



International Training Workshop on the UN Human Rights Mechanisms
(Human Rights Council, Special Procedures and the Universal Periodic Review)

May 26 - June 1, 2012

Geneva, Switzerland

Call for Participation

Introduction

In response to specific requests from NGO representatives and human rights defenders coming from the grassroots during the last 19th Session of the Human Rights Council in March 2012, the **International Association for Religious Freedom**,¹ in collaboration with the **David M. Kennedy Centre for International Studies**² is organizing an international training workshop on the UN Human Rights Mechanism, focusing on the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary bodies (e.g. the Special Procedures, Advisory Committee and the Universal Periodic Review) in conjunction with the *13th Session of the Human Rights Council's Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*.

The training aims to empower human rights organisations and their representatives by providing them with experiential and practical knowledge and tools in human rights advocacy and lobbying at the UN level. The particular course is designed for experienced human rights defenders and organisations from grassroots who are attending and engaging with the UN human rights mechanisms for the first time.

¹ The International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) is a non-governmental organization founded in 1900, in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The IARF is world's oldest global inter-religious organization, dedicated to working for freedom of religion & belief at a global level and have a century-plus history of encouraging interfaith dialogue & tolerance, with member groups in 25 countries, from various faith traditions

² TBC

The training will be supplemented by practical exposure and immersion to the UN human rights mechanism through the on-going session of the Human Rights Council's Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (May 29 - June 1) where participants will have the opportunity to attend the Working Group sessions as well as participate in the side events organized by various stakeholders, lobby the governments, including their own, meet and network with UN officials, representatives of other NGOs and independent experts.

Who should participate for the training?

The program is aimed at human rights defenders who work for and with non-governmental and community-based organisations from any region of the world and who are attending any of the forthcoming meetings of the UN Human Rights mechanisms (e.g. Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review and the Treaty Bodies). It is for those who are committed to developing and sharing their knowledge and skills in human rights advocacy, lobbying and reporting. Priority is given to those who are coming to attend UN meetings for the first time and who have not undergone previous trainings on the UN Human Rights system.

What will participants learn?

Participants will gain knowledge of the existing international human rights instruments and mechanisms and practical experience on direct lobbying and advocacy at the UN level. In particular, participants will gain and strengthen their:

- ✚ Experiential learning in engaging with the UN system in general and the UN human rights mechanisms in particular;
- ✚ Practical skills in advocacy and lobbying with government representatives, UN officials and other NGOs; including drafting of written statements and oral interventions.
- ✚ Gain knowledge on human rights issues from the countries and communities represented by the participants;
- ✚ Networking with other NGOs, UN Officials and diplomats.

Trainer

Trainers for this workshop are experienced and passionate human rights defenders and practitioners who have been involve in human rights monitoring, lobbying and advocacy both at the grassroots and international level.

Training Methodology

The workshop recognizes and values the experiences and skills that participants bring to its programs. The opportunity to share experiences and lessons with other participants and trainers is one of the real benefits and highlights of participating in the program. The training methodology is interactive and participatory with an emphasis on group work, role plays, case studies and discussion to ensure the practical relevance of all training sessions. The first section of the workshop will prepare the participants to actively involve and engage in the second part – the hands on advocacy and lobbying immersion with the *13th Session of the Human Rights Council's Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*, which will

encourage the participants to immediately apply all the knowledge and skills they gained throughout the training.

The training is conducted in English and an ability to participate in discussions in English is essential.

Training Venues:

May 26-27, 2012

Mandat International Delegates' Centre
106, route de Ferney
CH1202 Geneva

May 29- 1 June 2012

Palais des Nations (United Nations Headquarters in Geneva)

How to participate

Interested parties should get in touch with Mr. Morse Flores, IARF Main Representative at the United Nations in Geneva at morse@iarf.net / flores.morse@gmail.com. All inscriptions must be received by IARF by **25 May 2012**.