

IIHR in the Americas

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Virtual regional workshop on experiences relating to economic, social and cultural rights and to overcoming poverty

San José, Costa Rica. On March 31, a video conference was held on the “Virtual Regional Workshop on Successful Experiences in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the Promotion of Human Rights and for Overcoming Poverty,” which presented the results of an essay competition on these themes to be shared and analyzed by specialists from Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay, as well as members of *Red Incidiendo*. In addition to pointing out the advances and challenges in the hemisphere regarding those rights, there was an exchange of the national jurisprudence through the “Regional Platform on Access to Justice of Persons in Condition of Vulnerability.”

The essay competition on social change and the promotion of human rights in Latin American localities was sponsored by the IIHR and Techo among the volunteers of that organization. During three months more than 100 essays were received from every corner of the region and the winner was María Elena Eaton, of Argentina, with “A Model of Education, an Example to Reproduce.” Second place was awarded to “The Right to a New Life,” by Sergio Castro of Costa Rica. The event was organized by Jorge Padilla of the IIHR Education area and Mónica Barrantes, Coordinator of *Red Incidiendo*.

Read the complete note, [here](#)

[Gallery of photographs](#)

IIHR participated in commemorative forum of IFE

Mexico, D.F. On March 21, the Executive Director, José Thompson, participated in a forum that was organized to commemorate the 23 years of international activity of the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico (IFE). The event showcased an historical review of the different stages of development and redimensioning of its work, which will be strengthened by a new structure: the National Electoral Institute.

Entitled “IFE and the Development of Democracy: 23 Years Building a Democratic Patrimony in Mexico,” the event consisted of several working groups. Mr. Thompson was part of a group of experts that included Dong Nguyen, Carina Perelli and Fernando Tuesta, which dealt with “The International Contribution of IFE in Building Democracy.”

Workshop on the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights for LGBT populations

Asunción, Paraguay. On March 17-18, the IIHR Human Rights of Women program and AIREANA-Paraguay held a workshop with lesbian, gay, trans-sexual, transgender, bisexual and intersexual populations to encourage the use of the inter-American system of human rights and offered information on how to compile evidence on the reality of LGBT populations, especially those who are discriminated against and excluded. Also discussed was a basic agenda on exclusion, discrimination and the human rights challenges of each identity of the sexual diversity with the idea of raising it at the OAS.

On March 28, at a hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry reported, as an affirmative action, that staff of the Secretariat of the Child and the Adolescent participated in a workshop to sensitize and train them regarding sexual orientation and gender diversity. Also attending the event were delegations of agencies of cooperation and civil society that work for inclusion and against discrimination of person who are not heterosexual, among them, Enlace Comisión Derechos Humanos, Pytyvoháca, Diakonia, Escalando, Parambí, Presencia Joven, Las Ramonas, Unidos por el Arco Iris and Ñepyru-CIES.

[Gallery of photographs](#)

More news: <http://www.abc.com.py/abc-tv/locales/paraguay-debe-contar-con-ley-contra-la-discriminacion-1226253.html>

<http://www.abc.com.py/nacionales/capacitaran-a-activistas-lgtb-1224571.html>

<http://www.campo9news.com.py/nd.php?id=60488>

<http://iberoamerica.net/paraguay/prensa-generalista/abc.com.py/20140316/noticia.html?id=Wm1pFFt>

<http://www.entornointeligente.com/articulo/2201243/PARAGUAY-Capacitaraacute;n-a-activistas-LGTBI-14032014>

<http://www.agroclasi.com/nota/capacitaran-a-activistas-lgtbi-9904>

[Advances in the preparations of an international Master's degree in human rights in Paraguay and joint action regarding gender with the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry](#)

Asunción, Paraguay and Montevideo, Uruguay. The IIHR Regional Office for South America is preparing the first international Master's degree in human rights with emphasis on the control of conventionality in a joint effort with Universidad Columbia and the Human Rights Office of the Supreme Court, both of Paraguay. On March 18, the IIHR Representative, Soledad García Muñoz, met with Estela Rojas, Director of Post-graduate studies of that university, and Andrés Vásquez, charged with project development of the Human Rights Office. Alicia Pucheta, a Supreme Court judge, and Mrs. García Muñoz will be in charge of the program, which will include the jurisprudence and activities of the bodies of the inter-American system.

That same day, the Representative met with Silvana Guerra, President of the Commission on Gender of the Uruguayan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to agree to a series of national and international actions in favor of gender equality and the human rights of women.

[Seminar on electoral reform in Honduras](#)

San Pedro Sula, Honduras. On March 19, José Thompson, IIHR Executive Secretary, lectured on "Paths toward a Successful Electoral Reform" as part of the international seminar Electoral Reform in Honduras: "Plural and Comparative Visions for a Democratic Debate." The Carter Center, International Idea, National Institute for Democracy, the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy and the National Democratic Institute organized the event.

[IIHR joins the call to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Convention of Belém do Pará](#)

San José, Costa Rica. On March 19, as part of the activities commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the Inter-American Convention for the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), the IIHR joined with academic bodies, public institutions and organizations of civil society in calling for its adoption.

The initiative was announced at an event attended by high authorities of the judiciary, ministries and universities of the country, headed by the Minister of the Condition of Women and the Executive President of the National Institute of Women. Rose Mary Madden Arias, of the IIHR program Human Rights of Women, represented the IIHR.

Read the communiqué of INAMU, [here](#)

[Llamamiento 18 de marzo](#)

[Conferencs of public defenders of UNASUR](#)

Buenos Aires, Argentina. During the period March 20-22, the Coordinator of the IIHR Regional Office for South America, Soledad García Muñoz, attended the "First Conference of Public Defenders of the States of UNASUR," invited by Carlos Bonicatto, Public Defender of the Province of Buenos Aires. The purpose of the activity, sponsored by the Association of Public Defenders of Argentina and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, was establish a Latin American Observatory of Human Rights that would investigate the situations that affect human rights in the region. The program will begin with the public defenders of South America.

During the closing ceremony, the IIHR Representative, invited by Mr. Bonicatto to say a few words, applauded the initiative and put the broad experience of the Institute at the service of both bodies.

Read the news at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ydlqo-6VIXI>

[Commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#)

Limón, Costa Rica. On March 21, a meeting on “The Effective Protection of the Human Rights of Afro-descendants” was held to exchange experiences among representatives of the public institutions of Costa Rica and civil society and students from the Province of Limón. A posthumous homage was paid to Carlos Minott Maitland, defender and promoter of the rights of the Afro-descendent population in Costa Rica and a consultant and friend of the Institute.

Among the participants were Luis Gerardo Fallas, interim head of the Ombudsman Office, and authorities from the judiciary and the Ministry of Education. The event was held at the emblematic *Black Star Line* building and was organized by Universal Negro Improvement in the framework of the centenary of its founding. Jorge Padilla represented the IIHR.

[Electoral processes from a feminine point of view](#)

Montevideo, Uruguay. An event to discuss the feminine point of view regarding elections was held on March 25. It was organized by Cotidiano Mujer in view of the coming elections in which the law on gender quotas will be applied for the first time. Attending were Soledad García Muñoz, Coordinator of the IIHR Regional Office for South America, and Ferran Civil Bellmunt, an intern from the Institute of Political Studies of Grenoble, France, who follows the process from a perspective of gender. It was an opportunity to share the long experience of the IIHR in electoral matters through CAPEL, which was placed at the disposal of this effort.

During the debate, in which many Uruguayan feminists participated, issues were identified such as the need to consider not only quantitative but also qualitative aspects to measure the degree of compliance of the right of women to political participation, the reliability of the surveys carried out in Uruguay and the evaluation of public opinion on women in politics. The two IIHR representatives also conversed with Lilian Celiberti, of Cotidiano Mujer, on possible initiatives of inter-institutional collaboration.

Read more on the Internet, [here](#)

[Relaunching of the Web page of Red Incidiendo](#)

San José, Costa Rica. IIHR has relaunched the Web page of [Red Incidiendo](#), the objectives of which is to strengthen the system of indicators of progress in human rights in contexts and populations in conditions of poverty and to incorporate a focus of rights in the development of a strategy to formulate public policies. It is thus hoped that those populations will exercise full citizenship and will be able to build a life of dignity. With this site of easy access, which will provide resources and information on the problem, the IIHR hopes that poverty and human rights are no longer an issue limited to specialized conferences and that there will be a debate promoted in a network that has the participation of groups, organizations and persons working in this field.

[Anniversary of the Military Institute of Higher Studies](#)

Montevideo, Uruguay. On March 27, María Elena Martínez, member of the IIHR Steering Committee, and Soledad García Muñoz, IIHR regional representative, were invited to the celebration of the anniversary of the Military Institute of Higher Studies (IMES), by its Director, General Héctor Tabárez.

They later met with the Director and with Pablo Panizza, Director of the School of Strategy of IMES, who requested technical assistance for a course on human rights. They also discussed developing a training manual for the armed forces on this topic.

IIHR celebrates World Book Day

San José, Costa Rica. During the month of April, as part of the celebration of World Book Day, the IIHR will receive requests for selected publications for donation. Without exception, the offer will close on April 30 at midnight.

Those interested in receiving the donated publications must cover postage, import duties and other costs, which must be paid in advance once the costs have been calculated. Another requirement is that the data furnished is available in Word, here. The site also contains the list of publications to be donated.

The completed form should be sent to publicacionesiidh@iidh.ed.cr

The contents of the selected publications are available on the Web page of the IIHR, here.



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