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CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD	3
WELCOME REMARKS SPEAKERS	5
KEYNOTE SESSION SPEAKERS	6
PRESENTATION OF THE BACKGROUND PAPER	8
OPENING PANEL	10
SIMULTANEOUS WORKING GROUPS	12 -15
WELCOME	16
CLOSING PANEL	17 - 18
CLOSING PLENARY	19
PARTICIPANTS FROM ASIA & EUROPE	20 - 28
HOSTS & STEERING COMMITTEE	29 - 30
PROGRAMME OVERVIEW	31 - 35
ASEF	37

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD Ambassador Beata STOCZYŃSKA



"Al will not replace humans, but those who use Al – will replace those who don't".

This was a quote by a former CEO of IBM. While it was meant to highlight Al's role as a transformative tool aimed at elevating human capability for some, for many others, it reflects a sense of fear that many harbour; a fear of losing relevance and value – professionally and personally.

Given that AI and its impact on human rights is an international issue, and that there is consensus on the need for it to be regulated, at multiple levels of society – the relevance of this topic is unquestionable. It is with this in mind that the Asia-Europe Foundation, together with its partners, present the 23rd Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights titled, "Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence".

Al is not inherently "bad". It does not necessarily have to be viewed as a "threat" to humanity. No thanks to popular discourse and entertainment, a deep sense of mistrust and the legitimate benefits of Al are often sidestepped. For example, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights cited positive externalities – "improving strategic foresight and forecasting: democratising access to knowledge, turbocharge scientific progress, and increase capacity for processing vast amounts of information".

However, academics, policymakers, civil society and AI researchers themselves have underscored the need for regulation. There is some regulation at present, although it is largely self-regulated by the private sector, in addition to a lack or limited level of transparency. What is clear however, is that it cannot squarely be regulated by the State. It will take a whole-of-society framework to address, and protect basic human rights from AI.

As such, we hope that this year's Seminar, will serve as a platform to identify existing regulatory gaps and offer recommendations for an Al governance framework that will not just advance human rights, but also strengthen collaboration between ASEF stakeholders to develop inclusive, rights-respecting Al policies and practices. All through the mutual knowledge exchange between representatives from civil society, government, academia, national human rights institutes and the private sector, across Asia and Europe.

As part of this, we would like to express our deep appreciation of our lead rapporteur, Dr Virginia Dignum, Professor in Responsible Artificial Intelligence at Umea University (Sweden) and Director of Al Policy Lab, for her time and effort in leading the research for the seminar's background paper. As a member of the UN High Level Advisory Body on Al, we could not have asked for a more apt individual to lend expertise. We would also like to thank Dr Tang Yingxia (Nankai University) for supporting Dr Dignum with the paper, with regards to Asia. We would also like to thank Dr Rachele Carli for assisting Dr Dignum with the paper. The Background paper explores three core

the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights cited positive externalities – "improving strategic foresight and forecasting: democratising access to knowledge, turbocharge scientific progress, and increase capacity for processing vast amounts of info..." themes - privacy & data protection, equality & nondiscrimination, and remedies & access to justice - while providing a comprehensive overview on the development and regulation concerning Al in Asia and Europe.

Over the course of three days, we hope that all of you will find the panel discussion and working groups fruitful and insightful. We wish to thank and welcome speakers, panellists and moderators, as well as partner organisations across Asia and Europe, for their attendance at this year's seminar and for the wealth of information and zeal to affect change.

Finally, all this would not be possible without the steadfast support of our host country, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and additional support of the University of Copenhagen. We would also like to offer our sincere gratitude to our long-standing co-organisers, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Switzerland, and the Ministry of Foreign of the People's Republic of China, for their continued championing of the Informal ASEM Human Rights Seminar series year after year.

The contribution of our partners and supporters has been invaluable in shining a spotlight on developing actionable recommendations for human rights-based Al governance.

With that, I wish the 23rd Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights all the success and believe all of you here will find it insightful, as well as inspiring!

Thank you.

Ambassador Beata STOCZYŃSKA Executive Director Asia-Europe Foundation

official opening Day 1 - Wednesday, 29 October 2025

WELCOME REMARKS



Lone Wandahl MOUYAL Vice-Dean for Research Faculty of Law University of Copenhagen



Lone Wandahl Mouyal is the Associate Dean for Research and Head of PhD School at the Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen. She holds overall strategic responsibility for the faculty's research activities, including personnel management of the heads of the faculty's research centres and PhD coordinators.

Lone Wandahl Mouyal holds a master's degree from Aarhus University, an LL.M. from Geneva Academy in Switzerland, a PhD from the Faculty of Law at University of Copenhagen and is a qualified attorney-at-law.

She has conducted research and taught seminars within the fields of business law and human rights and sustainability law. She has published extensively on the roles and responsibilities of corporations in society and is committed to shaping the future of legal research at the Faculty of Law at University of Copenhagen. She is particularly focused on building bridges between academia and the surrounding society

Ambassador Beata STOCZYŃSKA Executive Director Asia-Europe Foundation

Ambassador Stoczyńska joined the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in October 2024 as its 9th Executive Director and the first Polish national to lead the organisation.

The Ambassador has a distinguished career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. Prior to her appointment at ASEF, she was the Polish Ambassador to Indonesia, Timor-Leste and ASEAN. She has also served as Ambassador to New Zealand.

Her portfolio at the Ministry included the Asia Pacific region as well as relations with the European Union.

She brings to ASEF invaluable experience and a broad international network.

KEYNOTE SESSION

Day 1 - Wednesday, 29 October 2025

REPRESENTATIVE FROM MFA DENMARK





Kajsa OLLONGREN EU Special Representative (EUSR) for Human Rights

Kajsa Ollongren served as Minister of Defence (2022-2024) and deputy Prime-Minister and Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (2017-2022) of the Netherlands. Her civil service career started in 1992 at the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, as an economic policy advisor. She was head of parliamentary affairs within the until 2001, and director of European Integration and Strategy from 2001 to 2004, and became Deputy Director General in 2004. In 2007 she was promoted to the Prime Minister's Office as Deputy Secretary General and in 2011 as Secretary General, and the most senior advisor to the Prime Minister. She was also responsible for the coordination of the Dutch intelligence services. In 2014 she became the first deputy mayor in Amsterdam. Her portfolio included economic affairs, seaport, airport, art, culture, local media, monuments and tourism. In 2017 she was appointed as Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, dealing with democracy and transparency, constitutional issues, local and regional administrations and budgets, elections, spatial planning, housing and the intelligence service. She was also Deputy Prime Minister in the third Rutte government. From 2022 until 2024 she was the Minister of Defence in the fourth and last Dutch government headed by Mark Rutte, and a leading voice in the support of Ukraine after the large scale Russian invasion. Positions she took up after her tenure as a minister include the YES-Ukraine board, the MSC advisory board, associate fellow at Chatham House and non-executive board member of the Post Code Lottery.

She studied contemporary history at the University of Amsterdam; an alumni of the Dutch institute on international affairs Clingendael and of the French school for Public administration École Nationale d'Administration (ENA), Promotion Valmy; and completed The Business of Al course at the London Business School in 2025. She is a reservist at the Dutch Royal Air Force, rank colonel.

CHAIR: Rolf RING Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI)





TANG Yingxia
Deputy Director
Human Rights Research Centre
Nankai University
China

Tang Yingxia is the Deputy Director of the Human Rights Research Center at Nankai University and an Associate Professor at the School of Law of Nankai University. She holds several key roles, including Council Member of the China Society for Human Rights Studies and Expert Member of the Rule of Law Think Tank of Tianjin Government.

Her primary research focuses on international human rights law, with extensive expertise in digital rights, business and human rights (BHR), and climate change law.

She has authored three monographs, including "International Climate Change Governance: Institutions and Paths", published over 60 academic articles and contributed to drafting China's fourth National Human Rights Action Plan, integrating the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and human rights due diligence. She initiated BHR courses at Nankai University, and actively participates in international human rights dialogues. She has engaged with UN human rights mechanisms and visited numerous international institutions, including the University of Oslo and the UN Human Rights Council.

Virginia DIGNUM
Professor of Responsible
Artificial Intelligence
& Director Al Policy Lab
Umeå University
Sweden



Professor Dignum is a member of the UNESCO's expert group on the implementation of AI recommendations, the OECD's Expert group on AI, and founder of ALLAI, the Dutch AI Alliance.

She has been a member of the United Nations Advisory Body on AI, the EU's High Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence, co-chairs the WEF's Global Future Council on AI, and leads UNICEF's guidance for AI and children.

With over 300 peer-reviewed articles in major international journals, conferences and workshops with a total of over 20000 citations (yielding a h-index of 53, according to Google Scholar), her new book "The Al Paradox" is planned for publication by Princeton University Press in 2025.

Presentation of the Background Paper

Day 1 - Wednesday, 29 October 2025

Indah SAVITRI
Indah SAVITRI
Director of Human Rights
& Humantarian Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Indonesia



Rachele CARLI Co-Author Postdoctoral Researcher Umeå University Sweden





Virginia DIGNUM
Lead Rapporteur
Professor of Responsible
Artificial Intelligence
& Director Al Policy Lab
Umeå University
Sweden

Virginia Dignum is Professor of Responsible Artificial Intelligence at Umeå University, Sweden, where she leads the Al Policy Lab. She is also senior advisor on Al policy to the Wallenberg Foundations and chair of the ACM's Technology Policy Council. She has a PhD in Artificial Intelligence from Utrecht University (2004) and was appointed Wallenberg Scholar in 2024. A member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA), and a Fellow of the European Artificial Intelligence Association (EURAI), and of ELLIS (European Laboratory of Learning and Intelligent Systems), she also co-chairs the IEEE Global Initiative on Ethics of Autonomous and Intelligent Systems 2.0.

Dr Rachele Carli is a Postdoctoral researcher in the Responsible Al Group at Umeå University. Her research mainly focuses on highly interactive Al systems and the legal, social, and ethical implications of the design, development, and dissemination of these technologies. Prior to her postdoctoral position, she completed a PhD in Law, Science and Technology at the University of Bologna and a PhD in Computer Science at the University of Luxembourg, strengthening her interdisciplinary approach to research. Her doctoral work investigated the theme of deception and manipulation in human-agent interaction, with a specific focus on the re-evaluation and protection of human vulnerability in the digital age. In parallel, her expertise has also expanded to include explainability, reliability, and fairness in the design of humancomputer and human-robot interaction dynamics.



TANG Yingxia
Co-Author & Opening Speaker
Associate Professor
International Law Department
Nankai University
China

Background Paper HUMAN RIGHTS & ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The Background Paper has been prepared to inform the ASEMHRS23 on the theme of Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights. It provides an overview of the main opportunities and risks posed by AI across Asia and Europe, structured around three thematic foci: privacy and data protection, equality and non-discrimination, and remedies and access to justice. It also identifies future directions and concrete opportunities for Asia-Europe cooperation in the governance of AI.

Al technologies are rapidly transforming social, economic, and political life. They offer significant benefits in areas such as healthcare, education, and public administration, but also create acute risks for fundamental rights. The use of Al in surveillance, welfare allocation, recruitment, and online platforms has raised pressing concerns over mass data collection, profiling, systemic bias, and limited access to redress. These challenges are amplified by the unevenness of regulatory regimes across ASEM countries and by the transnational nature of Al-related harms.

The paper identifies three core sets of challenges, to be the focus of the discussions during the ASEM seminar:

- Privacy and data protection: Al systems rely on the large-scale collection and processing of personal data, creating risks of mass surveillance, opaque profiling, and weak safeguards. While Europe has consolidated protections through the GDPR, Convention 108, and the Al Act, Asian states show more diverse approaches, ranging from binding frameworks in India, South Korea, and Vietnam, to soft-law initiatives such as ASEAN's Guide on Al Governance and Ethics and Singapore's Al Verify toolkit.
- Equality and non-discrimination: Al often reproduces or amplifies social biases, with significant consequences in welfare systems, employment, credit scoring, and surveillance. Europe frames bias as a rights violation prohibited under binding instruments, while Asian states have adopted a patchwork of sectoral regulations and judicial interventions. Systemic remedies remain limited across the region.
- Remedies and access to justice: Effective redress mechanisms for Al-related harms remain fragmented. Europe provides stronger procedural and institutional safeguards through DPAs, ombuds institutions, and courts, though enforcement gaps persist. In Asia, remedies are uneven, with early experiments such as disclosure duties (China), complaint mechanisms (Philippines), and voluntary Human Rights Impact Assessments (South Korea).

The comparative analysis highlights key divergences: Europe tends toward comprehensive, enforceable frameworks, while Asia shows heterogeneous and fragmented approaches, often balancing human rights with state control and economic development. Despite these differences, the underlying risks are shared, and governance challenges are convergent.

Looking ahead, the paper emphasises that effective AI governance requires moving beyond high-level ethical principles towards enforceable safeguards, algorithmic accountability, and inclusive participation. It underlines that regulation and innovation are not in conflict: robust governance is essential to building trust, legitimacy, and sustainable adoption of AI technologies.

FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION

Opening Discussion and **Q&A** with Panel



OPENING PANEL

Al in the Public Sector: Delivering Services or Compromising Rights?

Governments are rapidly deploying artificial intelligence to modernise welfare systems, legal processes, and citizen services—reshaping how the state interacts with its people. Yet as algorithms guide decisions on resource allocation, public safety, and migration, they raise profound concerns about fairness, bias, and accountability.

This panel brings together researchers, policymakers, and civil society actors to ask whether Al truly delivers more efficient and equitable public services, or whether it risks deepening inequalities and obscuring responsibility. Drawing on the panellists' experiences, discussions will focus on efforts to embed human rights principles into Al governance, including human rights impact assessments and stronger oversight mechanisms. Key dilemmas around transparency, data protection, and the delegation of state authority to automated systems will be critically examined. By drawing on both promising practices and controversial cases, the panel will explore the adequacy of emerging regulatory models—from binding legislation to procurement standards—and consider how governments can align technological innovation with the imperative of safeguarding human dignity and equality in the public sector.

Aysel KÜÇÜKSU
Panelist
Assistant Professor
Faculty of Law
University of Copenhagen
Bulgaria



Karolina IWANSKA
Panelist
Digital Rights Advisor
European Center for
Not-for-Profit Law
Netherlands



Aysel Küçüksu is an Assistant Professor of Law at the iCourts Centre of Excellence for International Courts, University of Copenhagen. Her research focuses on the intersection of artificial intelligence, law, and human rights, with particular attention to how algorithmic systems are transforming governance and public decision-making. She co-founded and manages the Al and Human Rights Database (offentlig-ai.dk) — the first comprehensive database tracking public-sector Al projects in Denmark — and contributes to several research initiatives on algorithmic accountability and democratic oversight.

Aysel is a member of the Young Academy under the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters. Her current work examines how governments can integrate human rights safeguards into Al governance to ensure that technological innovation happens responsibly and serves equality, transparency, and public trust.

Karolina is a lawyer and public policy specialist working as the Digital Rights Advisor at the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law, a civil society organisation based in the Hague in the Netherlands. She leads ECNL's engagement in EU digital policy and is also involved in research and advocacy related to the global governance of new technologies. Previously, Karolina worked at Panoptykon Foundation, where she was responsible, among others, for advocacy on the Digital Services Act, Al Act and GDPR implementation and enforcement on online platforms. In 2019/20 Karolina was a Mozilla EU Tech Policy Fellow, researching and developing policy recommendations for alternatives to surveillance advertising. Karolina also serves as a Board Member of European Digital Rights (EDRi) - a network of 50+ civil society organisations defending rights and freedoms online.

Michaela SULLIVAN-PAUL
Panelist
Senior Research Officer
European Institute of Public
Administration
Belgium





Muhammad Hafiz NOER
Panelist
Head of Research
Center for Digital Society
Indonesia

Hafiz is an enthusiastic advocate for the intersection of innovation, science and technology within public policy. He has a Master's degree in Innovation, Public Policy and Public Value from University College London and a Bachelor's degree in Politics and Government from Universitas Gadjah Mada. His diverse background in consulting, think tanks, and academia has provided himself with extensive experience and expertise in the field of public policy and digital technology. He has actively collaborated with both the public and the private sectors, as well as non-government organisations, providing them insights on institutional change, refining policy planning strategies, and navigating the complex challenges in the evolving digital technology landscape.

He has contributed to various policy recommendations and academic publications, particularly focusing on the intersection between information technologies, public administration and politics, and innovation policy.

Michaela Sullivan-Paul is a research and policy specialist in Al governance, digital transformation, and public sector innovation. She holds a Dual Master's Degree in Public Policy from Sciences Po, Paris, and the University of Tokyo. She has contributed to international discussions on Al and innovation through her work with organisations such as the OECD, UNESCO, and the Forum on Information and Democracy.

At the European Institute of Public Administration, Michaela leads the Artificial Intelligence portfolio, equipping EU public officials with the knowledge and institutional capacity to adopt trustworthy and transformative technologies. Her work advances human-centred, sustainable, and evidence-based approaches to Al in government, ensuring that innovation serves the public good.

Rikke Frank JØRGENSEN
Moderator
Acting Head of Research
Danish Institute
for Human Rights
Denmark



Rikke Frank Jørgensen is acting Research Director at the Danish Institute for Human Rights and Affiliate Professor of digital rights at University of Copenhagen. Her research focuses on the intersection between technology and human rights, for example, the impact of tech giants and their platforms on citizens' rights, and the development of the digital welfare state. She has written and edited several books, most recently "Beyond Privacy - People, Practices, Politics" (BUP 2024). She is a member of the Danish Data Ethics Council.

SIMULTANEOUS WORKING GROUPS

Day 2 - Thursday, 30 October 2025

Working Group 1: Privacy and Data Protection



Anja Møller PEDERSEN

Moderator

Tenure Track Assistant Professor

Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen

Denmark

Anja Møller Pedersen is Tenure Track Assistant Professor, PhD, LLM, at the Centre for Information and Innovation Law (CIIR) at University of Copenhagen and affiliated researcher at the Danish Institute for Human Rights. Her research falls within the intersections of human rights, technology and data protection law, focusing on the digitalisation of policing and intelligence activities. Anja holds a PhD (The fundamental rights to privacy and data protection in the EU legal order) from University of Copenhagen (2023) and has previously worked as an attorney at Danish lawfirm Kammeradvokaten/Poul Schmith and as a senior advisor at the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

Jhalak M KAKKAR
Rapporteur
Executive Director
Centre for Communication
Governance National Law
University, Delhi



Jhalak M. Kakkar is Executive Director at the Centre for Communication Governance (CCG), National Law University Delhi, and a Visiting Professor at the National Law University, Delhi. CCG undertakes academic research, policy input and capacity building on issues at the intersection of technology and society. She works across privacy and data governance, Al regulation and platform governance. Her work critically examines the evolution of existing rights frameworks to accommodate new media and emerging technology. An Expert member of the Global Partnership on Al (GPAI) Multistakeholder Experts Group Plenary and member of the Working Group on Data Governance, she is also part of the Asian Dialogue on Al Governance (collaboration between Singapore Management University and Microsoft).

Al systems rely on the large-scale collection and processing of personal data, creating risks of mass surveillance, opaque profiling, and weak safeguards. While Europe has consolidated protections through the GDPR, Convention 108, and the Al Act, Asian states show more diverse approaches, ranging from binding frameworks in India, South Korea, and Vietnam, to soft-law initiatives such as ASEAN's Guide on Al Governance and Ethics and Singapore's Al Verify toolkit.

The working group, will address the following questions:

- **1. Data protection safeguards:** What are the primary human rights risks associated with the collection, use, and sharing of personal data by Al systems?
- **2. Legal adequacy:** Do you think privacy laws are currently keeping up with the pace of technological innovation? Why or why not?
- **3. Regulatory coherence:** Are there effective legal and regulatory frameworks to protect individual privacy in Al deployment, and where are the gaps?
- **4. Transparency:** How transparent are Al-driven decision-making processes, and how can transparency be improved?
- **5. Date rights and autonomy:** Should the right to have full control over one's own data be a human right?
- **6. Security and human rights balance:** How can a State balance safeguarding national security and public interest with the protection of individual rights, particularly privacy?

SIMULTANEOUS WORKING GROUPS

Day 2 - Thursday, 30 October 2025

Working Group 2: Equality and Non-Discrimination



Sue Ann TEO
Moderator
Researcher
Raoul Wallenberg Institute
Sweden

Dr Sue Anne Teo is a researcher at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights. Her work focuses on artificial intelligence and its impact on the foundations of human rights. She received her PhD from the University of Copenhagen in 2023. Sue Anne is also currently a Technology and Human Rights Fellow at the Carr-Ryan Center for Human Rights at the Harvard Kennedy School where she will examine the legal implications of anthropomorphic Al. In addition to her academic background, Sue Anne has also been a human rights practitioner for more than a decade, having worked with the UN Refugee Agency, UN peacekeeping and with national human rights institutions, amongst others.



Virginia DIGNUM
Rapporteur
Professor of Responsible Artificial
Intelligence & Director Al Policy Lab
Umeå University
Sweden

Al often reproduces or amplifies social biases, with significant consequences in welfare systems, employment, credit scoring, and surveillance. Europe frames bias as a rights violation prohibited under binding instruments, while Asian states have adopted a patchwork of sectoral regulations and judicial interventions. Systemic remedies remain limited across the region.

This working group will explore the challenges AI poses to equality and non-discrimination from a human rights perspective and discuss ways to uphold these principles in practice.

Below are guiding questions to explore in this working group:

- **1. Institutional safeguards:** How can ASEM governments integrate equality impact assessments into public procurement, funding, and deployment of AI systems? Are there existing good practices in your country?
- **2. Inclusive and intersectional design:** What mechanisms can ensure the meaningful participation of women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and groups facing intersectional discrimination in Al design and governance? Should ASEM partners develop shared participation standards?
- **3. Oversight and accountability:** Which institutions (courts, regulators, human rights commissions) are best placed to address algorithmic discrimination in your national context? How can their mandates be strengthened or clarified?
- **4. Cross-regional cooperation:** What opportunities exist for Asia Europe collaboration on non-discrimination audits, standards, or capacity-building? Could ASEM play a role in harmonising approaches across different jurisdictions?
- **5. Public empowerment:** How can ASEM governments promote Al literacy and awareness so that affected communities and civil society can understand and contest biased Al outcomes?
- **6. From principles to practice:** How can the absolute prohibition of discrimination be effectively translated into technical standards, legal frameworks, and governance practices across ASEM countries?

SIMULTANEOUS WORKING GROUPS

Day 2 - Thursday, 30 October 2025

Working Group 3: Remedies and Access to Justice



Caleen OBIAS
Moderator
Senior Program Officer
for Law and Human Rights
The Asia Foundation
Philippines

Caleen Chanyungco Obias is a dual-qualified lawyer admitted to practice in both the Philippines and New York, USA. She brings over 15 years of legal and policy experience in government institutions, including the Supreme Court of the Philippines, the House of Representatives, and the Commission on Human Rights. Her work centers on advancing human rights and strengthening access to justice.

Caleen currently serves as Senior Program Officer for Law and Human Rights at The Asia Foundation (TAF) Philippines, where she leads a nationwide program establishing locally embedded human rights hubs. The initiative promotes coordinated, communitybased responses to human rights violations, legal empowerment, and support for human rights defenders. In her capacity at TAF, she also works closely with the Supreme Court of the Philippines on judicial reform initiatives which includes supporting the revision of the Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases and protective writs such as Habeas Corpus, Amparo, and Habeas Data. She is currently exploring how artificial intelligence (AI) can be responsibly integrated into judicial decision-making and court operations, in line with the Supreme Court's broader digital transformation goal.



Nele ROEKENS
Rapporteur
Legal Advisor
Unia / ENNHRI
Belgium

Nele chairs the Working Group on Artificial Intelligence of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI). In this role she supports the collaborative efforts of over 40 independent public institutions in matters of AI and emerging technologies. This role extends to representing ENNHRI at the Council of Europe's Committee on Al. Nele is an independent expert for the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on AI, Equality, and Discrimination (GEC/ADI-AI) and was member of a network of experts for UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Body on Al. Through these roles. Nele advocates for a human rightsbased approach in the development, deployment and regulation of Al. At the national level, Nele leads the Al team at Unia, the Belgian National Human Rights Institution and equality body. She works closely with national and European actors on the implementation of the EU AI Act.

Effective redress mechanisms for Al-related harms remain fragmented. Europe provides stronger procedural and institutional safeguards through DPAs, ombuds institutions, and courts, though enforcement gaps persist. In Asia, remedies are uneven, with early experiments such as disclosure duties (China), complaint mechanisms.

This working group will examine how ASEM partners can ensure access to effective remedies for human rights harms arising from the use of Al. It will explore gaps, good practices, and collaborative approaches to strengthen accountability, transparency, and redress mechanisms across regions.

Below are guiding questions to explore in this working group:

- **1.** Can **existing human rights instruments**—like the right to a fair trial or the right to an effective remedy—adequately address harms from Al systems, or are new legal tools needed?
- **2.** What mechanisms currently exist for **holding AI developers and deployers accountable** for rights violations, and how effective are they?
- **3.** How should remedies be designed to address not only individual harms, but also **systemic or collective impacts** caused by Al systems?
- **4.** What role should **transparency and explainability** play in enabling individuals to seek redress? Is a lack of explainability itself a violation of rights?
- **5.** How can **affected communities** participate in the development and deployment of AI to ensure fairer outcomes and that technology aligns with the values and needs of the people it serves?
- **6.** What role can **ombuds institutions, data protection authorities, or national human rights institutions** play in providing or facilitating remedies for Al-related harms?
- **7.** How can member states effectively invest in **Al literacy** among the general public—especially in schools and marginalised communities—to ensure a well-rounded understanding of both the functioning of Al as well as its potential human rights impacts?

ADDITIONAL GUIDE QUESTIONS FOR ALL WORKING GROUPS

In addition to the sub-theme-specific questions, the following **cross-cutting questions** will guide discussions across all working groups:

- 1. What are the main **human rights risks** linked to the deployment of Al systems by both state and private actors?
- 2. How can Al systems be made more transparent to ensure **accountability and trust** among users? Are there **positive practices** in policies, regulations, or business practices that can be modelled to protect human rights in Al deployment?
- **3.** How effective are **ethical guidelines** in preventing human rights violations caused by AI, considering the lack of legal binding and oversight, allowing companies to choose whether or not to adhere to them?
- **4.** How can stakeholders, including **marginalised and vulnerable communities**, be meaningfully included in Al governance discussions and decision-making processes?
- **5.** Are **civil society organisations and NGOs** sufficiently equipped to address the human rights implications of Al, and what support do they need to strengthen their role in this space?
- **6.** How can **NHRIs**, as a bridge between government and civil society and with the ability to collaborate with other institutions and organisations, play a key role in addressing the diverse human rights impacts of Al development and deployment? Can you share any examples of good practices from NHRIs working on Al?
- **7.** How can **international**, **regional**, **and national regulatory frameworks** work together to address the cross-border implications of Al technologies?
- **8.** How do approaches to **Al governance in Asia and Europe** differ, and what can be learned from these regional experiences to develop more effective, inclusive policies? What are some practical avenues for collaboration between the two regions to promote responsible and globally coherent Al governance?
- **9.** Would the establishment of an Office for the **Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and AI** be an effective way to enhance oversight and accountability in addressing AI-related human rights violations?
- **10.** How might the **future of human rights** be shaped by the evolving capabilities and deployment of AI technologies, and what proactive measures should be taken to safeguard these rights?

For further background on each working group topic, please refer to the **Seminar's Background Paper**.

WELCOME

Day 3 - Friday, 31 October 2025



Line Gamrath RASMUSSEN
Chief Adviser on Human Rights & Technology
Danish Institute of Human Rights
Denmark

Line Gamrath Rasmussen leads the tech and human rights thematic work across the Danish Institute for Human Rights' International area focusing on the challenges that digitalisation brings for democratic systems and institutions and how it may in many cases undermine human rights.

She works with international partners and stakeholders giving expert advice, training and capacity-building on tech & human rights and on how to ensure a human rights-based approach to digital governance through human rights due diligence and human rights impact assessments. She is also extensively involved in policy and agenda-setting in relation to digital rights, including on Al & algorithmic decision-making, surveillance, information integrity and the increasing digital divide and inequality in access to the internet and new technologies, particularly in the Global South.

Line has more than 20 years of experience as a human rights, good governance and sustainable development professional with a business degree in PR and Communication and a European Master's degree in Human Rights and Democratisation.

CLOSING PANEL

Shaping the Future of Al: A Human Rights View from Asia & Europe

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming societies across Asia and Europe, raising fundamental questions about its long-term impact on human rights. While the trajectory of AI development cannot be predicted with certainty, it is evident that its expansion will continue at pace—becoming increasingly widespread, powerful, and at times, divisive. These developments underscore the urgent need for a human-centric approach to AI, one that prioritises human rights, dignity, and societal well-being at every stage of its design, deployment, and governance.

The panel will explore how AI can be developed and governed with human dignity, justice, and equality at its core. The discussion will highlight regional perspectives, shared challenges, human rights implications and risks of AI, as well as emerging good practices for advancing human rights with AI applications. Drawing on experiences from both Asia and Europe, the panel will also identify current gaps in AI governance frameworks and highlight the path forward to strengthen and improve these frameworks for more effective protection of human rights.

Bringing together voices from across Asia and Europe and from multiple sectors, the panel will foster a forward-looking dialogue on shaping responsible, rights-based Al governance.



David REICHEL
Panelist
Head of Data and Digital Sector
European Union Agency for
Fundamental Rights
Austria

Dr David Reichel is the Head of the Data and Digital Sector at the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). The Data and Digital Sector, within the Justice, Digital and Migration Unit, hosts most of FRA's work on artificial intelligence (AI), data protection and online content moderation. He has coordinated and co-authored several FRA reports on AI, including the reports on AI and fundamental rights, Getting the future right and Bias in algorithms, as well as on Online content moderation.

Prior to joining FRA in 2014, he worked for the research department of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and has been teaching for several years at the University of Vienna and other universities. He has published numerous articles, working papers and book chapters on issues related to migration statistics, citizenship and human rights.



Stanati NETIPATALACHOOCHOTE

Panelist

Lecturer, Global Academy of Siam University

Thailand

Stanati is currently a lecturer at the Global Academy (International College) of Siam University in Bangkok, Thailand. His areas of expertise include Fundamental Rights and Technology Laws. Before assuming this role, he worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the Center for Research in Private International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Lyon III, France. He earned his Ph.D. in International Human Rights and Criminal Law from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, and he completed his LL.M. in Comparative Criminal Law and Justice Systems at the University of London in the United Kingdom. Originally from Thailand, he also obtained his LL.B. with second-class honors from Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand, and has qualified as a Barrister-at-law.



Barani MAUNG MAUNG Panelist Tech Safety Expert Oxford Internet Institute Myanmar

Barani Maung Maung is a tech policy and safety expert from Myanmar. Barani spent

over 3 years at Meta, focusing on hate speech and harassment policy, and led crisis management efforts for elections, coups, and riots. She later joined the Oxford Internet Institute, where she pursued research on Generative AI safety in the Global Majority. Barani now works as an Online Safety Policy Lead for Hate Speech at Ofcom, the UK's official online safety regulator.

Gry HASSELBALCH

Moderator

Academic Director

DataEthics.eu

Denmark



Gry Hasselbalch is a scholar and the author of several

critically acclaimed books, the latest Human Power – Seven Traits for the Politics of the Al Machine Age published in 2025. She holds a PhD from University of Copenhagen in data, Al and power, is Senior Research Associate at the African Centre for Epistemology and Philosophy of Science, University of Johannesburg and has been leading high-profile research projects like the Data Pollution and Power Initiative at Bonn University.

Hasselbalch is co-founder and Director of Academic Research at the think tank DataEthics.eu founded in 2015 to promote ethical, human rights-based data and Al practices. It received the Libre Prize's Honorary Award in 2024. She has contributed to EU and global discussions on digitalisation, Al and data and to the development of EU's Al policy strategy as a member of the EU High-Level Expert Group on Al (2018-2020) that developed the Al ethics guidelines that became the basis of the EU's Al act.

FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATIONS

Closing Panel Discussion and Q&A

CLOSING PLENARY

Rapporteurs' Summary of each Working Group Session

Day 3 - Friday, 31 October 2025

CHAIR: Rolf RING Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI)





CLOSING SPEAKERS

Farah Gul Rahuja Closing Speaker Farah Gul RAHUJA Co-Founder of PakGPT Pakistan

Farah Gul Rahuja is a Pakistani Al innovator, human rights advocate, and global youth leader committed to ensuring that emerging technologies serve marginalized communities. Growing up in Dadu, Sindh, where internet access was limited and opportunities for girls in technology were rare, she developed a strong dedication to inclusive, rights-based innovation.

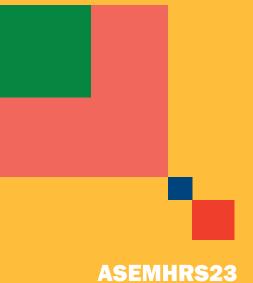
She is the Co-Founder of PakGPT, Pakistan's first culturally contextualized Al conversational model designed for low-bandwidth environments and local languages including Sindhi, Urdu, and Pashto.

Farah mobilizes youth innovators to design ethical, inclusive AI solutions for real-world challenges. Her work bridges grassroots innovation with human rights governance, ensuring that AI development prioritizes privacy, equality, non-discrimination, and access to justice, and that voices from underserved communities are included in shaping global AI policy – earning her international recognition as a Global Youth Leader in AI Innovation at the World Internet Conference 2024 in China and was among the Top 10 global innovators at the World Youth Development Forum 2025.

REPRESENTATIVE FROM MFA DENMARK



ASIAEUROPE



Participants



Sarah SACHER
Responsible Technology Policy Specialist
Human Technology Institute
Australia



Smita MITRA
Managing Director
LifeFutureSkills
India



MD Aminul ISLAM Al Automation & Efficiency Operations Lead, Grameenphone (Telenor Group) Bangladesh



Himanshu PANDAY Co-Founder Dignity in Difference India



Shakil SAHRIOR
Director, Regional Organizations
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Dio Herdiawan TOBING
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World Benchmarking Alliance
Indonesia



Ambassador Stanislav VASSILENKO Ambassador-at-Large Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kazakhstan



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Hyebin JEON
Programme Officer
HURIDOCS (Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems)
Korea



Leo WATANABE Official Ministry of Foreign Affairs of JapanJapan



Dongwoo LEE
Chief, Older Persons Rights Team/
Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
Division, National Human Rights
Commission
Korea



Ruslan DAIYRBEKOV Managing Partner & CEO Digital Rights Center Kazakhstan



Chimin OH
PhD candidate
University of Oxford
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Senior Human Rights Advisor to the Chief
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Affairs Bureau, Office of the National
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Bhanubhatra JITTIANG
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Thailand



Phuong NGUYEN LAN
Digital Regulatory Policy Lead
Institute for Policy Studies and Media
Development
Vietnam



Wasan PAILEEKLEE Commissioner The National Human Rights Commission Thailand



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Institute of Ethics in Artificial Intelligence
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Rebecca KEATINGE
Head of Monitoring and Compliance
Irish Human Rights and Equality
Commission
Ireland



Sanna HYTTINEN
Senior Lega Advisor
Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman
Finland



Dr Maja BOVA Human Rights Expert Interministerial Committee for Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Italy



Cristiana CARLETTI
Professor - Legal Expert, Roma Tre
University - Italian Ministry of Foreign
Affairs and International Cooperation
Italy



Julie FORT Chargée de Mission Ministry of Foreign Affairs Luxembourg



Dr Irena BARKANE Researcher University of Latvia Latvia



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Counsellor
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Virmantas BIELSKUS Third Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lithuania



Dr Naomi APPELMAN
Policy Advisor and Researcher
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Legal Scholar in European Public Law
and Digitalization
University of Luxembourg
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Policy Officer, Digital & Hybrid Threats
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Senior Researcher, Norwegian University of
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for Human Rights, Norwegian Academy of
International Law
Norway



Bogdan PAIU
Diplomatic Attache
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Romania



Aleksandra CZEPULONIS I Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs Poland



Dr Silvia TABUSCA
Director
Center for Human Rights and Migration
Romanian American University
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Carolina CHAMBEL
International Cooperation Officer
Research and Innovation
Techo International
Portugal



Vicent COSTA
Tenured Scientist
Artificial Intelligence Research Institute
National Research Council
Spain



Cristina MEZDREA-BILBIE Director Ministry of Foreign Affairs Romania



Dr Carlos-Maria de CERON Programme Director United Nations Spain



Yasmin PARICIO-BURTIN
Coordinator of the Politics
Society and Education Department
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Randy DOBLER
Academic Intern
Embassy of Switzerland
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Isis Sartori REIS Programme Officer Raoul Walleberg Institute Sweden



Sophia Grace DEVLIN Chief Executive Officer TechEthics United Kingdom



Remo GASSMANN Human Rights Officer, Asia-Pacific & Minorities, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Switzerland



Edward TSOI Co-Founder AI Safety AsiaUnited Kingdom



Tommaso GIARDINI Associate Director Digital Policy Alert Switzerland



Dr Jonathan ANDREW International Fellow Pufendorf Institute - Lund University United Kingdom

Host PROFILES



Lone THORUP
Chief Advisor
Department for Asia, Latin America, Oceania
& The Caribbean (ASILAC)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Denmark

Lone Thorup has more than 25 years of experience working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. For the past 15 years she has held different leadership roles at the Ministry and abroad with focus on bilateral relations in Asia, Middle East, Africa as well as multilateral work with UN agencies. At her latest posting she served as deputy permanent representative of Denmark to the UN in Geneva. Currently she is leading the team at the section for South and South East Asia at the Department for Asia, Latin America, Oceania and the Caribbean. Lone Thorup also holds the current position as Danish Governor for the Asia-Europe foundation (ASEF/ASEM).



Nicolai LUNDSBJERG
Head of Section
South and South East Asia
Department for Asia, Latin America, Oceania
& The Caribbean (ASILAC)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Denmark

Nicolai Lundsbjerg is Head of Section in the team for South and South East Asia under the Department for Asia, Oceania, Latin America and the Caribbean. Nicolai joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark in 2022, and has lived and worked seven years in China, including as General Manager for the Danish Chamber of Commerce in China.



Rolf RING
Member
ASEMHRS Steering Committee
Deputy Executive Director
Raoul Wallenberg Institute
Sweden



Indah SAVITRI
Member
ASEMHRS Steering Committee
Director of Human Rights
& Humanitarian Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Indonesia



Nan LI Member ASEMHRS Steering Committee Counselor Ministry of Foreign Affairs China



H.E. Amb Beata STOCZYNSKA Executive Director



Ms Armi Hannele AARNI Head of Governance Governance & Sustainable Development



Ms May Thway KO Senior Project Executive Governance & Sustainable Development



Ms Elizabeth C. DY Senior Admin Executive Governance & Sustainable Development

Day 0 **Tuesday, 28 October**

Arrival of participants in Wakeup Copenhagen Borgergade

Day 1		
Wednesday	, 29 Octobe	r

Venue: University of Copenhagen Faculty of Humanities, Auditorium 23.0.50, South Campus

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER(S)	
12:50	Gathering at the hotel lobby. Bus departs to the University of Copenhagen.		
13:30	REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPAN	TS AND COFFEE	
14:00	OFFICIAL OPENING		
	- Welcome remarks	 Lone MOUYAL, Vice-Dean for Research, Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen Amb Beata STOCZYŃSKA, Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation 	
	- Keynote Session	 Chair: Rolf RING, Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) Representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (TBA) Kajsa OLLONGREN, EU Special Representative (EUSR) for Human Rights TANG Yingxia, PhD, Deputy Director of Human Rights Research Center, Nankai University Prof Dr Virginia DIGNUM, Member of the UN High Level Advisory Body on Al 	
15:00	FORMAL GROUP PHOTO AND C	OFFEE BREAK	
15:30	Presentation of the Background Paper	Chair: Mrs Indah SAVITRI , Director for Human Rights and Migration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia	

Presenters:

- Prof Dr Virginia DIGNUM, Professor in Responsible Artificial Intelligence and the Director of the Al Policy Lab, Umeå University
- Dr Rachele CARLI, Postdoctoral Researcher in the Responsible Al Group, Umeå University
- TANG Yingxia, PhD, Deputy Director of Human Rights Research Center of Nankai University

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER(S)	
15:50	Opening Plenary Discussion		
16:30-17:45	PANEL Al in the Public Sector:	•	JKSU, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law of Copenhagen
	Delivering Services or Compromising Rights?	• Karolina IW Not-for-Prof	/ANSKA, Digital Advisor, European Center for it Law
		 Hafiz NOER 	R, Head of Research, Center for Digital Society
		 Michaela SULLIVAN-PAUL, Senior Research Officer, European Institute of Public Administration 	
		Moderator:	Rikke Frank JØRGENSEN , Acting Head of Research, Danish Institute for Human Rights
18:00	Bus departs from the University of Copenhagen to the hotel		

Day 2 Thursday, 30 October

Venue: University of Copenhagen Faculty of Law, South Campus

FOR INVITED PARTICIPANTS ONLY

09:30	Simultaneous Working Groups WORKING GROUP 1: PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION
09:20	REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS AND COFFEE Venue: Common area
09:00	Bus departs from the hotel to the University of Copenhagen
TIME	SESSION

Room: 4A.0.56 (South Campus)

Moderator: **Dr Anja Møller PEDERSEN**, Assistant Professor of Human Rights, Technology

& Data Protection, University of Copenhagen

Rapporteur: Jhalak M KAKKAR, Executive Director at the Centre for Communication

Governance, National Law University Delhi

		29-31 UCIUBER 2025
TIME	SESSION	
09:30	Simultaneous	s Working Groups
	WORKING GROUP 2: EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION	
	Room: 4A.0.68	3 (South Campus)
	Moderator:	Dr Sue-Anne TEO, Researcher, Raoul Wallenberg Institute
	Rapporteur:	Prof Dr Virginia DIGNUM , Professor in Responsible Artificial Intelligence and the Director of the AI Policy Lab, Umeå University
	WORKING GRO	OUP 3: REMEDIES AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE
	Room: 4A.1.46	S (South Campus)
	Moderator:	Caleen OBIAS , Senior Program Officer for Law and Human Rights, The Asia Foundation
	Rapporteur:	Nele ROEKENS , Legal Advisor, European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI)
12:30-14:00	LUNCH AND NETWORKING Venue: Canteen, South Campus	
14:00	Simultaneous working groups continue	
15:00	COFFEE BREAK Venue: Common area	
16:30	End of the programme	
17:00	Bus departs to Tivoli Gardens visit (visit followed by dinner)	
	HOSTED BY TH	HE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK
21:00	Bus departs fro	om Tivoli Gardens to the hotel

Day 3 Friday, 31 October

Venue: University of Copenhagen Faculty of Humanities, Auditorium 23.0.50, South Campus

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER(S)		
08:40	Bus departs to the University of	Bus departs to the University of Copenhagen		
09:00	Registration of Participants COFFEE & NETWORKING Venue: Outside the auditorium			
09:30	Welcome		th RASMUSSEN, Chief Adviser on Human Technology, Danish Institute for Human Rights	
09:35	PANEL Shaping the Future of AI:	Justice, Dig	EICHEL, Head of Data and Digital Sector, ital and Migration Unit, European Union Agency ental Rights (FRA)	
	A Human Rights View from Asia and Europe	• Dr Stanati I Academy, S	NETIPATALACHOOCHOTE, Lecturer, Global iam University, Thailand JNG MAUNG, Tech Safety Expert, Oxford	
		Moderator:	Dr Gry HASSELBALCH , Academic Director, DataEthics.eu	
10:45	COFFEE BREAK			
11:00	CLOSING PLENARY	Chair:	Rolf RING, Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI)	
	Rapporteurs' Summary of Each Workshop	Rapporteur:	Jhalak M KAKKAR, National Law UniversityDelhi, IndiaTheme: Privacy and Data Protection	
		Rapporteur:	Prof Dr Virginia DIGNUM, Umeå UniversityTheme: Equality and Non-Discrimination	
		Rapporteur:	Nele ROEKENS, European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) • Theme: Remedies and Access to Justice	

12:00	Open Plenary Discussion	
12:45	Official Closing Session	
		Chair: Rolf RING, Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI)
		Closing remarks (on behalf of the host: TBA)
		Closing speaker: Farah Gul RAHUJA, Youth Leader and Co-developer of PakGPT (Pakistan)
13:15	End of the Programme	
14:30	Bus departs to the hotel	

Call for Proposals



SCAN TO VIEW OUR CALL FOR PROPOSALS

ASEF invites relevant training organisations/ teams of experts to submit proposals for a 3-day in-person training programme to be implemented in early 2026. The training will build on the outcomes of the 23rd Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights, providing participants with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the human rights implications of AI and explore practical applications in their professional and regional contexts.

Interested organisations and experts are invited to submit proposals on or before 9 November 2025.

Feedfack Form



SCAN TO FILL OUT OUR FEEDBACK FORM

Thank you for taking part in the 23rd Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights (ASEMHRS23): Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence. Your insights and reflections are important to us — they help us improve future programmes and ensure they remain relevant, impactful, and engaging.

This short survey will only take a few minutes to complete, and we greatly appreciate your time and feedback.

Bon voyage!

ABOUT THE SEMINAR SERIES

The **Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)** is an intergovernmental forum established in 1996 to deepen relations between Asia and Europe, fostering dialogue and cooperation on political, economic, and socio-cultural issues of mutual interest.

Launched in 1997 during the 1st ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM1), the **Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights** serves as a unique platform for open, balanced, and non-confrontational dialogue between civil society and government representatives from ASEM partner countries.

The Seminar series is co-organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, Switzerland, and the People's Republic of China, with additional financial support from the European Union and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

THE ORGANISERS

The 23rd 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 (Host).

For more information, please visit www.ASEF.org.



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/ Faculties and departments Fakulteter og institutter

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Det Juridiske Fakultet/Faculty of Law

Bygning/building 6,7, & 8

Det Humanistiske Fakultet/Faculty of Humanities

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/ Department of Cross-cultural and Regional Studies Institut for Tværkulturelle og Regionale Studier

Bygning/building 12

Saxo-Instituttet / Saxo Institute

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/ Department of Communication Institut for Kommunikation

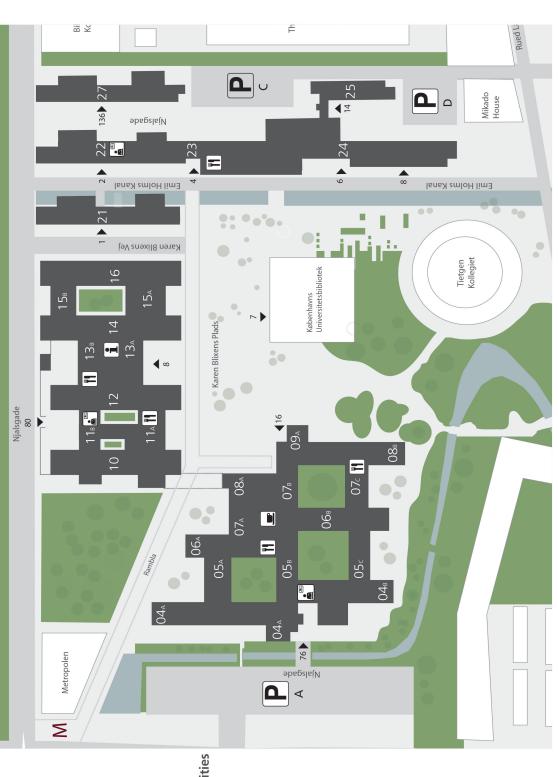
Bygning/building 21

/ Department of Arts and Cultural Studies Institut for Kunst- og Kulturvidenskab

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'Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies **Bygning/building 24** Institut for Engelsk, Germansk og Romansk

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