

WEBINAR SERIES PROGRAMME

From 14 to 17 July 2020

CELEBRATING **10 YEARS** OF THE MANDATE OF THE UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE RIGHTS TO **FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION**

Taking stock and looking ahead



Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, Clément N. Voule, to the Human Rights Council at its 44th session.



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
SPECIAL PROCEDURES

SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS, INDEPENDENT EXPERTS & WORKING GROUPS

- 2020 marks the 10th anniversary of the mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (UNSR FoAA).
- Throughout this decade, the mandate holders – working closely with civil society organisations, governments and other international and regional human rights bodies – have tirelessly advocated for the creation of a more open and enabling civic space for many individuals and communities around the world. There have been many hard-fought achievements, but also numerous setbacks and increased threats to the enjoyment of assembly and association. The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated these risks, as some government exploit the health crisis to crackdown these fundamental freedoms.
- UN Special Rapporteur, Clément N. Voule, has dedicated his 2020 report to the Human Rights Council to reflect on what has been accomplished in the last decade and look to the future. In this report, he discusses lessons learned in these 10 years but also the unmet needs and emerging issues that should shape discussions around the future agenda of the protection of these two freedoms. Special Rapporteur Voule is scheduled to present his report and participate in an interactive dialogue with members of the Human Rights Council on 10 June 2020.
- Through a series of online side events, the Special Rapporteur will bring together experts and key partners to discuss their experiences working with the mandate during the past ten years and their forward-looking perspectives on how to continue and expand its impact in the years ahead.
- The webinar series is organized by the Special Rapporteur Clément N. Voule, in partnership with civil society organizations and Member States.

OBJECTIVES

- **Discuss and disseminate the findings and recommendations** of UNSR Voule's report.
- **Reflect on achievements** made to the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
- **Examine key challenges** to the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association and current responses to confront them.
- **Discuss future opportunities** for collaboration and strategies for action.
- **Strengthen engagement of civil society** actors and other key stakeholders with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur.



WEBINAR #1

Tuesday, 14 July 2020

3pm – 4.30pm Geneva time/9am – 10.30am NY

Taking stock: Mapping the Way Forward

- To commemorate the mandate's 10 years of existence, the UN Special Rapporteur, Mr. Clément N. Voule, will discuss his new report, in which he argues that while the threats to the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association may be rising and increasing in complexity, these last ten years also offer reasons for hope.
- Leading human rights experts will reflect on the work carried out during the mandate's first 10 years and its contributions towards the international protection of these basic freedoms. They will also discuss current challenges and their forward-looking based strategies to effectively protect these rights in the years ahead.

Chair: H.E. Ambassador Petr Gajdušek, *Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic*

Moderator: Todd Howland, *OHCHR*

Panellists:

Clément N. Voule, *UNSR on the Rights to Peaceful Assembly and Association*

Maina Kiai, *former UNSR FoAA, Human Rights Watch*

Katerina Hadzi-Miceva Evans, *European Center for Not-for-Profit Law*

Susan Wilding, *Civicus*

Nazik Kabalo, *Sudanese Women Human Rights Projects*

Register:

https://icnl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SuIN4Y57SBKM1M7EbwPsNQ

Simultaneous French and Spanish translations will be provided



European Center for
Not-for-Profit Law



Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic
to the United Nations Office
and other International Organizations
at Geneva

ICNL
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CIVICUS



WEBINAR #2

Wednesday, 15 July 2020
3pm – 4.30pm Geneva time/9am – 10.30am NY

Covid-19, Social Movements and Peaceful Protests

- While the Covid-19 lockdowns and emergency measures have stifled traditional forms of protests, the demands that sparked last year's protest movements have not disappeared. On the contrary, the pandemic is exacerbating inequalities and peaceful protests remain the only avenue available to speak out for many in these communities.
- UNSR Voule argues that the effectiveness of measures to defeat the Covid-19 outbreak depends on the governments' ability to secure people's participation and trust. Freedom of peaceful assembly, along with the lessons learned from previous times of upheaval, can empower communities to overcome the devastating socioeconomic development effects of this crisis.

Chair: H.E. Ambassador Valentin Zellweger (tbc), *Permanent Mission of Switzerland*

Moderator: Alice Mogwe, *International Service for Human Rights*

Panellists:

Clément N. Voule, *UNSR on the Rights to Peaceful Assembly and Association*

Beatriz Borges, *Centro de Justicia y Paz*

Peter Micek, *Access Now*

Emerson Skyes, *American Civil Liberties Union*

Gift Trapence, *Malawi Human Rights Defenders Coalition*

Register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlIduCsrj0pEtGMfGJbVAuVpY6nPU37PsSQ>

Simultaneous French and Spanish translations will be provided



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA



INTERNATIONAL SERVICE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



accessnow



WEBINAR #3

Thursday, 16 July 2020

3pm – 4.30pm Geneva time/9am – 10.30am NY

Civic Space and the Defense of Democracy

- The period 2010–2019 saw the erosion of democracy and civic freedoms in a large number of countries, including established democracies, States in transition and autocratic countries. According to Freedom House, 2019 was the fourteenth consecutive year of decline in global freedom, a trend that has extensively been documented by the mandate of the Special Rapporteur.
- How can the UNSR and the international community respond to continued attacks to democracy and build democratic resilience? What tools are proving most effective in their responses? How can human rights organisations and the international community best provide solidarity? The webinar will focus on effective strategies for protecting democracy in the next future.

Chair: H.E. Ambassador Michael Gaffey, Irish Permanent Mission

Moderator: Ryota Jonen, World Movement for Democracy

Panellists:

Clément N. Voule, UNSR on the rights to Peaceful Assembly and Association

Maria Pavardi, Hungarian Helsinki Committee

Idayat Hassan, Centre for Democracy and Development

Register:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kfONGOWKR_qWxinFDy_9cQ

Simultaneous French and Spanish translations will be provided





WEBINAR #4

Friday, 17 July 2020

3pm – 4.30pm Geneva time/9am – 10.30am NY

Worker's Rights to Association and Assembly: A Future Agenda

- The traditional tools for asserting workers' rights –trade unions, strikes and collective bargaining– have been significantly weakened over the last decade while the Covid-19 pandemic has also greatly impacted the most vulnerable. The UNSR has expressed his concern on reports of workers fired for speaking up for the need of enhanced protection and safety at their workplaces.
- Prioritizing workers' assembly and association rights in future strategies will help them gain access to fair wages, safer working conditions and a collective voice, all while addressing some of the root causes of democratic erosion and rising inequality.

Chair: Karen Curtis, *International Labor Organization*

Moderator: Jeffrey Vogt, *Solidarity Center*

Panellists:

Clément N. Voule, *UNSR on the rights to Peaceful Assembly and Association*

Peter Gift Mutasa, *Zimbabwe Confederation of Trade Unions*

Lakmali Hemachandra, *Ceylon Mercantile, Industrial and General Workers' Union*

Register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MTjctASORMG3Vt-nYWO9cA

Simultaneous French and Spanish translations will be provided



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