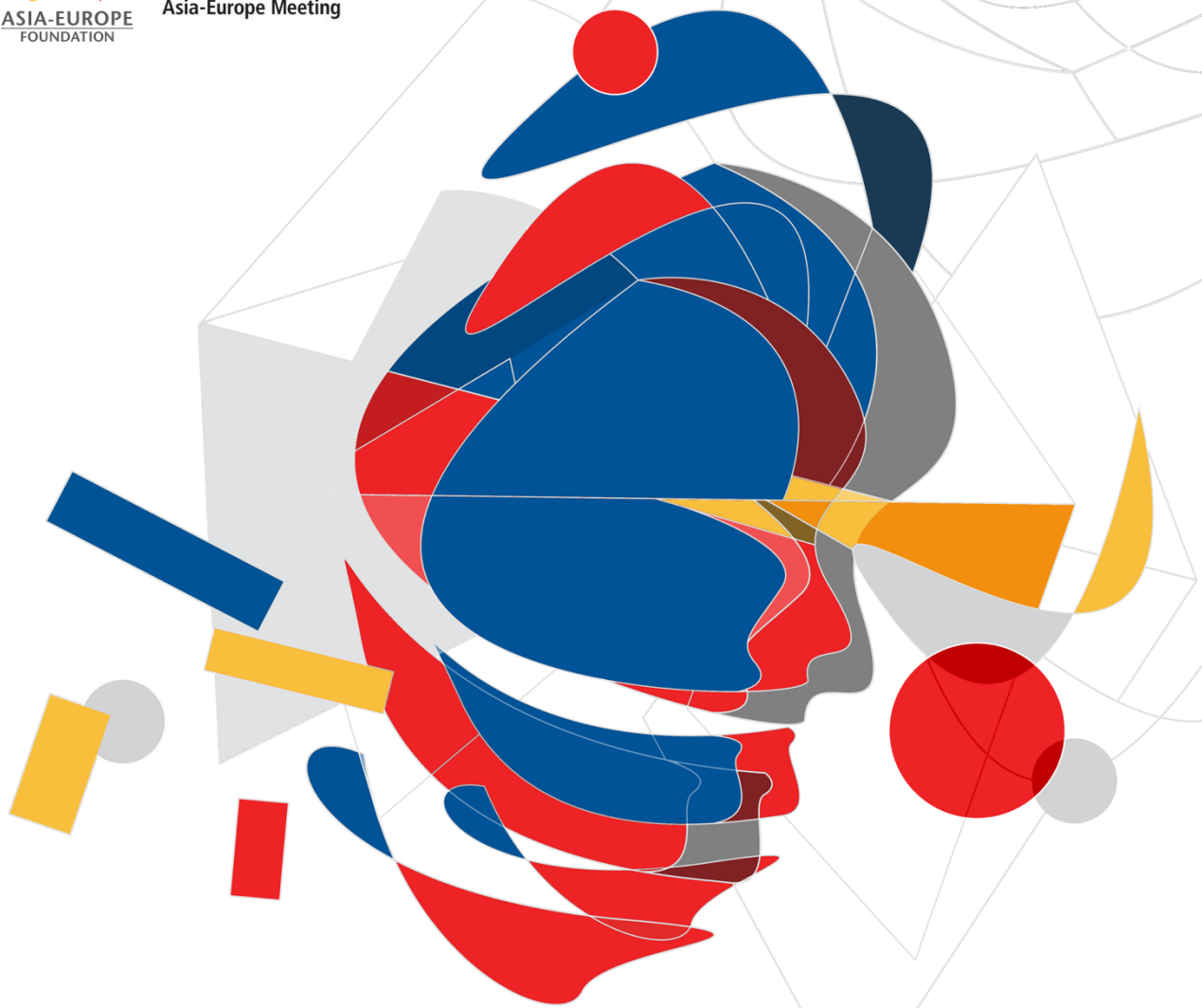




#ASEMHRS23

HUMAN RIGHTS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE TRAINING COMPONENT

#ASEMHRS23

23rd Informal Seminar on Human Rights: HUMAN RIGHTS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Background about the programme

The **Informal Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Seminar on Human Rights** serves as a platform to foster mutual understanding and cooperation between Asia and Europe in the field of political dialogue, with a particular focus on human rights. It encourages open, inclusive, and non-confrontational exchanges between representatives of civil society organisations and government officials from all ASEM Partners.

In 2017, the Seminar's Co-organisers introduced a capacity-building component to complement the Seminar's objectives by strengthening knowledge and skills on human rights across ASEM countries. This component takes the form of an **annual human rights training**, aligned with the theme of each year's Seminar, and aims to support deeper engagement and practical understanding of key human rights challenges.

This year's **training programme** will build on the **outcomes and recommendations** generated during the [23rd Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights](#) discussions, providing relevant participants with an opportunity to explore in greater depth the practical implications of these findings and apply them within their respective professional and regional contexts. The 23rd Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights will be held from 29 to 31 October 2025, under the theme: **"Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence."**

The Seminar series is co-organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the Raoul Wallenberg Institute (nominated by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs), 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.

ABOUT THE THEME

Artificial Intelligence (AI) now shapes nearly every aspect of our daily lives – from how we access information to fundamental areas such as employment, education, housing and access to justice. While AI offers tremendous opportunities for innovation and development, it also poses significant risks to human rights, the rule of law, and democracy. These risks often exacerbate existing inequalities, disproportionately impacting marginalised and vulnerable groups.

AI technologies can interfere with fundamental rights such as privacy, equality and non-discrimination. Their expanding use in critical areas—such as child protection, criminal justice, and

asylum processes—raises complex ethical, legal, and technical challenges. Moreover, accountability and remedies for harms caused by AI systems remain insufficiently defined.

The 23rd Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights (ASEMHRS23) will bring together key stakeholders from Asia and Europe—including government officials, civil society, academics, and national human rights institutions—to discuss the intersection of AI and human rights. The Seminar will focus notably on **privacy, equality, and access to remedies**, aiming to build capacity, strengthen partnerships, and develop actionable recommendations for human rights-based AI governance. In alignment with the Seminar’s objectives, the **training programme** is encouraged to address **at least one of these core focus areas**.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

Training organisations are invited to submit proposals for the training programme that address one or more of the following core themes:

- **AI and Fundamental Rights:** Impacts of AI on privacy, freedom of expression, equality, and non-discrimination.
- **Access to Remedy and Accountability:** Ensuring justice and redress where AI systems cause harm.
- **AI Regulation and the Private Sector:** Strengthening business accountability and applying the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in the digital space.
- **Inclusion and Vulnerability:** Addressing how AI affects marginalised communities and exploring strategies for inclusive governance.
- **Intersection of AI and environmental rights.** Supporting national and regional regulatory bodies in integrating the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment into AI and tech governance frameworks.

SCOPE

The selected **Trainer** will be responsible for the overall design, delivery, and evaluation of the training programme, in close collaboration with the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). The training will support the objectives of the 23rd Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights by deepening participants' understanding and practical application of human rights principles in the context of artificial intelligence.

Core Responsibilities

The Trainer is expected to:

- Design the **training programme**, including the curriculum, methodology, and supporting materials, in consultation with ASEF;
- Coordinate and **deliver a 3-day in-person training session**;
- Prepare and conduct **pre- and post-training assessment surveys** to evaluate participant learning and training effectiveness;
- Prepare a **training report** summarising the delivery, outcomes, and participant feedback, and provide **recommendations** for follow-up capacity-building programmes.

Preferred Additional Support

ASEF strongly prefers that the Trainer also:

- **Host** the training or secure a suitable venue and provide **on-site organisational support**;
- Assist in **identifying accommodation** for organisers and participants;
- Provide support with other logistical arrangements, including:
 - Issuing **visa support letters** (if applicable),
 - Arranging **local transportation**,
 - Organising a **cultural programme** (e.g. a guided tour or a visit) as part of the training experience.

Follow-up Engagement

To foster lasting impact, we encourage interested training organisations to **develop a follow-up activity or initiative** that engages participants in **concrete and/or long-term actions** after completing the training.

For full logistical and technical details, please refer to the **Annex I**.

WHO CAN APPLY

We welcome proposals from training teams and organisations with relevant experience and expertise in human rights, AI, and related fields, including:

- Human rights educators and trainers
- Legal professionals and policymakers
- Civil society organisations
- Academic institutions and researchers
- Representatives from national human rights institutions (NHRIs)
- Technology and AI ethics experts
- Private sector actors involved in the development and deployment of responsible AI solutions

Who meets the following criteria:

- **Proven experience in designing and delivering trainings on human rights**, with a specific focus on digital technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), or related emerging technologies;
- Demonstrated ability to conduct trainings for the proposed target audience;
- Strong **understanding of and experience in human rights-based training methodologies** and participatory facilitation techniques;
- **Solid knowledge of international and regional human rights frameworks** and how they apply to the development and use of AI systems, including rights to privacy, non-discrimination, freedom of expression, and access to justice;
- **Familiarity with Asia-Europe relations and current policy debates around AI governance** in both regions;
- Excellent **communication, facilitation, and interpersonal skills**, including the ability to engage with diverse audiences and apply cultural sensitivity;
- A **proactive, flexible, and collaborative approach**, with the ability to adapt content to different learning needs and policy contexts;
- Ability to work effectively within an international and cross-sectoral team;

→ Fluency in written and spoken English.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- **Deadline for Submission:** Sunday, 9 November 2025
- **Format:** Proposals should be no more than 4 pages, and include:
 - Title of the training
 - Name(s) and affiliation(s) of trainer(s)
 - Objectives and expected learning outcomes
 - Proposed target group and relevance of the target group to the overall theme of the training
 - Training methodology (interactive elements are encouraged)
 - Any technical or logistical requirements
 - Proposed budget
- Submit the proposal through this [link](#)

ENQUIRIES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Armi Aarni, Head of Governance, Asia-Europe Foundation, at armihamnele.aarni@asef.org / humanrights.seminar@asef.org

ANNEX I: Training Design and Delivery

Role: Trainer (Training Organisation)

Start Date: (TBC)

Format: Face-to-Face

Time Frame: 5 months (preparation, implementation, and reporting)

Coordination: Project Coordinator, Governance & Sustainable Development Department, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

1. Background

Since 1997, the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and its partners have convened the **Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights**, a dialogue platform that fosters mutual understanding and cooperation between Asia and Europe on human rights issues. These seminars bring together representatives from government, civil society, academia, and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) from all ASEM Partners to engage in open and constructive dialogue.

Outcomes and recommendations from each Seminar are communicated to ASEM governments and compiled in a publication that serves as a reference on the state of human rights discourse across both regions.

Since 2017, an annual **training component** has been introduced to complement the Seminar's goals. This training aims to enhance the practical capacity of stakeholders in ASEM countries through a structured and interactive learning programme that aligns with the Seminar's theme.

See examples of previous trainings [here](#).

2. Training Objectives

The training under the **23rd Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights** will focus on the theme: **"Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence."**

The programme aims to build capacity and deepen participants' understanding of the intersection between human rights and AI, with a specific focus on **privacy, equality, and access to remedies**. The training will:

- Provide practical, participatory, and interactive learning on human rights-based approaches (HRBA) to the development, deployment, and regulation of AI;
 - Equip participants with tools and knowledge to understand and address AI-related human rights challenges;
 - Promote exchange of evidence-based good practices and successful regulatory or governance models from Asia and Europe.
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3. Methodology & Training Curriculum

The training will be delivered over **3 to 3.5 days** and led by the selected **Trainer**, in collaboration with **5–6 expert speakers** from Asia and Europe.

The Trainer will be responsible for developing the curriculum, methodology, and materials, ensuring that the programme is:

- **Learner-centred** and responsive to the professional needs of participants;
- Focused on **international human rights standards**, with intersectional and regionally relevant perspectives;
- Closely aligned with the **themes** of the 23rd Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights;
- Inclusive of **interactive elements** (e.g. simulations, case studies, peer learning exercises).

Furthermore, the Trainer must:

- Ensure at least **60% of proposed speakers/trainers** can commit to participation;
- Propose a **balanced roster** of experts from Asia and Europe;
- Administer a **pre-training survey** to assess participant knowledge and learning goals;
- Conduct a **post-training survey** to evaluate learning outcomes and training impact;
- Provide **pre-readings and exercises** to support participant preparation;
- Make final materials available post-training for educational use and broader dissemination.

4. Training Participants

The training will target **25-30 early- to mid-level professionals** (3–10 years of experience) from [ASEM Partner countries](#). Proposals may target one or more of the following groups:

- Government officials working in areas such as digital policy, data protection, justice, education, AI ethics, innovation, or human rights;
- Representatives of national or regional human rights institutions (NHRIs) and bodies;
- Civil society representatives engaged in digital rights, AI accountability, or related fields;

ASEF will coordinate with the Trainer to launch the call for participants, shortlist candidates, and finalise selection based on qualifications and potential multiplier effect.

5. Tentative Timeline

Deliverable	Timeline
Proposal submission	Sunday, 9 November 2025 (23:59 SGT)
Training outline & workplan	End of November 2025
Call for participation;	January 2026
Finalisation of training materials	

Deliverable

Timeline

Selection of participants and logistical arrangements

February 2026

Training delivery

March 2026

Final training report

April 2026

All dates are tentative and subject to confirmation.

6. Financial Arrangements

ASEF will cover:

- Travel and accommodation for participants;
- Venue and on-site logistical costs.

The **Trainer's proposal must include all other costs**, such as:

- Trainer/speaker fees and per diems;
 - Curriculum development and materials;
 - Travel and accommodation for trainers/speakers;
 - Administrative and support costs.
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7. Procedures & Logistics

The Trainer will work in **close coordination with ASEF** throughout the project, including regular check-ins and progress updates. ASEF will provide:

- Relevant background documentation (e.g. Seminar reports);
- Support in contacting potential speakers;
- Input on participant selection and training design.

The Trainer is expected to maintain flexibility and adapt to the evolving structure of the Seminar series, ensuring alignment with its overarching objectives.

8. Outputs

The Trainer is expected to deliver the following:

- A complete training curriculum and resource pack;
- Delivery of a 3–3.5 day in-person training on human rights and AI;
- Co-signed certificates of completion for participants;
- A comprehensive training report, including evaluation results;

- Recommendations for further discussions or activities under the ASEM Seminar framework.

9. Contracting Arrangements

ASEF will contract the selected Trainer and coordinate communication with all relevant stakeholders.

10. Confidentiality

All unpublished information shared between ASEF and the Trainer is considered confidential and may not be disclosed to third parties or made public without ASEF's prior written consent.

THE ORGANISERS

The Informal Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Seminar on Human Rights series was launched in 1997 to strengthen relations between civil society actors and governments in Asia and Europe on human rights issues. The Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights is co-organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, with support of the European Union and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

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).

For more information, please visit www.ASEF.org

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