In brief - New procedure of registration for our training sessions and academic events

In order to simplify registrations and payments, the René Cassin Foundation modernised its website. Now, all registration to our training sessions and scientific events should be done through your personal account. This account will allow you to manage your personal information, to modify it easily but also to pay online, by bank transfer, on the spot or by cheque your registration fee to participate to our events.

To create your personal account, please read the instructions available on the homepage’s website by clicking on the button:
Our next training sessions

49th Summer School « Human Rights Defenders »

The 49th Summer School of the René Cassin Foundation will take place from 2nd to 20th of July 2018 and will focused on the theme « Human Rights Defenders ». To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and as a tribute of the Fondation’s founder, René Cassin, the Summer School will highlight the work of human rights defenders and will focus on the challenges of this specific status.

Created in 1970, our Summer School lasts three weeks and consists in courses and conferences provided by international experts.

This course allows to participant to deepen their knowledge in international and comparative human rights law but also to familiarize themself to specific issues linked with the topical subject of the Summer School.

You can find all the information about registration and archives on our website.

8th training session in Dakar, Senegal

International migration and International Human Rights Law

The 8th training session in Dakar in Senegal will be hold from 18th to 29th of September and will focus on “International migration and International Human Rights Law”. This session will be organised in partnership with the Foundation Friedrich Naumann for Freedom.

This session will combine theoretical training on different human rights protection systems, international penal law, international humanitarian law and refugee law and will include a thematic course about African Commission’s action concerning Human and People’s Rights regarding to the migratory phenomenon, but also a practical training. In fact, two practical seminars relating to fictive cases will be organised and will allow participants to train their oral arguments.

Registration are closed

1st training session in Tbilisi, Georgia

From the 16th to the 20th of October 2017, the René Cassin Foundation - International Institute for Human Rights of Strasbourg, in partnership with the European Teaching University of Tbilisi and with the support of the French Institute, is organising its first training session on International Human Rights Law in Tbilisi. Courses will be provided in english only.

Registration fees: 100 €
Student discount: 50 €
Applications close on the 24th of September 2017.
Calendar of our training sessions in 2017

From 18 to 29 of September 2017: 8th training session in Dakar (Senegal)

From 16 to 20 of October 2017: 1st training session in Tbilisi (Georgia)

From 23 to 27 of October 2017: 1st training session in Pretoria (South Africa)

November 2017: 5th training session in Abidjan (Ivory Coast)

From 4 to 14 of December 2017: 6th training session in Port-au-Prince (Haiti)

Our past training sessions

48th Summer School « Health and International Human Rights Law »

The 48th Summer Course of the René Cassin Foundation focused on the theme « Health and International Human Rights Law » and took place from 3rd to 21st of July 2017 in Strasbourg (France). This training session welcomed 157 participants who came mainly from Africa and Central and Latin America. Students, judges, lawyers and legal officers were more represented. Sébastien TOUZÉ, Director of the René Cassin Foundation, welcomed the dynamism and the involvement of participants during this summer school.

Courses and conferences highlighted a wide range of issues linked to the right to health, such as the deprivation of liberty and the right to health, the fight against pandemics and the rights of patients. This training session also deepened the universal and regional systems of human rights protection.

During the Summer School, the René Cassin Foundation organises three tests for obtaining the René Cassin Foundation’s diploma. Three participants were awarded this year: Patrick BADUGUE, Zoe HARPER et Antigoni Maria SPYROPOULOU.

The Summer School 2017 also welcomed Dr. Raphaël PITTI, Professor, Deputy City Council « Social and Medical Emergency », Humanitarian Doctor and Honorary Chairman of the Humanitarian Aid Committee to Syrian People (Comsyr) who gave a speech on his training work for medical staff in Syria.

20th Intensive Training of Refugee Law

French Representation to the UNCHR both with the Fondation Renée Cassin have organised, for 20th consecutive year, an Intensive Training on Refugee Law. This 2 weeks course has been held from 6th to 17th June 2017 in the Council of Europe European Youth Center in Strasbourg, France. Trainings were provided in French by experts from the UNCHR, as well as specialists from academic, institutional and judiciary areas.
I participated in the René Cassin Foundation’s 48th Summer School in Strasbourg, held this year on the theme of health and international human rights law, as a way of supporting my continuing professional development and human rights practice.

I greatly valued the quality of training provided on the international and comparative law of human rights, enabling new ideas and strategies to be informed by approaches taken under different regional human rights systems. Further specialist courses addressing the right to health and a variety of topics including the rights of persons with disabilities, sexual and reproductive rights, end of life care and the challenges of litigating social, economic and cultural rights, provided a thought-provoking and engaging programme.

The urgency of the issues under discussion was underlined by the public conference given by Dr Raphaël Pitti on his work providing emergency medical care in Syria. His devastating account of the collapse of Syria’s health system and basic infrastructure following six years of war, the systematic detention and torture of medical personnel and the scale of abuses perpetrated against the population trapped within its borders challenged all of us to find responses to this major humanitarian catastrophe individually and collectively in our work.

We were privileged to receive tuition from leading judges, practitioners and scholars who have shaped the law as well as current and former UN committee members and Special Rapporteurs who brought unique insight into the legal protection of human rights. The opportunity to present before Judges of the European Court of Human Rights and other legal specialists, as part of the examinations for the prestigious Diploma of the Foundation, was a personal highlight along with achieving the demanding standards for its award.

The expertise of the teaching faculty was complemented by the truly international nature of the study session, with over 150 human rights defenders from across the world contributing questions and perspectives to the lectures and creating a network of friendship and solidarity that I am confident will continue far into the future.

On July 2017, I had the honour to give a course of 4 hours on the protection under Conventions of the person and human body during the 48th Summer School of the René Cassin Foundation which focused on “Health and International Human Rights Law”. The audience was mostly composed of academics, judges, lawyers and students and my presentation was based on three main areas: 1. Protecting the body and thus the person (objective protection), 2. A subjective protection of the person in its body: the evolution of consent, 3. The body and the person faced to the human being: protecting the person against himself or herself?

Far from the usual student audience, participants have invested this course by their questions and their comments. These exchanges were most interesting and have led us to discuss about various situations such as the work of a lawyer in Colombia, a judge in Senegal or a human rights defender in Morocco. Beyond the quality of each speaker invited for this training session, I think that is the wealth of profiles and experiences of participants give real added value to this Summer School.
Le Prix de Thèse René Cassin

To develop and promote the publication of research works relating to human rights issues, the Foundation René Cassin annually awards the René Cassin Thesis Prize. The French-Speaking René Cassin Thesis Prize was created in 2006. The English-Speaking René Cassin Thesis Prize was created in 2012.

The French-Speaking René Cassin Thesis Prize 2017 was awarded to **Mrs Améyo Délali KOUASSI** for her thesis on “La Responsabilité Internationale pour violation des droits de l’homme”, thesis defended at the Université de Poitiers under the direction of M. Sébastien TOUZÉ, Professor at the Université de Paris II Panthéon-Assas.


The English-Speaking René Cassin Thesis Prize 2017 was awarded to **Mr. Eduardo GILL-PEDRO** for his thesis on “EU Fundamental Rights and National Democracies: Complementary or Contradictory?”, thesis defended at the University of Lund, under the direction of Mr. Xavier GROUSSOT, Professor at the University of Lund and Mr. Henrik WENANDER, Associate Professor at the University of Lund.

A Special Mention of the English-Speaking René Cassin Thesis Prize was awarded to **Mr. Zalalem Moges-sie TEFERRA** for his thesis on “National Security in International Law : Meaning and Application in International Human Rights Law, International Refugee Law and International Humanitarian Law”, thesis defended at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva under the direction of Mr. Vincent CHETAIL, Professor at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.

Human Rights Clinic

Students of the Human Rights Clinic presented a report during a workshop on prison overcrowding which took place in Geneva from 7th to 8th of August 2017, in margin of the 61th session of the UN Committee against Torture.
En même temps que le traité de Lisbonne conférait valeur juridique contrai-
gnante à la charte des droits fondamentaux de l’Union Européenne, il a créé,
par l’article 67, paragraphe 1, du traité sur le fonctionnement de l’Union euro-
péenne, une obligation pour l’Union et les Etats membres de respecter les
droits fondamentaux dans la construction de l’espace de liberté, de sécurité
et de justice. Parce qu’il vise chacune des normes composant cet espace, ce
commandement interroge particulièrement dans l’espace judiciaire européen
en matière civile et commerciale où les règles de coordination des ordres
juridiques nationaux sont partiellement réfractaires à l’influence des droits
fondamentaux. Toutefois, la polysémie de la notion de respect permet d’en-
visager divers modes d’articulations de la charte et du droit de l’espace judi-
ciaire européen en matière civile et commerciale. Si le principe hiérarchique
parait la modalité la plus évidente pour assurer le respect de la charte, il
s’avère inapte à y parvenir, tant par lui-même que par le contexte spécifique
d’application de la charte qu’il impose l’espace judiciaire européen. Aussi con-
viendrait-il de la compléter par un mode d’articulation plus souple, la combi-
naison, afin de parvenir à conformer la construction de l’espace sous l’étude
t à l’article 67, paragraphe 1, du traité sur le fonctionnement de l’Union euro-
péenne.

Walid BEN HAMIDA et Frédérique COULÉE, Convergences et contradictions du droit des investis-
sements et des droits de l’homme : Une approche contentieuse, Paris, Pedone, 2017

Le droit des investissements et les droits de l’homme sont parmi les disci-
plines les plus dynamiques du droit international. Ce dynamisme s’explique
par l’existence dans les deux branches d’un droit d’action reconnu à une per-
sonne privée pour engager la responsabilité internationale de l’Etat devant un
juge international : le recours à l’arbitrage international en application des trai-
tés d’investissement et la saisine des cours régionales des droits de l’homme.
En outre, les droits protégés dans les deux branches se rapprochent. Droits de
l’homme et droit des investissements interdisent les discriminations, les expro-
priations non accompagnées d’indemnisation et le déni de justice. Ils garantis-
sent l’accès au juge, l’exécution des décisions de justice et permettent à la
victime d’obtenir une indemnisation. En raison de ces protections, il n’est pas
étonnant de voir les investisseurs privés utiliser les deux systèmes pour proté-
ger leurs droits face aux Etats. Il n’est également pas étonnant de voir les ar-
bitres en matière d’investissement s’inspirer des techniques retenues par les
juridictions des droits de l’homme.

Il s’agit, dès lors, d’approfondir la réflexion sur les protections que peuvent ré-
clamer les investisseurs privés dans les deux systèmes. Après un regard croisé
porté sur la compétence, la procédure et le fond dans les deux branches, les
interactions entre les deux disciplines sont examinées. Droit des investisse-
ments et droits de l’homme peuvent entretenir des rapports de complémen-
tarité, d’inspiration mutuelle et d’emprunt ou de conflit. Principalement, il con-
vient de s’interroger sur les problèmes que posent le cumul de la saisine des
juridictions des droits de l’homme avec les tribunaux d’arbitrage, sur l’usage
des mêmes techniques et méthodes par l’arbitre et le juge des droits de
l’homme ainsi que sur la confrontation éventuelle des deux systèmes.

Cette publication, inspirée par l’actualité, offre aux spécialistes de deux
branches la possibilité de se retrouver en vue d’une réflexion transversale
ayant à la fois un intérêt théorique et pratique.
Agenda of the President

July

3 July : Opening Ceremony of the René Cassin Foundation’s Summer School at the European Council

4 July : Meeting with the Minister for Justice of Slovenia, M. KLAMENCIC

5 July : Hearing of the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne

10 July : Dinner with Dr. Raphaël PITTI and conference of Dr. Raphaël PITTI during the Summer School of the René Cassin Foundation. Dinner with the Mayor of Strasbourg, Mr. Roland RIES.

12 July : Meeting with the Judge for Andorra at the European Court of Human Rights, Mr. Pere PASTOR VILANOVA

12 July : Dinner with speakers of the Summer School of the René Cassin Foundation

17 July : Meeting with the First Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg

19 July : Dinner with speakers of the Summer School of the René Cassin Foundation

21 July : Closing Ceremony of the René Cassin Foundation’s Summer School, followed by the René Cassin Foundation’s staff dinner

August

On leave

Agenda of the Director

July - August

3 - 21 July : 48th Summer School « Health and International Human Rights Law », Strasbourg, France

24 July - 11 August : 61th session of the United Nations Committee against Torture, Geneva

7-8 August : Workshop on Prison Overcrowding
“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