

# Local authorities in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) System

STRASBOURG  
Friday May 27<sup>th</sup> 2022

- Introductory Reports
- Local authorities and specific rights-based issues
- Local authorities and states-based issues
- Perspectives on local authorities and rights from the organs of the Council of Europe



9.00-9.20 am: Welcome Speech  
by **Matthew Saul** and **Elisabeth Lambert** and Introducing ourselves

### Introductory Reports:

**Reto Walther** (Post-doctoral Researcher, Zurich University),  
The Irrelevance (and the Relevance) of Subsidiarity to Local Authorities in the ECHR

**Matthew Saul** (Prof., INHIN),  
Local authorities in the ECtHR's reasoning

**Élisabeth Lambert** (CNRS Research Prof., SAGE),  
Local authorities and the implementation of the ECtHR judgments with a special focus  
on environmental cases

Discussion (20 min.)

(Break) (10.30-10.45 am)

### Local authorities and specific rights-based issues:

**Simon Hoffman** (Prof., Swansea University),  
Bringing Children's Rights Home: Localisation through a Children's Rights Approach

**Tess Heirwegh** (PhD Research fellow, Ghent University/Amnesty International),  
Local Authorities and their Reluctance to Implement Human Rights in Cases Concerning  
Traveller Evictions

### Perspectives on local authorities and rights from the organs of the Council of Europe:

**Pavlo Pushkar** (Head of Division, Dept. Exec.)

Discussion (20 min.)

(Buffet Lunch: 12.30-2.00 pm)



## Local authorities and states-based issues:

**Pierre-Edouard Weill** (presenting), (Assoc. Prof., Univ. of Brest),  
and **Catherine Le Bris** (CNRS Researcher, Paris 1),  
Do French Local Authorities Take Human Rights Seriously?

**Elif Durmus**, (PhD candidate, Utrecht University),  
The Role of Regulation and Domestic Competences in the Proactivity of Local Governments:  
A Comparison of Turkish and Swiss Urban Citizenship Practices

**Helle Sanden** and **Anders Einar Broderstad** (presenting ONLINE),  
(Norwegian National Human Rights Institute),  
Local Authorities and Human Rights in Norway

**Ed Bates** (presenting ONLINE) (Assoc. Prof., Leicester Law School),  
The UK and European human rights law: a place for local requirements and local conditions?

Discussion (20 min.)

(Break) (3.45-4.00 pm)

**Brigitte Ohms** (presenting ONLINE) (Government agent, Federal Chancellery, Austria),  
Protection of human rights and implementation of ECtHR judgments - the elegant concept  
of the Austrian Constitution

**Nicola Wenzel** (presenting ONLINE) (Head of the Human Rights Office at the German Federal Ministry  
of Justice and Consumer Protection),  
A Federal State's Perspective on Local Authorities in the ECHR System - The German Experience



## Perspectives on local authorities and rights from the organs of the Council of Europe:

**Claudia Lam** (Deputy Director, Commissioner for Human Rights)  
**Agnieszka Szklanna** (Secretary, Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee, PACE)

Discussion (20 min.)

General discussion: way forward

18.00: End of the session

Workshop dinner in town (7.30 pm)

**Friday May 27th 2022, MISHA, Salle Table ronde**

## PRESENTATION:

This workshop focuses on the role of local authorities in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) system. The lowest tier of public administration within a state, local authorities often have responsibility in areas with significant human rights implications, such as education, health and housing. Many judgments at the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) concern the actions of local authorities, meaning that these sub-national actors have a role at the judgment implementation level. Yet organs of the Council of Europe, with the exception of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, tend only to speak to 'states'. Are current efforts to enable local authorities as rights actors in the multi-level ECHR system sufficient?

Themes this workshop will explore include:

- how the institutions of the ECHR system understand, engage with, and may facilitate the human rights role of local authorities;
- whether, when and how local authorities engage with the ECHR, judgments of the ECtHR, and other human rights instruments in their practice;
- differences that may be noticed across states, including between federal and centralised states;
- lessons that may be learned from the study of the rights-based practice of other sub-national organs;
- whether the ECHR system of human rights reinforces the rights role of central governments at the expense of local authorities.

By combining these lines of enquiry, this workshop seeks to move towards a better understanding of the role of local authorities in the ECHR system and the steps that can be taken to optimise the interactions between the European, state, regional, and local levels of governance for the effective protection and realisation of human rights.

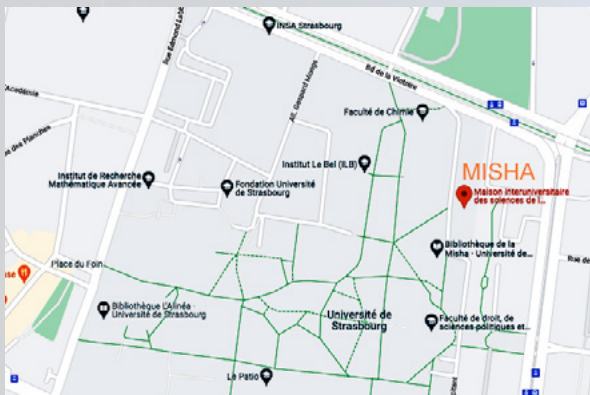
## Co-organisation:

**Elisabeth LAMBERT** (CNRS Research Prof., Strasbourg, [e.lambert@unistra.fr](mailto:e.lambert@unistra.fr))

& **Matthew SAUL** (Prof., Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences, [matthew.saul@inn.no](mailto:matthew.saul@inn.no))

Access to the physical Meeting MISHA, Room Table Ronde

5, allée du Général Rouvillois 67083 Strasbourg cedex



From the Train Station : **TRAM C**, stop: "Observatoire" From anywhere else: **TRAM C/E/F**, stop "Observatoire or Général de Gaulle".

## Access to the Zoom Meeting:

<https://cnrs.zoom.us/j/95949537685?pwd=V3ZLNm9Td21LSERldUlyT24wQ19rZz09>

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