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:

How to create an account and register for an event
Call for Project

49th Summer School « Human Rights Defenders »

The 49th Summer School of the René Cassin Foundation

From 2nd to 20th of July 2018, the René Cassin Foundation will organise a 49th Summer School on the theme: “Human Rights Defenders”.

This training will be devoted to all these anonymous persons who reveal the most beautiful side of humanity and who give their lives to defend the value of human being. The René Cassin Foundation would like to give voice to these Human Rights Defenders and to all persons who are working with them.

In this context, a call for projects is open.

Who can answer to this call for projects?

This call for projects is open to all individuals, group or association who contribute to ‘the effective elimination of all violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of peoples and individuals’ within the meaning of the fourth subparagraph of the preamble of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms adopted by the UN General Assembly on the 9th of December 1998.

This call for projects is for whistleblowers.

We would like to draw your attention on the fact that it is not a publication project, selected projects will be presented to participants during courses and conferences by speaker.

Why giving a speech during a conference?

The work of human rights defender is crucial in democratic countries and in non-democratic countries but also in peaceful countries and in countries who are dealing with armed conflicts and humanitarian crises. However, the work and the role of Human Right Defenders is not well-known. Participating to our summer school as speaker will increase the visibility of your actions, reinforce your professional network and allow you to establish a constructive dialogue with participants and other speakers. The René Cassin Foundation is convinced that the defence and the effective protection of human rights can only be achieved by the creation of a wide network between Human Rights Defenders and other human rights protection actors.

To give a speech during our Summer School will help you to explain your issues and experiences to a broad audience composed of practitioners and researchers coming from all over the world. Each course and conference that we created since 1970 is a real forum which makes possible open debates and discussion.

What kind of project of project is expected?

The René Cassin Foundation wishes to highlight experiences of human rights defenders and to identify difficulties and strengths of these individuals, groups of association and their actions.

You are a Human Rights Defender? We are interested in your experience, we would like you to explain and discuss with our participants and other speakers about your actions. What are your missions? How are you working? How are you perceived by national and local authorities? What is the role of international community and international organisations in your work? This a small sample of question in which we are interested and which can be explained by your contribution.

You are working with Human Rights Defenders? We are interested in your experience of lawyer, judge, member of National Human Rights Institution, professor, researcher or practitioner. Come and present to our participants your experience and thoughts about the Human Rights Defenders status or the strengths and the limits of their action.

This Summer School is an opportunity to inform our participants about national, regional and universal actions, challenges, issues, means, pitfalls and reviewers of the Human Rights Defenders status and work.

How can I send a project of project?

Fill out the project form and send it to session@iidh.org before the 15th of December 2017.
If you have any question, please contact session@iidh.org

DOWNLOAD THE FORM
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.

Registration is open until May 11th, 2018
More information on our website.

21th Intensive Training on Refugee Law

The former Summer Course on Refugee Law became the Intensive Training on Refugee Law. Organised by the René Cassin Foundation - International Institute of Human Rights and the French Representative of the UNHCR for 20 years. This two weeks training will take place from 18th to 29th of June 2018.

This training aims to promote training in international refugee law and to develop the knowledge of international principles about the international protection of persons under the care of the UNHCR. It also seeks to develop a common understanding of new challenges of the international protection of refugee and asylum seekers and actions which allow to reinforce protection mechanisms.

The Fondation in figures:

1969: René Cassin creates the International Institute of Human Rights
1970: First Summer School on international and comparative human rights law
2015: Creation of the state-approved foundation: the Fondation René Cassin
9 training sessions abroad in 2016
1 Summer course on refugee law
1 Human Rights Clinic

6th training session in Port-au-Prince (Haïti)

The 6th training session in Port-au-Prince (Haïti) will take place from 4th to 14th of December 2017 on the theme « Human Rights and Detention ». Registration is open until 10th of November 2017.
8th training session in Dakar, Senegal

International migration and International Human Rights Law

The 8th training session in Dakar in Senegal took place from 18th to 29th of September and focused on the theme “International migration and International Human Rights Law”. This session was organised in partnership with the Foundation Friedrich Naumann for Freedom.

This session combined theoretical training and practical seminars and welcomed 130 participants (55 women) who represented 16 nationalities (Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Italy, Morocco, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Tchad and Togo). A final test was organised to test participants’ knowledge. 80% of participants passed the test and obtained the certificate of success.

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 University of Tbilisi and with the support of the French Institute, organised its first training session on International Human Rights Law in Tbilisi. Courses was provided in english only.

37 participants (82% of women and 18% of men) took part to this training session, they mainly came from Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Turkey. Participants were members of the Public Defender Office, Lawyers, Judges, Students and ONG’s Members. 65% of participants obtained the certificate of success.

1st training session in Pretoria, South Africa

The René Cassin Foundation and the Centre for Human Rights of the University of Pretoria organised a first training session in international human rights law which took place from 23rd to 27th of October 2017 in Pretoria (South Africa). Courses were provided in english. This training session was organised thanks to the support of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MAE), the House Hermès, la Caisse d’Epargne d’Alsace et la Banque Populaire Alsace Lorraine. 42 participants participated to this training session, they represented 42 nationalities (Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Guinea, Cameroon, Nigeria, Lesotho, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Namibia, Germany, Swaziland, Zambia Kenya, South Sudan and Brazil).
Testimony

ABDOU MOUSSA Djibril
Magistrate

The training session in Dakar was not only a chance to gain knowledge on Migration and to enhance my knowledge in the field of Human Rights, but it was also an opportunity to meet great people with which I had fruitful discussion on human rights issues.

Training sessions organised by the René Cassin Foundation - International Institute of Human Rights and its partners, clearly are a reinforcement framework of capacities in the field on Human Rights.

René Cassin Thesis Prize

The application for the René Cassin Thesis Prize is open to any candidates who defended their doctoral thesis in the course of the year 2017 in one of the following disciplines:

- International Human Rights Law
- Regional Human Rights Law
- Comparative Human Rights Law
- Legal Theory of Human Rights

The English section of the Prize was created in 2011.

Persons wishing to apply should send three paper copies of their doctoral thesis to the Fondation René Cassin - International Institute of Human Rights, accompanied by a report certifying their thesis defence or an equivalent document, and an electronic copy of their work before the January 31, 2018.

Competing theses will be examined by a jury composed of university professors specialized in the above-mentioned areas of Human Rights Law. The jury’s final decision will be reached in May 2018.

The prize-winning candidate will be offered the opportunity to have his or her work published in the foundation’s Collection and the costs of publication be borne by the foundation.

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En même temps que le traité de Lisbonne conférait valeur juridique contraignante 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 européenne, une obligation pour l’Union et les États 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’envisager divers modes d’articulations de la charte et du droit de l’espace judiciaire européen en matière civile et commerciale. Si le principe hiérarchique paraît 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 conviendrait-il de la compléter par un mode d’articulation plus souple, la combinaison, afin de parvenir à conformer la construction de l’espace sous l’étude à l’article 67, paragraphe 1, du traité sur le fonctionnement de l’Union européenne.


Le droit des investissements et les droits de l’homme sont parmi les disciplines 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 personne privée pour engager la responsabilité internationale de l’État devant un juge international : le recours à l’arbitrage international en application des traités 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 expropriations non accompagnées d’indemnisation et le déni de justice. Ils garantissent 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 protéger leurs droits face aux États. Il n’est également pas étonnant de voir les arbitres 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 réclamer 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 investissements et droits de l’homme peuvent entretenir des rapports de complémentarité, d’inspiration mutuelle et d’emprunt ou de conflit. Principalement, il convient 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

September

4th of September: Meeting with Japanese academics
6th of September: Meeting with members of the European International Network
9th of September: Speech at the symposium « Perimeters of Social Europe » (Faculty of Law of the University of Strasbourg)
20th of September: Meeting with Japanese academics
29th of September: Defence of my thesis at the Faculty of Law of Toulouse
29th of September: Patronage of the promotion of the European School of Law (Toulouse) followed by a conference

October

4th October: Meeting with Norwegian academic and lawyer
6th October: Speech on doping and human rights at the symposium on Doping in sports at the INSEP (Paris)
19th - 20th October: Participation to the international symposium in Athens on public services in Mediterranean

Agenda of the Director

September

17 - 21st of September: 8th training session in Dakar on the theme « International Migration and International Human Rights Law ».
25th of September: Meeting of the Public Law Department of the University of Panthéon-Assas (Paris II)
26th of September: Meeting of the Institute of Higher International Studies of the University of Panthéon-Assas (Paris II)
28th of September: Meeting of the CRDH - Paris Human Rights Center of the University of Panthéon-Assas (Paris II)

October

4th October: Meeting of the Public Law Department of the University of Panthéon-Assas (Paris II)
11th October: Meeting with the UNHCR’s Representative in France
24th October: Presentation of the book of Philippe Sand to the Pedone Editions
27th October: Meeting of the Public Law Department of the University of Panthéon-Assas (Paris II)
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