

# From Words to Action: Implementing Academic Freedom Under UN Human Rights Standards

Side event to the 53rd session of the  
Human Rights Council

**11 July 2023 | 10:00–11:00 (CET)**

Palais des Nations Room XXV and virtual  
via Webex, [click here](#)

The event will build on the success of the Joint Statement on Academic Freedom delivered at the UN Human Rights Council Session in March this year, and signed by 74 countries, as well as recent progress in support of academic freedom, including the 2020 report on academic freedom by the UN special rapporteur on the protection and promotion of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and UNESCO's parallel advancement of the conversation on science and scientific freedom. It is intended to concretise existing progress within the UN, as well as within regional and national systems, and at the institutional level.

The event will bring together relevant UN mandate holders, State Missions, international experts, and other stakeholders. The discussion will focus on existing human rights standards, and introduce new guidance, Principles for Implementing the Right of Academic Freedom, (available in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish), developed by an international working group of scholars, advocates, UN staff and others, as a framework for dialogue and activity that moves beyond statements of broad principle by offering concrete guidance for assessing and promoting implementation of academic freedom in practice in various contexts.



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Opening Remarks: **Mr. Eamon Gilmore**, *European Union Special Representative for Human Rights*

**Ms. Farida Shaheed**, *UN Special Rapporteur for the Right to Education*, with expert panelists:

**Mr. Mikel Mancisor**, *Member, UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*

**Mr. Jesse Levine**, *Senior Advocacy Officer, Scholars at Risk*

**Mr. Hector Ulloa**, *Outgoing President, Norwegian Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund (SAIH)*

Closing Remarks: **Ambassador Álvaro Moerzinger Pagani**, *Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations in Geneva*



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