

2016 46 projects implemented in the following countries or with partner organisations from these countries

- Albania
- Austria
- Bangladesh
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- China
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Great Britain
- Hungary
- India
- Ireland
- Italy
- Kenya
- Kosovo
- Kyrgyzstan
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macedonia
- Malta
- Moldavia
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Panama
- Peru
- Poland
- Portugal
- Rumania
- Sweden
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- South Africa
- Spain
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- USA

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EDITING:

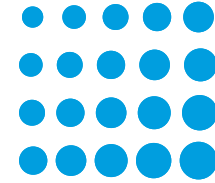
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Brita Pohl

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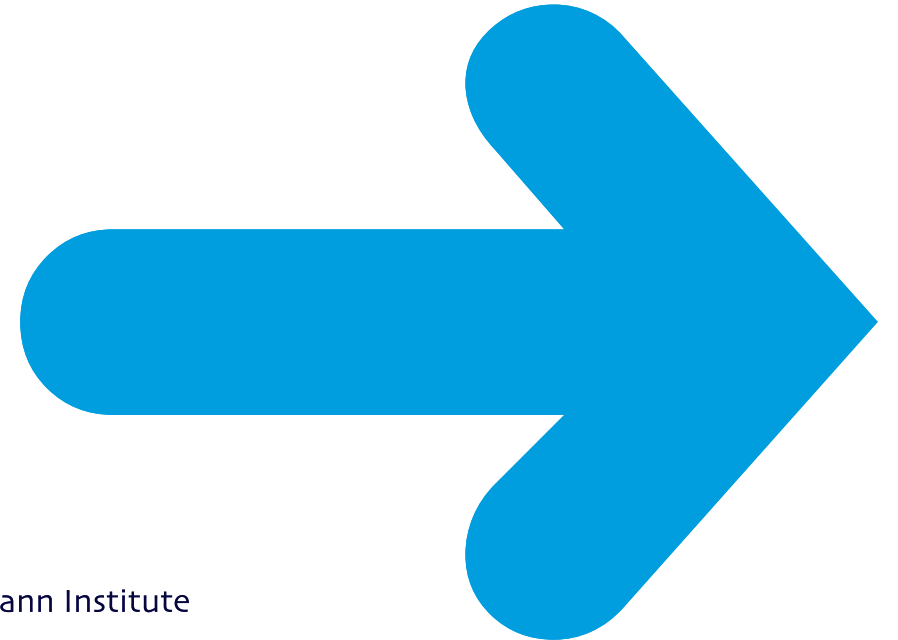
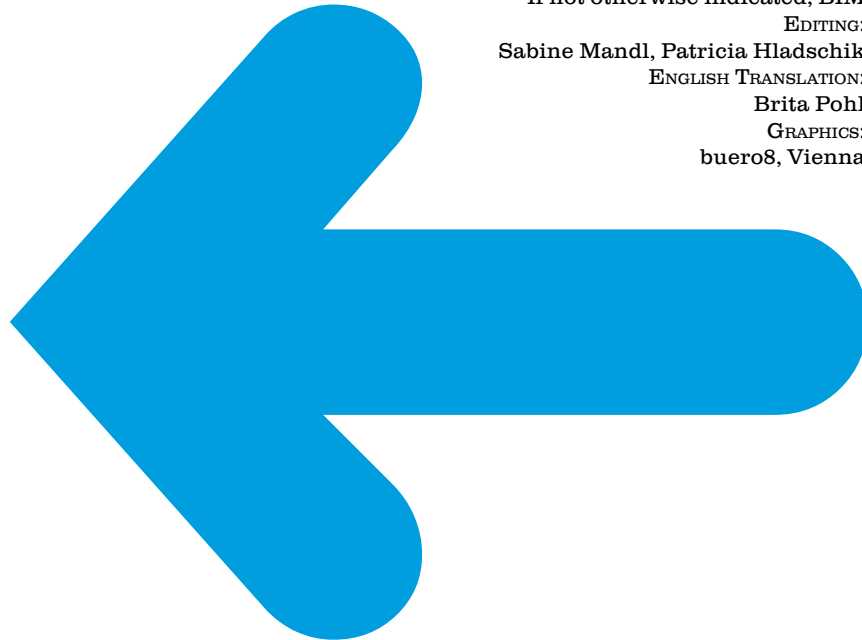
buero8, Vienna



# 25years

committed to human rights research

Ludwig Boltzmann Institute  
of Human Rights



Ludwig Boltzmann Institute  
Human Rights

A quarter of a century of human rights research in Vienna – in 2017, the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights (BIM) looks back on its achievements with some pride. When the institute was founded in the context of the preparations for the first World Conference on Human Rights in 1992, it was one of only a few of its kind in Europe. Today, the BIM is pleased to have the company of a number of university and extra-university institutions that focus on human rights research, for instance those affiliated in the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI) which was co-founded by the BIM. Cooperation and exchange with other researchers from diverse disciplines on a European and international level is a characteristic feature of over 200 projects the BIM has implemented since its establishment. Another hallmark of our work is the ability to take a broader view beyond academia. From the start, research at the BIM was closely linked to practical problems, and research questions and attempts at their solution where cooperatively developed with state institutions as well as civil society organisations and the business sector. We understand this translational approach, in which research insights are oriented

towards their practical impact and where practical experience in turn feeds into research, as one of the essential features of human rights research.

The BIM, with its currently 45 staff members, has established itself as Austria's largest human rights institute and is recognised for its contribution to safeguarding fundamental and human rights as a precondition for a functioning democracy, most recently by being awarded the Democracy Award of the Austrian Parliament's Margaretha Lupac Foundation, which the BIM received early in 2017.

While the BIM, as an institute of the Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft, was deliberately positioned outside the university, it nevertheless always aimed to firmly anchor the study of human rights in the academic context. We managed to do just that with the Research Platform "Human Rights in the European Context", established in 2008 and coordinated by the BIM, and later the Research Centre Human Rights, which the BIM closely cooperates with. Since 2012, the "Vienna Master of Arts in Human Rights" – in addition to Manfred Nowak's and Hannes Tretter's long-standing courses at the Viennese Law Faculty – has established human rights as a

continuous component of interdisciplinary teaching at the University of Vienna. Safeguarding the anchoring of human rights research and teaching within and beyond legal studies is one of the challenges we face in the future.

In spite of progress and improvements achieved over the last decades, in spite of human rights standards being firmly established in many policy fields, we are still confronted with attacks on human rights and on a solidarity-based society – globally as well as on the national level. Europe closing its doors to current migration movements, authoritarian tendencies becoming manifest in EU Member States, or a global security discourse based on the restriction of fundamental rights – to name just some of the disturbing developments which make our work on the principles of human rights and possibilities of their implementation all the more relevant in the period ahead. In order to be able to put all our energies into this task, we cannot only rely on the commitment of the many dedicated and highly competent employees at the BIM, but also need allies and partners to help us develop strategies and to lend us their support.

With a tour of the past 25 years of our work presented in this brochure, we would therefore also like to turn attention on the importance of collectively examining human rights as one of the foundations of our society over the next years!

PATRICIA HLADSCHIK

MANFRED NOWAK

FIONA STEINERT

HANNES TRETTER



Founders Hannes Tretter and Manfred Nowak

**Martin Ledolter,**  
Managing Director of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA)

“The ADA and the BIM have worked together for many years. The BIM is an invaluable partner for us in terms of integrating human rights into development work. Our work benefits considerably from its expertise; with regard to the development of strategic guidelines, the successful human rights-focused implementation of concrete programmes and projects, and the advanced training of our staff.”

## 1992

The Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights (BIM) is founded by Manfred Nowak, Hannes Tretter and Felix Ermacora (†) in offices shared with the Austrian North-South-Institute at Möllwaldplatz. On the basis of cooperation agreements with the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Chancellery, the BIM produces country reports on the human rights situation in the countries of origin of asylum seekers and in developing countries.

1993  
The UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna: the BIM organizes an NGO Forum which takes place alongside the World Conference on Human Rights, in which more than 3,000 representatives of 1,500 NGOs take part. The BIM also coordinates more than 400 parallel NGO events, which greatly contribute to the success of the UN World Conference on Human Rights.

## 1993

-1995 A project led by Hannes Tretter begins: the project examines ethnic cleansing in the Bosnian region of Zvornik. 900 displaced persons are interviewed in Austria in order to accurately document and analyse the serious human rights violations and crimes against humanity committed there.

Manfred Nowak becomes a member of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, which he remains a member of until 2001. In the same year, he publishes a commentary in English on the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) and its Optional Protocol.

From 1993 to 1997, six-week long postgraduate training courses are conducted, primarily for women from African states, on the topic: “Women’s Rights in the Context of International Instruments”.



“ONE IMAGE -ONE WORLD” BY MINNA ANTOVA, BERRY BICKLE, MALANGATANA NGWENYA, CREATED FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE IN 1993

Manfred Nowak receives the UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education for his extensive teaching and advanced training and advanced training practice in the area of human rights.

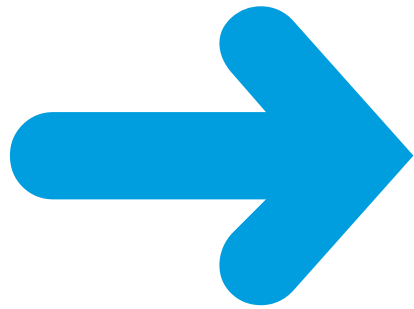


New team member Helmut Sax

## 1994

The BIM submits a report to the UN Commission of Experts for the Investigation of Atrocities in the Former Yugoslavia on the systematic nature of the ethnic cleansing in Zvornik and outlining those responsible, which is included in the Commission’s final report.

The BIM becomes co-editor of the “Yearbook Human Rights in Development”, which is published until 2005.



# 1995

With the support of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice, important findings from the investigations into ethnic cleansing in Zvornik, particularly witness statements, are presented to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague. Further enquiries are also carried out in cooperation with the ICTY.

The BIM conducts 25 in-depth interviews to ascertain the social and legal status of Afghani refugees in Austria. As well as providing a detailed portrayal of their lives in Austria, the study primarily aims to bring about better care for and a better integration of the Afghani refugees in Austrian society.

Walter Posch,  
Director of the Vienna Institute  
for International Dialogue and  
Cooperation (VIDC)

“My many years of close collaboration with the Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights have been highly successful. In the 1990s, this collaboration led not only to the institutional and parliamentary anchoring of human rights, including the establishment of a specific committee, but also placed special importance on human rights issues thereby resisting and denouncing the racist and regressive public discourse. With this in mind, I wish the BIM many more successful years to come in which those who have been marginalised by political adversity continue to benefit from its work.”

The BIM  
is awarded the  
Bruno Kreisky Prize  
for Services to Human Rights,  
in particular for its research  
on ethnic cleansing in  
Zvornik and for its role in  
the UN World Conference  
on Human Rights.



# 1996

*-1997* In support of Manfred Nowak’s mandate as the UN Expert on Missing Persons in the Former Yugoslavia, the BIM conducts an extensive research project, “The Phenomenon of Enforced Disappearances”, to provide information on the fate of approx. 30,000 missing persons. Together with the US organization, “Physicians for Human Rights”,

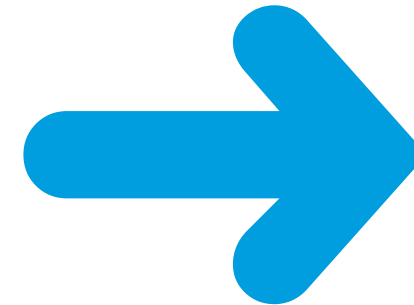
the BIM also sets up an “Ante Mortem Database” with data from 5,300 interviews, predominantly that of family members of missing persons from Srebrenica.

From 1996 to 2003, Manfred Nowak serves as a judge in the Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina at the International Court of Justice.

The BIM signs a cooperation agreement with the Institute of Constitutional and Administrative Law at the University of Vienna and moves into premises of the University in Heßgasse.

The Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights Research Association (BIM-FV) for applied research projects and empirical projects in the area of human rights is founded.

A research focus “Uganda” is established within the framework of a cooperation agreement with the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs (for study trips and workshops with government and NGO representatives; a backstopping function is in operation from 2002 in the areas of human rights and advancement of democracy).



# 1997

A research focus “Bhutan” (1997-2000) is established within the framework of a cooperation agreement with the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs, which includes study trips, baseline studies, trainings for judges, and an international seminar in Vienna.

“Children’s Rights” is adopted as a research focus: this includes a study on the constitutional implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Austria, which is published as Volume 2 of the BIM Study Series (1999).

The Service  
Centre for Human  
Rights Education in  
Austrian schools is set up on  
behalf of the Federal Ministry  
of Education. The UN Decade  
for Human Rights Education  
(1995-2004) forms the  
international context for  
this initiative.



# 1998

On the occasion of the UN Year of Human Rights, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the 5th anniversary of the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, the BIM prepares a comprehensive catalogue of demands for the structural implementation of human rights in Austria.

The BIM Research Association sets up a Human Rights Coordination Office for NGOs (1998 - 2000) as an independent service provider for NGOs and as a link to governmental institutions. With the support of this NGO Coordination Office, the Institute strives to make a significant contribution to effective NGO policies in the area of human rights.

On behalf of the University of Vienna, the BIM participates in the running of the Europe-wide postgraduate course, "European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation" (E.MA), in Venice. By 2016, the course, financed by the EU, already listed 41 partner universities.

The EU-China Dialogue with the Institute of Law in Peking is organised by the BIM. In 2000, the results of the process are published as Volume 4 of the BIM Study Series: "EU-China Human Rights Dialogue".

# 1999

A research focus on "Human Trafficking and Trafficking in Women" is established; this includes the drafting of country-specific reports to combat the trafficking in women. The BIM Study Series Volume 9, "Combating Trafficking in Women under International and Austrian Law" (2000), is also published.

A case study on human rights violations and ethnic cleansing in the Kosovar town of Rahovec/Orahovac is conducted by means of interviews.

For the first time, students can take optional courses in Fundamental Rights and Human Rights in the Faculty of Law at the University of Vienna. The seminars are primarily given by BIM staff members.



New team members **Katrin Wadasch** and **Barbara Liegl**

The BIM is appointed co-editor of the "Yearbook on Human Rights".

From 1999 until 2007 the BIM study series is published by Verlag Österreich. In 2008, a relaunch is made with Neuer Wissenschaftlicher Verlag. By 2006, 34 volumes are already published

# 2000

A research focus on "Anti-discrimination" is established. The BIM draws up a draft for an Austrian anti-discrimination law, together with NGOs and legal and ministerial experts.

The BIM is founding member of the "Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRl)"; a network whose goal is to collectively carry out regional and international research and advanced training projects on human rights.

The Federal Ministry of the Interior sets up a Human Rights Advisory Council and Visiting Commissions, which review the detention of persons in the departments of the Austrian Police Force, as well as administrative use of authority and force by members of the police. The direction of one of the Commissions is assigned to Manfred Nowak, Hannes Tretter is a member of this Commission and a BIM staff member takes on the role of coordination. Furthermore, the BIM is responsible for the preparation of content material, through scientific collaboration, for focal topics in the office of the Human Rights Advisory Council in the Federal Ministry of the Interior.

With the Austrian ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Human Rights Advisory Council and its six Visiting Commissions are transferred from the

Federal Ministry of the Interior to the Austrian Office of the Ombudsman in 2012. The National Preventive Mechanism has jurisdiction over approx. 4,000 locations where people can be deprived of their personal liberty (police custody, detention, the army, psychiatric institutions, retirement and nursing homes, facilities for people with disabilities).



HANNES TRETTER (FAR RIGHT) AT THE BRUNO KREISKY AWARD CEREMONY, 2000



New team member **Sabine Mandl**

The BIM is awarded the Bruno Kreisky Prize for Human Rights for its socio-political commitment to prevent discrimination, racism and hostility towards minority groups.

**Elisabeth Schaffelhofer-Garcia Marquez, Children's Rights Network Austria /National Coalition**

"Reputable. Professional. Scientifically sound. International connections. Respected. These are our experiences with the BIM in the Children's Rights Network Austria. No matter what it is about: an opinion on a draft law, a participatory project, lobbying discussions with politicians, a press release, contacts with other networks in Europe and globally ... when the BIM is on board, all will be well!"



# 2001

The Handbook on Women's Rights is published as an introduction to international and national human rights protection of women.

The Service Center for Citizenship Education is established in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture to support the implementation of citizenship education programmes in schools.

The multiple award-winning series of workshops "Everybody has rights?! - Trainings on how to live with each other" is set up by the Service Centre for Human Rights

Education in collaboration with WUK Kinderkultur. The module-based workshops enhance the social skills of children and young people. By 2011, 14,000 school children had been taking part in approx. 700 workshops.



New team members Karin Lukas, Rainer Jantscher



# 2002

The European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) establishes the so-called "Focal Points" in individual countries. The BIM takes on the lead role in the Austrian "Focal Point" under the direction of Hannes

Tretter from 2002 to 2010, and works with

the Institute of Conflict Research and the Department of Linguistics at the University of Vienna to collect data in the areas of racism, xenophobia and anti-semitism.

Manfred Nowak's textbook, "Introduction to the International Human Rights System", is published in German. The English version is released in 2003.



New team members Elisabeth Turek, Dorothea Steurer

The BIM obtains a General Mandate from the European Commission to conduct the so-called "Twinning projects", which support EU candidate countries and neighbouring countries in the implementation of the Acquis Communautaire in the areas of democratisation, human rights and the rule of law.



# 2003

BIM goes Europe with its first Twinning project on the implementation of the EU Anti-Discrimination Directives in Poland is led and coordinated by Hannes Tretter.

The Service Centres for Citizenship Education and Human Rights Education (which operate as the new Zentrum polis - Austrian Centre for Citizenship Education in Schools from 2006) coordinate the "Citizenship Days", which are initiated by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. The Citizenship Days, which were already organised for the tenth time in 2012, make the wider public aware of the diverse methods, content and discourses of citizenship education and human rights education. ([www.aktionstage.politische-bildung.at](http://www.aktionstage.politische-bildung.at)).

The BIM is an important contributor in the consultation process for and development of the "Young Rights Action Plan (YAP)", which is adopted in Austria in 2004.

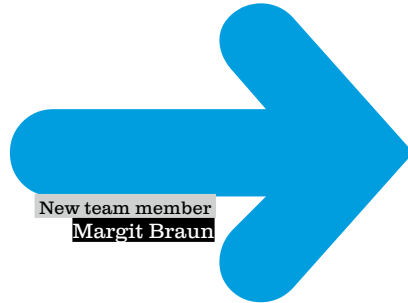


New team members Susanne Fraczek, Caroline Paar  
Martin Neubauer

Jörg Wojahn, Head of the European Commission Representation in Austria

"For 25 years, the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights has been an excellent bridge between research and practice. For us, it is an important partner who we collaborate with in different projects. Safeguarding human rights in general, and the European Charter of Fundamental Rights in particular, is now more important than ever. Safeguarding these crucial rights is a political task. The institute has the expertise to evaluate developments and to develop recommendations that are indispensable to a strong Europe."





New team member  
Margit Braun

**2004** Twinning projects are carried out to promote human rights structures in the new EU member states, EU candidate countries and neighbouring regions: improvement of statement-taking methods and the conditions in interrogation rooms in Turkey as well as data protection in Latvia and Lithuania.

Manfred Nowak is appointed the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (2004 - 2010).

The research focus on torture is expanded in order to actively support Manfred Nowak's mandate as the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture.



MANFRED NOWAK  
DURING A VISIT TO A PRISON IN GREECE  
AS THE UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR,  
2010

A research focus on poverty reduction, social inclusion and human rights in Macedonia (2005 - 2012) is created within the framework of a cooperation agreement with the Austrian Development Agency. An office is set up in Skopje.

The research project, "The Responsibility of Companies, States and the International Community regarding Human Rights" (2005 - 2007), commences. The results of this project are published in the BIM Study Series, Volume 17, 2009.

Barbara Prammer (†), President of the Austrian National Council

"The observance of human rights is a constant and irrevocable imperative for our civilisation - a mission of zero tolerance. As well as a legislative framework and regulatory control, a sensitised public is also necessary for the permanent observance of human rights. The Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights works tirelessly to do valuable work in this area and, as such, it forms an essential part of the scientific civil society."



New team members Claudia Hüttner, Fiona Steinert



**2005** The research project, "Violence in the Family from a Human Rights Perspective. Prevention and Protection based on the example of Domestic Violence against Women and Children in Austria" (2005 - 2007), begins.



BARBARA PRAMMER AND ZENTRUM  
POLIS WELCOME THE "COMPASITO",  
THE HANDBOOK ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
EDUCATION, TOGETHER WITH  
CHILDREN, 2010

Sonja Hammerschmid,  
Federal Minister of  
Education

“Only those who know their rights can advocate for their own and others’ rights. Addressing the issues of human rights, democratic awareness and commitment in Austrian classrooms - in this task, the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights has been an indispensable partner for the Ministry of Education for many years”.



CLAUDIA SPRENGER DURING A PROJECT VISIT TO TANZANIA, 2011



New team member Patricia Hladschik

The BIM  
moves from  
Heßgasse into  
premises owned  
by the Schottenstift  
in the Freyung.



## 2006

The BIM advises the OMV on the implementation of a human rights strategy in the area of corporate social responsibility.

The Service Centres for Human Rights Education and Citizenship Education are combined to form Zentrum *polis* - the Austrian Centre for Citizenship Education in Schools ([www.politik-lernen.at](http://www.politik-lernen.at)).

A Twinning project is started in Slovenia with the aim of offering trainings to experts in the Anti-Discrimination Department of the Human Rights Ombudsman.

## 2007

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), which succeeds the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC), is established in Vienna with an extensive mandate. Hannes Tretter is appointed by the federal government as the Austrian independent member of the FRA Management Board for five years and elected as Vice Chairperson, and thereby a member of the Executive Committee of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.

A project is carried out on behalf of the FRA between 2007 and 2009: on the basis of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, indicators are developed which facilitate a children’s rights-based evaluation of the living conditions of children in the EU.

A Twinning project is started in Croatia (2007 – 2008) which aims to implement existing laws and improve programmes which combat human trafficking and protect its victims, as well as contribute to greater efficacy in the fight against organised crime in Croatia.



MANFRED NOWAK RECEIVES THE BRUNO KREISKY PRIZE, 2007



New team members Maria Haupt, Barbara Linder, Ingrid Ausserer, Margit Ammer

Morten Kjaerum, Director of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights, Stockholm

„In order to ensure a higher level of Human Rights protection in Europe we need knowledge from different disciplines, we need experience from all continents and we need a creative outlook. BIM combines all this in a unique manner relevant for the everyday life of people. This is why BIM has been second to none in the Human Rights field for many years.“





# 2008

The research focus, “Climate Change and Environmental Refugees”, is created, which includes projects on topics such as “Climate Change and Human Rights” and “The Legal Status and Legal Treatment of Environmental Refugees”.

The BIM becomes the coordination and communication centre for the University of Vienna’s Research Platform, “Human Rights in the European Context”.

The BIM assists in the development of a so-called “Fundamental Rights Module” for the training of Austrian judgeship trainees and, from 2008 on, is responsible for conducting seminars in the judicial district of the Higher Regional Court of Vienna.

Within the context of the Swiss initiative, “Agenda for Human Rights”, which marks the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Manfred Nowak acts as a rapporteur on an “Agenda for Human Rights – Protecting Dignity”, which calls first and foremost for the creation of a World Court of Human Rights. The draft statute for a future World Court of Human Rights is published in Volume 22 of the BIM Study Series in 2010.

In the spring of 2008, Manfred Nowak and Elizabeth McArthur complete their commentary on the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and it is published by Oxford University Press.

The BIM undergoes restructuring: in light of its size, the BIM establishes a Management Board and organises its activity by establishing teams which work on specific areas:

- 🌿 Anti-discrimination, Asylum and Migration
- 🌿 European Neighbourhood and Integration Policy
- 🌿 Women’s Rights, Children’s Rights and Trafficking in Human Beings
- 🌿 Human Rights in Development and Business/Digital Rights
- 🌿 Human Rights Education and Citizenship Education
- 🌿 Human Dignity and Public Security

As part of the film festival, “this human world”, the BIM organises the film series, “Cinema and Human Rights”. By 2016, 71 human rights related films and documentaries, followed by panel discussions, had been screened.

UNHCR, Austria

“Over the last twenty years, the BIM staff members have become indispensable partners for the UNHCR in Austria. With their leading expertise, they have carried out important research projects on asylum and have thus substantially contributed to the effective protection of refugees.”

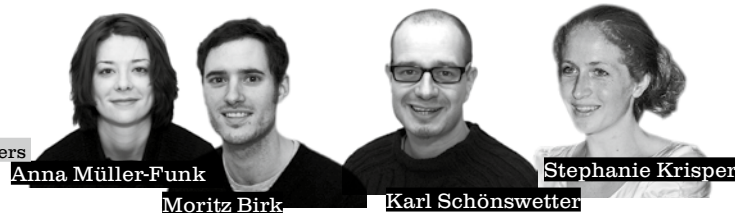
New team members



Annemarie Schlack, Amnesty International Austria

“A quarter of a century of BIM – our heartfelt congratulations from the team of Amnesty International Austria! In times like ours in particular, the BIM’s research and its interdisciplinary work for human rights are most important. A toast to our future common commitment to our shared human rights!”

New team members



# 2009

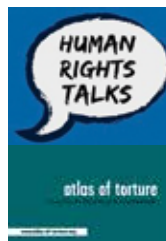
A Twinning project is carried out in Romania (2009 – 2010) to protect and promote the rights of people in custody through the creation of a National Preventive Mechanism with the aim of preventing torture and any other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in all detention centres.

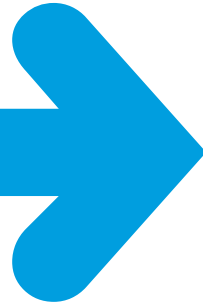
The website, “Atlas of Torture” ([www.atlas-of-torture.org](http://www.atlas-of-torture.org)), is set up to provide information on torture and the inhumane treatment of people across the world and to provide an effective public platform for the various projects and activities in this area.

The BIM drafts a bill on the implementation of the EU Data Retention Directive which ensures the best possible protection of fundamental rights. This bill undergoes public examination by the Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology in November 2009. The bill on the amendment of the Telecommunications Law (TKG 2003) is accepted by Parliament following some changes in 2011.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the community of Moorbach Harbach in Upper Austria creates a Garden of Human Rights. The articles of the Universal Declaration are vividly represented on twelve artistic stations. The BIM produces the texts for the stations.

The BIM sets up the event series, “Human Rights Talks”, within the framework of the Research Platform, “Human Rights in the European Context”. International and Austrian experts discuss current human rights issues from an interdisciplinary perspective. Fifty-nine talks are held between 2009 and 2016.





**2010** A project to combat human trafficking for the purposes of labour exploitation (2010 – 2012) starts. The study, “Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for Labour Exploitation”, is published.

The “Atlas of Torture” project (2010 – 2013) commences: as Manfred Nowak’s mandate as UN Special Rapporteur on Torture comes to an end, the BIM implements a follow-up project in five of the 18 countries which were visited as part of fact-finding missions – Georgia, Moldova, Paraguay, Uruguay and Togo. The project aims to strengthen local civil society organisations and other actors in the field of torture prevention.

The BIM carries out a wide range of activities to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security; it publishes teaching materials, co-hosts a symposium and contributes to the revision of the National Action



HANNES TRETTER AT A ROUND TABLE ON THE CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IN PARLIAMENT, 2010



STUDENTS OF THE DOCTORAL COLLEGE, “EMPOWERMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS”, 2010

Plan on the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2011.

A Twinning project in Turkey (2010 – 2012) is started to promote gender equality in working life. Recommendations are compiled on how to bring Turkish legislation in line with the EU Acquis Communautaire.

A Twinning project in Montenegro (2010 – 2012) is launched to protect personal data and implement data protection legislation.

A doctoral programme on the topic of human rights is created for the first time in Austria: the Doctoral College, “Empowerment through Human Rights”, is set up within the framework of the Research Platform, “Human Rights in the European Context”, (established in 2008). Twelve doctoral candidates with backgrounds in sociology, development research, psychology, law and other disciplines are engaged with the topic of human rights and will complete their doctoral programme in 2013.

**Cecilia Heiss, Managing Director of Hemayat, Care Centre for Torture and War Survivors**

“Research on human rights is the basis for the protection and promotion of this highest good. For 25 years, the BIM has been working for the advancement of human rights standards and thus also gives our clients a voice. We thank you for that, as well as for our outstanding cooperation!”

© Parlamentsdirektion Carina Ott



New team member **Heidrun Aigner**

**Helga Konrad, Head of the Regional Implementation Initiative on Preventing and Combating all Forms of Trafficking in Human Beings**  
 “The BIM’s uncompromising advocacy for the indivisibility of human rights, underpinned by qualified research, makes it an indispensable partner and a resource for all those who are socially and politically active. This has always been the case and continues to be so, not least in the fight against human trafficking. ‘Best of luck’ for the next 25 years!”

# 2011

A project starts (2011 – 2012) on extrajudicial complaint mechanisms for conflict resolution in the area of business and human rights.

A project starts analysing judicial protection in the Austrian asylum procedure: the operation of the Austrian Asylum Court and the Austrian Constitutional Court, as well as the decision-making practices of these courts, are reviewed to check their conformance with fundamental rights and human rights standards. Twinning projects are carried out in Turkey and Croatia respectively (2011 – 2013) to support the Turkish police in the prevention of excessive use of force, and to establish a comprehensive system of protection against discrimination in Croatia.

Helmut Sax is elected as the Austrian member of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) of the Council of Europe for four years.

Karin Lukas is elected as the Austrian member of the Council of Europe's European Committee of Social Rights for six years.



MANFRED NOWAK AT AN UN EVENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS, 2011

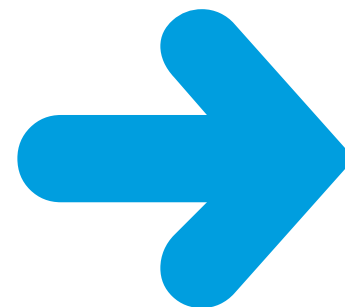
In cooperation with the Medical University of Vienna the BIM implements a project on "Awareness Raising and Training Measures on the Istanbul Protocol" (2011 – 2013), during which online training modules for medical staff and other professionals supporting victims of torture and ill-treatment are developed and tested.

As part of the project ClimMig (2011 – 2012), migration caused by climate change and the need for new normative and institutional frameworks are researched. A children's rights project on violence in juvenile custody (2011 – 2013) begins, with the aim of preventing violence and allowing young people themselves to participate in the enquiry and implementation phases of the project.

The BIM organises a workshop with 100 children and young people on participation on European and international levels. This workshop is held within the framework of the EU project, "Speak to the World – Children's Views on having their say in European and International Decision-Making".



New team members  
Monika Mayrhofer  
Grazyna Czernyszewska  
Petra Momo Machacek



# 2012

The Vienna Master of Arts in Human Rights is established at the University of Vienna under the scientific direction of Manfred Nowak.

The textbook "Vienna Manual on Human Rights", to which many BIM staff members contribute, is published.

The focal issue of disability is strengthened by an EU-funded project to last several years on the protection of women with disabilities against violence. The aim of this project is to find out if women with disabilities, who have suffered violence, can access the support and services of victim protection facilities to the same extent as women without disabilities.

Manfred Nowak is elected as the Austrian member of and Vice-Chairperson of the FRA Management Board.

Within the framework of the "Association of Human Rights Institutes" (AHRI) and in cooperation with the BIM, the University of Vienna organises a three-day conference in Vienna on "The Role of the EU in the UN Human Rights Reform". The conference also marks the conclusion of a four-year research project, financed by the EU COST Action (European Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology).

The first Viennese Protest Route is opened by Zentrum *polis*; an innovative city research project for all ages on resistance, protest, solidarity and civil courage ([www.protestwanderweg.at](http://www.protestwanderweg.at)).

Michael O'Flaherty, Director of the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency

"The evidence-based work of the Fundamental Rights Agency relies on cooperation with strong research institutions in all EU member states. From the very beginning of the history of the agency here in Vienna, BIM – as one of Europe's leading human rights institutions – has not only contributed with high-quality research, but has been an important and reliable partner in the various activities of the FRA."



New team member Isolde Prommer

HANNES TRETTER AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE TWINNING PROJECT IN MONTENEGRO, 2012

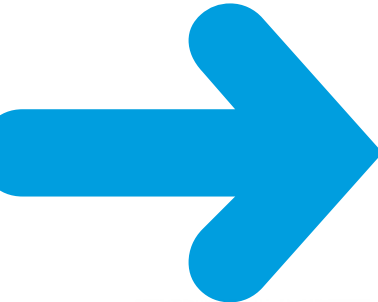


THE BIM CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A SPECIAL EVENT AT PORGY&BESS.



CLOSING CONFERENCE OF TWINNING GENDER EQUALITY IN TURKEY, 2012

first viennese protest route



# 2013

In spring, the BIM publishes a study on the situation of juveniles in detention – just when it becomes common knowledge that juveniles, too, experience violence in Austrian prisons. The recommendations the project team develops together with juvenile detainees are consequently taken up in the judiciary’s reform debates.



New team member **Nina Radovic**

In the framework of the Twinning project “Implementation Capacity of Turkish Police to Prevent Disproportionate Use of Force“, BIM experts have to deal with the proceedings of the Turkish police during the Gezi park protests.

On behalf of the European Fundamental Rights Agency, BIM develops an exhaustive handbook of data privacy law in Europe.

**FRAME - Fostering Human Rights among European Policies:** Several BIM departments cooperate in a large project within the 7<sup>th</sup> EU Research Framework Programme, together with 19 international partner organisations aiming to improve the EU’s human rights policies and systems of safeguarding human rights.



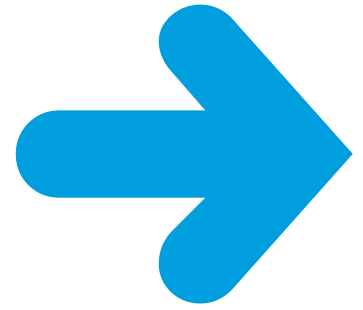
THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE FIRST STRANIAK ACADEMY, 2013 © BIM

First-time organisation of the annual Straniak Academy for Democracy and Human Rights in Montenegro, a summer school BIM Co-Director Hannes Tretter founded in cooperation with the Universities of Vienna and Podgorica.

## Vienna+20

Austria celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, a milestone in the history of human rights, which continues to have an effect to this day and was very important for the BIM, too. It is therefore only consistent that the BIM co-organises the anniversary conference and also publishes its proceedings: “Vienna+20. Advancing the Protection of Human Rights. Achievements, Challenges and Perspectives 20 Years after the World Conference“.

© Dragan Tatic



# 2014

The project CLIMACCOUNT focuses on the EU’s and Austria’s responsibility in the field of climate change and human rights. The Barro Blanco dam project in Panama, destination of several research trips of BIM researchers, is the first in a number of case studies.



New team member **Gerrit Zach**

BIM’s Balkan focus is expanded: New Twinning projects in Serbia, Macedonia, and Kosovo are launched. At the same time, the BIM expands its activities into Northern Africa and participates in a Twinning project in Morocco in the framework of the EU’s Neighbourhood Policy: “Strengthening the Capacities of the National Human Rights Council”.

The BIM participates in a comparative study directed by Richard Carver, exploring effective torture prevention mechanisms, and prepares the country study on Kyrgyzstan.

The Human Rights Research Centre is established at the University of Vienna, which succeeds to the research platform “Human Rights in the European Context” and works in close cooperation with the BIM.

The BIM analyses the implementation of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights on the national level, and compiles a handbook on practical applications of the Charter.



THE GLOBAL VALUE PROJECT DEALS WITH THE INTERRELATION OF MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. AMONG OTHER THINGS, IT DEVELOPS A TOOLKIT THAT ALLOWS USERS TO CHECK A COMPANY’S HUMAN RIGHTS, TRANSPARENCY, AND ANTI-CORRUPTION STANDARDS.



INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN PANAMA HAVE BEEN FIGHTING THE BARRO BLANCO DAM FOR YEARS. © Beatriz Felipe Perez



STUDY VISIT OF THE MOROCCAN INTERMINISTERIAL DELEGATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN VIENNA



© David Bohmann - PID

19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2014 THE CITY OF VIENNA DECLARES ITSELF A HUMAN RIGHTS CITY, THUS COMMITTING TO DEVELOP A HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION PLAN. THE BIM SUPPORTS THE CITY IN THIS PROCESS – WITH A FEASIBILITY STUDY, HUMAN RIGHTS COUNSELLING, AND PROCESS SUPPORT.

Helmut Sax is re-elected as Austrian member of the European Council’s Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) for a further four years, and is appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> GRETA Vice-President.



# 2015

Responding to increasing tendencies towards fanaticism amongst young people, *polis* – the Austrian Centre for Citizenship Education in Schools, is commissioned with an extensive series of prevention workshops.

Improving the rights of children and young people in conflict with the law, is the goal of a project aiming to advocate for the implementation of the European Council guidelines for a child-friendly judiciary.

Children’s rights index for schools: This participatory research project develops an index schools can utilise with regard to children’s rights standards.

National prevention mechanisms to counter torture are one of the BIM’s research areas.



New team members **Agnes Taibl** **Christian Wawrinec**

**Christoph Liebscher,**  
Honorary President of the  
**Hermann and Marianne Straniak**  
**Foundation**

“In 2015, the Straniak Foundation decided to transform the project-based support of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights into a strategic partnership. The solid human rights work done by the BIM with its dedicated staff and the many years of expertise had us convinced. Together with the BIM, the Straniak Academy for Democracy and Human Rights is making an important contribution towards strengthening democracy in Eastern and South Eastern Europe.”



THE TWINNING PROJECT “NORMALLYDIFFERENT” TO COUNTER HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA IN KOSOVO INCLUDES THE TRAINING OF “EQUALITY TRAINERS” FROM THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION, THE POLICE, THE JUDICIARY, AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

© Christophe Gateau



PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH: STUDENTS CELEBRATING THE FINALISATION OF THE CHILD RIGHTS INDEX WITH A CHILD RIGHTS PARTY ON 23 JUNE

The study “Enhancing Impact of National Preventive Mechanisms” is prepared in cooperation with the University of Bristol.

The project CONFRONT publishes a study on the risks of Roma children becoming victims of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation. The project also includes an awareness-raising component that aims to counter the stereotyped presentation of Roma in the media and the political debate.

Barriers for women with disabilities who experience violence in their access to protection institutions are surveyed in a four-country comparative study (A, D, UK, Iceland), which also develops recommendations that are published in the three national languages as well as a number of barrier-free versions, e.g. in easy language or as sign language video.

**Shams Asadi, Human Rights Commissioner of the City of Vienna**

“A quarter of a century after the foundation of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, society and its esteem for human rights have changed profoundly. With its excellent human rights work, the institute provides a fundamental contribution to this process. There is no question that today, we associate the commitment of the ‘Human Rights City Vienna’ with the BIM, as it has continued to follow and support its development towards a ‘Human Rights City’ with its valuable and implementation-oriented expertise since 2013.”

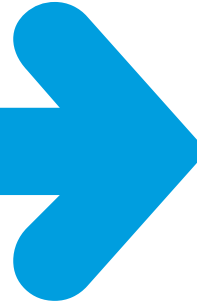
THE BIM RECEIVES THE AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT'S MARGARETHA LUPAC AWARD FOR PARLIAMENTARIANISM AND DEMOCRACY FOR ITS OUTSTANDING RESEARCH ACTIVITIES, THE INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION OF ITS RESEARCHERS, AND ITS IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION.



© Parlamentsdirektion/Johannes Zimmer

The BIM celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> Twinning project.

Karin Lukas is re-elected as Austrian member of the European Council's European Committee of Social Rights for another six years. She is also awarded the FWF's Elise Richter grant to prepare a habilitation on social rights.



**2016** #polis10 The year starts with an anniversary: *polis* – the Austrian Centre for Citizenship Education in Schools marks its tenth anniversary! Since its establishment, *polis* has been a department of the BIM, and in charge of an important part of BIM's educational work. [www.politik-lernen.at/polis10](http://www.politik-lernen.at/polis10)

The BIM is selected for a doubling donation in the Call4Europe at [respekt.net](http://respekt.net), which is used to fund the study "A new Asylum Policy for Europe", with recommendations for a reform of the European asylum system.

In the framework of the Expert\_Forum Prevention, De-Radicalisation and Democratic Culture, the BIM participates in the development of a comprehensive recommendation paper for the City of Vienna.

The results of the 12-country study to which the BIM contributed with a study on Kyrgyzstan are presented. The conclusion: Preventive measures can effectively prevent torture.

In the run-up to the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, the BIM prepares a study on the social and human rights responsibility of business in the context of major sporting events. "Olympic Hopes for Austrian Enterprises in Rio 2016?"



New team members **Giuliana Monina, Jean Tomkin, Patrik Hladschik, Nora Katona, Adel-Naim Reyhani**

In October, Manfred Nowak is appointed UN expert for the implementation of a global study on the situation of children in detention.

The long-standing cooperation between the BIM and the Austrian Development Agency ADA continues. The BIM is awarded a framework contract for counselling ADA in the fields of human rights, democracy and good governance.

The BIM strengthens its cooperation with the UN and gets "special consultative status" in the United Nations Economic and Social Council.



Create an impact and ensure committed human rights research with your donation.

Become a member of the BIM CIRCLE of Human Rights.

So we can continue to be a strong voice for human rights - in Austria and worldwide.



THE LUDWIG BOLTZMANN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SCHOTTENHOF IN THE FREYUNG (FORMERLY A FREE SPACE FOR PERSECUTED PEOPLE, WHERE THE SCOTTISH CONVENT COULD ENSURE IMMUNITY FROM THE CITY'S JURISDICTION).