Fondation René Cassin

The Fondation René Cassin was created in 1969 under the status of local Law by René Cassin who received the Nobel Peace Prize. The International Institute of Human Rights is destined to defend and promote the Human Rights and the fundamental freedoms.

In order to be faithful to René Cassin’s opinion and to help his activities along making easier donations, the International Institute of Human Rights became in December 2015 a foundation reputed for its public usefulness: The Fondation René Cassin - International Institute of Human Rights.

This foundation is chaired by Jean-Paul COSTA, former President of the European Court of Human Rights, and headed by Sébastien TOUZE, Professor at the University of Paris II Panthéon-Assas and Member of the United Nations Comity against Torture.

In brief - Support the Fondation

The Fondation René Cassin daily works for the development of its activities of teaching and research. This includes notably an increase of the number of training sessions organized in numerous countries in order to contribute to the effectiveness of the International Law of Human Rights. With this aim in mind, the Fondation needs your support. You may now support our activities by making a donation online on our website. Donations are tax-deductible.

To support the Fondation, visit our website and click on: Donate
In 1969 and one year after the obtaining of the Nobel Peace Prize, René Cassin created the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg in the stated goal to promote Human Rights thanks to teaching and research. A few years later, The Institute became a state-approved foundation, The Fondation René Cassin.

The 50th anniversary of the Fondation René Cassin will be the occasion to renew our summer school. Then, the 2019 summer school will be introduced a new look and will no longer stand as a 3-week thematic session dedicated to the International Law of Human Rights.

We will be offering you from the 1st to the 26th of July in Strasbourg an unprecedented training session divided into two successive units. The first unit specialized in International Human Rights Law will be standing from the 1st to the 12th of July 2019 and will be made up of special conferences and general courses about different systems of protection of Human Rights. Regarding the second unit which is devoted to the International Criminal Law and to the International Humanitarian Law, it will be standing from the 15th to the 26th of July 2019. Each participant will have the possibility to take part either in the two units, or in only one, and each of these events will be a new opportunity to learn, to make acquaintance with one another and to exchange. Facilities of participation will be also foreseen for the lawyers who would want to strengthen their skills in these areas.

Unit 1: International Law of Human Rights from the 1st to the 12th of July 2019
- Individual price: 750 Euros
- Institutional price: 900 Euros
- Continuing training for French lawyers: 1000 Euros

Unit 2: International Criminal and Humanitarian Law from the 15th to the 26th of July 2019
- Individual price: 750 Euros
- Institutional price: 900 Euros
- Continuing training for French lawyers: 1000 Euros

Unit 3: International Law of Human Rights and International Criminal and Humanitarian Law from the 1st to the 26th of July 2019
- Individual price: 1200 Euros
- Institutional price: 1400 Euros
- Continuing training for French lawyers: 1600 Euros
2019

21 - 26 January : 1st training session of Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)

February : 6th training session of Bamako (Mali)

March : 3rd training session of Lima (Pérou)

29 April - 4 May : 4th training session of Yaoundé (Cameroun)

17 - 28 June : 22nd intensive training on refugee law (Strasbourg - France)

1 - 26 July : 50th Summer School (Strasbourg - France)

1 - 12 July : Unit 1 : International Human Rights Law

15 - 26 July : Unit 2 : International Criminal and Humanitarian Law

September : 10th training session of Dakar (Senegal)

2 - 12 December : 8th training session of Port-au-Prince (Haiti)

Upcoming dates :

6th training session of Beirut (Lebanon)

1st training session of Niamey, Niger

1st training session of Sao Polo, Brazil
Our upcoming training session in France

22nd Intensive Training on Refugee Law

The intensive training session on refugee law is the new title of the former summer course on refugee law, jointly organized by the Representation of the High Commissioner for Refugees in France, Horizon Amitié and the Fondation René Cassin – International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg for more than 20 years now. This 22nd intensive training session will take place during 2 weeks from the 17th to the 28th of July 2019 at the Centre Culturel Saint Thomas, 2 Rue de la Carpe Haute, 67000 Strasbourg. Courses will be delivered in French by university lecturers and experts of the High Commissioner for Refugees.

This training session addresses people whose professional activity or research contributed to the strengthening of the mechanisms of protection for the people who come within the competency of the High Commissioner for Refugees, notably the local and central authorities’ representatives (including militaries), lawyers and magistrates, professors and doctoral students, or even the staff working for intergovernmental or nongovernmental organizations.

Registrations are closed. No request for late registration will be accepted.
4ème session de formation de Yaoundé (Cameroun)

Freedom of Speech and International Human Rights Law

The 4th training session of Yaoundé will take place from the 29th of April to the 4th of May 2019 on the theme of “The Freedom of Speech and International Law of Human Rights”. It will be organized by the Fondation René Cassin, the Centre of the United Nations for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, l’Ecole Citoyenne et Politique de Yaoundé and the Institute of international relationships of Cameroon.

Registrations: 120 Euros

Deadline for registration: 15th of March 2019 (11.59 PM French hour).

Conditions of admission:

- Being granted a diploma recognizing at least 4 years of academic studies or a qualification which is equivalent
- Justify an extensive experience in the area of Human Rights
- Master French language, spoken and written language

Journalists are particularly encouraged to register.

We draw your attention on the change of date.

Initially planned from the 8th to the 3rd of April, this training session has been shifted from the 29th of April to the 4th of May.
Our previous training sessions abroad

1st training session of Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)

Transnational Organized Criminality and International Human Rights Law

The Fondation's first training session of Ouagadougou took from the 21st to the 26th of January 2019 and will concern the topic of "Transnational organized criminality and International Law of Human Rights". This first great edition has welcomed 147 participants including 24 women, 11 countries were represented and 71% of the participants have obtained the certificate of achievement.

6th training session in Bamako (Mali)

International Criminal Law


102 participants have actually attended this training session with a great success rate since 73% of them have obtained the certificate of participation.
Our past training session

21st Intensive Training on Refugee Law

The intensive training on refugee law is the new title of the former summer course on refugee law which is jointly organized by the Fondation René Cassin – International Institute of Human Rights and the UNHCR in Strasbourg for more than 20 years now. This 21st intensive training session went on 2 weeks and took place from the 18th to the 29th of June 2018.

This training session’s aim is to promote the teaching of the International Refugee Law but also a better knowledge of the fundamental principles governing the international protection for the people falling under the mandate of the High Commissioners for Refugees. The course also aims at developing for the participants a common understanding of the new challenges that affect the international protection for refugees and asylum-seekers, but also a common understanding of the actions that allow a reinforcement of the mechanisms of protection in favor of them.

49th Summer School on Human Rights Defenders

The 49th Fondation René Cassin’s summer school was organized from the 2nd to the 20th of July 2018 and dealt with the theme of "The defenders of Human Rights". On the occasion of the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to pay tribute to the work of its founder, the summer school enabled to highlight the work of the defenders of Human Rights but also to grasp the whole issues related to this particular status.

This summer school has welcomed 169 participants mainly coming from Africa and Western Europe.

The courses were delivered inside the Lawyers’ School of the Great East located in Strasbourg.

For more information: www.iidh.org
The Fondation René Cassin co-organizes with the Faculty of Law, Political Sciences and Management of the University of Strasbourg, the René Cassin Pleading Competition on Human Rights. Created in 1984, this moot-court is a French speaking competition based on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights. Over the years, it has become the most renowned French Speaking Competition in the field of European human rights law. It gives the opportunity to students coming from all over the world to face each other in mock trials. The aim is to promote human rights within universities and to pay a tribute to René Cassin, funder of the Fondation René Cassin and eminent Human Rights Defender.

This pleading competition aims at students of Master 1 and Master 2. The semi-finals take place on the Council of Europe and the final is organised at the European Court of Human Rights. The teams, which are selected on a writing work, defend their point of view in front a jury composed of experts.

Official website of the Competition: http://concourenciasin.eu/

**René Cassin Pleading Competition 2019**

The 2019 Edition of the René Cassin Pleading Competition will take place from 3 to 5 April 2019 on the theme Business and European Human Rights Law.
Boukaré SAWADOGO
Judge
Laureate of the 1st training session of Ouagadougou

My name is Boukaré SAWADOGO. I am currently a magistrate and a judge at the headquarters of the High Court of Tenkodogo (East-Centre of Burkina Faso) since 2015. I am also a judge for the application of the jurisdiction’s sentences since February 2016.

When I finished my studies in 2012, I got interested in the matters of International Law of Human Rights and International Criminal Law. Unfortunately, the opportunities to pursue specialized trainings in these subjects appeared to lack me. I was aware of the existence of intensive trainings that were organized every year by the Fondation René Cassin but I did not necessarily have the chance to move to Strasbourg in France. Yet, something clicked into place in 2016 when I discovered on Facebook that the Fondation René Cassin was organizing training sessions abroad, in Africa, especially in Bamako and Dakar. It is in this way that I first applied and got selected for the training session of Dakar in September 2016 without being able to take part in it, but I had to wait until February 2017 and 2018 to become capable of participating in this training session. Then, I began to feel thrilled and particularly mesmerized by the outstanding quality of the training session that was delivered, but also by the possibilities of exchanges it provided and the appearance of the speakers who were practitioner trainers and theorists from Africa and Europe I only knew through their writings.

This is the reason why I have been doubly curious when I heard about the opening of the first training session in Ouagadougou. I was first interested in the general topic that was suggested “Transnational organized criminality and International Law of Human Rights”, and I secondly became concerned about the quality and the renown of the speakers who took part in it.

As the outcome of this training session, I may assure that my expectations have been fully satisfied. As a young magistrate who lives in a frontier jurisdiction with three neighbor countries (Togo, Ghana and Benin), the topic of the Transnational organized criminality is such a conundrum for me.
Seminar
Philanthropy and Fundamental Rights
Strasbourg, 11th of October 2018

On October 11th 2018, the Fondation René Cassin, the Fondation de France and the Barreau de Strasbourg organized a seminar whose subject was concerning the theme of Philanthropy and Fundamental Rights. This meeting occurred inside the Bar Council in Strasbourg.

René Cassin Thesis Prize

In 2018, 2 francophone René Cassin Thesis Prize were awarded by the Fondation:

- **Christos GIANNOPOULOS**, L’autorité de la chose interprétée des arrêts de la Cour européenne des droits de l’homme, Université de Strasbourg - (Dir. De thèse : Constance GREWE, Professeur émérite, Université de Strasbourg, Dominique D’AMBRA, Professeur, Université de Strasbourg)

- **Julie TAVERNIER**, La réparation dans le contentieux international des droits de l’homme, Université de Paris II - Panthéon Assas - (Dir. De thèse : Sébastien TOUZE, Professeur, Université Paris II - Panthéon Assas)

No special mention for the francophone René Cassin Thesis Prize was awarded.

The English-Speaking René Cassin Thesis Prize 2018 was awarded to **Alessandra LA VACCARA**, When the Conflicts Ends, While Uncertainty Continues : Accounting for Missing Persons between War and Peace in International Law, Graduate Institute of international and development studies of Geneva - (Dir. De thèse Vincent CHETAIL, Director of the Global Migration Centre and Professor of International Law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies).

No special mention for the English-speaking René Cassin Thesis Prize was awarded.
**Agenda of our President**

**JANUARY**

9th of January: Board of Directors of the Fondation René Cassin

14th of January: Meeting with Mr. Stéphane Bouillon, Director of the Ministry of the Interior’s cabinet, Mr. Grégoire Dulin, Justice Counselor, and Mr. Sébastien Touzé.

18th of January: Ceremony for the planting of the Guernica tree at the Fondation René Cassin.

23rd of January: Meeting with Asako Psaki, Japanese member of the UN Women Organization.

25th of January: Solemn reassembly of the High Court of Strasbourg.

25th of January: Solemn reassembly of the European Court of Human Rights.

30th of January: Meeting with Mr. Mohamed Trabelsi, Consul General of Tunisia in Strasbourg.

**FEBRUARY**

4th of February: Conference at the University of Ca’ Foscari (Venice) on “Historical negationism and freedom of expression”, at the invitation of the Law School and the office’s Director of the Council of Europe in Venice.

26th of February: Reception at the Permanent Representation of Estonia to the Council of Europe.

28th of February: Meeting with the President of the High Court of Strasbourg.

**Agenda of our Director**

**JANUARY**

9th of January: Board of Directors of the Fondation René Cassin

14th of January: Meeting with Mr. Stéphane Bouillon, Director of the Ministry of the Interior’s cabinet, Mr. Grégoire Dulin, Justice Counselor, and Mr. Jean-Paul Costa.

14th of January: Meeting with the Representative of the High Commissioner for Refugees in France and Monaco.

18th of January: Ceremony for the planting of the Guernica tree at the Fondation René Cassin.

21st of January: Intervention within the scope of the colloquium “To a global governance of migration”.

23rd-27th of January: Fondation René Cassin’s first training session in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

**FEBRUARY**

1st of February: Intervention within the scope of the colloquium “The creation of authoritarian regimes”.

5th of February: Participation to a thesis jury at the University of Geneva.

10th-14th of February: Fondation René Cassin’s 6th training session in Bamako, Mali.
Fondation René Cassin

2 allée René Cassin
67000 Strasbourg
France
+33 (0) 3 88 45 84 45
administration@iidh.org

Press contact:
Agathe Petit
agathe.petit@iidh.org

“There will be no peace on this planet as long as human rights are being violated, regardless of where in the world it is happening” René Cassin

Find us on internet:
www.iidh.org