

22ND INFORMAL ASEM SEMINAR
on Human Rights

Training on ‘Human Rights and
Multidimensional Poverty
Measurement, Analysis, and
Reduction’

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:

Professional Training on “Human Rights and Multidimensional Poverty Measurement, Analysis, and Reduction”

21-23 October 2024

Oxford, UK

About the Training Programme

This training programme is part of the [Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights Series](#) (ASEMHRS) which aims to promote greater cooperation and better mutual understanding on human rights issues in Asia and Europe.

As part of the 22nd Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights in 2024, the ASEMHRS training will focus on "Human Rights and Poverty Reduction". The key objective of the training is to increase participants' understanding of the interlinks between human rights and poverty, and to develop skills and knowledge in multidimensional poverty measurement, analysis, and reduction within a human rights-based framework.

In the course of this 3-day face-to-face training, participants will be given a comprehensive conceptual, technical, and policy-oriented introduction to human rights-based multidimensional poverty measurement and reduction. Starting from conceptual and normative issues and the question how human rights translate into a distinctly multidimensional approach to poverty measurement and reduction, participants will also learn to apply the **Alkire-Foster method**¹ for the construction of Multidimensional Poverty Indices. Expert Speakers from Governments and International Organisations will also engage with participants in interactive discussions to share their experiences on human rights and poverty reduction. At the end of the training, participants will have learned how to utilise multidimensional poverty measures to implement human rights-based poverty reduction strategies, and how to design effective evidence-based anti-poverty policies.

The training will be delivered by the **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)**, which is a world leading research and policy centre for

¹ The Alkire-Foster Method, which was developed by OPHI Director Sabina Alkire and OPHI Research Associate James Foster, has been used to construct official multidimensional poverty statistics in various countries and has also been adopted by UNICEF to measure child poverty based on the Convention of the Rights of the Child.



multidimensional poverty measurement, analysis, and reduction within the Department of International Development at the University of Oxford.

Training Objectives

At the end of the training, participants will be able to:

- Describe the human rights-based approach to conceptualising, measuring, and reducing (multidimensional) poverty from a theoretical and practical point of view.
- Interpret and implement human rights based multidimensional poverty measures.
- Explain why and how multidimensional poverty measures add value to previous poverty measurement approaches and can be used to inform policymaking and advance human rights.
- Describe how to compute and analyse a Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).
- Identify evidence-based best practices on human rights-based poverty measurement and reduction with their peers from Asia and Europe, and also through interactions with the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN); and
- Plan further engagement within ASEM countries and the MPPN for policymakers on matters related to human rights and poverty reduction.

Target Participants and Eligibility

The training will be targeted at those responsible for initiating, formulating or implementing human rights-based poverty reduction strategies, i.e.

- Representatives of relevant **ASEM government agencies**, i.e. Ministries of Social Affairs, Economy, Sustainable Development, and
- Representatives of **regional or national human rights institutes**
- Representatives of offices of **national ombudspersons**
- Representatives of relevant **CSOs** involved in poverty reduction / human rights.

Participants must also be citizens of eligible ASEM Partner countries², and working proficiency in English is also required. A strong knowledge of and/or interest in poverty measurement and analysis are desirable.

Training Format

² Eligible ASEM member countries are: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom and Viet Nam.

All ASEF projects are implemented in line with the decision of the ASEF Board of Governors.



The training format involves a combination of lectures and presentations by the training team and external expert speakers, interactive plenary discussion sessions, case studies and working groups during which participants will practically implement human rights-based approaches to conceptualising, measuring, and reducing multidimensional poverty.

The workshop is designed as an interactive and strongly participatory three-day course. Strong technical emphasis will be placed on the Alkire-Foster (AF) Method, the most widely used method for human rights-based poverty measurement around the world.

Application Process

Interested applicants are requested to complete the online application form [here](#) by Friday, 30 August 2024 (23:59 Singapore time). In the online application, applicants are required to upload a **letter of organisational endorsement or nomination letter**, explaining how their participation in the training fits into the organisation's priorities and activities.

The selection of participants is conducted by an admission panel designated by the Co-organisers. The applicants will be informed of the selection outcome in the **week of 9 September 2024**.

Preliminary Timetable

August 2024	Call for Applications
Week of 9 September 2024	Selection of Participants
Week of 7 October 2024	Background readings to be disseminated to participants
Week of 21 October 2024	3-day training in Oxford, UK

Cost of Participation

The co-organisers will cover:

- Airfare/ train on point-to-point economy class to travel to/from Oxford, UK, through reimbursement for international participants.
- 4 nights of accommodation at the training venue with check-in on 19 October and check-out on 24 October for international participants
- Meals and refreshments during the training programme

All additional costs to be borne by participants directly, including extra nights of accommodation and visa application fees³.

Further details of the programme will be shared with selected participants.

³ For more information on the visa requirements and fees, please visit:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration>



The Organisers

The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across thematic areas of culture, education, governance, economy, sustainable development, public health and media.

ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

ASEF runs more than 25 projects a year, consisting of around 100 activities, mainly conferences, seminars, workshops, lectures, publications and online platforms, together with about 150 partner organisations. Each year over 3,000 Asians and Europeans participate in ASEF's activities, and much wider audiences are reached through its various events, networks and web-portals.

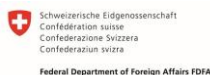
For more information, please visit www.ASEF.org

The **Informal Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Seminar on Human Rights** promotes mutual understanding and co-operation between Asia and Europe in the area of political dialogue, particularly on human rights issues, and encourages an open and non-confrontational debate between representatives of civil society organisations and officials from all ASEM Partners. The Seminar series is co-organised by ASEF, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, the Department of the Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. ASEF's contribution is with the financial support of the European Union and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

The Training is organised as part of the 22nd edition of the ASEMHRS, which focuses on human rights and poverty reduction.

The **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)** is a world leading research and policy centre for multidimensional poverty measurement, analysis, and reduction within the Department of International Development at the University of Oxford. The initiative was founded by Sabina Alkire and John Hamcock and launched in 2007 as a research and policy centre. For more information about OPHI, please visit <https://ophi.org.uk>.

Co-organisers:



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