



Vienna World Conference

30 Years On:

Our Rights – Our Future

5 and 6 June 2023, Vienna

Imprint

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“Vienna World Conference 30 Years On: Our Rights – Our Future”

Protecting human rights for our shared humanity

2023 marks the 30th anniversary of the World Conference on Human Rights, which took place in Vienna, Austria in 1993. Building on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948, the World Conference affirmed the universality and indivisibility of human rights. A pivotal moment, the conference's main outcome were the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (VDPA), a common plan for the strengthening of human rights work, which former UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali described as a “new vision for global action in human rights protection“, as well as the establishment of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

30 years after the adoption of the VDPA, our commitment to address human rights challenges is more important than ever. In spite of major achievements, multiple and interlocking crises keep fulfilment of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the horizon, with human rights often being deployed to justify divisions. In addition, new important aspects have emerged, such as globalization, digitization and climate change. Yet, without realizing human rights, there can be no lasting peace and no lasting security.

In order to address these concerns and to ensure that human rights are considered as part of the solution to the challenges we face, we need to restore faith and certainty in their relevance and necessity. We need to renew our understanding of the achievements of the VDPA, to revitalise a worldwide consensus on human rights and provide a platform for young people to exchange their ideas and plans on how to strengthen human rights in the future.

The Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria in cooperation with OHCHR is organising a high-level human rights symposium on 6 June 2023 in Vienna, Austria. At this event, human rights stakeholders from diverse backgrounds will discuss current and future challenges and best practices in the promotion and protection of human rights. A synthesis of this discussion will be submitted as the Austrian contribution to the 75th anniversary year.

Young people will play an integral role in the Vienna +30 panel discussion, through a special event on 5 June with United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders Mary Lawlor, dedicated to young human rights defenders.

Vienna Youth Human Rights Defenders Conference 2023 Draft Programme

Date: 5 June 2023

Venue: United Nations Office at Vienna

The year 2023 also marks the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, which for the first time recognised the specific right to defend human rights. On this occasion, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders Mary Lawlor and the Austrian Ministry for European and International Affairs will host a one-day conference in Vienna for youth and children human rights defenders. Up to 40 human rights defenders at-risk under the age of 32 are invited to participate.



A one-day gathering is to include panel discussions with young defenders and breakout meetings to address themes including the climate crisis, bullying, and LGBTIQ+ issues. Defenders will assess past and present victories and discuss how to respond to future challenges.



IN SOLIDARITY & HOPE

The objective of the conference is to recognize and encourage the work of young human rights defenders, provide a platform for collaboration, exchange and solidarity-building and identify the age-specific risks faced by young human rights defenders with a view to informing governments and multi-lateral actors how they might be better protected. There will also be a session involving Austrian civil society.

Symposium „Vienna World Conference – 30 Years On Our Rights – Our Future“

Protecting human rights for our shared humanity

Date: 6 June 2023

Venue: LIBELLE, Leopold Museum, Vienna

14:00 – 18:30

WELCOME OPENING by Alexander Schallenberg

Federal Minister for European and International Affairs

and António Guterres

United Nations Secretary-General

KEY NOTE by Volker Türk

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

A Statement by UNHCR-Goodwill Ambassador and Oscar Award Winner

Cate Blanchett

Followed by

PANEL DISCUSSIONS with

prominent **Human Rights Defenders** and **thought leaders** on

- I. Universality and Impartiality of Human Rights
- II. Technology & Human Rights
- III. Shaping the Future: Human Rights as Solution for Global Challenges

JOINT CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS FORWARD

Moderator: Corinna Milborn

19:00

EVENING RECEPTION

hosted by Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg



Open Air Human Rights Fair

Human Rights, The United Nations and International Organisations in Vienna

Date: 5 and 6 June 2023

Venue: MuseumsQuartier, Vienna



The Austrian Minister of European and International Affairs in partnership with the United Nations in Vienna, as well as other national and international organisations, will be hosting an Open Air Human Rights Fair, aimed at promoting human rights and present the work of the Vienna based international organisations to the public.

The objective of the fair is to create a space for people to learn, reflect and engage and to promote a greater understanding and knowledge about human rights. The fair will be the first event organised under the new claim: “International Vienna – Centre for dialogue, security and sustainability”. On this occasion, Alexander Schallenberg, Federal Minister for European and International Affairs and Ghada Waly, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV) (tbc) will visit the fair on 6 June 2023.

The following organisations have already confirmed their participation:



- UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- United Nations Information Service (UNIS)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)
- UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA)
- United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
- United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
- Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA)
- Federal Ministry of Defence (BMLV)

Human Rights Art Exhibition

Date: 6 June 2023

Time: 12:00

Venue: Atrium, Leopold Museum, Vienna

An exhibition of Art will provide a unique and inspiring platform for visitors to explore the connection between culture and human rights. It will show how cultural expression can be a powerful tool for promoting and protecting human rights. By highlighting the power of artistic expression, the exhibition will inspire visitors to use their own creativity to support human rights. The works will be selected for their artistic merit as well as their ability to inspire reflection and action on human rights. A vernissage will feature one or more artists and their artworks, which will be prominently displayed. The vernissage will provide an opportunity for the artists to gain exposure and connect with public.

Further follow-up events pertinent to the theme of strengthening human rights with various cooperation partners will follow in the run-up to the 75th anniversary of the Universal declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 2023.



