

Specialized **Academic Network** of Technical Cooperation

Call for the Academic Network of Cooperation with the IACHR

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), in the framework of the celebration of its 60th Anniversary and as a follow-up to its Strategic Plan 2017-2021, has decided to deepen the link and cooperation alliances with the academia throughout the region. To this end, the IACHR calls to universities and academic centers specializing in human rights to form the "Specialized Academic Network of Cooperation with the IACHR," with the objective of providing technical support to the work being carried out by its Rapporteurships, Thematic Units and Recommendations Monitoring Section.

The IACHR's Strategic Plan establishes the priorities to successfully fulfilling its mandate and to face the current and future challenges to address and protect of human rights in the Americas. The Strategic Plan 2017-2021 guides the work of the IACHR until 2021, and is developed around 5 Strategic Objectives and 21 Work Programs.

With regard to this call, it should be mentioned that Programme No. 12 of strategic objective No. 3 of the Plan fosters the formation of a Specialized Academic Network of the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights (ISHR). This network is intended to contribute to studies, research and other joint activities to deepen knowledge and generate information for the promotion and defense of human rights in the region as well as to generate channels for a recurring dialogue with civil society and academia and to formalize alliances with academic research centers on the ISHR.

The creation of this Specialized Academic Network of the ISHR also seeks to support the IACHR with respect to Programme No. 5 of the Plan's Strategic Objective No. 2, which aims to improve the scope and impact of the IACHR's work in monitoring human rights situations at geographic and thematic levels through the activation of its various functions and mechanisms in order to identify risk factors for human rights violations and therefore create early warnings of emergency situations. This program also aims at mapping structural human rights trends and situations. It is also intended to create input material to support Special Programme No. 21, which relates to the follow-up of the IACHR's recommendations.

In light of these facts, this call is addressed to the selection of academic projects that aim to produce material inputs to technically support the work of the Thematic Rapporteurships of the IACHR as these entities monitor, promote and protect human rights, as well as any activity with the objective of measuring the level of compliance, impact and effectiveness of the recommendations and decisions issued by the IACHR. These material inputs will be used to provide information to the database of the "Observatory on the Impact of the Inter-American Human Rights System," which is in process of creation by the IACHR, to map success stories, good practices, and lessons learned in the implementation of recommendations by Member States, among other issues.

It is important to mention that in order to carry out its mandate, during the 2017-2021 period, the IACHR has decided to prioritize a series of issues and populations, matters in which the IACHR's Rapporteurships have been carrying out work, this includes a cross-cutting line of work which is the follow-up of recommendations which is worked on from the section on follow-up of recommendations. It should be noted that the IACHR currently has 13 thematic Rapporteurships:

- Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women.
- Rapporteurship on the Rights of Afro-descendants and Racial Discrimination.
- Rapporteurship on the Rights of Children.
- Rapporteurship on the Rights of Migrants.
- Rapporteurship on Human Rights Defenders.
- Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty.
- Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Rapporteurship on the Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex (LGBTI) Persons.
- Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Rapporteurship on Memory, Truth, and Justice.
- Rapporteurship on the Rights of Older Persons.
- Special Rapporteurship on Freedom of Expression;
- Special Rapporteurship on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights (ESCER)

OPEN CALL:

Universities and Academic Centers that apply must identify the Thematic Rapporteurship with which they intend to collaborate or indicate their intention to collaborate with the section of follow-up of recommendations.

Title:

Specialized Academic Network of Cooperation with the IACHR

Organizational unit:

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights/OAS

Deadline to submit applications:

June 1, 2019 at 23:59pm (E.S.T.)

Dates for notification of selected institutions:

July 1-3, 2019

Responsibilities of Universities and Academic Centers that make up the Cooperation Network with the IACHR:

Each University or Academic Center that is part of the Specialized Network of Cooperation with the IACHR will have the task of presenting a work proposal with the inclusion of concrete, precise and detailed activities to support the work developed by either a Rapporteurship or the section for Follow-up of Recommendations based on the implementation of, among others, the following activities.

- To provide material inputs for the monitoring activities carried out by the Thematic Rapporteurships of IACHR.
- To conduct research on the issues and commitments established within the IACHR's Strategic Plan 2017-2021 in accordance with the 2019 Plan of Action, which is attached to this call.
- Propose, collaborate, and co-sponsor events to promote human rights, in particular, on the specific issues addressed by the Rapporteurship or Thematic Unit.
- Propose, collaborate and co-sponsor workshops and training courses on the relevant matters.
- Exchange relevant information.
- To provide inputs for the systematization of good practices, challenges and advances in the area of human rights in the hemisphere.
- Carry out actions that support the work of following up on the recommendations issued by the IACHR and the impact of the work of the IACHR.
- Propose, collaborate and co-sponsor enquiries with experts of the Inter-American Human Rights System.
- Develop initiatives to strengthen links and participation mechanisms with civil society in relevant thematic areas.
- Provide technical support to the relevant Thematic Rapporteurship or to the recommendations follow-up section when required; and
- Map success stories, good practices and lessons learned throughout the process of implementing recommendations.

Minimum Requirements

- Recognized trajectory and specialization in the field of human rights, and preferably, in the specific field of the Thematic Rapporteurship to which the collaboration is proposed.
- Proven knowledge of the Inter-American Human Rights System.
- Proven technical capacity of the selected coordination team.

- Financial capacity to carry out the agreed activities.
- High quality of the proposal presented.
- High moral quality and independence.

Selection Procedure

The University or Academic Center that wishes to participate in the selection process to form the Specialized Network of Cooperation with the IACHR must submit a comprehensive proposal of the work to be developed, which may not exceed 10 pages, and must include as a minimum the following information:

- Cover Letter from the University or Academic Center describing the trajectory, experience and specialization in the chosen topic as well as their interest to take part in the Network.
- Proposal of topics, products and results to be achieved with the collaboration.
- Work plan proposal to provide technical support to the Thematic Rapporteurship(s) of their interest or to the recommendations follow-up section, which should contain, as a minimum, the following information:
 - Objectives of the technical support.
 - Details of the proposed activities.
 - Work chronogram.
 - Description of their technical capacity.
 - Description of their financial capacity.
- Designation of the coordination team with their respective Resumes.
- Indication of the technical team that will implement the project.

For the selection of the University or Academic Center, special consideration will be given to the quality of the proposal presented, the practical contribution to the work of the IACHR, the contribution to the effectiveness of the Inter-American Human Rights System, the specialty and proven technical capacity of the institution and its financial capacity.

The time period for each proposal should be from 1 to 2 years (starting in August 2019), with the possibility of an extension by mutual agreement between the IACHR and the University or Academic Center. All project costs must be assumed by the respective Universities and Academic Centers.

Work proposals presented by a consortium of Universities will be accepted. A University, Academic Center or a consortium of institutions that present themselves jointly will be selected for each Thematic Rapporteurship and for the recommendations follow-up section.

Proposals should be sent to: cidhpromocion@oas.org under the name SPECIALIZED ACADEMIC NETWORK OF COOPERATION.

It should be noted that the establishment of this Academic Network does not replace the commitments acquired with universities or academic centers with which cooperation agreements have been signed already.