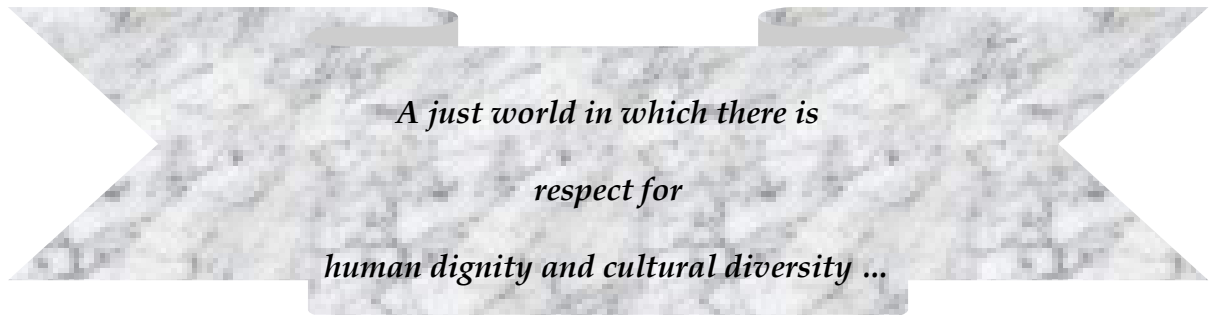




The European Law Students' Association

HUMAN RIGHTS HANDBOOK

April 2001



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Introduction

Dear Human Rights Enthusiasts,

This Handbook is supposed to serve as a first introduction to ELSA's Commitment to Human Rights for local and national Directors for Human Rights, and those who are flirting with the thought of becoming one.

Apart from giving a brief explanation of purpose and history of the Human Rights Commitment, this handbook focuses on the tasks which a Director for Human Rights is typically faced with. It aims to give concrete input and suggestions which you might want to follow up. Above all, it should become obvious to the 'attentive reader' that it is vital that a Director for Human Rights cooperates closely with the Key Area Officers of his local or national board. In fact, this diversity is one of the reasons which makes the post of Director for Human Rights so appealing.

Another reason might be the opportunities on an international level that even local Directors have - if they want to take advantage of them! Anybody can join the International Human Rights Team or participate in the International Human Rights Research Teams which we are trying to set up. There are many international events that eagerly await your participation. What is more, the Human Rights Programme, like no other ELSA area, is open to being shaped by *you* in the way you want to:

If you are 'a bit of an AA fanatic' you can restrict yourself to organising a Human Rights moot court or a Human Rights research group in a topic that takes your fancy. If this leads you onto giving vital input to your S&C officer for the organisation of your ELSA group's next big international seminar - all the better! If you are not really into organising large-scale events, you might prefer to collect lists of Human Rights institutions which your local group could visit for an institutional study visit, and leave it to other board members to convert your ideas into practice.

You might also have topical preferences. If you are a 'traditional Human Rights enthusiast', you might have taken a liking to issues such as the prohibition of child labour, the ban of landmines, the rights of refugees or complicated legal issues such as the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law or the prosecution of war criminals under international law. But just as well you could be fascinated by more controversial discussions such as fascist associations versus freedom of speech, or the right to life versus the right to abortion and euthanasia. Or with more recent phenomena such as the privacy of employee emails or the alleged threat of the state acting as 'big brother' through surveillance cameras in public spaces or eaves dropping devices in anti-terrorist campaigns.

In brief: the ELSA world is your oyster!

Make the most of it, and remember that you can always turn to your national or international Director for Human Rights for help - for presentations, addresses, contacts, ideas, or simply moral support.

Cornelia Schneider
Director for Human Rights
ELSA International

With many thanks to Tanja Krabbe, who wrote large parts of this handbook which I simply updated.

Human Rights in a Nutshell

For a detailed explanation about ELSA and Human Rights, you should carefully read the representative materials that can be found in the annex to this handbook. (You should also use these materials to pass on to externals whom you want to inform about ELSA's Commitment to Human Rights.)

However, for a quick overview of what ELSA's Commitment to Human Rights is all about, which you could also use for Human Rights presentations, you might want to take a look at the following bullet points.

PURPOSE

- Goal of efficiently **integrating HR in all fields of ELSA**, thus furthering the association's social dimension based on its Philosophy Statement 'A just world in which there is respect for human dignity and cultural diversity'.
- To provide an academic platform for discussion within the network in order to **create human rights awareness**; the active involvement in the general **promotion and development of human rights law**.
- ELSA will stay **non-political**. ELSA's involvement in human rights will thus take place within a strictly legal and academic framework to support ELSA activities.

HISTORY

- **Rome October 1993**: 'ELSA is to investigate the creation of a new Area of Activity (Key Area Activity), dealing with Human Rights and Social Solidarity.'
- **Malta October 1994**: Approval of a one year pilot-phase in the field of Human Rights running from the Malta CM to the Nottingham CM.
- **Nottingham September 1995**: 'Human Rights will be permanently included within the ELSA activities.'
- **Rome 10-1998 and Warsaw 03-2000**: 'ELSA shall be continuously committed to HR awareness, HR education, and the respect of the Rule of Law.'

COOPERATION

- The HR programme does **not** exist separately, but is reflected in the key area events. AA, S&C and STEP: define the organisational form of an event.
Human Rights: define the academic content of an event.
It might be helpful to think of the key areas as the skeleton outline of an event, and Human Rights as the flesh which covers the bones!

The Philosophy Statement

Inspired by the philosophy statement of ELSA, with the vision of '*A just world in which there is respect for Human Dignity and Cultural Diversity*' and the commitment '*to encourage law students and young lawyers to act for the good of society*', ELSA decided in 1995 to give a special priority to Human Rights. This special priority is made in order to contribute to the promotion of Human Rights awareness, as part of a contribution to legal education.

Lawyers above Average

As lawyers, it is natural to appeal for respect of the rule of law and the effective enforcement of legal responsibility for both states and individuals. Human Rights is the basis of all law and occupies a special place in the legal system. We wish to show that ELSA is an organisation of law students and young lawyers with a sense of moral duty who are aware of the important role lawyers play in today's society. We are ready to take the responsibility implied in this role, and to engage ourselves in the call for actual respect for Human Rights.

In everything we do

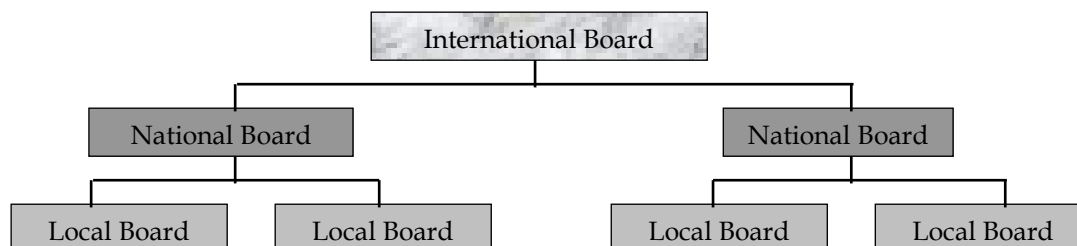
When the idea was first brought up by ELSA Spain, it was proposed to implement this vision by creating a fourth key area; Human Rights. However, it was agreed that it would be beneficial to keep the structure of the three key areas, and to commit ourselves to giving special attention to Human Rights in the activities of those three areas. It was decided to create a directorship for Human Rights to assist the key area officers in this task.

Key Area Officers making the difference

In other words, all of the key area officers play an important part in bringing into practice this vision. They make the difference. Whether we really are going to have an impact on the Human Rights education of tomorrow's lawyers is up to them, and it is for the Director for Human Rights to keep on reminding them of this responsibility. Assure them that it is not a heavy burden; on the contrary, it is an interesting and exciting challenge. They don't need to become an expert on Human Rights and they don't need to expand their work. All they need to do is keep the importance of Human Rights in mind when organising ELSA activities.

Structure

If you have a lot, or in fact any kind, of ELSA experience, then you will be well aware of the way in which the ELSA network is structured.



Every board, on local, national, or international level, should consist of 7 elected board members. On top of that every board can *appoint* what we refer to as Directors. These should assist the board in a specific area which deserves specific attention.

When, in 1995, a decision was taken at the International Council Meeting in Nottingham that Human Rights should be permanently included within ELSA, it was also decided that the best way of going about this would be through the creation of a Directorship for Human Rights. The person within the ELSA board responsible for the supervision and coordination of the Director for Human Rights should be the President. The President should also take over the tasks of a Director for Human Rights if no Director has been appointed or is available in any given year.

The local and national Directors for Human Rights should be directly involved in the organisation of ELSA events and activities in close cooperation with the respective key area officers, whereas the international Director for Human Rights will focus on coordinating the efforts of local and national Human Rights Directors, passing on information and compiling databases.

You should be aware of the opportunities that even local Directors for Human Rights have to get involved on an international level. It is most important that we exchange information and cooperate wherever possible, as this makes up such a major part of our task. Every Director for Human Rights should aim to:

- join the all-of-elsa-hr mailing list in order to be kept up to date on international developments. The mailing list is by no means as active as any of the other all-of-elsa lists, but does provide interesting information. Write an email to all-of-elsa-hr-subscribe@yahoo.com and you will be automatically subscribed.
- write to your national or international Director for Human Rights (elsa_hr@hotmail.com) for advice on how to get involved on an international level, or for ideas on local projects, research etc.
- check out the new ELSA website at www.elsa-online.org for the latest developments within ELSA Human Rights.
- read the latest Human Rights Newsletter which should be available on the website.
- send updates about your group's latest/ future Human Rights events for inclusion in the next Newsletter to elsa_hr@hotmail.com (send Human Rights Questionnaire which you can find in the Annex).

THE DIRECTOR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Being a Director for Human Rights ...

...is a fun, challenging and very enriching experience. It gives you a unique opportunity to learn about Human Rights, organisational skills, and the ELSA spirit.

The job of being a Human Rights Director is exactly what you and your board make it out to be. You probably already have loads of good ideas, and I wish you best of luck for their realisation.

However, if you are not sure how to get started, this Handbook is intended to provide you with some concrete advice that you might find interesting.

The following points are only intended to inspire you, and you probably have several ideas of your own. The ideas described in this handbook are the starting point of what you can do as a Human Rights Director and should be seen as a catalogue of projects that you can pick and choose from as you feel like. You can concentrate on a couple of them or you can do them all and add your own projects.

Just remember: At the end of the day, it is much better to have done a little bit but to have done it well, than to have a million ambitions somewhere in the sky that never materialize. And do not forget that you can always contact your national or international Human Rights Director for practical help and moral support...

Have fun!

Establishing External Contacts & Making A Directory

To encourage the implementation of Human Rights in all areas, it is important that board members and other organisers of local and national ELSA events can easily get information on the possibilities for getting practical and academic help from others in the field of Human Rights.

If your ELSA group does not already have a directory of this information, now is the time to get started. This is a suggestion of how to do it:

1. Get an overview of who is dealing with Human Rights in your city / country.

Ask people who know something about Human Rights to give you ideas / names of Human Rights experts and organisations. You could ask

- students at your faculty who are doing a Human Rights course or writing a thesis on a Human Rights related subject;
- professors (in Human Rights Law, Public International Law, Constitutional Law);
- the information department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs or another relevant ministry who might be able to give you a list of names and addresses;
- the local / national offices of the United Nations, the European Union or the Council of Europe might have a directory / a list of names and addresses to get you started (and remember there is a Co-ordinator for Institutional Relations within ELSA who might be able to help you! elsa_ir@hotmail.com).

Search the Internet for organisations within or near your city. One starting point might be a metasearch engine such as www.ixquick.com, where you can simply type in 'Human Rights [name of city]' into the search field, and then narrow your searches with the results that you get from your search.

2. Once you have names of people and organisations, write them a letter

Tell a bit about ELSA in general. Write that ELSA has decided to work more on Human Rights as an area of priority, and that you are trying to collect information on the area.

You can enclose a copy of the papers 'The Human Rights Programme' and 'ELSA for Human Rights & The Rule of Law' (to be found within this Handbook) to show the impact of the international network and prove the seriousness of the project and the respect that ELSA enjoys worldwide.

If the addressed is an academic, ask what his or her area of expertise is. If it is an organisation, ask them to inform you on their work in general (and Human Rights in particular, if it is not a Human Rights organisation). You can also ask them:

- whether they would allow you to contact them later if you have questions on their area;
- whether they would be willing to provide lecturers or materials should you need it for an ELSA event;

- whether they have suggestions for topics suitable for law students to work on or for new activities to take up. They might point out interesting current problems in Human Rights Law or suggest a whole new thing to do, or have a project you can cooperate on.

However, these questions could also be saved for a follow-up call, when you have received a first response and know more about the particular person / organisation.

3. Organise the information

When you get a response, write down the answers to your questions, the results of your investigation. Try to make a clear and schematic document. Keep in mind that the directory should be easy to use for anyone who quickly needs to find help when organising a Human Rights activity, or is looking for ideas for a Human Rights activity, or for an AA-, STEP-, or S&C-officer who is seeking inspiration of how to give their area a Human Rights aspect.

Being Informed

It is important as a Human Rights director to keep informed about what is going on in the area of Human Rights in your country and on an international level. This simply means **reading the paper and watching the news!** - and keeping eyes and ears open; **being aware** in general.

For the ambitious Human Rights director, it could be useful to **attend debates or panel discussions** as well, in order to get inspiration. Another way is **surfing the Internet** for information, if you have a possibility for this.

Informing Others

Make sure to keep **ELSA International** (the Human Rights Director of the international board) regularly updated on planned and held activities on Human Rights, and how it is going in general in the area of Human Rights. This includes sending the Director for Human Rights of ELSA International a copy of your **Human Rights Directory** and information on planned and past events including Human Rights topics and new developments with external contacts.

Also, it is obviously the responsibility of the Human Rights director to inform your board on what is going on at the international level, and encourage people to get involved.

Inspiring and Supporting The Key Area Officers

It is the main task of the Human Rights Director to help the key area officers integrate Human Rights in all ELSA activities whenever this is possible and relevant. This means suggesting activities or topics for activities and assisting in the carrying out of such activities.

Seminars & Conferences

Discuss with the S & C officer how you can work together on giving Human Rights a special priority in S & C activities and ensure that at least a few S & C events this year will be dealing with Human Rights in one way or another.

Human Rights in Seminars

When spending a week concentrating on a given topic or theme, it will in most cases be interesting - even necessary, for a comprehensive understanding of the topic - to look at it from a Human Rights perspective.

In a seminar dealing with a part of Human Rights Law this is evidently implicit. When the topic is one of International Public Law or Comparative Constitutional Law, it is easy to see the link to Human Rights. But also topics that are not traditionally seen as being closely related to Human Rights can benefit from being viewed in the light of Human Rights Law (for example, within IT law, you could look at Data Protection, or Child Pornography on the Internet). As Human Rights are the basis for all law, it is in fact difficult to find an area of law which does not have a Human Rights aspect. This goes for all kind of activities where a topic of law is studied. But it is particularly relevant to keep in mind in the ELSA activity area of seminars since this is the ELSA activity which concentrates on studying a legal topic most thoroughly.

In a series of lectures at the seminar you could have one or two lectures dealing with Human Rights. When choosing themes for workshops, it is worthwhile considering having one entire workshop concentrate on a Human Rights aspects of the topic.

The task for you as a Human Rights Director could be to

- suggest / research on possible Human Rights aspects for lectures or work shops;
- contact Human Rights experts and ask them to give you input in the planning process;
- find lecturers for Human Rights lectures;
- plan and / or head the Human Rights workshop (or find an appropriate person to do it).

Human Rights in Study Visits

When organising a bilateral study visit it could be interesting to include an excursion to a Human Rights Institution or a NGO based in your city. You could suggest this to the S&C-officer organising the visit, and offer to be responsible for such an excursion, arranging it and taking care of the practical details.

This is also a good opportunity for yourself to learn more about this institution/ office/ NGO and to develop the contacts that you established when making the Human Rights Directory. It is always fruitful to meet in person with your contact there, and maybe you could use this opportunity to talk to them about developing the cooperation.

The visit of a bunch of nice, charming law students from another country is a good way of showing them ELSA at its best, and to have them see for themselves the enthusiasm of the international spirit... This just *might* motivate them to consider giving more support; lecturers, STEP-jobs, money, etc. (There is nothing wrong with being optimistic...).

Academic Activities

Discuss with the AA officer how you can work together on giving Human Rights a special priority in Academic Activities. At least it should be ensured that Human Rights are dealt with in a few AA projects this year.

Human Rights in Moot Court Competitions

You could help the AA Officer organise a mootcourt by researching Human Rights Law which could be relevant for the case of the moot court.

Human Rights issues are often brilliant topics for a moot court. Human Rights Law is a good topic for learning litigation and legal argumentation. Everybody can relate to the topics and they invite an easy and logical approach. At the same time Human Rights Law inspires thorough legal research. A moot court on a Human Rights case requires challenging and interesting argumentation with references to international and national legislation, case law, international and national legal theory, philosophy of law and cultural practises.

You could also help the AA Officer with legal advice to the participants of the moot court, based on your research on the topic. You could suggest legal aspects of Human Rights Law relevant for the case and give the teams ideas for arguments useful in the litigation.

Legal Research Groups on Human Rights

Legal Research Groups provide the structure for investigating thoroughly a legal topic together with other students and producing an outcome of the joint efforts of the research and analysis of the topic. Emphasising ELSA's Philosophy and contributing to our role as a consulting NGO with ECOSOC and UNESCO, it would be interesting to create a Legal Research Group to focus on a part of Human Rights Law from a national, international or comparative perspective.

You could co-operate with the AA Officer to contact the professors at your university who are specialised in this field for advice and guidance to the LRG. Maybe you can also ask your contacts established in the field of Human Rights to provide help and materials for the LRG.

Human Rights and the ELSA Law Web

Watch this space!!

With the development of ELSA's new database and website, ELSA ONLINE, ELSA's whole approach to the ELSA Law Web will change. The new website will go online by the end of April 2001, but the development of the Law Web will take some more time.

However, the idea is to have the ELSA Law Web fully implemented into the new website, and to be able to present it in a far more professional way than ever before. This would include the possibility to search the Law Web by defining two search options ((1) country; (2) area of law). It has been suggested that there should be two search options relevant for Human Rights:

- Human Rights Universities

- Human Rights Institutions.

These would focus on links to universities which offer courses (most likely postgraduate ones) in Human Rights Law, and on Institutions (Governmental or NGOs) that offer a Human Rights service.

It would be a task for the Director for Human Rights, in close cooperation with the AA officer, to collect the relevant links for their town/ country.

Human Rights in the GLSE

You can cooperate with the AA officer in finding the information needed for the section on Human Rights in the *Guide to Legal Studies in Europe*. This means a description of the possibilities for taking courses on Human Rights in your country / at your faculty.

Articles on Human Rights subjects for SPEL and other publications:

To assist the AA officer in finding articles on European Human Rights Law for ELSA's *Selected Papers on European Law*, you can ask

- professors to write an article for ELSA SPEL on their area of expertise or on a certain research project they are doing;
- lecturers at the university or at an ELSA event to write an article for ELSA SPEL or for Synergy on the topic of their lecture;
- students writing their thesis on a European Human Rights related subject to write an article for ELSA SPEL summarising the idea of their thesis;
- students involved in an ELSA event on European Human Rights if they would be interested in investigating further on the subject and writing an article on it. A less academic article could alternatively be relevant for Synergy as well as the national newsletter or maybe a university magazine or a newspaper.

Excursions to legal institutions, firms and organisations working with Human Rights

Through your contacts you can get inspiration and a practical opportunity to organise excursions to Human Rights related institutions. This could be done locally, to Law Firms specialised in Human Rights or local offices of Human Rights institutions or organisations.

Also, a trip to an international head office in another country could be organised, for instance to the UN and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, The European Court for Human Rights in Strasbourg, the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia in The Hague, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Vienna (or one of their many regional offices) or some of the many organisations based in Brussels (where you could also visit the ELSA House!). The list really is endless!

You could inspire the AA-officer to organise these trips, or arrange with him or her that you do it.

Student Trainee Exchange Programme

When you have established a good contact to a law firm, institution, organisation or ministry, you will have an idea of whether there would be an opportunity to get a Human Rights STEP job there. Inform the STEP officer of such possibilities, which he or she might not otherwise know about or think of.

ELSA local groups in the past have managed to obtain STEP jobs in local offices of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Human Rights related research positions in their university's faculty, and many smaller Human Rights NGOs (even as far away as New York!). Remember that institutional STEP jobs need not be paid for.

Getting People Involved

The idea of the Human Rights programme is to educate law students in Human Rights and create Human Rights awareness. The means of this can be the above mentioned tasks. However, there is a lot to do and you probably wonder how you are going to have time and energy for all that.

There is an excellent solution to this: Get people to help you! It can be a good idea to gather people particularly interested in Human Rights and motivated to work for ELSA in this area. You can start a 'Human Rights Team' or just get some people to help you on specific tasks. This is a very good way of getting people involved in Human Rights and in ELSA in general. First of all, one of the most fruitful ways to learn about Human Rights is to work with the topics in a practical way -as in participating in the organising of an ELSA event on the subject. Also, this is a good way of attracting more people to ELSA, since the Human Rights activities might interest new people that would not otherwise be aware of The Magic World of ELSA.

ANNEX

Please find in the following pages copies of the following documents:

- ELSA for Human Rights & the Rule of Law
- The Human Rights Programme

which you can – and should – use as representative materials to send to potential sponsors, speakers, cooperation partners or ELSA Human Rights Team members.

You can also find a copy of

- the Human Rights Feedback Questionnaire

which you should copy into a separate document, fill out and send back to the Director for Human Rights of ELSA International at elsa_hr@hotmail.com.



The European Law Students' Association

The Human Rights Programme

Human
Rights

Potential and Responsibility

The European Law Students' Association, ELSA, is the largest international organisation of law students and young lawyers in the world. ELSA spans the entire European continent and is represented at more than 180 Universities in 40 countries. Uniting 25,000 future lawyers, ELSA is fully aware of its responsibility and potential for helping to shape the world of tomorrow. This has led ELSA to commit itself to increasing respect for, and awareness, protection and promotion of Human Rights as a logical consequence of respect for the Rule of Law.

The ELSA Philosophy Statement

ELSA has a philosophy statement with a vision that unites all 25,000 members of the association and directs our work. It is the vision of '*A just world in which there is respect for Human Dignity and Cultural Diversity*'.

Implications

Two goals in working for this vision are 'to encourage law students and young lawyers to act for the good of society' and 'to contribute to legal education'. Encouraging law students and young lawyers to *act for the good of society* clearly implies promoting Human Rights and providing Human Rights education. In our efforts to *contribute to legal education* we need to take up the challenges that our formal education does not provide us with. One challenge lacking in many Law Faculties is the thorough study of Human Rights Law and the connection with the real world.

Human Rights - the Basis of Law

Human Rights are increasingly codified in international conventions as well as national constitutions and laws. The framework of international instruments to enforce Human Rights Law is constantly developing, expanding and improving. The international and national provisions protecting Human Rights are used more frequently and more aggressively in national courts than ever before. Human Rights are the basis of all law. No law can be fully understood unless being seen in the light of the values it expresses and in its relation to Human Rights. These facts make it necessary for anyone dealing with law to study Human Rights. Anyone working within any area of law needs to know Human Rights Law to do his or her job well.

The need for Human Rights Education

In great contrast to this professional need to learn about Human Rights, and in great contrast to the Human Rights violations committed all over the world everyday - the

gravest violations of the law that we will one day work to defend - many law faculties almost ignore this basic field of law. It is a natural task for ELSA to compensate for this gap with the activities we organise.

The Objectives

The two main reasons for the commitment to Human Rights - on the one side the moral obligation to get involved in creating a more just and human society, and on the other side the professional need to be qualified and progressive - are mirrored in the two objectives of the Human Rights Programme:

- Getting Involved -

The **external objective** of the Human Rights Programme, linked to the natural urge to get involved in the society we live in, is *to contribute to the progressive development of Human Rights Law*. ELSA is engaged in several international meetings and NGO forums in order to increase the opportunities to learn about the international legal system and to promote the respect for Human Rights. ELSA has consultative status with UNESCO and ECOSOC. The responsibility associated with this status is an important commitment in our involvement in the international community. Another project are the ELSA working groups at the UN Preparatory Committees.

- Education and Awareness -

The **internal objective** of the programme, linked to contributing to legal education, is *to create a platform for discussion*, in order to spread Human Rights awareness and to supplement the legal education we receive at university. In this respect, ELSA has integrated Human Rights issues into all of its activities.

ELSA's Activities

Seminars and Law Schools

International seminars are organised on various aspects of national and international Human Rights Law. Law schools usually go into more depth over a longer period of time. Past projects that deserve a mention include the Law School on Peace in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the legendary Arusha Law School on International Human Rights and Criminal Law. More recent projects that have been held on an annual basis are the Human Rights Law School in Coimbra, Portugal and Dubrovnik, Croatia, now in their third and second year, respectively.

Research and Debates

Legal Research Groups focus on various legal topics. In relation to the consultative status in UNESCO and ECOSOC, it is natural to focus on Human Rights Law as well as educational and social issues. The Human Rights Programme also includes numerous discussion forums and conferences on Human Rights topics.

Practical Experience

Through its Student Trainee Exchange Programme, STEP, ELSA provides opportunities for law students to gain practical work experience in law firms, institutions and organisations working with Human Rights issues.

Long Term Perspective

The long-term effect of the current efforts of the ELSA Human Rights Programme should not be neglected. To have the will to use the provisions to safeguard Human Rights, one has to possess certain moral qualities and respect for human dignity. To have the power to effectively use the existing Human Rights remedies, one has to possess the right ammunition. By creating Human Rights awareness and encouraging law students to act for the good of society, with a network of 25,000 future lawyers and the potential such a large network implies, the ELSA Human Rights Programme creates a necessary basis for a real and effective enforcement of Human Rights.



The European Law Students' Association

ELSA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & THE RULE OF LAW

Human
Rights

A Network All Over the World

The European Law Students' Association, ELSA, is the largest international organisation of law students and young lawyers in the world. ELSA spans the entire European continent, represented at more than 180 Universities in 40 countries. Outside of Europe, ELSA has established a unique network of actively co-operating associations and individuals based in Africa, Asia, and Northern and Latin America.

The Organisation

Founded in 1981 in Vienna, ELSA is a non-political, non-profit making association with more than 25,000 individual members. ELSA co-operates with numerous international companies, institutions and NGOs and has consultative status with UNESCO and ECOSOC. The activities of the association include Academic Activities, Seminars and Conferences, and their Student Trainee Exchange Programme 'STEP'.

The Activities

The Academic Activities cover numerous scientific projects such as moot court competitions, the publishing of The ELSA Selected Papers on European Law and the Guide to Legal Studies in Europe, as well as the construction of the ELSA Law Web. The activities of Seminars & Conferences contribute to Legal Education by organising international Law Schools and Seminars on law-related topics of international interest. The Student Trainee Exchange Programme gives law students the opportunity to gain practical work experience and cultural understanding through internships in legal firms and institutions abroad.

Special Commitment to Human Rights

In 1995 an important decision was taken in ELSA: to permanently introduce to the association a special commitment to increasing respect for and awareness, protection and promotion of Human Rights as a logical consequence of respect for the Rule of Law. Consequently, ELSA has successfully integrated Human Rights issues into all of its activities and has thereby established a unique youth discussion forum on Human Rights. ELSA is also engaged in several international meetings and NGO forums to increase the opportunities to learn about the international legal system and to actively promote the respect for Human Rights Law.

*ELSA International
ELSA for Human Rights & the Rule of Law*

In order to develop the initiatives to strengthen the involvement in Human Rights issues and Legal Education, ELSA has support from academics and authorities, including;

- **Prof. Upendra Baxi**, Faculty of Law, University of New Delhi, India; Washington University, USA

- **Hon. Emma Bonino**, Commissioner of the European Union, Brussels, Belgium; founder of the UN "NGO Coalition for an International Criminal Court", N.Y.C., USA

- **Prof. Theo van Boven**, former Director of the Center for Human Rights of the UN, Geneva, Switzerland; Faculty of Law, University of Limburg, Maastricht, The Netherlands

- **Prof. William J. Butler**, former President of International Commission of Jurists, Geneva, Switzerland; American Society of International Law, USA

- **Prof. Antonio Cassese**, European Institute, Fiesole, Italy; President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former-Yugoslavia, The Hague, The Netherlands

- **Hon. Prof. Giovanni Conso**, Faculty of Law, LUISS University - Rome; former Italian Minister of Justice; former President of the Constitutional Court, Italy

- **Adv. Bavo Cool**, President of *Avocats sans Frontières*, Brussels, Belgium

- **Mr. Hans Corell**, Under-Secretary General and Legal Counsel of the United Nations, New York, USA

- **Prof. Paul Davies**, Chairman of the Faculty of Law, Oxford University, United Kingdom

- **Dr. Clarence Dias**, President of the International Center for Law in Development, N.Y.C.

- **Prof. Richard Falk**, School of Law, Princeton University, New York, USA

- **Dr. William Fenrick**, Senior Legal Advisor, International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, The Hague, The Netherlands; Arusha, Tanzania

- **Hon. Justice Richard Goldstone**, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, The Hague, The Netherlands; Arusha, Tanzania

- **Mrs. Nadine Gordimer**, Nobel Prize Winner in Literature, Cape Town, South Africa
- **Mr. Michael Hager**, Director of the International Development Law Institute (IDLI), Rome
- **Ms. Huong T. Huynh**, Lawyer, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Delegate in Kigali, Rwanda
- **Mr. Christopher Keith Hall**, Legal Adviser of Amnesty International, London, UK
- **Mrs. Shulamith Koenig**, UN Peoples' Decade for Human Rights Education, N.Y.C., USA
- **Mr. Richard Lewis**, Deputy Head of the Unit Democratization and Human Rights, European Commission, European Union, Brussels, Belgium
- **Prof. Marek Madej**, University of Cracow, Poland; Legal Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Poland at the United Nations, N.Y. C., USA
- **Prof. Steven Marks**, Faculty of Law, Princeton University; Columbia University, N.Y.C., USA
- **Prof. Theodor Meron**, School of Law, New York University, N.Y.C., USA
- **Hon. Pres. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro**, Head of State, President of the Italian Republic, Rome
- **Prof. Otto Triffterer**, Dean of the Law Faculty, University of Salzburg, Austria
- **Prof. Danilo Turk**, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, Slovenian representative at the UN and special Rapporteur on the realization of economic, Social and Cultural Rights UN Commission on Human Rights
- **Prof. Michail Wladimiroff**, University of Utrecht, Advocate at the Bar of the Supreme Court, The Hague, The Netherlands



The European Law Students' Association

Human Rights

Feedback Form 2001

Communication Section

ELSA Group:

Address:

Email:

Tel #:

Fax #:

Web site:

Current board in office since:

Director for Human Rights:

Address:

Email:

Tel/ Fax #:

Alternative Contact (e.g. President):

Address:

Email:

Tel/ Fax #:

Human Rights Involvement

Please tell us about the Human Rights involvement of your ELSA group. Feel free to add additional pages.

We have recently organised a Human Rights event (Seminar, Conference, Law School, Moot Court etc.)

Name of event:

Type of event:

Date(s):

Issues dealt with:

Number of Participants:

Speakers/ Lecturers/ Externals Involved:

We are currently organising a Human Rights event/ thinking of organising a HR event

Name of event:

Type of event:

Date(s):

Issues dealt with:

Number of Participants:

Speakers/ Lecturers/ Externals Involved:

One of our recent/ future S&C events has had/ will have a Human Rights aspect (please delete as appropriate)

Name of event:

Type of event:

Date(s):

Human Rights aspects:

We organise local Human Rights events on a regular basis (talks, institutional study visits etc.)

Name of event(s):

Type of event(s):

Date(s):

Issues dealt with:

We have a Human Rights Research Group

Number of team members:

Research involves:

Research tools (internet, university library etc.):

We have obtained/ have established contacts in order to obtain a Human Rights related STEP internship.

Name of firm/ organisation/ institution:

Type of STEP job involved:

Proposed duration:

ELSA contact person:

External Contacts (e.g. potential speakers, university lecturers) Please attach additional sheet if necessary.

Name:

Profession:

Organisation:

First contact:

Date:

Occasion:

ELSA contact person:

Other comments:

Has the contact agreed to be included in the ELSA database of speakers? Yes. No.

Your Opinion

Would you consider being a member of the ELSA Human Rights Team?

No. Yes. I know other people who would be interested. Email: .

Would you be prepared to come to Brussels/ next ICM/ other place for about 4 days to work for the HR Team?

No. Yes.

Would you be able to fund yourself?

No. Yes. Comments: .

Which HR aspects do you feel should feature in ELSA International's new website?

Support Section for ELSA members regarding ELSA activities with HR content

Database of past/ future HR events

Law Web Section specialising on HR University Courses and HR Institutions

Information Sheets (short introductions to HR topics prepared by ELSA members)

Fundraising for HR events

List of Contacts - external - internal

Other (please be creative!) .

Which of the above do you feel should be password protected? .

Please specify any HR topics that you feel deserve ELSA research (e.g. by the HR Team):

ECHR

Racism

Minority Rights

EU Charter on Fundamental Rights and Freedoms

ICC/ ICTY

Victims/ Reparation Funds

The appointment of judges for international tribunals

Harmonisation of Asylum Procedures/ Refugee Law

Legal Clinics

Human Rights per country (information sheet summaries on website/ case law section etc.)

Other .

Co-operation with ELSA International

What do you expect from the Human Rights Director?

Please send this form to the Director for Human Rights of ELSA International; 239, Boulevard Général Jacques, B-1050 Brussels,

Tel: + 32 2 646 26 26 Fax: + 32 2 646 29 23 Email: elsa_hr@hotmail.com; or hand it in at ICMs or Presidents' Meetings.