treaties.

The human rights-based approach allowed the researchers to consolidate the large array of relevant international standards and guidelines. They created a methodology to systematically review the national and legal policy frameworks in the ten countries, to see how they addressed matters such as prevention of displacement, protection of people during displacement, and the facilitation of durable solutions.

“Our collaboration with academic partners also enabled us to conduct field-level empirical research, particularly looking at instances of displacements and asking questions about the role of law and policy in addressing the issue”, Matthew Scott explains.

Launched in 2020

After three years of work, on December 1st 2020 - the Raoul Wallenberg Institute was proud to present the research and its key insights of the study at the regional launch *Displacement in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change in Asia and the Pacific*. The event gathered officials from the Thai Government, International and national CSOs and research representatives, Embassies, Intergovernmental agencies e.g. ASEAN, UN and the EU as well as regional experts.

At the launch, Morten Kjaerum, Matthew Scott, and Albert Salamanca, Senior Researcher Fellow at Stockholm Environment Institute, did not only highlight the importance of researching on displaced persons in the context of disaster and climate change, but also the necessity of improving relevant legal frameworks and practices.

“There is in particular a lack of understanding of the unique needs of women, persons with disabilities, and children in evacuation”, they underlined.

Further, Morten Kjaerum, Matthew Scott, and Albert Salamanca recalled the obligation for States to secure free and informed consent of people before proceeding with the evacuations.

The researchers mentioned some of the best practices for climate displacement, such as making sure to include community volunteers that can contribute in the evacuation process.

“A human rights-based approach provides a solid foundation for a structured systematic and consistent strategy.”

Morten Kjaerum, Director of RWI

Transforming research into action

Raoul Wallenberg Institute’s work on this issue goes beyond research itself.

“Indeed, our organization has a heart to ‘transform research into action’, says Morten Kjaerum. The study has thus, among other things, led to the creation of the Asia Pacific Academic Network on Disaster Displacement.

The team first submitted no less than eight recommendations to the UN High Level Panel on Internal Displacement. Their findings on *Displacement in the Context of the Slow-Onset Adverse Effects of Climate Change* were then submitted to the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons.

New collaborations and engagements

The project has also led to the knowledge being integrated in new trainings:

“Thanks to this project, we have formed partnerships with six universities and academic institutions in four countries, to develop a blended learning course on displacement in the context of disaster and climate change.”

Matthew Scott, Head of the Thematic Area
‘People on the Move’

More on this topic:

In relation to this research, Matthew Scott also interviewed Sabira Coelho. She currently serves as the Programme Manager at International Organization for Migration Fiji (IOM) for the three-year joint-programme, “Enhancing protection and empowerment of migrants and communities affected by climate change and disasters in the Pacific Region”. Listen to Matthew’s interview and discussion with Sabira Coelho [here](#).

Matthew Scott also spoke with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons on the subject. Listen to their conversation [here](#).

[Read more](#) about the national law and policy reports from the regional thematic and watch December 1st event recording.

Discover more on what a Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) means [here](#).



ECONOMIC GLOBALISATION & HUMAN RIGHTS



Prosperous and Green in the Anthropocene:

The human rights to a healthy environment

In 2020 RAPP, the Regional Asia Pacific Programme, presented a thematic study on the Right to a Safe, Clean, and Sustainable Environment called *Prosperous and green in the Anthropocene: The human right to a healthy environment in Southeast Asia*. Southeast Asia faces unprecedented social-ecological challenges that have wide-ranging implications for both human rights and the environment. Recognizing the human right to a healthy environment helps protect people and nature. It also ensures the conditions for continued sustainable development and prosperity.



“The purpose of this publication, led by twelve local law and policy researchers, was twofold. Firstly: to strengthen the knowledge base on the human rights obligations States have in relation to the environment in Southeast Asia by mapping Southeast Asian countries’ recognition of the right to a healthy environment, highlighting good practices and examining progress, innovations and obstacles in realising this right. Secondly, the publication aimed to strengthen local capacity to conduct human rights research in environmental contexts.”

Victor Bernard, Programme Officer and co-author

Southeast Asian countries rank among the highest in the world for forest and mangrove loss, extinction of plant and animal species, climate-related disasters, household air pollution and smoke from forest fires.

This report displays that countries recognising the right to a healthy environment are in a better position to tackle these challenges. “The study shows that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) recognises the right to a ‘safe, clean and sustainable environment’ in the 2012 ASEAN Human Rights Declaration endorsed by all member states”, Bernard says.

“This fact highlights an emerging consensus of human rights’ undeniable link with a healthy environment. Most ASEAN member states have recognised the right to a healthy environment in laws, policies and court decisions, with 4 of the 10

countries explicitly recognising this right in their constitutions.”

The study presents several examples of how Southeast Asian countries have recognised the right to a healthy environment in courts. One such example is the decision of the Supreme Court of Thailand ordering the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand to pay compensation to 131 plaintiffs for damage to their health, in relation to a power plant project that displaced over 30 000 people.

The Supreme Court of the Philippines ruled that a group of minors, questioning the granting of commercial logging licenses over 3.89 million hectares of land, had the constitutional right to ‘a balanced and healthful ecology’ as being linked with the right to health.

There is still much work to be done, globally and in South East Asia. On ‘Realising the right to a healthy environment in Southeast Asia’, the authors of the study propose that ASEAN countries could:

- Recognise the right to a healthy environment in the constitution or on court decisions, and adopt a combination of laws, judicial decisions and policies that are needed to implement this right.
- Adopt a regional instrument similar to the Escazu agreement adopted by Latin America and the Caribbean countries or become party to the Aarhus Convention, a European agreement that is now open to non-European Member States.
- Strengthen and expand the mandate of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), so that it can promote compliance and conduct reviews relating to the right to a healthy environment.
- Continue to support specialised environmental courts and national human rights institutions (NHRI) in support of the implementation of the right to a healthy environment.
- Support the integration of human rights in multilateral environmental agreements, for example, in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which is currently being negotiated.

“Moving forward, we need to move from words to action. We must translate the findings and recommendations, through action-oriented and targeted briefs and training, into practical ways. Only then, various actors, such as judges, NHRI representatives, businesses, policy makers, and ASEAN, can contribute to the realization of the right to a healthy environment within their respective mandates.”

Victor Bernard



Business and Human Rights: A Tool for Lecturers

In 2017, RWI, together with academic partners in China, identified a need for a new teaching resource in ‘Business and Human Rights’ area.”

Radu Mares, Interim Research Director at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and thematic lead for the Business and Human Rights area, says: “Despite a growing interest among lecturers and students to understand the social and environmental impacts of corporate activity, teaching materials in this diverse and fast moving area of human rights have been lacking.”

The compendium is a tool for lecturers:

“It will help them prepare lectures and seminars. It will also give them a wide range of carefully chosen materials that will support them in quickly creating more rewarding and interactive classroom experiences”, says Radu Mares. “The design of the compendium is meant to appeal to teachers from various academic disciplines.”

The compendium was developed in two versions. The first version was initially developed for China (in Chinese) and the second for Cambodia (in English). The compendium will be published in 2021.

Radu Mares has worked closely together with academics from China and Cambodia to make the extensive compendium a reality.

“I think that this collaboration has been relevant to all lecturers in the two countries”, says Radu Mares. “Thanks to the process, we have further developed our capacities.”

A significant aspect of the compendium is that it emphasises the human rights standards, state obligations, and oversight mechanisms created in the last 70 years so that the impacts, responsibilities, and roles of the business sector are properly contextualized and not seen merely as ‘corporate voluntarism*’.

“We will strive to keep the compendium up to date and complement it with other forms of support – print and digital – such as a textbook, e-learning modules, e-platforms for uploading new materials, training schools for teachers, and networks of academics and trainers interested in this area.”

Radu Mares, Head of the Thematic Area
‘Economic Globalisation and Human Rights’

**Corporate voluntarism here refers to integration of social and environmental aspect in business decisions on a voluntary basis and in response to societal expectations.*



Full Speed on Blended Learning Courses in Regional Asia Pacific

In the early days of digital learning, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) started developing digital learning, e-learning, and blended learning courses. Around ten years ago, the Regional Asia Pacific Programme (RAPP) began to develop and use using blended learning methodologies more consistently, combining digital and face-to-face learning components. Partners, RWI, and donors, agreed that blended learning is useful to deliver impactful capacity development to participants across a large and diverse region.

In 2020, digital learning methodologies and blended learning courses were again high on the agenda of the current RAPP (2017-2021). The programme team thus developed several blended learning courses (BLCs) and a decentralised system with “learning hubs” in Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, and Manila.

For some of our blended learning courses, these hubs gave the benefits of in-person learning, while also giving participants the chance to engage remotely with peers as well as experts from across the region in an interactive and facilitated setting. This structure enabled more participants to join. More than fifty participants completed our blended learning course last year.



What is a Blended Learning Course?

A variety of formats: online as well as face-to-face

The blended learning courses combine various types of learning interactions, media and formats: online modules, workshops, assignments, and so-called peer exchange. Peer-to-peer learning means collaborating with your co-participants during the course.

Through the courses, our participants learn and understand how they can use human rights to address various human rights issues, such as the ones presented and addressed in the courses. The courses foster collaboration, as they provide platforms for institutions to form networks across the region. Governmental, non-governmental bodies and organisations get opportunities to interact with one another, nurture and create new partnerships between and across institutions. Participants learn how other stakeholders across the region work and what measures they adopt through concrete examples.

Timely and bite-sized learning for busy schedules

Thanks to its accessibility and wide range of formats, participants with varying backgrounds learn and get up to speed on the issues of the courses at their own pace. “This paves the way for active engagement in interactive course elements between peers. Each participant learns at his or her own speed and revisit parts of the course when they wish to”, says Victor Bernard, Programme Officer and one of the co-creators.

Online modules make it is possible to combine the learning with busy schedules, as one can access the course materials when one wants to. “The current courses help a diverse group of participants learn about the interlinkages between human rights, gender equality, and the environment. We also strive to strengthen participants’ capacities to promote and protect human rights in environmental and climate change contexts”, Victor Bernard explains.

“We use blended learning courses to spread knowledge and promote various effective approaches that help integrate human rights in environmental actions, climate change actions, and in the localisation of the SDGs.”

Victor Bernard, Programme Officer and one of the co-creators

RWI Blended Learning Courses

Spreading knowledge on localizing human rights in the SDGs processes

Together with our partners, United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific UCLG ASPAC, City of Gwangju, and Asia Democracy Network (ADN) we focus on building the capacity of duty bearers and local actors. Together we developed two courses on *localising human rights in the SDGs processes*.

The team ran the two courses in relation to two major human rights events; the World Human Rights Cities Forum and the Indonesian Human Rights Festival. Running the courses in relation to central events gave the participants great opportunities to network. The two courses appeared in similar formats and both offered participants the chance to develop individual projects.

Celebratory launch for the first course

The first course (BLC 1) was launched on 18 May 2020 in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of the Gwangju uprising – the event that sparked the Human Rights City movement in Korea.

The course aimed to integrate human rights in localising the SDGs. The participants - from fifteen cities spread over eight countries - consisted of public servants from the City Planning Departments, all of them working with SDGs in their respective cities in the regional Asia Pacific. During the following months, they got a solid training in Human Rights, SDGs, and other relevant topics through online modules and workshops. Following the course, the participants got the opportunity to create a project plan for SDG localisation with a human rights focus.

Finally - between July and September - they implemented their projects in their own cities (read more below). In October 2020, as a result of the team work efforts, several interesting projects were then presented during a closed session at the 10th World Human Rights Cities Forum in Gwangju, co-organised by RWI, UCLG ASPAC and City of Gwangju.

“In 2021, we will continue to carry out and run blended learning courses in collaboration with our partners UCLG ASPAC and Gwangju City and will target city planners from members of UCLG ASPAC.”

Victor Bernard

BLC 2: The Second Blended Learning Course

The second course, on localising human rights and SDGs, was - similar to the first - combined with another major event; the Indonesian Human Rights Festival*. RWI organized the course with UCLG ASPAC and ADN.

Groups worked on five major themes: Human Right Cities & Local Government Initiatives, Gender and Minority Rights, Human Rights During Covid-19 and Economics Empowerment, Democracy and Civil Rights, as well as Human Rights Education Initiatives. Participants - consisting of local government, CSOs, and NHRIs from seven countries in Southeast Asia - came from various backgrounds. The course provided a unique platform for the participants to engage, discuss and learn from one another.

A case project (BLC1): “Wonosobo Action”

As a part of the first blended learning group, participants studied and learned how to integrate human rights in localising the SDGs, developed project plans and carried out projects for their own cities. Among the projects presented at the 10th World Human Rights Cities Forum in Gwangju, co-organised by RWI, UCLG ASPAC and City of Gwangju, one group presented their development of an app that handles citizen complaints in Wonosobo in central Java, Indonesia.

The Coordinator of the Human Rights City Task Force and the SDG Centre of the city led the project. It addresses the matter of the public participating and interacting with the city. The group developed the project in close dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders and had the strong support of the Wonosobo regent.

The new app - “Wonosobo Action” - is an SDG tool building on an existing local mechanism for participation. The tool lets inhabitants, as well as private and CSO stakeholders, communicate with the city government on progress and challenges related to the SDGs, and coordinate local SDG actions.

The complaints handling function is the added element and aims to strengthen the dialogue between the city administration and communities on human rights-related concerns. This is something that was seen as especially urgent in 2020 as a result of the Covid crisis. However, at the time, the course project ended and the app had not yet been launched.

**hosted by the Indonesia National Human Rights Commission and the International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID).*

The background of the slide is a photograph of a library. It shows multiple rows of wooden bookshelves filled with books of various colors. The perspective is from a low angle, looking down the length of the shelves, creating a sense of depth. The lighting is warm and soft, coming from above. A teal-colored rectangular box is superimposed over the middle of the image, containing the text.

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

Shrinking Civic Space: The Role of Civil Society Organisations

During two days in September 2020, in relation to the United Nation's International Day of Democracy, The Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, *Sida*, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law as well as a number of other Swedish civil society organisations co-organised 2020's Civil Society Forum.

The CSO forum aims to follow up on the government and civil society's joint commitments to strengthen dialogue in international development cooperation as well as to create better conditions to meet global challenges.

The Director of RWI's Stockholm office and China programme, Malin Oud, was one of the organisers. She explains why dialogue forums like this are important, in particular in these times of shrinking civic space: "Civil society organisations play a key role in defending democratic space and protecting human rights and freedoms. Civil society organisations are also important strategic partners to the Swedish government and Sida in international development cooperation. By working together, we can share experiences and support each other to tackle the difficult situation we are currently in, and which the pandemic is exacerbating."

Human rights education empowers

During the forum, RWI hosted a session called 'Supporting human rights education and research in a time of diminished democratic space'. During this session, we shared and discussed our experiences and lessons learned from working with partners in Belarus, Cambodia, China, and Turkey with the participants. "Universities play a critical role in the international human rights movement and have often played an important role in democracy movements around the world" said Malin Oud, who moderated the session.

"A recent evaluation of Swedish democracy assistance to countries with increasingly authoritarian rule and shrinking civic space also highlighted the importance of supplementing civil society support with support to state actors, including

universities. In countries with very limited civic and democratic space, the classroom can still be a safe place to speak out one's opinion and universities can function as a legitimate platform for different actors to come together".

Working in the countries with shrinking democratic space can be difficult. It may take time before results are visible. Human rights education is a long-term effort, which requires sustained commitment and investment. The UN defines human rights education (HRE) as 'the development of knowledge about human rights, through human rights principles and values, and for human rights including the empowerment of persons to enjoy and exercise their rights and respect the right of others'. Such education has both an intrinsic and an instrumental value – as a preventative tool, an empowering process, and a means of transformation.

Expanding civic space

Although the discussions at the CSO forum were framed around a so-called 'shrinking space' for civil society, Malin Oud remarks that this might not be the best way to talk about it:

"Mr Maina Kiai, the former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, put it well when he said that we should not talk about 'shrinking space' as if it were some kind of natural or astronomic phenomenon. Civic space is shrinking because governments around the world put in place repressive policies and laws. Recently, democratic space has diminished even further as a result of



responses to the Covid-19 pandemic. Civil society's ability to operate has been curtailed due to closures and restrictions on freedom of movement."

At the CSO Forum, government ministers and civil society members from around the world had the opportunity to come together and discuss how to actively expand civic space and support those who are hit the hardest by the impacts of the pandemic.

The Covid-19 pandemic also meant that this year's CSO forum contained hybrid meetings; digital as well as physical meetings. This was challenging in many respects – working around technology, security, interactivity – but it also made it possible for participants from across the world to join, from Beijing, Dhaka, Istanbul, Minsk, Amman, Nairobi, Bogota, and Lund! Thus, it was also an opportunity to make this year's forum more inclusive, accessible and expansive than usual.

"Universities play a critical role in the international human rights movement and have often played an important role in democracy movements around the world."

Malin Oud, China Programme Director

Looking ahead

A new working group for 'The Government's and Swedish civil society organisations' joint commitments to strengthen dialogue and collaboration in the area of development cooperation' was also elected at the forum. The working group consists of representatives of Swedish civil society organisations, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Sida.

Representatives of the following twelve organisations were elected for 2020-2021: The Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Plan International Sweden, War Child Sweden, Swedish Red Cross, Centre Party International Foundation, Swedish Missionsrådet (SMC), Union to Union, ForumCiv, Save the Children, Svalorna Latin America, and Islamic Relief Sweden.

Malin Oud was re-elected as Chair of the working group. The new working group will continue to ensure that the Joint Commitments are implemented and will organise another CSO forum next year.

Including Youth in the Democracy Process is Key to Development

Dalia Al Mokdad, was one of the four youth panellists invited to talk at the CSO forum. She works as a communications specialist and expert on violent extremism in Beirut and has been involved in the Lebanese youth movement for several years. She started her activism when she was a university student.

“The movement”, Al Mokdad says, “is diverse and not always organized or unified. It is, however, built on human rights values and is united in its call for political change and fight against corruption.”

According to Al Mokdad, Lebanese politicians are not inviting the young generation to take part in political decision-making as they claim that the youth are not mature enough. *“Being a part of society, I think the youth should not only be involved in youth matters, we should be involved in all matters that we are experts in”,* Al Mokdad said during the panel discussion at the CSO Forum.

Dennis Mungo, is the executive Director of Youth Alive Kenya, a youth led non-governmental organisation that advocates for and supports youth participation in development processes. Youth Alive! Kenya (YAK) is a youth led and youth serving Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). YAK’s vision is a society in which ‘young people are empowered and take active responsibility for their lives’.

In particular, Mungo works to ‘break the self-perpetuating cycle of exclusion of young people so that they may actively chart and address issues affecting their well-being and development by empowering and providing a platform for them to amplify their voice in the development discourse’.

Mungo sees the exclusion of youth and their problems from decisions making processes as a global problem and wants to change this.

Because, as he puts it: “we are always told that youth are leaders of tomorrow, but no; we are not leaders of tomorrow, we are leaders of today!”

In the [podcast](#), Mungo talks about the programmes that YAK runs, for example on youth unemployment and youth inclusion in governance, and how they cooperate with Swedish organisations.



Behind the scenes at the online part of the forum, On stage: Per Olsson Fridh, State Secretary to Minister for International Development Cooperation; Lina Arvidsson, Board member and Spokesperson for International Partnerships at the National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations; and Jakob Schwarz, President, Church of Sweden Youth.

RWI's Take on Clinical Legal Education

Clinical Legal Education (CLE) is a legal teaching method that uses practical-oriented, student-centred and problem-based interactive learning methods. This includes, but is not limited to, the practical work of students on real cases and social issues supervised by academics and professionals. RWI has been working with CLE since 2011, initially through its academic cooperation programme in Turkey, and since then also in countries including Belarus, Cambodia, Cuba, Zimbabwe and Sweden.

CLE Developments during 2020

Significant developments in 2020 included the establishment of a new programme in Armenia that includes planned cooperation on CLE with Yerevan State University and the American University of Armenia. Back in Sweden, the Lund Disability Human Rights Clinic established by RWI in 2018 achieved another milestone, with student participation now recognised as a credited course by Lund University, which has also agreed to fund the clinic in full. Sadly, our current cooperation on CLE in Belarus has ended. Nevertheless, substantial results were achieved over the past six years, as documented in a major closing report on the Experience of Legal Clinics in Belarus.



Activities of legal clinics in Belarus, presented in the 2020 report: *The Experience of Legal Clinics in Belarus*.

What is Clinical Legal Education?

CLE comes in many forms, ranging from ‘street law’ public awareness raising on relevant legal issues, through cooperating with civil society organisations on strategic litigation, to direct provision of legal advice to actual clients.

The Institute places a premium on exchange of information and experiences between Legal Clinics and other CLE-related initiatives within and beyond the countries where we work, creating spaces for clinicians to share good practices in this fast-evolving field.

“Our own programming encompasses all of these forms and more, with the RWI approach not focused on any one particular methodology. Instead, we put an emphasis on assessing needs and context in order to support CLE initiatives that will be most effective in developing the capacity of students, whilst also bringing about social change.”

Josh Ounsted, Head of the Thematic Area
‘Fair and Efficient Justice’

The Legal Clinic: Opening the ‘Doors of the Academic Castle’

The Lund Disability Human Rights Clinic was started by RWI in 2019, together with the Faculty of Law at Lund University and two disability rights organisations, the Independent Living Institute and the Swedish Disability Rights Federation.

The Clinic in Lund has been shaped by the RWI’s spirit of cooperation. Learning from the legal clinic at Uppsala University, the clinic has also benefitted from the knowledge and experience from RWI’s global partners. These partners have decades of experience of Clinical Legal Education (CLE), which is a hands-on and problem-based legal teaching and learning method that puts the student at the center. It also includes the practical work of students on real cases and social issues.

Working on a case study with human rights organisations

The clinic now runs as an elective specialisation course for a limited number of students at the Master of Laws in International Human Rights Law at the Faculty of Law, Lund University. Eight students - divided into two groups - get the opportunity to carry out a case study, based on a real legal case in a period of eight to ten weeks.

During the project, the students work together with organisations promoting Human Rights. In the Lund Disability Human Rights Clinic, the disability rights organisations, e.g. Independent Living Institute (ILI), provide information on strategic problems experienced by persons with disabilities. The students then investigate these challenges, under the supervision of academics, as well as professionals from the organisations.

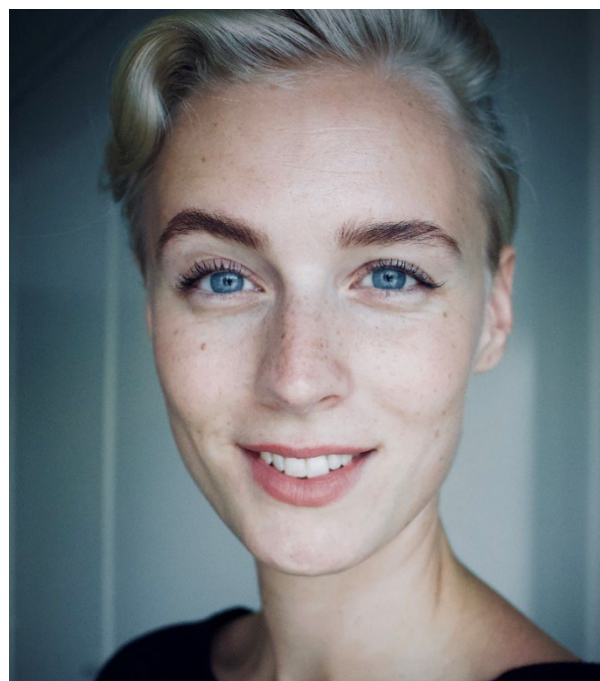
The students gain practical as well as research experience in disability rights law. “It is a simple
Interacting with experts

Another important aspect of the programme is the first-hand involvement of legal practitioners. Students get to meet, exchange their ideas and

win-win”, says Anna Bruce. “The organizations get qualified legal assistance, and the students get the experience of working on real legal questions and cases, together with practicing lawyers.”

Acquiring professional experience

Anna Lie is one of the 2020 legal clinic participants. Her group worked for ILI and focused on the existence of a right for people over 65 years old to personal assistance in Sweden, in light of both the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The role of the students - assisted by Anna Bruce - was to assess the needs of the client, ILI, as well as define what they could do to build a case. Through this experience, students get the opportunity to put their academic learnings from the Law Faculty into practice. For Anna Lie, the legal clinic has been a way to “face reality and see how the law plays out and how you can be a part of that.”



thoughts with them. During 2020, they got the chance to meet Theresia Degener, former chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The students also had the opportunity to exchange thoughts with Elisabeth Fura, Swedish Lawyer and former judge at the European Court of Human Rights.

“During this whole journey we had the amazing opportunity to talk to legal practitioners and experts in the field”, Anna Lie says.

Valuable research to organisations

The project goes beyond the exercise itself. Once the project is over and the report submitted, the organisations will publish the reports that the students have worked with.

The students’ work provide these organisations with precious research results on issues they would like to address themselves, but often lack the resources to investigate. As for the students, they gain hands-on experience and have learned “how to work purposefully”.

In the report, Anna Lie and her fellow students, analysed the categorical denial in Sweden of personal assistance to persons over 65 with disabilities. Without such support they are unable to participate in political, public and cultural life. The issue: *Is this in compliance with the Convention on*

the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the European Convention on Human Rights?

Anna Lie summarizes their conclusion: “The blanket denial of personal assistance to persons over 65 is directly discriminatory. This can be reasonably and objectively justified neither under the CRPD nor under the ECHR. We see good chances for a successful case.”

The Legal Clinic is also a commitment which can open doors to future opportunities besides opening the doors of what Anna call “the academic castle”. She says: “It has made me not only a better academic, but also a better jurist. The course was the first real chance as part of my legal training to do what I have been prepared to do. I could finally increase my knowledge about an important topic and gain competence, as an aspiring human rights lawyer. Knowing that our work would have actual effect in the world outside academia, gave me a sense of meaning.”

Ola Linder, lawyer at the Independent Living Institute, is also satisfied: “Because of the excellent work of the students and the collaboration with RWI, we now have a deep and systematic human rights analysis of an issue we identified as central for persons with disabilities in Sweden. Our organization would not otherwise have been able to free the time and legal expertise required to do this.”

“Usually, it is difficult to gain practical experiences before you graduate. And, it is difficult to learn the process of building a case merely through theory. You have to do it in order to learn how to.”

Anna Lie, Former Participant of the 2020 Legal Clinic

Pufendorf Institute Theme: The Future of Human Rights

Every year the Pufendorf Institute of Advanced Studies, located in Lund, supports academics working across Lund University to come together to develop inter-disciplinary thinking around innovative themes. These cover complex issues that are difficult to address productively through a single disciplinary lens.



Working together with academics based in faculties of law, sociology, international relations, and engineering, RWI's interim Director of Research Radu Mares and Matthew Scott, Head of the People on the Move thematic area, and senior researcher, developed a theme about the *Future of Human Rights*. "The theme explores contemporary challenges and opportunities against the backdrop of two 'mega-trends': digitalization and the *changing environmental conditions on the planet* marking a new era of geological time known as 'the Anthropocene'. We explore these mega-trends through departing from three so called 'nexus

points': human mobility, corporatisation, and authoritarianism", says Radu Mares.

The choice of these nexus enables researchers to apply existing expertise in these areas to the complexities represented by the mega-trends. "In the group, we benefit from the participation of the renowned Professor Bhupinder Chimni as well as the extraordinarily supportive arrangements created by the Pufendorf Institute", says Matthew Scott.

Work that the group conducts within the theme leads to the development of research funding applications

and academic articles. It will also result in roundtable that will take place during the autumn of 2021:

“In this discussion, we will continue to explore the future of human rights, both from the perspective of the international system itself, as well as broader questions relating to the enjoyment of human rights”, says Radu Mares.

This multidisciplinary theme, involving ‘human mobility, corporatisation, and authoritarianism’, creates synergies with the Wallenberg Chair of Human Rights that is co-hosted by the RWI and the

Faculty of Law in Lund (2021-2025). It will concentrate on legal developments shaping the *Future of Human Rights*.

Read more about the five themes [here](#).

The Raoul Wallenberg Visiting Chair of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law will seek to explore new ways to understand, analyse and secure the future of human rights.

The Visiting Chair - a five-year project (2021–25) - is co-hosted by the Faculty of Law at Lund University and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute. A number of leading international scholars will hold the chair.

These will concentrate on legal developments shaping “The Future of Human Rights.” The scholars will work together with early career researchers to seek to advance innovative human rights thinking in an international and interdisciplinary context. In addition, they will pursue synergies between research, education, and policy development.

“Research on the future of human rights will focus on three areas: ‘the rise of authoritarianism and populism’; ‘the challenges of technological change, digitalization and AI’; and ‘state of emergency’ and ‘the erosion of the rule of law’”, Radu Mares, Senior Researcher and Interim Research Director.

Facilitated by the latest research findings and a multitude of related activities, the Chair will - together with colleagues in Lund and beyond - organise a “Lund Summer School on the Future of Human Rights” for doctoral students. This will be a way to inform and inspire a new generation of human rights scholars, advocates, and policy-makers.

“The project benefits from and contribute to the research milieu at the two co-hosting institutions and Lund University more broadly as well as the on-going RWI capacity-building programmes spanning three continents”, says Radu Mares.

The [Marianne and Marcus Wallenberg Foundation](#) generously supports the project.

“The theme explores contemporary challenges and opportunities against the backdrop of two ‘mega-trends’: digitalization and the changing environmental conditions on the planet marking a new era of geological time known as ‘the Anthropocene’. We explore these mega-trends through departing from three so called ‘nexus points’: human mobility, corporatisation, and authoritarianism.”

Radu Mares, Senior Researcher at RWI

‘Fempowerment’: Promoting Women in Films

According to a report by the Council of Europe, only one in five films in Europe is directed by a woman. On a global level, the statistics are lower; only 12 out of 100 best-selling films were created by women in 2019. During 2020’s version of the Swedish Human Rights Film Festival, organised by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and the cinema Kino, female directors and actors were in focus.

Between 5 - 7 March 2020, RWI screened films such as ‘For Sama’, ‘Made in Bangladesh’, and ‘The Hottest August’ at the cinema *Kino* in Lund. ‘The Hottest August’ raises the climate issue and had its Swedish premiere at our festival.

The film festival combines the film screenings with panel discussions featuring international experts in their respective fields. Topics such as climate change, the right to housing, and disability rights were - among the topics raised during the three days.

“We find it particularly inspiring to engage with schools; young adults and students”, Christina Geijer af Ekström, Head of Communications at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute says.

“The open film discussions between the panel and the audience consisting of school pupils, were relevant and thought-provoking. One of the most interesting discussions, was in relation to the viewing of ‘Push-the Film’, by Fredrik Gertten. Former UN Rapporteur for adequate housing Leilani Farha participated in the panel discussion, moderated by RWI Director Morten Kjaerum. The young adults were extremely intrigued about the housing situation of today.”

The [press release](#) on the RWI film festival focus ‘Fempowerment’ caught the attention of most newspapers in Sweden.





“Films have a strong effect on people and are an important tool for shaping our society. That is why we wished to highlight these films, with and by women, and hopefully inspire future film makers.”

Christina Geijer af Ekström, Head of Communications

A Unique Collection of Human Rights Literature

The Raoul Wallenberg Library for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law was founded in 1984 in Lund, Sweden. Today, the library offers one of Europe's largest and most accessible collections for literature on human rights and humanitarian law. It is the only library of its kind in Sweden. The library has become a base for human rights in Lund. It is an important resource for people around the world who study and work for human rights.

A beacon for democracy

The democratic principles and guiding knowledge the students gain during their studies and in the library play a fundamental part in their future practices. Many of the students working in and engaging with the library, will become tomorrow's leaders and hold important positions all over the world. At the library they acquire and develop human rights based approaches and perspectives.

In addition, they make invaluable connections adding to their future networks. The library serves as a meeting place where researchers and students engage in fruitful dialogue. Moreover, researchers from all over the world use the library resources to deepen and strengthen theirs and the world's aggregated knowledge of human rights.



Supporting libraries around the world

Since its founding, the library supports partner universities and other partners around the world. In collaboration with local actors, we contribute to and support the development of teaching and learning at human rights libraries in Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, and Belarus, amongst others. Thus, the library has for decades worked to implement what we refer to as a 'human rights library concept'.

Among other things it, consists of advice on the choice of relevant and appropriate literature, as well as trainings of local librarians in the best practices for running human rights libraries. For countries with shrinking democratic space, the support is vital.

Library Activities During 2020

"Librarians play an important role in advising and supporting students and researchers with updated and accurate literature. As librarian, I get a good overview of what is published and the content between the book spines", says Lena Olsson, Librarian at RWI.

During the year, the library purchased and shipped more than 2000 books to university libraries Cambodia, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe.

Users contribute with suggestions

Lena Olsson constantly receives long 'wish lists' with suggested titles from students and researchers. Even though topics differ from country to country, many students and researchers are looking for titles covering the same human rights challenges and

issues: climate change, equality, poverty. Local topic requests can be on federalism, mining, post colonialism, taxation and human rights, land grabbing and land rights.

“A few titles that give you a hint on what our local partner researchers are looking for: ‘Surrendering to

Utopia: An Anthropology of Human Rights’, ‘Negotiating Culture and Human Rights, The Slave Trade and the Origins of International Human Rights Law’, ‘Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress’, ‘Ethnocentrism: Integrated Perspectives’...”

“All of the titles have recently been published and are up to date! When you are writing a thesis or conducting research, lack of accurate literature is often an obstacle that hinders you in taking part in important ongoing discussions. Also, recent literature and recent articles in international journals, guide students in finding relevant topics for their theses.”

Lena Olsson, Librarian at RWI

The library...:

- Makes over 20 000 titles in several languages available for everyone
- Provides resources, subscriptions, and access to specialist databases
- Supports and develops libraries around the world
- Is staffed with an experienced and a specialised librarian with a great network
- Is part of the library network at Lund University and works in close collaboration with the faculty of law at Lund University
- Is an important meeting place for those that study and work with Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
- Is open to everyone and accessible to libraries all over the world

RWI PUBLICATIONS 2020

RWI's 2020 publications spanned a wide range of research areas, addressing rights on both a systemic and individual level. RWI's publications from 2020 will go towards informing policy decisions, contributing to academic development, training regional stakeholders in the application of rights, and contributing to sustainable rights infrastructure throughout the regions RWI operates within. From emergency preparedness and response, to climate change, to indigenous rights - the work done by the RWI's researchers this year addressed the changing circumstances presented by COVID-19, while also maintaining work being done in areas that pre-date the onset of the Pandemic.

INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

- **The Role of Social Work in Juvenile Justice: International Experiences**, E-book
by RWI China Programme
- **Chapter on the “'Burqa Ban’ trend in post-Soviet States** in “Law, Cultural Studies and the ‘Burqa Ban’” by Kamal Makili-Aliyev
An Interdisciplinary Handbook, Anja Matwijkiw & Anna Oriolo eds., Intersentia 2020
- **Menneskerettighedsbyer – menneskeværdige lokalsamfund**, by Morten Kjaerum
Globalnyt

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

- **Climate Change, Disasters and Internal Displacement in Asia and the Pacific: A Human Rights-Based Approach**, by Matthew Scott,
Publication of edited volume
- **Climate Change, Disasters, and the Refugee Convention**, by Matthew Scott
Cambridge Univ. Press 2020
- **A Human Rights-Based Approach to Internal Displacement in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change** by Matthew Scott
Refugee Survey Quarterly 2020

ECONOMIC GLOBALISATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

- **“Liability within corporate groups: Parent companies accountability for subsidiary human rights abuses”**, by Radu Mares in S. Deva (ed.) *Research Handbook on Human Rights and Business* (Edward Elgar, 2020) pp. 446–470
- **“Harmonic Convergence - China and the Right to Development”** in “An Emerging China-Centric Order - China's Vision for a New World Order in Practice”, by Malin Oud

HUMAN RIGHTS - GENERAL

- **Percorso esplorativo da Jean Valjean a Primo Levi, Letteratura e diritto** by Alejandro Fuentes (Literature and law. Exploratory path from Jean Valjean to Primo Levi)
Revista de Derecho Constitucional Comparado (Journal of Comparative Constitutional Law) – No. 2 – Junio (June) 2020. Citation: IJ-CMXIX-290
- **Systemic Interpretation of the American Convention on Human Rights**, by Alejandro Fuentes
Journal of the Belarusian State University, International Relations. 2020;1:94-101
 - **Contested Territories and International Law: A comparative study of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict and the Aland Islands precedent**
by Kamal Makili-Aliyev
Routledge, 1st ed., 2020 (ISBN 978-0367373825)
- **“A new agency and so what? Considerations from the first director of FRA – giving flesh and blood to the founding regulations.”**
by Morten Kjaerum
Human Rights Policy and evidence-based policy,
Eds. Rosemay Byrne and Han Entzinger, Routledge, 2020



CREDITS AND CAPTIONS

- [1] One of the long-term partners in Belarus, Yuliya Khatsik, visited Lund in the autumn 2020
- [2] RWI Kenya - HRO Conference, Autumn 2020
- [3] RWI Cambodia – Annual Partners meeting
- [4] Photo by [Jon Tyson](#) on [Unsplash](#)
- [5] Armenia, Photo by Dumphasizer on Flickr
- [6] Photo by [Bruno Emmanuelle](#) on [Unsplash](#)
- [7] Photo by [Mauro Lima](#) on [Unsplash](#)
- [8] Covid and gender : to be found
- [9] Photo by [Toa Heftiba](#) on [Unsplash](#)
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- [13] Photo by [engin akyurt](#) on [Unsplash](#)
- [14] RWI-RAPP, Research launch event in Bangkok 2020
- [15] Photo by [Chuttersnap](#) on [Unsplash](#)
- [16] Photo by [Alex Hudson](#) on [Unsplash](#)
- [17] RWI Blended Learning Course 1, 2020
- [18] Photo by [Susan Q Yin](#) on [Unsplash](#)
- [19] and [20] 2020 Civil City Forum
- [21] Activities of legal clinics in Belarus
- [22] Anna Lie, Former participant of the 2020 Legal Clinic
- [23] Panel discussion, The Swedish Human Rights Film Festival by RWI and Kino Lund, 2020 Edition I Lund , Sweden

Credits and captions follow the order of the pictures within the publication.



Raoul Wallenberg at his
graduation in 1930

ABOUT RAOUL WALLENBERG

Raoul Wallenberg – A name which is immediately associated with exceptional courage, with humanity and determination.

As a Swedish diplomat in Budapest in the years 1944/45 he saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from a certain death at the end of the Second World War – an effort which indisputably appears to be one of the great achievements during the last century. What happened to him personally after he had been arrested by Russian troops and brought to Moscow is still a story untold. The Institute is named after Raoul Wallenberg in order to honor his work in the cause of humanity.



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