



CHREN HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC

Project in collaboration with Jindal Global Law School (Sonipat, India)

Call for Applications

Human Rights Behind Bars

Analysis of the Jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights on Conditions of Detention

I Project description

Given the fundamental-rights-sensitive nature of detention, effective legal frameworks and robust protection mechanisms enforced by competent authorities are indispensable.

In the European context, Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) obliges States to ensure that detainees are held in conditions compatible with respect for their human dignity. While this mandate appears clear at first glance, its concrete implications raise complex legal questions: What specific protection standards can be derived from Article 3 ECHR? Which positive obligations and duties of care do States owe to detainees under the Convention, as interpreted by the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)? And what conclusions can be drawn from a comparative perspective with other regions of the world regarding the European understanding of the legal protection of detainees?

Through an in-depth analysis of relevant ECtHR case law, participants will identify and systematize legal standards and State duties of protection across key areas of detainee rights, including detention conditions, access to medical care, protection against discrimination and procedural safeguards.

Students will also be encouraged to examine how selected ECtHR judgments have been implemented at the national level in the affected States, thereby assessing the practical effectiveness of Convention standards.

In light of the global relevance of the topic the project will culminate in a **joint online workshop with students from [Jindal Global Law School \(Sonipat, India\)](#)**, who are conducting parallel research on comparable issues. The Criminal Justice Clinic is a legal aid initiative at Jindal Global Law School that integrates experiential learning with research and advocacy on criminal justice delivery in India. The Clinic engages with students, lawyers, and practitioners in legal aid casework, research, and policy-oriented interventions, with a particular focus on the rights of persons in custody.

Within the framework of this workshop, students from both institutions will present and critically discuss the results of their respective investigations.

Through this comparative and dialogical approach, participants will not only gain insight into a foreign legal system but also deepen and refine their understanding of the European system of human rights protection.

During the course of the project, selected students will develop the following skills:

- Legal writing in English
- Legal analysis
- Teamwork
- Presentation Skills
- Intercultural legal competence

Estimated project time commitment from students:

- Participation in block seminars
- Active Participation and presentation of results in a joined online workshop together with the Jindal Global Law School (first week of June)

Upon completion of the project, students will receive a letter of recommendation from the project supervisor of the CHREN Human Rights Clinic, as well as from the Clinic Director. Participation in the project might also count towards internship hours depending on student's principal course of study at FAU, students from the Law School can be credited with 2 SWS as an optional course in "Schwerpunktbereich 11: Grund- und Menschenrechte", "Schwerpunktbereich 5: Internationales und Europäisches Öffentliches Recht" and/or as "Schlüsselqualifikation" (§ 2 I JAPO).

Timeline:

- March/April 2026: Selection of the student team and Kick-off meeting
- May 2026: Analysis of the ECHR jurisprudence, preparation of presentations
- 5 June 2026: Participation in the joint workshop with Jindal Global Law School

II Desired student profile

We welcome students from Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, specifically those enrolled in the Law School, MA Human Rights, MA Development Economics and International Studies, the Economic and Management School, as well as Master's level students from other departments with at least a basic understanding of human rights, such as those in political science, philosophy, or geography programs.

We seek individuals with a strong dedication to human rights. Proficiency in English, both written and spoken, is mandatory.

We expect one student to take on the role of "student project manager". This person will be in charge of organizing communication among the student team and ensuring deadlines set by the project supervisors

are met. We also expect a student to take responsibility for the consistent form of the written text (presentation) and correct and consistent citation. Please indicate your willingness to fulfil one of these roles in your application

III Application process

Interested students are kindly requested to provide the following documents:

a. Curriculum vitae

b. A concise letter of interest (maximum 500 words) detailing their relevant academic and/or professional background for the project, their current field of study, and instances of prior team-work experiences.

c. Although not mandatory, including samples of written reports, papers, and/or PowerPoint presentations would strengthen your application.

It's important to note that the project leaders do not expect applicants to possess prior professional experience in the field. The aim of CHREN Human Rights Clinic is to offer participants an opportunity to gain valuable experience with human rights projects. Therefore, examples of academic work completed during your bachelor's and master's degrees are also acceptable.

Application materials should be sent to Clara Kiesbye (clara.kiesbye@fau.de) and Daniela Kolland (daniela.kolland@fau.de) **by 8 March 2026**.

About the CHREN Human Rights Clinic

The *CHREN Human Rights Clinic* is an initiative launched by the Chair for Public Law, Public International Law and Human Rights (Professor Patricia Wiater) and the Center for Human Rights Erlangen-Nürnberg (CHREN) in the winter semester 2024. The CHREN Human Rights Clinic continues the work of the former *FAU Human Rights Clinic* that was founded in 2021 and led by Professor Anuscheh Farahat in cooperation with Professor Katrin Kinzelbach and Professor Patricia Wiater, as well as of the former *Human Rights & Business Clinic* that started working in 2022 and was led by doctoral researchers from the [International Doctoral Program Business & Human Rights](#).

The *CHREN Human Rights Clinic* has two primary objectives:

Firstly, the Clinic is an innovative teaching format that offers talented students the opportunity to develop their skills by working on real-life cases and projects relating to International Human Rights Law. Under the supervision of experts from human rights practice and human rights researchers at FAU, students will conduct interdisciplinary research to help partner organizations tackle cutting-edge human rights questions.



Secondly, the Clinic seeks to provide high-quality advice on complex human rights questions to NGOs, lawyers, international organizations and other partners from the field of human rights. To this end, practitioners can contact the clinic for advice on their advocacy work, research gaps and pro bono work. The Clinic does not act as the legal representative of a victim of human rights violations and does not initiate proceedings before courts or other human rights institutions. For more information, see [‘For Clients’](#).

The Clinic Director is [Professor Patricia Wiater](#).