



United Cities and Local Governments
Asia-Pacific



INFORMATION NOTE

Blended Learning Course (BLC) for local governments in collaboration with UCLG ASPAC at the World Human Rights Cities Forum

- ❖ **Online Course:** 27 May – 6 July
- ❖ **Online Discussion Sessions:** July and September 2021
- ❖ **Course Project:** July-September 2021
- ❖ **Online participation at WHRCF 2021:** 7-10 October 2021

I. Background

Local governments play a key role in realising both sustainable development goals and human rights. Specifically, the linkages between human rights, local government, and SDGs was described well in the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Resolution of A/HRC/39/L.8¹, which adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, committed to work tirelessly for full implementation of the Agenda by 2030 at all levels, and underscored the significant contribution that local government can make to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets. The UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on Local Government and Human Rights (A/HRC/30/49) also identified that a human rights city idea is one of the globally developed initiatives among plenty of globally initiatives in localising human rights. Davis F.M et.al (2018)² reported that human right city is the most effective and ready to use tools to achieve the SDGs, which among other as noted by the Gwangju Declaration³ is the right of all citizens to fully participate in decision-making and policy-implementation processes. Participation is a key requirement for ensuring “no one left behind” as committed by the Members States of the UN when adopting the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

¹ United Nation General Assembly, A/HRC/39/L.8. UN Human Rights Council Thirty-ninth session 10–28 September 2018, Agenda item 3, Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/G18/282/57/PDF/G1828257.pdf?OpenElement>

² Davis F Martha, Fredriksson G, Kjaerum M, and Reis Sartori I, 2018. Human Rights and the SDGs. Raoul Wallenberg Institute. Lund-Sweden.

³ The Gwangju Declaration, para. 4-5

The importance of engaging local governments in promoting human rights in the SDGs process has driven UCLG ASPAC and RWI with the support of Gwangju Metropolitan City to initiate a course called Blended Learning Course in 2018. The main target participant is UCLG ASPAC members. This year is the 3rd Blended Learning Course and RWI and UCLG-ASPAC have agreed to improve local government’s capacity mainly on the following aspects:

- Understanding human rights-based approach;
- Building capacity to ensure rights-based perspective is applied in SDGs implementation;
- Identifying researchers and practitioners to provide academic expertise and inform on research-based lessons learned.

RWI, UCLG ASPAC and City of Gwangju will conduct an online workshop to introduce the BLC program, and topics to be discussed throughout the program. It will also be enriched by the participation at selected sessions in the annual event of the World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF).

II. Objectives

Specific objectives of the course are:

- Increased opportunities for key stakeholders to network and exchange knowledge and experience on localizing human rights and environment in the context of SDGs.
- Improved knowledge and skills among targeted individuals on how to respond to and localize human rights, gender equality, and environment of the context of achieving SDGs.
- Increased availability of publications, research products, teaching resources, and training modules on topics related to localizing human rights and environment in the context of SDGs.

III. Topics of the Course

1. Introduction to Human Rights;
2. Human Rights Mechanism: Monitoring & Enforcement;
3. Human Rights and SDGs; and
4. Human rights-based recovery and urban resiliency.
5. Case studies from selected cities/human rights cities to be embedded into each module to illustrate key message from each module.

IV. Lead Facilitator: TBC



Windi Arini is a Programme Officer at RWI’s Jakarta Office and works within the Inclusive Societies focus area.

Windi holds a Master of Philosophy in Theory and Practice of Human Rights from the University of Oslo.

V. Methodology

The course will be delivered online through seminars (launching and closing), online course, course project, and online consultation.

VI. Application Process:

- Send your application letter to the training secretariat@uclg-aspac.org by 7 May 2021. The application form can be found in the attachment.
- The selection committee will select 20 participants which are as much as possible can represent equally gender, region, etc, and have high commitment & contribution to the successfulness of the training aims.

VII. Activities and Timeline

Application deadline	7 May 2021
Selection announcement	week 17 May 2021
Launching seminar	27 May 2021 (link to be provided prior to the date)
Online course	27 May – 6 July 2021 (notification to be circulated prior to the date)
Deadline submission project plan	9 July 2021
Course project	July – September 2021
Online discussion sessions	Week 19 July & Week 6 September 2021 (link to be provided prior to the date)
Deadline project report	4 October 2021
Workshop in conjunction with the WHRCF (participants to present their course project)	7 – 10 October 2021 (link to be provided prior to the date)

VIII. Organisation

1. *The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI) is an independent academic institution established in 1984, carried out a wide range of research, academic education, and institutional capacity development programmes internationally in the human rights field, mainly with the support of Swedish Development Cooperation. The work of the Institute focuses on four thematic areas: Fair and Efficient Justice; Inclusive Societies; People on the Move; and Economic Globalisation and Human Rights (see further <http://rwi.lu.se/>).*
2. *UCLG ASPAC (United Cities and Local Government Asia Pacific) was established in Taipei on 14 April 2004, as the new entity of IULA ASPAC (the International Union of Local Authorities Asia Pacific). UCLG ASPAC is the key knowledge management hub on local government issues in the Asia Pacific region. The Asia and Pacific region is the biggest of the Regional Sections in UCLG with*

linkages to more than 7,000 local governments (see <https://uclq-aspac.org/en/about-us/who-we-are/>).

3. *The City of Gwangju* The history of this virtuous city can be followed from the righteous army's movement at the end of the Joseon Dynasty to the Gwangju Student Independence Movement and the May 18 Democratization Uprising in 1980, solidifying its position as a city of democracy, human rights and peace. The May 18 Democratization Uprising, in resistance against the military regime's oppression, had a substantial influence on the democratization movement of many Asian countries that are aspiring to justice and freedom from autocratic rule. On May 25, 2011 the May 18 Archives were listed in the UNESCO Memory of the World Register, and their value in world history was recognized (see further <http://www2018.gwangju.go.kr/eng/>).