



Launching of Support Human Rights Teaching, Research and Community Engagement (STRACE - II Project)

Addis Ababa University and the Embassy of Sweden in Addis Ababa officiated the launching of the Project to Support Human Rights Teaching, Research and Community Engagement of the Center for Human Rights-Addis Ababa University. The three-year STRACE II project, with a budget of over ETB 84 million, aims to empower vulnerable communities, influence policymakers, and raise awareness about human rights across the country.

The official signing ceremony brought together Professor Tassew W/Hanna, former President of Addis Ababa University, and Åsa V. Andersson, Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Development Cooperation at Sida. Dr. Fasil Mulatu, Director of the Center for Human Rights, and Dr. Getachew Assefa, Dean of the College of Law and Governance Studies, also witnessed the momentous occasion alongside the Center's academic and project staff.

STRACE II aims to empower vulnerable communities, influence policymakers, and raise awareness about human rights.

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"Research is the cornerstone of effective human rights work," emphasized Åsa V. Andersson during the signing. She further remarked that "the Center for Human Rights at Addis Ababa University has made significant progress in promoting dialogue on human rights issues, and the STRACE project's research outputs are truly inspiring."

Academia and CSOs discuss role in peace building and human rights promotion

Our Center organized a thought provoking panel discussion titled "The Role of Academia in Human Rights Promotion and Protection" to commemorate International Human Rights Day on December 14, 2023, at the Ellily International Hotel.

This initiative brought together representatives from academia and various civil society organizations (CSOs) to engage in vital dialogue on strengthening their contribution to peace building and human rights protection.

The forum served as an opportunity to explore the potential of academia in contributing to peace building efforts as well as in identifying ways academia and CSOs can collaborate to effectively promote and protect human rights.



Commemorating Human Rights Day with AAU students

The Center marked International Human Rights Day with Addis Ababa University students at Eshetu Cholle Hall.

The program aimed to raise awareness about human rights and highlight the important work carried out by the Center for Human Rights (CHR) in promoting and safeguarding these rights.

The program featured presentations, panel discussions, and video displays showcasing CHR's work in promoting and protecting human rights.

Students actively participated in Q&A sessions and insightful panel discussions, exploring their role in advancing human rights in Ethiopia.

The event also featured interactive games and inspiring poetry, further enriching the commemoration.



Inaugural meeting of project advisory committee for STRACE II project held in Addis Ababa



The inaugural meeting of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) for the STRACE II project took place at the Ellily International Hotel in Addis Ababa. The PAC, comprised of management level and senior technical experts from key stakeholder institutions, will provide strategic guidance and support to the collaborative actions and long-term sustainability of the project.

During the meeting, the committee discussed the project's objectives, challenges, and approaches, aiming to maximize its impact and promote its sustainability. The PAC's focus on collaboration and long-term viability ensures that the STRACE II project will make a lasting and positive contribution to its field.

The inaugural meeting marks an important milestone in fostering collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders involved in the STRACE II project. The PAC members expressed their commitment to actively contribute to the project's success and highlighted the significance of ongoing collaboration.

Basic human right mainstreaming training for undergraduate students

The Center held a basic human rights training session for more than 600 students from both natural and social science backgrounds.

This initiative forms part of a pilot program organized by the Center to mainstream human rights education across Ethiopian universities. Recognizing the vital role of education in shaping informed and active citizens, the training equips students with the necessary knowledge and skills, empowering them to advocate for human rights in their communities.

The Center closely works with the students' union; Human Rights Club and Peace Club in an effort to promote human rights awareness and action.



Policy dialogue forum on transitional justice in Ethiopia, organized in Addis Ababa

A policy dialogue forum on the theme "Contributions of Academia to Transitional Justice Policy Options for Ethiopia" took place at the Ellily International Hotel in Addis Ababa on October 2-3, 2023.

Organized by the Center for Human Rights - AAU in collaboration with the Transitional Justice Working Group Experts, the forum targeted experts on transitional justice from Ethiopian academic and research institutions.

The forum aimed to strengthen the ongoing transitional justice policy process by examining the roles of national and sub-national governments, traditional dispute resolution mechanisms, digital technology, and survivor-centered approaches.

This dialogue is expected to contribute to the development of a comprehensive and inclusive transitional justice policy for Ethiopia.





Public lecture ,Dr. Quentin Wodon

Dr. Quentin Wodon, Director of the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa, and former Lead Economist and Lead Poverty Specialist at the World Bank delivered a public lecture on "Education as a Cornerstone of Human Rights and Sustainable Development in Africa" at our Center.

Strengthening human rights advocacy: Government officials and CSOs trained in rights protection

Our Center recently organized a training program for local government officials and representatives from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), held from November 1 to 3, 2023, at various locations including Addis Ababa, Ambo, Adama, Hawassa, and Debre Berehane STRACE II Project sites.

The objective of this training was to strengthen the knowledge and capacity of key stakeholders regarding human rights, with a special emphasis on the rights of women, children, workers, persons with disabilities, and migrants.

The training sessions were designed to offer a comprehensive overview of the fundamental principles of human rights, explore case studies, and facilitate engaging discussions on pertinent issues.

Participants were equipped with invaluable insights in to both international and domestic laws pertaining to human rights, enabling them to effectively advocate for and protect the rights of vulnerable individuals within our society.



Post graduate level training for media experts



Media Freedom and Human Rights training for Media Experts

The Center for Human Rights delivered a post-graduate level training for media experts on media freedom and human rights from September 18 – 22, 2023 at Semien Hotel under STRACE II Project.

The training aimed to enhance the knowledge of media experts about international and domestic human rights laws on freedom of opinion and expression, and principles for media relating to reporting on human rights violations.

LAC meetings convened to consult on implementation approaches



Local Advisory Committees (LAC) meetings took place in Addis Ababa, Ambo, Adama, Debre Berehane, and Hawasa areas as part of the STRACE II Project.

The project offices presented their plan and progress updates to the LACs, fostering transparency and accountability throughout the project's development.

The LACs, composed of representatives from diverse stakeholders, serve as vital advisors and supporters, providing valuable insights so that our human rights promotion and protection interventions contextualize the problems on the ground and remain relevant.

Capacity building for community rights promoters

The Center provided training for 73 community rights promoters drawn from community-based associations in Addis Ababa, Hawassa, Ambo, Debre Berhan and Adama STRACE II project areas.

Our training initiative for members of community-based associations, which we conduct in collaboration with local communities, aims to promote and protect human rights. Its primary focus is enhancing the capacity of community rights promoters to advocate for human rights within their respective communities and in local decision-making processes.

The training program emphasizes human rights in general, with a specific emphasis on the rights of the targeted social groups of the Center for Human Rights, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and workers. By concentrating on these specific groups, the training aims to address their challenges and ensure their rights are effectively promoted and protected.

Through this collaborative effort, the Center strives to empower community rights promoters to become effective advocates for human rights at the grassroots level. By equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills, the training program seeks to foster a culture of respect for human rights within communities, ultimately contributing to a more inclusive and just society.





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