

LEIDEN UNIVERSITY SUMMER SCHOOL ON INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

11TH EDITION FROM – 30 June – 4 JULY 2024

FRONTIERS OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS SUMMER SCHOOL

Leiden University's Summer School on International Children's Rights reaffirms its commitment to exploring how to protect and promote children's rights amidst the complexities of our ever-changing world. This year, we provide a platform for learning, collaboration, and reflection on the most pressing issues impacting children globally. For the 11th edition, our focus is on ***"Children's Rights Across Diverse Environments: Global Perspectives and Challenges."***

Through this theme, we aim to explore the diverse environments where children's rights are challenged and defended, from war-torn regions and migration routes to educational settings, digital spaces, and shifting political landscapes. Children encounter unique obstacles and opportunities depending on their surroundings. Conflict zones expose children to violence and loss, while migration paths bring uncertainty and exploitation. Conversely, classrooms and digital platforms, while offering significant potential, often raise issues of accessibility, inclusion, and safety. Shifting political environments and shrinking civic spaces further threaten children's participation, advocacy, and protection, creating new challenges for upholding their rights. Climate change exacerbates these challenges, disproportionately affecting children through increased exposure to natural disasters, food insecurity, displacement, and violence. Children from ethnic minorities and Indigenous communities are particularly vulnerable. Climate change not only endangers their present well-being but also threatens their future.

This year's programme emphasizes the importance of tailoring responses to diverse environments while recognizing children's resilience and agency. By empowering, protecting, and promoting children's rights, we aim to discuss how we can support them in navigating and transforming their surroundings. Central to this theme is accountability: governments, institutions, and other actors must be held responsible for upholding children's rights in all settings. Access to justice is fundamental, offering mechanisms to address violations and drive systemic change. Throughout the week, participants will engage with these critical issues through dynamic discussions, lectures, and case studies, amplifying children's voices and integrating their perspectives to ensure effective, rights-respecting solutions.

Building on Leiden University's esteemed reputation in international children's rights, the program features distinguished academic and professional experts from around the world. Engaging presentations will explore the challenges and opportunities in safeguarding children's rights across diverse environments. The programme includes an excursion to a leading international organization in The Hague and concludes with a keynote speech reflecting on this year's theme.

With a maximum of 40 participants, our summer school offers a unique opportunity to learn from leading experts in children's rights and international law. The program fosters networking among participants, including students, researchers, and practitioners from around the globe. Join us for an enriching and interactive learning experience at Leiden University, deepening your understanding of the diverse environments impacting children's rights. We look forward to welcoming you to our dynamic and engaging program.