



STUDENT LEGAL ADVISORS FOR SIDS/LDC MISSIONS IN GENEVA

The Program

As part of INHR's leveling the UN playing field initiative, graduate students in their 6th or 7th year are trained by former US diplomat turned professor Eric Richardson. They support in-person or virtually SIDS/LDC Missions in their participation in the UN HRC. More than 20 delegations have already trusted us.

The challenge

SIDS/LDC Missions often lack the manpower, time, financial, and other resources to fully engage with all of the UN institutions in Geneva, making it difficult to make their voices heard.

Our solution

The trained students help the delegations in drafting interventions, assisting with the UPR process, researching new legal and policy questions, negotiating resolutions and participate in informals.

WHAT MISSIONS SAY

"Our student legal advisors draft statements, participate in side events and informal consultations during the council sessions. This year they also provided legal analysis in the UPR process. We welcome and greatly appreciate the help of INHR in ensuring our voices are heard in the full range of human rights issues at the HRC."

- H.E. Mr Asim Ahmed, Republic of the Maldives

WHAT STUDENTS SAY

"I was very fortunate to receive the trust of my Mission and from the beginning be treated as a full member of the team and not as 'just an intern'. I am so grateful to act as an ambassador in spreading the message of plight and challenges faced by the Marshall Islands and to work towards greater representation for smaller states at the UN."

- Stephanie Spear- Student Legal Advisor 2023

Timeline

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

The Student Legal Advisors are trained the students study UN practice in the fall, using the UN Human Rights Council's September session and its November Universal Periodic Review proceedings as examples.

NOVEMBER

The Student Legal Advisors start their remote work (8-10h/week) with the November UPR session and are available to support non-human rights topics as well, based on negotiation with the program and the demands of the interested delegations.

JANUARY-APRIL

In-person student legal advisors work 40 hours per week in Geneva from January to late April. Other delegations may wish to consider a virtual student legal advisor, who provides remote support from the location of their university, of approximately 8-10 hours per week.