In brief - Online Donations

The Fondation René Cassin works daily to develop its training and research activities. As a consequence, the number of training session abroad is increasing to contribute to the effectiveness of the International law of Human Rights. However, to do so, the Fondation needs your help. You have now the possibility to help us through online donations. Those donations allow a tax reduction.

To support the Fondation, go on our website and click on:  

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Focus

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FONDATION RENÉ CASSIN

On October 10th 1968, René Cassin receives the Nobel Prize for Peace. The following year, he created the International Institute of Human Rights, an association that he wishes to see contribute to the protection and the promotion of Human Rights through research and teaching. Later, this Institute became a Foundation recognize of public utility: the Fondation René Cassin.

In 2019, we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Fondation René Cassin. We are preparing several events to celebrate the work accomplished until now, and to pay tribute to René Cassin, and to all Human Rights defenders who were trained by the Fondation since 1969 in France or in other countries where we are involved.

2019 will also be for us an occasion to renew or training sessions. For the past few years, the number of training session abroad increased. It was time to think about the framework of our Summer school to answer in a more efficient way the concerns of professionals and scholars we are meeting.

The 2019 summer session will be entirely rethought and will not be presented as a 3 weeks thematic session dedicated on International Law of Human rights anymore.

We will offer, in July in Strasbourg, a new training session, divided in 2 following units. The first 2 weeks will be focused on the first unit, specialized in International Human Rights Law. It will be composed by general courses on the different Human Rights Protection System and special conferences. The two following weeks will be dedicated to International Penal Law and International Humanitarian Law. Every participant will have the opportunity to take part in one unit or the other or both. Every event will be a new chance to exchange, meet and learn. The participation of lawyers, who wish to extend their knowledge in those areas, will be facilitating.

Stay connected, news will come soon!

Summer School 2019

**Unit 1**
Weeks 1 and 2

International Human Rights Law

- General courses and conferences
- Fondation René Cassin’s Diploma

**Unit 2**
Weeks 3 and 4

International Criminal Law and International Humanitarian Law

- General courses and conferences

Participants can participate to Unit 1 and Unit 2 or just to a single unit.
Our past training sessions in France

21th Intensive Training on Refugee Law

Organized by the Fondation René Cassin and by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the 21st Intensive Training on Refugee Law, the new name for the Summer Course, was held in Strasbourg from 18 to 29 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.

This training aims to develop in each participant, a common comprehension concerning current issues in international protection of refugees and asylum seekers, as well as an understanding of the possible actions to reinforce the protection mechanism in their favor.

49th Summer School « Human Rights

The 49th annual session was held on the premises of the E.R.A.G.E in Strasbourg from July 2 to 20 2018 and focused on the theme « Human Rights Defenders ». The summer school highlighted the work of Human Rights Defenders, and raised the issues linked with this particular statute. This session was also an opportunity to pay a special tribute to René Cassin, the year of the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This session welcomed 169 participants, coming mainly from Africa and Occidental Europe.


For more information: [www.iidh.org](http://www.iidh.org)
Our next training session abroad

9th training session in Dakar (Senegal)

Companies and International Human Rights Law

From 10 to 21 September 2018, the Fondation René Cassin and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom are organising a 9th training session in Dakar on “Companies and International Law of Human rights”. The organisation of the session will be supported by the United Nation Human rights Regional Office in West Africa, The French Embassy in Senegal, the Senegalese Committee for Human rights and the European Union Delegation in Senegal.

Registration fees: 100 euros

Deadline for registrations: 15 July 2018

This session is intended for magistrates, lawyers, court clerk, and other members from the judicial family, human rights organizations (national and international), law enforcement agencies and government officials (police, army), specialized researchers, etc…

Conditions for admission:

To have at least a four-year university degree (Master’s degree, L.L.M. or equivalent)

Have a sound experience in the field of refugee or human rights

Master French (both oral and written)

Schedule of training sessions 2018

September : 6th training session « Mona Haddad des droits de l’homme » in Beirut (Lebanon)

From 22 to 26 October 2018 : 2nd training session in Pretoria (South Africa)

From 3 to 13 December 2018 : 7th training session in Haiti
I am currently working as Criminal Judge of the First Instance in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires. Whilst at university, I studied Human rights law, with a particular focus on the international system of the protection of Human Rights. I spent some of my time abroad – both in European universities and the United States – to develop my knowledge on this subject.

It is the respect for the judiciary decisions and the application of the judiciary decisions by the states which interested me the most in the studies of International Human Rights law. In fact, states generally agree to apply decisions which can be unpleasant for the government and the established cultural institutions. The states recognise their international responsibility concerning the application of Human rights, according to a universal consensus on the aims and content of international Human rights.

The teaching session held by the René Cassin Foundation in the city of Buenos Aires had a special focus on the subject of “Women’s rights”. I warmly welcomed the choice of such an appropriate subject in Latin America.

Furthermore, I would like to emphasise the quality of exchanges with well-known scholars who taught us to embrace the complexity of the subject. Thus, we are now able to promote and broadcast the urgent necessity of a cultural and structural change regarding the libelous treatment, violence and discriminations against women.

This session allowed me to meet people from different backgrounds – students, procurers, magistrates, barristers and activists from Europe and Latin America – and to be confronted with their diversity of opinion. Thus, I was able to create new friendships with other attendees and to have interesting academic conversations centered around a common goal: the protection of human dignity.

Although the 9-day course was intense, the depth of discussions on such a complex topic was enriching and gave me some practical knowledge on promoting the development of women’s rights and their protection, especially through my role as judicial operator.

I am deeply grateful for the commitment and good will from the organisers, the speakers, and the attendees, with whom I was able to exchange ideas and experiences. This, without a doubt, contributed to my success in the session. From now on, I hope to fulfil all that is expected of me and take advantage of the opportunity offered by the Rene Cassin Foundation to participate in the next edition of the Summer School in Strasbourg in 2019. I am infinitely grateful.
Our past training sessions abroad

1st training session in Tunis (Tunisia)

International Human Rights Law and Migration

From 30 April 2018 to 5 May 2018, the Fondation René Cassin- with the support of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, of the Hermes Foundation, of the Caisse d’Epargne d’Alsace and of the Banque Populaire Alsace Lorraine Champagne – and the support of the International Laboratory of International Law, International Jurisdictions and Compared Law – with the support of the Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung, Tunisia/Algeria Office, organized a first training session in Tunis on “International Human rights Law and Migration”.

This session welcomed more than 40 participants.

2nd training session in Buenos Aires (Argentina)

International Law of Human rights and Women’s rights

The Fondation René Cassin and the University of Buenos Aires organized a 2nd training session from 18 to 29 June 2018. This session focused on “International Law of Human rights and Women’s rights”. This session was organized thanks to the support of the French Embassy in Argentina, the French Institute in Buenos Aires, the Friedrich Neumann Fondation for Freedom, the CADAL, the Human rights Secretary in the Buenos Aires Province, the Hermès Fondation, the Caisse d’épargne, and the Banque Populaire Alsace Champagne Lorraine.

This session welcomed 25 participants, mostly from the judiciary authorities.

2nd training session in Tbilisi (Georgia)

International Criminal Justice

From 11 to 15 June 2018, the Fondation René Cassin- International Institute of Human Rights, in partnership with the European University of Tbilisi and the International Black Sea University, and with the support of the Country office of the International Criminal Court in Georgia and the French Institute, organized its second training session in Tbilisi.

This session welcomed 12 participants.
Throughout my professional life in human rights, I have always considered that one of the fundamental columns that supports the contemporary human rights movement is the deliberate and rigorous education of new generations of activists, lawyers, journalists, judges, and public officials, among many others. Since my days in the mid-nineties as a staff officer at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and at the International Human Rights Law Group, I witnessed how a young generation of professionals emerged from academic institutions instilled with an increasingly sophisticated vision of human rights. Political activism was reaching the rigorous corridors of academia and transforming some of the basic tenets of law and justice, as well as enhancing the advocacy toolkit of social organizations.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to collaborate with the René Cassin Foundation in the crucial work of promoting human rights and creating educational opportunities. There have been many opportunities to contribute to said endeavor, but I must single out my participation in the Annual Study Sessions of the International Institute of Human Rights as an instructor in the courses related to the Inter-American Human Rights System. In the 39th Study Session, I was able to engage a Spanish-speaking audience with the current challenges of the Inter-American Human Rights System, building on my academic work at the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law of American University Washington College of Law in Washington DC, where I have taught since the late nineties. I also drew from my experience as an ad hoc judge of the Inter-American Court on Human Rights for half a decade. Later, in the 42nd and 43rd Study Sessions, I lectured to an English-speaking audience, which allowed me to reach participants from all regions of the world. This is the beauty of multilingual education! We share the conviction that these simple strategies can break cultural barriers and build bridges between societies that are facing the same challenges in distant parts of the world. An example of this shared vision is my institution, where I am Co-Director of the only LLM in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in the United States that is offered entirely in English or Spanish.

Now, as a member of the UN Committee against Torture, many of these experiences will allow me to contribute to the collective work of this treaty body. Overall, the natural association of my institution with the René Cassin Foundation will surely enhance the legitimacy and impact of international human rights law around the world.
Annual Symposium of the Fondation René Cassin
Human Rights and Sea
Le Mans, 24 and 25 May 2018

The Fondation René Cassin’s annual symposium will take place from 24 to 25 May 2018 at the Faculty of Law of the University of Le Mans on the theme “Human Rights and Sea”. This symposium is organized thanks to the support of: Le Mans Métropole, Themis, Université Bretagne Loire and Le Mans Université.

Information
https://droitshommemer.sciencesconf.org/

René Cassin Thesis Prize

In 2018, the René Cassin Foundation awarded two René Cassin Thesis Prize:

- Christos GIANNOPULOS, 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)


The English-Speaking René Cassin Thesis Prize 2017 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).

The Jury did not award a special mention for the English-Speaking René Cassin Thesis Prize 2018.
The international sanction following a violation of Human Rights has some issues to reach its targeted objectives. The non-jurisdictional sanctions applied in the system of the United Nations Human rights Charter are common law, but their efficacy is limited for the victim. Some recommendations are taken by the Committees, which were created to supervise the application of the different Convention relating to Human Rights, but they suffer from a lack of competences for serious violations. Regarding the lack of a mechanism for serious violations, the Security Council extended the application of collective measures for Human rights. The use of Chapter VII is however limited by the operational issues. Thus, the Security Council decided to vary the sanctions. Nevertheless, even if some sanctions or legal measures, as the creation of criminal jurisdiction, are taken, the collective measures are focused on the individual and not on the State. The State is internationally responsible in the matter of Human Rights but is sheltered from binding neither of collective nor criminal sanctions. A reform of the international Human rights dispute is necessary and can be inspired by the regional Human Rights protection agreements and their guaranty of the rights of the victim. The creation of a universal Court, in charge of the sanctions in case of Human rights violation, should be considered, as well as the reinforcing of the mechanisms of the Treaties.
**Agenda of the President**

**May**
- 1-3 May: Training session in Tunis
- 16 May: Meeting at the Council of Europe
- 24-25 May: Annual Symposium of the Fondation René Cassin – Le Mans
- 28 May: Ceremony at the Council of State for the departure of Mr. Sauve ad Stim

**June**
- 1st June: General Assembly at the European House, Strasbourg Alsace
- 6 June: Meeting with Board of Directors of the Fondation René Cassin
- 13 June: Workshop Arts and Human Rights at the European Court of Human Rights
- 14 June: Meeting at the Council of Europe
- 18 June: Opening of the Intensive Training session on Refugee Law
- 20 June: Conference on Human Rights and the Economics for the Banque Populaire (sponsor)
- 29 June: Lunch at the Council of Notary Alsace-Moselle (sponsor)

**July**
- 2-20 July: 49th Summer school of the Fondation René Cassin
- 3 July: Meeting with Sébastien Touzé and senior Official of the City of Strasbourg
- 11 July: Projection and Debate of Harry Roselmack’s film “Fractures”
- 18 July: Audience at the Arbitral Sport Court in Lausanne

**Agenda of the Directeur**

**May**
- 23 April – 18 May: Session of the Committee against Torture, Geneva
- 24-25 May: Annual Symposium of the Fondation René Cassin – Le Mans

**June**
- 4 June: Dissertation via at the University Panthéon-Assas (Paris II)
- 6 June: Meeting with Board of Directors of the Fondation René Cassin
- 16-21 June: Training session of the Fondation René Cassin in Buenos Aires
- 29 June: Meeting with the editorial board of the General review of International Public Law
- 29 juin : Réunion du Comité de rédaction de la Revue Générale de droit international public

**July**
- 2-20 July: 49th Summer school of the Fondation René Cassin
- 11 July: Projection and Debate of Harry Roselmack’s film “Fractures”
- 19 July: Participation in the visit of Mrs. Nathalie Loiseau, Minister of European affairs in Montpellier
- 23 July – 10 August: Session of the Committee against Torture in Geneva
“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