



IL4SDGs - Workshop 4:

## Gender, Health & Sustainable Development: The role for international human rights law

The Department of Transboundary Legal Studies, the Centre for Gender Studies, the University College Groningen, and the Global Health Law Groningen Research Centre of the University of Groningen cordially invite you to attend our fourth [International Law for the Sustainable Development Goals Workshop](#), on Monday, May 7th, 2018 from 14:00 - 18:30 at the University College Groningen, Groningen, the Netherlands.

### CALL FOR PAPERS & DIGITAL ARTWORK

Looking forward to the *International Day of Action for Women's Health* this SDG workshop celebrates past successes and reflects on the current challenges to improve women's health. Health (Goal 3) and gender equality (Goal 5) are cornerstones of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. Prevailing gender norms and discrimination influence our ability to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health. However, a range of health determinants, conditions, and treatments are understudied in women, non-binary, and transgender communities. Some new health technologies are neither developed nor available for conditions uniquely faced by these groups. Stigma, lack of awareness, and/or high prices of health innovations perpetuate these existing health inequalities.

International human rights law has the potential to transform legal rules, social norms, and political commitments for a more inclusive and gender-sensitive environment for the full realisation of the Agenda 2030. International human rights law incites a deeper analysis of gender-based inequalities and offers legal remedies and accountability through the human rights systems.

This call for papers welcomes submissions to the 4th International Law for Sustainable Development workshop that addresses: *How can international human rights law be used to challenge and improve the SDGs for gender equality and health to truly 'leave no one behind' on the path to sustainable development?*

The workshop will feature [Prof. Wendy Harcourt](#) (confirmed), Professor of Gender, Diversity and Sustainable Development at the Erasmus University. Her keynote will be followed by a panel session with presenters selected from this call for papers. Selected artwork will be exhibited throughout the event. A full programme will be published closer to the event.





## OUR FOCUS

We are interested in:

- exploring whether/how international human rights law can contribute to attaining the health and gender objectives in the sustainable development agenda;
- identifying and critically evaluating international and domestic (legal) initiatives to improve human health through a gender-sensitive lens.

### Topics of interest to this call, include (not exhaustive):

Women and girls; non-binary, intersex and transgender communities; political and social movements; research and development of new health technologies; sufficient and inclusive financing for health; universal health coverage and other social protections.

### Main questions that guide this inquiry (not exhaustive):

- The SDGs continue to build on a binary, heteronormative construction of gender that undoubtedly impacts on the enjoyment of human rights and achievement of the SDGs. How can international human rights law be used to bring these concerns to light in the quest proposed by the Agenda 2030 to “leave no one behind”?
- How do prominent global policies related to women’s health and rights such as the Global Gag Rule and the Addis Ababa Agreement impact on the SDGs? What is the role of international human rights law (if any) in these matters? How can negative impacts of these global policies be mitigated?
- What is the evidence of international human rights law being interpreted, translated into practice, monitored and enforced for the SDGs on gender equality and health? Evidence may be from global or domestic initiatives; it may relate to the right to health (General Comment No. 14), non-discrimination (General Comment No. 20), the right to sexual and reproductive health (General Comment No. 22), or the right to science.

## ABSTRACT & ART SUBMISSIONS

For papers we invite abstract proposals (of maximum 500 words) from interested scholars from all disciplines. We also invite submissions of digital artwork. Proposals should be submitted to Lucía Berro Pizarossa ([L.berro.pizarossa@rug.nl](mailto:L.berro.pizarossa@rug.nl)) and Katrina Perehudoff ([katrina.perehudoff@gmail.com](mailto:katrina.perehudoff@gmail.com)) by **28 March 2018**. Notifications of acceptance will be sent out by 2 April 2018.

Selected panelists should deliver their draft papers to the organisers by 30 April 2018 for circulation among participants. Final papers are invited to be published in the [BRILL Open Law special issue ‘International Law for the SDGs’](#) (submissions are accepted on a rolling basis until 28 June 2018).

This workshop is part of a larger 2017-2018 Workshop Series on International Law and the SDGs, organised by our Department of Transboundary Legal Studies. For information, including other topics, please see [website here](#).



## 2030 Targets for Sustainable Development

### SDG 3 targets for Health

- By 2030, reduce the global **maternal mortality** ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- By 2030, ensure **universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care** services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
- Achieve **universal health coverage**, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable **essential medicines and vaccines** for all
- Support the **research and development** of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and noncommunicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health
- Substantially increase **health financing** and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States

### SDG 5 targets for Gender Equality

- End all forms of **discrimination against all women and girls** everywhere
- Ensure women's full and effective **participation** and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life
- Ensure **universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights** as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- Enhance the use of **enabling technology**, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- Adopt and strengthen sound **policies and enforceable legislation** for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels