

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL STUDENT HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Saturday 5 March 2016, University of Nottingham

UN Human Rights Council: Ten Years On

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Annual Student Human Rights Conference is an opportunity for postgraduate students to present their research to a diverse and global audience alongside eminent scholars, experts and practitioners in the field.

Human Rights is one of the three main pillars of the United Nations' work and its importance has been reaffirmed with the creation of the Human Rights Council (the Council) nearly 10 years ago. The Council's ten-year anniversary in 2016 will differ from its half-decade anniversary, as there will be no formal review of its work. This creates an excellent opportunity to assess the Council's key successes whilst recognising and discussing its shortcomings.

This conference is a chance to examine the debate on the most pressing human rights challenges today and the possible avenues to tackling those challenges. How valuable has the human rights standard setting of the Council and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights been? Is the strong rhetoric of the Council matched by action? Why are so many resolutions directed at developing nations rather than developed nations? Are Member States avoiding key human rights issues through political tactics? Is the Council really an improvement upon the Commission? This conference will reflect on the successes and failures of the Council, whilst looking to the future and how it can continue to positively influence state practice across the globe.

Papers are most welcome on subjects relating to one of the following themes:

- **Accessing and realising your rights**
- **Council vs Commission**
- **Compliance and accountability**
- **Effectiveness of the system**
- **Non-State Actors and the UN human rights systems**
- **Regionalism and Institutional Alliances within the UPR**

Papers should address the questions above in context, analysing the Council's work in relation to civil and political rights; economic, social and cultural rights; or non-discrimination. Comparisons with the work of the UN treaty monitoring bodies are also welcome.

The Conference Committee encourages the submission of papers from postgraduate students in any discipline on any of the above themes. Authors of selected papers will be offered the opportunity to discuss their work in panels which will take place as part of the conference, alongside leading practitioners and academics working in the field. Applications are open to university students in any discipline who are enrolled at a recognised university. Papers and presentations should be in English.

Submission Details:

Using the application form available on the website, please provide a short abstract of no more than 500 words by **Friday 4 December 2015**, clearly stating the authors postal address, email, telephone number and institution. The abstract should be submitted electronically to the following address: HumanRightsConference@nottingham.ac.uk

Further information:

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