

HUMAN RIGHTS TALK "Social Rights: Do they belong in the Constitution?"

Date: Tuesday, 13 June 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Venue: Vienna School of International Studies, Favoritenstraße 15a, 1040 Vienna

Social (human) rights include, amongst others, the rights to work, health and housing. Although they are enshrined in international law in the European Social Charter, they still do not enjoy the same status as civil and political rights. Only few European countries have fully ratified the Charter to date. Austria, too, has not yet signed around a quarter of the provisions it contains. But what are social rights anyway? What role do they play in times of global crisis? And why is it that in Austria, unlike in many other countries, they have not yet been incorporated into the constitution? A distinguished panel will discuss the significance of social rights.

Welcome Notes

[Teresa Hatzl](#), Head of Advocacy & Research, Amnesty International Austria

Panel Discussion

[Bernhard Achitz](#), Ombudsman for Social Affairs, Care and Health

[Karin Lukas](#), former President, European Committee of Social Rights; Professor specializing in Human Rights, Legal Studies Department, Central European University

[Wolfgang Mazal](#), Professor of Labor and Social Law, University of Vienna

[Brigitte Ohms](#), Head, Unit "International Human Rights Protection, ECHR Complaints and Other Matters"; Deputy Head, Department "European and International Law, Human Rights Protection", Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria

[Martin Schenk](#), Deputy Director, Diakonie Austria; Co-Founder, Austrian Anti Poverty Network

Audience Discussion

Chair

[Eric Frey](#), Senior Editor, Der Standard

Followed by: Reception



The Human Rights Talks see themselves as a platform for social discourse on current topics with human rights relevance. The events present top-class speakers to the interested public and analyse human rights challenges and socio-political trends in a differentiated manner and with professional expertise, but at the same time in an accessible way and with practical relevance. An important component of the format is the interactive audience discussion in addition to contentual contributions.