

**UNESCO Chairs Seminars**  
and the  
**OHCHR Hernan Santa Cruz Dialogue Series**

**Seminar 4: Wednesday, 03 May 2023, 17:00 to 18:30 (Paris time)**

A solution in plain sight for a better world: a Human Rights Economy

**Date and time:** Wednesday 3 May 2023, 17:00 to 18:30 (Paris time)

**Languages:** English and French

**Format:** Zoom – [Please click here to register](#)

**Seminar description**

This seminar coincides with the [75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights \(UDHR\)](#) and [OHCHR's Human Rights 75 initiative](#), which seeks to rekindle the spirit of the UDHR and its five sets of universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing rights that are essential for upholding human dignity: political, civil, cultural, social and economic rights. While remarkable progress has been made in many development areas over the last 75 years, there is a need for a new economic model that meets the human rights obligation to deliver economic prosperity for all. In his recent [Statement on human rights economy](#), the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, observed that, '*a human rights economy will deliver better results for people and planet, because, beyond profit, it is grounded in everybody's rights*'.

The seminar will introduce the concept of a human rights economy, which emphasizes the role of human rights law in economic policy making, investment decisions, business models, and consumer choice, with the goal of measurably enhancing the enjoyment of all human rights (economic, social, cultural, political, and civil rights) and promoting inclusive sustainable development.

It will also discuss the catalyst role of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in creating a human rights economy globally, in synergy with the [OHCHR Hernán Santa Cruz Dialogue series](#), which provides a platform for exchanging critical ideas, experiences and practices on economic and social rights, the right to development, and the [2030 Agenda](#) and Sustainable Development Goals. This Seminar will bring together [UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks](#), experts from OHCHR, and other participants for an engaging discussion to highlight the importance of human rights economy and the role of higher education institutes in establishing a human rights economy at a global scale.

**[\\*Registration link\\*](#)**

<b>Seminar 4: A solution in plain sight for a better world: a Human Rights Economy</b> <b>Wednesday 03 May 2023: 17:00-18:30 (CET)</b>	
17:00–17:10	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Keith Holmes</b>, <i>Research Coordinator, UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme Team, UNESCO</i></p> <p><b>Konstantinos Tararas</b>, <i>Programme Specialist, Inclusion, Rights and Dialogue Section, Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO</i></p>
17:10–17:20	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p><b>Chitralekha Massey</b>, <i>Coordinator: Countering Inequalities, Development, Economic, Social Issues Branch, OHCHR</i></p>
17:20–17:50	<p><b>A solution in plain sight for a better world: a Human Rights Economy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nomthandazo Ntlama Makhanya</b>, <i>UNESCO Chair Oliver Tambo Chair of Human Rights, University of Fort Hare, South Africa</i></li> <li>• <b>Savitri Bisnath</b>, <i>Senior Economist SURGE Initiative, OHCHR</i></li> <li>• <b>Grieve Chelwa</b>, <i>Director of Research, Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy, The New School, New York, United States of America</i></li> </ul>
17:50–18:20	<p><b>Q&amp;A Discussion with Participants</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Pradeep Wagle</b>, <i>Chief of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Section, OHCHR</i></p>
18:20–18:30	<p><b>Final remarks and closing</b></p> <p><i>OHCHR and UNESCO</i></p>

#### **Profile of the Speakers:**

- **Prof. Nomthandazo Ntlama Makhanya**

Prof. Ntlama is a Professor of Public Law, Nelson R Mandela School of Law, Faculty of Law, University of Fort Hare, Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa. Affectionately known as Thandi, she is a former student leader and a sporting giant in her own right. She is the first Black National Netball player in the Eastern Cape and one of the first four Black Players of Border Netball in 1994 after the integration of black and white federations. She is the UNESCO Chair holder for the March 2022 renewed Oliver Tambo Chair of Human Rights within the Nelson R Mandela School of Law, South Africa.

- **Dr. Savitri Bisnath**

Dr. Bisnath is the senior economist working with the Surge Initiative at OHCHR, Geneva. She is a feminist economist with over 20 years' experience working on issues related to international trade, development planning, economic justice, women's rights, and conflict and natural disasters in countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East, as well as the UK and the US. Dr. Bisnath is accomplished at macroeconomic research and policy analysis, and she has demonstrated ability to successfully bridge interests of diverse stakeholders, build teams, and foster collaborative efforts. She has worked with academic, civil society, philanthropic and multilateral institutions.



- **Dr. Grieve Chelwa**

Dr. Chelwa is the Director of Research for the Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy at The New School. He leads the Institute's work on Inclusive Economic Rights. Before joining The New School, he was Senior Lecturer in Economics then Director of the MBA Programme of the University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business. Before that, he was the Inaugural Postdoctoral Fellow at the Centre for African Studies at Harvard University and a visiting Postdoctoral Fellow at the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research. He has also been a researcher at the Center for Financial Regulation and Inclusion in Cape Town, where he worked on public policy issues in the Southern African region. Dr. Chelwa also worked as a Management Associate for Citibank in their Africa Division, based in Johannesburg. He frequently blogs for the influential online blog 'Africa Is A Country' and some of his writings have appeared in Quartz Africa.