



**GENEVA TRAINING COURSE
ON TREATY MONITORING BODIES
Call for applications**

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

3-14 May 2010
Geneva, Switzerland

ISHR invites you to apply to take part in the Geneva Training Course on the treaty monitoring bodies and the Universal periodic review to be held in Geneva from 3 to 14 May 2010.

Deadline for applications: 12 February 2010

Background

The International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) will organise a training course on the treaty monitoring bodies (TMB) and the universal periodic review (UPR) from 3 to 14 May 2010 in Geneva. The main objective of this course is to empower human rights organisations by training their representatives to effectively use the United Nations treaty body system and the UPR.

The course is designed for experienced human rights defenders and organisations that have the capacity to use the international human rights system, in particular the treaty bodies and the UPR mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council, in their work. Besides providing participants with an introduction to the role and functioning of the treaty bodies and the UPR, the course will also include sessions on lobbying and advocacy techniques.

The course will be focused on how human rights defenders (HRDs) can use the TMBs and the UPR process at the national level to promote the implementation of UN recommendations. In this regard, ISHR will bring back a limited number of former participants who implemented the knowledge acquired from the GTCs by actively using the UN system in their work. Other participants will therefore have an opportunity to learn from the practical experiences and lessons learned by other HRDs

The course

This unique course provides participants with essential knowledge and skills in the use the TMB and the UPR.

The course will be conducted in parallel to the 44th sessions of the Committee against Torture (CAT) and of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) and the 8th session of the UPR. Participants will also have the opportunity to attend the sessions of CAT, CESCR and the UPR, meet with Committee members, other UN officials, diplomats and

representatives of relevant international, regional and national non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The course is based on an experiential education approach and will be very practical, focusing on the use of the treaty bodies and the UPR and national level of implementation of UN recommendations. By the end of the course participants will have broad knowledge and competencies in relation to:

- the role and functions of the treaty monitoring bodies
- the reporting processes and the opportunities for NGOs and NHRIs to engage
- producing an effective report
- strategic advocacy in relation to the implementation of the eight human rights treaties
- the particular procedures of certain treaty monitoring bodies, including the individual communications and urgent action procedures
- advocacy for the implementation of recommendations of the treaty bodies and the UPR at the national level and subsequent follow-up
- the UPR process, including the role of the Working Group, the reporting process and national consultations, opportunities for NGO and NHRI engagement, advocacy and follow-up
- the role and functions of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in relation to the treaty bodies and UPR
- development and implementation a 12-month action project
- the use of the network of contacts emanating from the course

Participants

The course will consist of 20- 25 participants from around the world. The intended beneficiaries of this course are expected to:

- Have been actively involved for three or more years in a national, regional or international human rights/development/humanitarian NGO or an independent and effective National Human Rights Institution;
- Have a basic knowledge of and experience in international human rights law and the regional and/or international human rights system;
- Be working in an organisation with a capacity to use national, regional and international human rights systems, and particularly the treaty monitoring body system or the UPR;
- Be presently at least in a middle management position in the organisation;
- Be proficient in written and spoken English, as the course will be conducted in English
- Represent an organisation that may wish to collaborate with ISHR in the future.

ISHR welcomes applications from all NGO and NHRI representatives. We are particularly interested in receiving applications from representatives working in countries that will be examined during upcoming sessions of CAT (Austria, Cameroon, France, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ireland, Mongolia, Turkey) , CESCR (Algeria, Colombia, Mauritius, Kazakhstan,, Afghanistan, Netherlands, Switzerland, Uruguay, Dominican Republic, Sri Lanka, Mali), UPR (Kyrgyzstan, Kiribati, Guinea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Spain, Lesotho, Kenya, Armenia, Guinea-Bissau, Sweden, Grenada, Turkey, Guyana, Haiti, Kuwait, Belarus), or in countries that have appeared before any of the treaty bodies or UPR in the past 12 months or due to appear before

any treaty body or UPR in the coming 12 months (Please refer to the OHCHR website at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/HumanRightsBodies.aspx>).

Application

Participants should send two letters, one from their organisation presenting their candidacy, and expressing the commitment of the organisation to using the international or regional human rights systems and to support the participant in the follow up and/or implementation of the action project, together with the application form.

The cost of the course is approximately 7,300 CHF (including accommodation, per-diem, health insurance, and airfare). All participants are responsible for ensuring their own funding for the course, although the International Service for Human Rights will provide support in the participant's fundraising process. Subject to funding, ISHR may be able to offer a limited number of scholarships. In this regard we will consider, among other criteria, the efforts of the candidate towards securing his/her own funding.

We kindly ask you to register online before 12 February 2010 at:

<http://www.ishr.ch/in-geneva/training-on-treaty-bodies/register-may-course>

You will also have to upload the following documents:

- **your C.V.** (maximum 2 pages)
- **two letters of recommendation** (one of them must be from the organisation with which you are associated and should state the readiness to follow up and implementation of your action project and the restitution training)

International Service for Human Rights

Rue de Varembe 1

P.O. Box 16

CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: (+41) 22 919 71 10

Fax: (+41) 22 919 71 25

E-mail: courses@ishr.ch