

Human Rights Defenders Advocacy Programme (HRDAP)

4th April – 24th June 2022 (online)



1) Programme summary

ISHR would like to warmly welcome you to the 2022 edition of the Human Rights Defender Advocacy Programme (HRDAP22)!

Through this 12-week course, you will meet and exchange with human rights defenders from across the globe (including 18 other HRDs taking part in the course, as well as ISHR staff and other human rights defenders). You will get a chance to dive into the inner workings of the UN human rights mechanisms and bodies, hear first-hand from advocates and UN staff on how civil society can strategically engage in the international human rights space and receive tailored coaching and advocacy support to help you reach your objectives.

Over the next 12 weeks, you will:

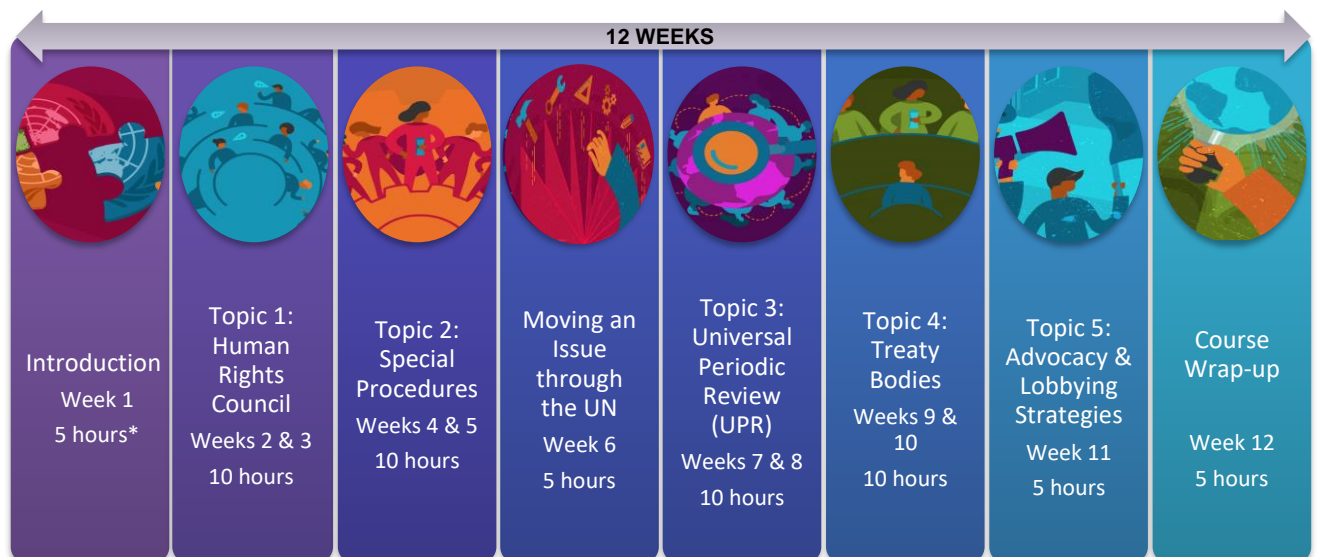
1. Gain new knowledge and tools to ensure your voice is central in international human rights decision-making
2. Explore and compare the benefits of engagement with the Human Rights Council, the Special Procedures, the OHCHR, the UPR and the Treaty Bodies, and examine how you can use them to bolster your work at the national level
3. Develop strategies and lobbying techniques to increase the potential of your national and regional advocacy work and contribute to human rights change on

the ground

2) Distance Learning Course (online, 4th April – 24th June 2022)

The HRDAP22 programme consists of the following elements:

- a) A **12-week distance learning course** to support participants to consolidate existing knowledge and develop advocacy objectives, which includes access to:
- ✓ The new [HRDAP Platform](#), where you can complete **e-learning courses on each key UN human rights mechanism** and on **advocacy and lobbying strategies** and access interactive learning materials and case studies on the [ISHR Academy](#)
 - ✓ live Q&A sessions with human rights experts
 - ✓ Other tools and resources to support defenders' advocacy work



**Approximate number of study hours*

- b) **Advocacy support and coaching**, focusing on ways to use international human rights mechanisms effectively and to influence outcomes:
- ✓ Receive **individual support** from ISHR's Training and Advocacy Support Manager, throughout the duration of the course
 - ✓ Each participant will receive **individual and group coaching** sessions with a dedicated ISHR staff, through regular meetings held via videoconference
 - ✓ Complete individual exercises in order to develop an "Advocacy Roadmap" (concrete advocacy objectives as a part of a **theory of change**) and receive individual **feedback** and **coaching** on each submission from a dedicated coach

c) Be part of a **global community** of human rights defenders:

- ✓ Meet and work with other defenders from around the world, and exchange with others in **forum** discussions, meet each other during **live webinars and Q&A sessions**
- ✓ Receive **weekly updates** informing defenders of what's coming up and learn more about other defenders taking part in the course
- ✓ Integrate **ISHR's Alumni Network** – with regular updates on advocacy opportunities, calls to action, and other key communication related to the international human rights space

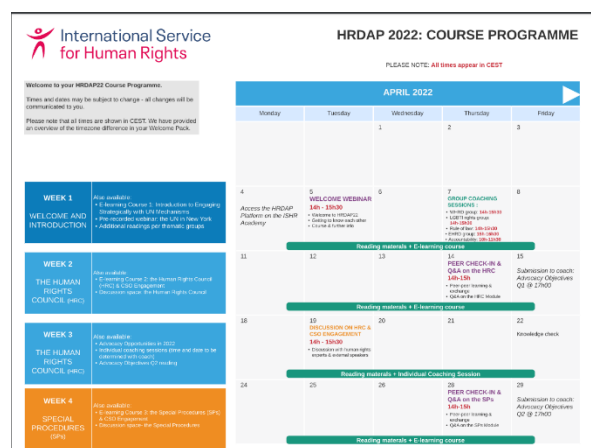
d) Receive **support and advocacy accompaniment** to conduct advocacy (remotely or plan for future in-person advocacy) during Human Rights Council sessions and other relevant meetings.

Through HRDAP, you will benefit from tailored, long-term advocacy coaching and support, in order to develop your knowledge and skills, as well as an "advocacy strategy roadmap", to make strategic use of the international human rights system in your national advocacy strategies.

3) HRDAP22 Timetable

We invite you to consult the HRDAP22 timetable (attached in the email.)* Please note carefully the timing of the live sessions you will be attending over the course of the 12-week programme as well as the other tasks you will complete each week.

**Please note that some dates and times may be subject to change due to the availability of external speakers. This calendar will be updated accordingly and all modifications will be communicated to you.*



The calendar displays the course programme for April 2022. It includes a weekly overview on the left and a detailed daily schedule on the right. Key sessions include:

- WEEK 1: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION** (April 4-8)
- WEEK 2: THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL** (April 11-15)
- WEEK 3: THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (cont.)** (April 18-22)
- WEEK 4: SPECIAL PROCEDURES (SP)** (April 25-29)

- **Live Sessions:** All live sessions with the entire cohort will take place at **2 pm CEST.**
- **Group coaching sessions:** Group coaching sessions will take place during these times: (We will inform each of you which group you will be a part of)

- **WHRD group: 14h-15h30 CEST**
- **LGBTI rights group: 14h-15h30 CEST**

- **Transparency & Rule of law group: 14h-15h30 CEST**
- **EHRD group: 15h-16h30 CEST**
- **International Accountability: 10h-11h30 CEST**
- Individual coaching sessions: We have included dedicated weeks for your individual coaching sessions. The specific date and time will be agreed between you and your individual coach during those given weeks.

We suggest you discuss the time and work commitment you will need (approximately 5 hours/week) with your supervisor, to ensure you have the time and space to focus on your learning.

4) Online Platforms & Digital Security

HRDAP22 will be hosted through a brand new, tailor-made learning platform on the ISHR Academy, where you will access:

- reading materials, e-learning courses, quizzes, and more
- the HRDAP22 Community Space, where you can discuss topics with other defenders, take part in peer-peer learning, and receive group and individual coaching through instant messaging and video-conference calls
- Access all live sessions, including peer-peer check-in sessions & Q&As with human rights experts
- Find helpful information regarding Digital Security and more

We will provide you with all relevant information on how to log in and navigate the HRDAP Platform.

5) HRDAP22 Team

Training lead:

Hannah Sobocinski – Training and Advocacy Support Manager



Hannah (she/her) joined ISHR as Training and Advocacy Support Manager in 2020. Her work focuses on ensuring the successful delivery of the Human Rights Defender Advocacy Programme (HRDAP), further developing the online ISHR Academy and providing overall support for ISHR's training, advocacy accompaniment and capacity building activities. Before joining ISHR, Hannah worked in humanitarian capacity building at Save the Children UK in London, training frontline aid workers in West and Central Africa, East Africa and Bangladesh. She holds a Master's degree in International Public Policy from Queen Mary University of London and a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from the University of Geneva.

Facilitator:

Diego Villanueva – Office and Programme Management Manager



Diego (he/him) joined ISHR in 2017 after 12 years of experience in events administration, hospitality, and customer service industries and a recent position as office manager for a Geneva-based software company. At ISHR Diego is in charge of office management and administration, as well as supporting the different program teams to help them achieve important progress on the set goals. Diego has also been an LGBTI and migrant rights activist in Mexico and the USA, which inspired the idea of one day working for a human rights NGO.

Diego studied foreign languages and literature at UNAM in Mexico City, in addition to Hospitality and Culinary Arts from the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco.

Group & individual coaches:

Adélaïde Etong Kame – Programme Manager (Africa)



Adélaïde (she/her) joined ISHR in 2017 and focuses on supporting and protecting defenders from Africa at the national level, as well as at the African Commission and UN. Previously, she advocated for the rights of women in Poland and Macedonia as well as the advancement of freedom of expression in Central Africa. More recently, she worked with indigenous people and minorities in Mauritania for a better protection of their rights, especially victims of slavery.

Adélaïde has a Master in International Law and Relations from the University of Clermont-Ferrand. Follow her on Twitter [@Adelaide_ISHR](#).

Adélaïde will lead group coaching sessions for the “Transparency & Rule of Law” group.

Eleanor Openshaw – Programme Director



Eleanor (she/her) leads ISHR’s work to promote NGO participation and protect civil society space at the UN. She also coordinates our work at the Inter-American Commission and in the Latin American region. Before joining ISHR, Eleanor worked at Amnesty International and Peace Brigades International. Eleanor holds degrees from the University of Oxford and London Metropolitan University. Follow her on Twitter [@EleanorOpenshaw](#).

Eleanor will lead group coaching sessions for the “International Accountability for the Repression of HRDs” group.

Pooja Patel – Programme Director



Pooja (she/her) joined ISHR in 2014 and leads our work supporting women HRDs. Before joining ISHR, Pooja worked with the Asian Forum for Human Rights & Development (FORUM-ASIA) in Bangkok and Geneva, and as a policy analyst with Universal Rights Group. Pooja holds a Degree in Political Science and International Development from the University of Toronto.

Pooja will lead group coaching sessions for the “Women Human Rights Defenders” group.

Tess McEvoy – New York Office Co-Director and Legal Counsel



Tess McEvoy (she/her) leads ISHR's work on LGBTI rights defenders as well as ISHR's legal protection work, including contributing to a [Model Law for the protection of human rights defenders](#). She is part of ISHR's legal team which engages in strategic litigation for the protection of human rights defenders. She also engages with UN mechanisms in New York including the General Assembly and the Commission on the Status of Women. Before joining ISHR in 2015, Tess worked with leading international law firm DLA Piper, and with community legal centres working on women's and refugee rights. Tess holds a Juris Doctor from Murdoch University and a psychology degree from University of Western Australia. Follow her on Twitter [@Tess_L_McEvoy](#)

Tess will lead group coaching sessions for the “LGBTI rights” group

Andrés Zaragoza – Programme Manager (Business and Human Rights)



Andrés joined ISHR in 2020 and leads our work on business and human rights. Previously, Andrés worked at the World Economic Forum and other NGOs, focusing on human rights risks and due diligence measures along global supply chains and in high-risk areas. He also worked at the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Providers (ICoCA), a multi-stakeholder initiative involving private sector, States and NGOs in raising standards in the private security sector globally. Andrés holds a Master degree on human rights from the University of Essex. His academic background is in law and business administration and management.

Andrés will lead the group coaching sessions for the “Environmental Human Rights Defenders” group.



Salma El Hosseiny – Programme Manager (Human Rights Council)

Salma (she/her) joined ISHR in 2018 and leads our strategic engagement and advocacy at the Human Rights Council. She holds a Masters degree in International Human Rights Law and a Bachelors degree in Political Science from the American University in Cairo. Prior to joining ISHR, Salma worked for international and national human rights organisations in the Middle East and North Africa region. Her work focused on the protection of human rights defenders, civil and political rights and women's rights. Follow her on Twitter [@salma_ishr](#).

Salma will be an individual coach for HRDs working on anti-racism issues.

Other staff members from ISHR may also participate in sessions that are relevant to their expertise. Please visit our website's [staff page](#) for more information.

6) Next Steps

- You will soon receive calendar invites for the confirmed sessions which will take place throughout the course. In the meantime, please review the [HRDAP22 Timetable](#) and block out time in your calendars.
- Take a look at the "[How to get the most out of HRDAP22](#)" document attached
- We would love to learn more about you! HRDAP is not only about providing you with new knowledge and skills, but also about building an international community of HRDs from around the world.
 - Please fill out [this form](#) in order to let us know a bit more about you *(the information you provide will only be shared within ISHR & the HRDAP cohort. Please feel free to use other secure communication channels to share this information if you do not wish to disclose this information in this format)*
- If you have any questions, please contact hrdap2022@ishr.ch

