

HUMAN RIGHTS TALK

"Women's reproductive rights and the human right to life - a contradiction?"

Date and time: Thursday, 18 April 2024, 7:00 p.m.

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

Sexual-reproductive rights are not yet a matter of course, even in Western democracies. In many places, couples and individuals are denied the right to decide freely on the number of children they have and the timing of pregnancies. Often, access to the highest possible standard of sexual and reproductive health is not guaranteed. In particular, the issue of abortion divides societies and lacks clear international legal clarification. While the right to abortion has recently been massively restricted in the USA and Poland, France elevated the freedom to abort to constitutional status at the beginning of March 2024. In Austria, too, issues relating to the regulation of sexuality and reproduction have repeatedly become the focus of political and legal debate – most recently, for example, through the demand for free contraceptives and the debates surrounding the first-trimester abortion as well as the lack of access to safe abortions in parts of the country. What function does the law have in these intimate yet controversial issues? Do women's reproductive rights and self-determination interfere with the human right to life of the unborn child? Top-class experts discuss a potentially insoluble human rights conflict.

Welcome Notes

Ursula KRIEBAUM, University Professor of International Law, University of Vienna

Keynote

Inga WINKLER, ao. University Professor for International Human Rights Law, Central European University

Panel Discussion

Peter KAMPITS, Second Deputy Chairman, Bioethics Commission at the Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria

Barbara MAIER, Chair of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Sigmund Freud Private University Vienna; President, Austrian Society for Family Planning

Inga WINKLER, ao. University Professor for International Human Rights Law, Central European University

Shoura ZEHETNER-HASHEMI, Managing Director, Amnesty International Austria

Audience Discussion

Chair

Eva STANZL, Science Editor, Wiener Zeitung; Chairwoman, Club of Austrian Education and Science Journalists

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.

With the kind support of