

19th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights – Webinar

Access to Education and Human Rights Education in Times of COVID-19

Wednesday, 23 September 2020 | 09:00-10:30 UTC

Speakers



Dr Sriprapha PETCHARAMESREE

Senior Lecturer
Institute for Human Rights and
Peace Studies, Mahidol University

Sriprapha Petcharamesree is currently a part time senior faculty member at the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand. She received her first degree from Thammasat University and her Ph.D. from the University of Paris-X Nanterre, France. She was awarded an Honorary Doctor by the University of Oslo in 2017 for her contribution to human rights works. Her first formal contact with human rights works started when she served as a social worker at the UNICEF's Emergency Operations for Cambodian Refugees in 1979. Since 1990s she has been active in human rights field both among academic community and human rights advocates at national, regional and international levels. Her recent works focus, among others, on issues of human rights education, citizenship, migration, statelessness and human rights in international relations. She has been studying about ASEAN and its member states for the past 25 years. Between October 2009 to December 2012, she was appointed the Thai Representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights. She is the Co-Chair of the Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism, an entity associated with ASEAN. She also chairs the SHAPE-SEA Program (Strengthening Human Rights and Peace Research and Education in ASEAN/Southeast Asia), a regional network of higher education institutions promoting human rights and peace in the region through education and research.

Sriprapha Petcharamesree served as one of the two main rapporteurs of the 19th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights.



Frank ELBERS

Researcher
University of Bucharest

Frank Elbers is an independent journalist and a researcher at the Research Institute of the University of Bucharest (ICUB), where he directs the Third Sector in the Black Sea Region programme. A political scientist and journalist by training, Frank has worked in human rights education in post-communist Eastern Europe and the Middle East and North Africa over the past 25 years. In 2016-2018 he was a visiting fellow at the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World at Lebanese American University (LAU), Beirut, where he taught professional development courses for humanitarian workers and NGOs who were engaged in the Syria Crisis Response. From 2009 to 2016 he served as executive director of the international NGO Human Rights Education Associates (HREA). During his tenure at HREA he has been an instructor, facilitator and trainer for numerous courses and workshops on gender mainstreaming; gender and human rights; human rights-based programming; human rights of (forced) migrants and migrant workers; and monitoring women's human rights for many years. Before joining HREA in 1998, he worked as programme officer for West Africa at SATELLIFE and as programme officer at the Netherlands Helsinki Committee, where he was responsible for human rights capacity building projects in Ukraine and Romania and assisted with human rights education programmes in schools from the Baltics to the Balkans. He served as the chairperson of the Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe Network (DARE) from 2009 until 2019.

Frank Elbers served as one of the two main rapporteurs of the 19th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights.



Ana PERONA-FJELDSTAD

Executive Director
The European Wergeland Centre

Since its establishment in 2008, Ana Perona-Fjeldstad has been the Executive Director of the [European Wergeland Centre \(EWC\)](#), and responsible for its development, management and operations. She has extensive experience in international education policymaking and capacity building. Perona-Fjeldstad has been adviser to several national and international organisations on issues dealing with citizenship and human rights.

As Executive Director of EWC since its establishment, she has been working closely with its founders, [the Council of Europe \(CoE\)](#) and Norway in the strategic development of the Centre. EWC's mandate is to support CoE member states to bridge policy, research, and practice in the field of education for democratic citizenship, human rights, and intercultural understanding. Located in Oslo, EWC offers capacity building programmes, policy advice, and expertise to educational professionals, institutions, and authorities in more than 30 European countries.

Ana Perona Fjeldstad has been working on Education at the international level for the last 25 years. From 1994-2009 she worked at the International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE), the global NGO gathering Higher Education Institutions active in the field of online learning, holding several positions up to Assistant Secretary General. She was leading capacity building projects in Asia, Africa and Europe developed under the framework of UNESCO, The World Bank and EU programmes, addressing access to quality education, teacher education and equality. A lawyer, with a MA in International Relations, Ana was also adviser on public policies at the Parliament (Argentina) and researcher at the Latin-American Schools of Social Sciences (FLACSO-Buenos Aires).

Moderator



Prof. Emerit. Vitit MUNTARBHORN

Professor of Law,
Culalongkorn University, Bangkok

Vitit Muntarbhorn is a Professor Emeritus at the Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University and KBE. He has helped the UN in a variety of positions, including as UN Special Rapporteur, UN Independent Expert and member of UN Commissions of Inquiry on human rights. He is a Laureate of UNESCO Human Rights Education Prize and carries out many activities to help both government ministries and civil society on human rights education and protection. He teaches international law and human rights at the University level and has been involved in many human rights education programmes for judges, government officials and civil society locally and internationally.