



HIGH-LEVEL WEBINAR
THURSDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2020

10 YEARS OF PROTECTING FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION:

HOW MUCH HAVE WE PROGRESSED
AND HOW CAN STATES DO MORE?

3PM – 5PM **GENEVA** (CET)

9AM – 11AM **NEW YORK** (EDT)

9PM – 11PM **BANGKOK** (ICT)

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Celebrating
the **10th anniversary**
of the mandate of the Special
Rapporteur on the rights to freedom
of peaceful assembly and of association

WITH **SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR, CLÉMENT VOULE,**
AND OTHER PROMINENT SPEAKERS

Simultaneous French and Spanish interpretation will be provided



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BACKGROUND

- In 2010, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 15/21 on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (FoAA), creating the mandate of the Special Rapporteur. **The year 2020 marks the 10th anniversary of the mandate.** The current Special Rapporteur, Clément Voule, wants to use this opportunity to take stock and look forward.
- Over the course of the last ten years, **the mandate has guided and contributed to many achievements in the protection of FoAA rights as well as civic space globally.** Through country visits, allegation letters to governments, analysis of laws and support of litigation, the mandate has offered guidance to governments, courts and civil society organizations.
- **Human rights in general and FoAA specifically are at a watershed in today's difficult global context.** The Covid-19 crisis, which has engulfed the world in 2020, has clearly exposed the detrimental effects that global crises, including public health ones, can have on an already battered civic space.
- With the Covid-19 crisis continuing to preoccupy and affect the exercise of FoAA rights, the mandate, now more than ever, needs the untiring support from governments, civil society actors, international organizations and other stakeholders. Together all these actors can work to ensure that the rights to the protection of FoAA remain respected and protected in these challenging times and remain prominent in the global "building back better" effort. **The 10 year anniversary of the mandate provides therefore a unique opportunity to build the next 10 years and beyond with renewed energy and commitments.**

OBJECTIVE

- This high-level webinar seeks to **take stock on the first decade** of the work of the mandate with the goal to **receive renewed support and commitments from States for upholding the rights to FoAA around the world in the upcoming years.** Participants will also address the current challenges to FoAA in the context of the current Covid-19 crisis and discuss possible steps to improve the protection of these human rights in the future.



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SPEAKERS

Mr. Clement Voule

*United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom
of peaceful assembly and association*

H.E. Mr. Tomáš Petříček

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

H.E. Mr. Linas Antanas Linkevičius

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

H.E. Mr. Eamon Gilmore

EU Special Representative for Human Rights

Ms. Nada Al-Nashif

Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

Ms. Claudia Virginia Samayoa

Unit for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders Guatemala (UDEFEGUA),

Ms. Hina Jilani

The Elders, pioneering lawyer and pro-democracy campaigner

Ms. Mireille Tushiminina

Cameroon Women's Peace Movement

Moderator:

Mr. Douglas Rutzen

President International Centre for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL)

VIDEO MESSAGES BY:

Ms. Martha Newton,

Deputy Director General, ILO

H.E. Mr. Simon Coveney,

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ireland (tbc)



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AGENDA

- Welcoming by *Mr. Rutzen*
- Opening remarks by *Special Rapporteur Voule*
- Interventions by *Czech Foreign Minister Petříček*, *Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linkevičius* and *EU Special Representative for Human Rights Gilmore* as well as other State representatives on institutional commitments to FoAA
- Discussions among *Foreign Minister Petříček*, *Foreign Minister Linkevičius*, *Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms. Al-Nashif* and *Ms. Jilani* on the role of States in the promotion of FoAA
- Discussion between *SR Voule*, *EUSR Gilmore*, *Ms. Samayoa*, *Ms. Jilani* and *Ms. Tushiminina* on future challenges, including Q&A
- Closing

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