JUST RIGHTS EUROPE
FROM THE SUPREME COURT TO STRASBOURG

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PROGRAMME 3 OF 3 · STANDS APART · IN PREPARATION, REGISTRATION OPEN

Human Rights, Climate Change and Sustainable Energy

An advanced master, in theory and in practice

A full advanced master in one field, written first of all for universities in countries that climate change has hit hard in recent years, in Europe and beyond. In the theory, practised on files, the participant learns the sources of law, proof and strategy. In the practice he or she takes part in real interventions of the Human Rights Litigation Foundation. The European Court of Human Rights comes first; the routes outside Europe follow: the United Nations committees, the other regional systems and the International Court of Justice. A university can make it an advanced master of its own.

1	5	2027	2
ACADEMIC YEAR, TWO SEMESTERS	PARTS, ONE BOOK	JANUARY OR SEPTEMBER	ROUTES FOR A UNIVERSITY

01

In brief

	PROGRAMME 3 · ADVANCED MASTER
FOR UNIVERSITIES	First of all universities in countries that climate change has hit hard in recent years, in Europe and beyond
FOR WHOM	Graduates who hold a master's degree in law
ON ENTRY	No specific training in human rights is required: the programme begins from the beginning
PURPOSE	A full advanced master in human rights, climate change and sustainable energy, in theory and in practice: the European Court of Human Rights and the routes outside Europe, among them the United Nations
DURATION	One academic year, in two semesters. This is a proposal, to be settled with the University
PRACTICAL BOOK	*Climate Change and Human Rights*, in five parts
FORM	Online, in English; every piece of work is reviewed individually
START	January or September 2027. The programme is in preparation; a university can register now
RESULT	An assessed portfolio and a Litigation Practice Record. Whether the programme is awarded as an advanced master, and under which name, is decided by the University under its own rules

02

How a university takes part

A university can take part in two ways. The two routes can be combined.

	TWO ROUTES FOR A UNIVERSITY
ROUTE 1	*A place for the University's best students.* The University offers a place to its best students in law: those who excel and are the most motivated. It funds their place, as an award. Once they hold their master's degree, they join the group of the programme and work on real cases
ROUTE 2	*The programme as the University's own.* The University makes the programme an advanced master of its own: under its name, with its own admission, its credits and its degree
PLACES	Places are limited: at most twenty participants. The first places go to Route 1; the size of a group on Route 2 is agreed with the University. Once the places are taken, the intake is closed
FEE	No fee is published. It is agreed with the University, according to the route and the number of participants

03

The purpose

The first two programmes lead to the Grand Chamber. The third stands apart. It is a full advanced master in one field: human rights, climate change and sustainable energy. It begins with the European Court of Human Rights and opens the routes outside Europe: the United Nations committees, the other regional systems and the International Court of Justice. For participants outside Europe, those are the routes they will use.

Climate change and the transition to sustainable energy have reached the courts. More than 3,600 climate cases have been filed since 1986, in 62 countries (Grantham Research Institute, 2026). Between April 2024 and July 2025 the European Court of Human Rights, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the International Court of Justice each gave a judgment or an advisory opinion on what States owe. The law is being made now, case by case, and it concerns the persons affected as much as the States and companies that carry out the transition.

04

For whom, and the conditions of admission

The programme is written first of all for universities in countries that climate change has hit hard in recent years, in Europe and beyond. Their graduates in law can follow it from the beginning: training in human rights is not required, and neither are the other programmes. The criteria are set with the University.

05

How it works

REAL CASES, THROUGH THE FOUNDATION

Climate change and human rights is now one of the priorities of Just Rights Europe and of the Human Rights Litigation Foundation. The programme is not only theory: participants work on real proceedings, in which the Foundation acts as the litigating body, first through third-party interventions in pending climate cases before the European Court of Human Rights. Possibilities outside Europe, before the United Nations treaty bodies or another international court or body, are being examined, and the Foundation will widen its objects for them. The supervisor and the Foundation decide on every text and on whether it is filed.

BOTH SIDES

In every file the participant builds the case of the persons affected and the case of the State or the company, and judges which is the stronger. Participants are not asked to adopt a position. The respondent in every file is a member State of the Council of Europe or an invented State.

06

The programme, part by part

In the theory, which is practised on files, the participant learns the sources of law, one by one, and how to find them; which protection exists before which court or body; how harm and causation are proved; and how a strategic case is built. In the practice he or she works on real cases.

PART	CONTENT	WHAT THE PARTICIPANT PRODUCES
1	**The law.** Why climate change is a human rights issue; the decisions that exist: the Grand Chamber decisions of 9 April 2024, the views of the United Nations committees, the advisory opinions; the procedures, among them a communication to the United Nations.	*A complete file, worked to the end; an end work*
2	**Proof.** The chain of proof; causation where the sources are many; attribution science; secrecy and the burden of proof; the expert.	*Two complete files with documents; a table of proof*
3	**Strategic litigation.** What it is and what it costs; the method in seven steps; the fronts on which the law will move; the remedies that are still missing.	*The file The licence; a strategy note on a real case not yet brought*
4	**The worldwide route and the real case.** Europe first; the five routes outside Europe; litigation in practice.	*A third-party intervention of the Human Rights Litigation Foundation in a pending climate case, ready to be decided on*
5	**Sources and energy.** The five layers of sources of law and how to find them; the energy file: the resident, the investor, the State.	*The file The ridge*

SUPERVISION AND REAL CASES

Zouhaier Chihaoui

Grand Chamber and ECHR litigator · Lawyer, Brussels Bar · Just Rights Europe

Every piece of written work is reviewed in detail. Participants work largely on their own, online, and can ask questions at any time. The real cases come through Just Rights Europe, for applicants, and through the Human Rights Litigation Foundation, for third-party interventions.

M.S.S. v. Belgium and Greece
GRAND CHAMBER, 2011

Bouyid v. Belgium
GRAND CHAMBER, 2015

Lhermitte v. Belgium
GRAND CHAMBER, 2016

Miladze v. Georgia
GRAND CHAMBER · LEAVE TO INTERVENE REQUESTED, 2026

Further cases, decided and pending
WWW.JUSTRIGHTS.BE

07

Its place among the three programmes

Programme 3 stands apart from the first two, which lead from litigation before a Chamber to the Grand Chamber. It can be followed on its own.

It begins from the beginning, so neither of the other programmes is required. Its files can also be used within Programme 1.



08

What is agreed with the University

	TO BE SETTLED WITH THE UNIVERSITY
THE ROUTE	Route 1, Route 2, or both
THE DEGREE	Whether the programme is awarded as an advanced master, under which name and with how many credits, under the University's own rules. The workload is set with it
THE DURATION	One academic year, in two semesters, is a proposal
THE START	January or September 2027. The programme is in preparation; a university can register now, and the terms are then agreed
THE FEE	Agreed with the University, according to the route and the number of participants

Everything set out here can be adjusted with the University. The financial terms are sent on request.