



UNIONE FORENSE
PER LA TUTELA DEI DIRITTI UMANI

Communication on Engagement 2022 (COE)

UFTDU, Unione forense per la Tutela dei Diritti Umani

26 October 2022

Statement of continued support to the United Nations Global Compact initiative

I am proud confirm the support and the ongoing commitment of our Association, *Unione forense per la Tutela dei Diritti Umani*, to the UN Global Compact and to its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

The *Unione Forense per la Tutela dei Diritti Umani* (“UFTDU”) is an association of lawyers, founded on 2 March 1968, with the aim to spread the knowledge of national and international rules on human rights protection. It also aims to promote the actual and effective observance of those rights at the judicial, administrative and legislative level by aligning its strategies and operations with Global Compact’s Ten Principles. In order to achieve its goals, UFTDU has identified, throughout the years, three strategic areas of action: *advocacy*, *education* and *training*.

Avv. Prof. Anton Giulio Lana

President

26 October 2022

UFTDU has well-established relations with international organizations, such as the Council of Europe, the European Union and the O.S.C.E., and has participated in numerous institutional activities (surveys, election monitoring, etc.). Moreover:

- ✚ UFTDU is an affiliate member of the [*Fédération Internationale pour les Droits Humanis*](#) (FIDH) participating, since the earliest admission, to many activities.



- ✚ UFTDU joined the [*Institute for Human Rights of European Lawyers*](#) (IDAHE) and it is still part of its board of directors.



Areas of Action

Advocacy

Description of Actions and Measurement of Outcomes

Advocacy aims to influence decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions. Advocacy attracts the public's attention on specific issues in order to pressure policy makers into devising possible solutions. UFTDU's advocacy is carried out at different levels, in order to address a large number of stakeholders and to increase the overall influence of its activities. The levels of intervention are:

- ***The political level***, by contributing to the drafting of bills or to the debate on current events concerning human rights.
- ***The judicial level***, by participating as *amicus curiae* to proceedings before national tribunals and the European Court of Human Rights.
- ***The extrajudicial level***, by committing its work to monitor and to denounce the Italian State's fulfilment of the obligations undertaken through the ratification of the treaties related to human rights.

Among the major advocacy activities carried out by UFTDU between 2020 and 2022, it is worth mentioning:

- ***Prix Ludovic Trarieux 2021 | 28 September 2021, Geneva***

On 28 September 2021, the jury for the award of the International Ludovic Trarieux Prize 2021 met in Geneva. Prof. Avv. Anton Giulio Lana, President of the Forensic Union for the Protection of Human Rights, and Avv. Federico Cappelletti, member of the UFTDU, were appointed as members of the jury representing the association. This year, the prize was awarded to Freshta Karimi, a young Afghan lawyer repeatedly threatened by the Taliban for her work on behalf of women and children,

as well as founder and director of the organization in Afghanistan. In the afternoon, a ceremony was held to hand over the 2020 award jointly to Ebru and Barkin Timtik, two Turkish sisters and lawyers, who were arrested in 2017 after long persecution due to their work as legal advisers to political dissidents accused of terrorism. After years of trials and pre-trial detention, Ebru Timtik went on hunger strike demanding a fair trial, which resulted in her death after 238 days of protest. Her sister, Barkin Timtik is currently in prison, while her case is still pending before the Turkish Court of Cassation. The 2020 Ludovic Trarieux International Prize was awarded to two lawyers who have represented and still represent the fight for justice and truth.

- **Application to the European Court of Human Rights in cases concerning MAP**

In March 2022, the UFTDU submitted three different amicus curiae applications to the competent chamber of the European Court of Human Rights in cases concerning medically assisted procreation (MAP). In particular, while two applications concerned gestation per altri (Carolina Modanese and Angelo Modanese v. Italy, Application no. 59054/59; Stefano Maurizio Bonzano and Others v. Italy, Application no.10810/20), the third (Ettore Nuti v. Italy and Sara Dallabora and Others v. Italy, appeal nos. 47998/20 and 23142/21) was on heterologous fertilisation. In all three, the Union asked to intervene in order to make its contribution to the proper functioning of justice by highlighting the inconsistencies of the Italian legislation on the matter.

- ***Prix Ludovic Trarieux 2022* | 23 September 2022, Geneva**

On 23 September 2022, the International Ludovic Trarieux Prize 2022 was awarded in Bordeaux. The jury is composed of 27 lawyers, one from each European state. Lawyer Francesco Rosi, a member of the Forensic Union for the Protection of Human Rights, was appointed as a member of the jury as a representative of the association, replacing Prof. Avv. Anton Giulio Lana, President of the Forensic Union for the Protection of Human Rights, who was unable to attend. On 22 September 2022, the award ceremony for the 2021 Prize was dedicated to Freshta Karimi, a young Afghan lawyer who, because of her work in defence of women and children, has repeatedly had to suffer threats from the Taliban threats. The 2022 prize was awarded to Amirsalar Davoudi, a 39-year-old

Iranian lawyer who has repeatedly stood up for those imprisoned for crimes of opinion and in defence of members of religious minorities, he ran also a Telegram group of Iranian lawyers in which he promoted the protection of civil rights. After a search carried out without a warrant, Mr Davoudi was arrested in November 2018. After being released from prison in June 2021 due to apparent irregularities in the judicial procedure, unfortunately a year later he was arrested again and taken to prison, where he remains today, to serve a 10-year prison sentence without access to medical care.

Education and Training activities

Description of Actions and Measurement of Outcomes

The Association is committed to promote human rights in accordance with its statutory principles, through the activities of the Centre for Training and Research. The Centre is devoted to the organisation of specialized courses, roundtables, national and international conferences and events for spreading human rights awareness. Moreover, the Association founded the oldest human rights review in Italy: "*I diritti dell'uomo. Cronache e battaglie*". The review, created in 1990, aims to provide a critical perspective and an updated technical analysis of the latest legal instruments and jurisprudence dealing with human rights issues.

Courses

Since the last Communication on Engagement of 2020, the Centre for Training and Research has continued to carry out specialisation courses aiming to provide jurists, lawyers and professionals with technical expertise on human rights issues. The courses have been organised with the support of national bar associations, political institutions, NGOs and Universities.

- **National School of specialized internationalist lawyers | 2022-2023**

The UFTDU, in 2019, resolved to establish a "School of Advanced Specialised Training of the Internationalist Lawyer", issuing a special regulation and entering into special agreements with the Scuola Superiore dell'Avvocatura and with leading Italian public universities (University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, University of Florence and University of Macerata), in accordance with Law No. 247 of 31 December 2012. The duration of the courses is two years, for a total of 210 training hours. In view of the biennium 2022-2024, the Lawyers' Union for the Protection of Human Rights has planned the launch of two training courses under the School of Advanced Specialist Training: the Course for Lawyers, in its second edition, and the Course for Human Rights and

International Protection Lawyers, in its first edition. international protection, in its first edition. In this regard, the respective notices of interest have been published in the appropriate section of the UFDU web portal.

- **High level Seminar "ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION" | 11 March 2022, online**

The Lawyers' Union for the Protection of Human Rights organised the first edition of the high-level seminar 'The Protection of the Environment'. The meeting, held on 11 March 2022 on the GoToWebinar platform, was divided into two sessions and featured in-depth coverage of topics of the utmost importance in the field of environmental protection, as reflected in both national and international national and international regulatory landscape. The seminar opened with institutional greetings by Prof. Anton Giulio LANA, President of the Forensic Union for the Protection of Human Rights. Human Rights, and was attended by, among others, Mr Francesco ROSI, Treasurer of the UFDU.

- **Specialisation course in "BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS" | from 19 May to 27 May 2022, Rome**

The UFTDU organises the first edition of the Course of specialisation course in "Business and Human Rights" at the headquarters of the National Economic and Labour (CNEL). The specialisation course is divided into four meetings. The Course gives participants the opportunity to deepen, with the contribution of authoritative experts in the field, university professors, lawyers, trade unionists and business representatives, the following topics: introductory profiles on business and human rights; international sources and standards and human rights; international sources and standards; the Italian action plan 'Business and Human Rights 2021-2026 drawn up by the IACHR; the three pillars of the UN Guiding Principles: the state obligation to protect human rights, the responsibility of business to respect human rights and access to and non-judicial remedies; sustainable development and corporate social responsibility; due diligence, codes of conduct, corporate administrative responsibility and non-financial reporting;

human rights and new technologies: from the right to data protection to the critical issues of Industry 4.0; diversity and inclusion in the workplace. The Course has received the patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the CIDU, the CNEL, Rai per il sociale and the CNF, which recognised the initiative 12 training credits for lawyers.

- **Specialisation Course: “*Migrazioni, Integrazione e Democrazia. Profili Giuridici, Sociali e Culturali*” | from 16 September – 4 November 2022**

The 4rd and 5th edition of the specialisation course “*Migrazioni, integrazione e democrazia. Profili giuridici, sociali e culturali*” are organised, respectively, in 2021 and 2022. Since the last Communication on Engagement, UFTDU persevered in its educational activity on the complex, yet contemporary, topics of migration and integration. Migration is in fact a phenomenon that has a significant impact on both our social and political lives. Migrants from Africa and Asia arrive in Europe escaping persecution, war, natural disasters, extreme poverty, and starvation. They face dangerous journeys hoping for a better life.

This specialisation course therefore attempts to provide an insightful overview of the topic, by answering to queries such as the number and the origin of migrants, the conditions in which they travel, the effectiveness of the reception proceedings, the various models for their integration and many other interrogatives related to their protection. Indeed, the course approaches the migration discourse from an interdisciplinary perspective, involving legal, economic, demographic and anthropologic standpoints, as well as journalistic, sociological, medical, and psychological considerations. The course received the UN International Organisation for Migration (IOM)’s patronage as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and of the National Bar Council (*Consiglio Nazionale Forense*) one.

Conferences and Events

UFTDU periodically organises conferences, seminars and roundtable discussions to stimulate the debate on human rights issues, including the Global Compact's Ten Principles. These meetings represent a unique opportunity for an in-depth analysis of the emerging issues and the controversial topics related to the human rights context. Conferences and other events are held by experts who dedicated their careers to the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms and they contribute to create an environment for the development of the human rights dialogue.

- **Course on the inclusion of LGBTIQ+ people and people of different ethnic and “racial” origin from the majority| 11 February - 29 April 2021, online**

The Human Rights Commission of the National Forensic Council (CNF), in collaboration with various associations including the UFTDU, organised the "Course on the inclusion of LGBTIQ+ persons and persons of ethnic and "racial" origin other than that of the majority". The training project, which was attended by over 500 lawyers, consisted of nine lessons for a total of twenty hours of training on inclusion practices for people at risk of discrimination. The course was attended, among others, by Guido ALPA, President Emeritus of the National Forensic Council and Professor of Private Law at the University of Rome 'La Sapienza', Maria MASI, Acting President of the National Forensic Council, Francesco CAIA, CNF Councillor and Coordinator of the CNF Human Rights Commission, and Vincenzo MIRI, President of Avvocatura per i Diritti LGBTI - Lenford Network. The President of the Forensic Union for the Protection of Human Rights Lawyer Prof. Anton Giulio LANA moderated the meeting entitled "Language and Stereotypes" held on 4 March 2021.

- **Presentation of the Observatory on ECHR jurisprudence on the occasion of the meeting “Climate change and environmental migrants”| 13 October 2021, Messina**

The Department of Political and Legal Sciences at the University of Messina hosted a meeting

on 'Climate Change and Environmental Migrants'. The latter included the official presentation of the ECHR Observatory launched by the UFTDU on the idea of lawyer Prof. Anton Giulio LANA, President of the Forensic Union for the Protection of Human Rights, and funded by the Third Pillar International Foundation. The meeting, chaired by Prof. Lina PANELLA, professor of international law at the same department, was attended by Prof. LANA with a speech devoted to the Observatory on ECHR case law of the Forensic Union for the Protection of Human Rights. The meeting was also attended by: Giovanni VILLARI, Coordinator of the Messina section of the Forensic Union for the Protection of Human Rights, Concetta PARRINELLO, Coordinator of the Department's Doctorate in Legal Sciences, Stefano AGOSTA, Professor of Constitutional Law, Caterina MANGANO, President of the Immigration section of the Civil Court of Messina and Antonio RUGGERI, Emeritus of Constitutional Law.

- **Presentation of the Observatory on CEDU jurisprudence in the occasion of the meeting “*Fight against racism, xenophobia and discrimination*”| 28 March 2022, Sassari**

The Aula Magna of the University of Sassari hosted a meeting on the theme "Fight against racism, xenophobia and discrimination". The latter included the official presentation of the ECHR Observatory launched by the UFDU on the idea of Adv. Prof. Anton Giulio LANA, President of the Forensic Union for the Protection of Human Rights, and financed by the Third Pillar International Foundation. The meeting was moderated by Avv. Antonietta CONFALONIERI, Referent of the Sardinian section of the UFDU, saw the participation of President LANA with a speech devoted to the ECHR Jurisprudence Observatory of the Forensic Union for the Protection of Human Rights. The meeting was also attended by, among others: Mr Ivano IAI, President of the Luigi Canepa' Conservatory of Music, Lawyer Sabina USELI, President of the Sassari Section of the Movimento Forense and Paola PIRAS, Professor of Administrative Law at the University of Sassari.

- **Presentation of the Observatory on CEDU jurisprudence at occasion of the meeting “*Detention without condemnation: the situation of irregular nationals*”| 30 March 2022, Palermo**

This meeting marked the official presentation of the ECHR Observatory launched by the UFDU on the idea of Lawyer Prof. Anton Giulio LANA, President of the Forensic Union for the Protection of Human Rights, and financed by the Third Pillar International Foundation. The conference was attended by President LANA with a speech on the ECHR Jurisprudence Observatory of the Forensic Union for the Protection of Human Rights.

- **Training meeting “Unaccompanied foreign minors”| 4 March 2022, Torre Annunziata**

On 4 March 2022, a meeting entitled “Unaccompanied Foreign Minors” was held within the framework of the Immigration Law Course organised by the Human Rights Commission of the Torre Annunziata Bar Association Council. The meeting, moderated by Adv. Maria FORMISANO, was attended by Avv. Tiziana ARCORACI, guardian of unaccompanied minors of the Bar of Messina, Dr Carmela GRIMALDI, social worker, and Avv. Prof. Anton Giulio LANA, President of the Forensic Union for the Protection of Human Rights. The meeting also hosted the testimony of Roberta Annarita CUOMO, Association for Social Promotion UBUNTU.

- **Conference “The challenge of the future between protection of cultural and environmental heritage and the fight against climate change”| Cortona - 23 May 2022**

Thanks to the initiative of the municipality of Cortona, the conference on future prospects in the context of the fight against climate change. Lawyer Prof. Anton Giulio Lana attended the meeting at the Signorelli theatre in Cortona, illustrating the critical issues and future aphids in the protection of cultural heritage.

- **Conference “Europe at the test of the the flow of Ukrainian displaced people”, reactions and future prospects| Rome - 7 July 2022**

Prof. Lana moderated the conference, which was attended by Cristopher Hein, Laurence Hart, Director of the Mediterranean Coordination Office of the International Organisation for Migration. The round table was also attended by lawyer Sangiorgi, as a member of the UFTDU.

The Law Journal “*I diritti dell’uomo. Cronache e battaglie*”.

UFTDU conceived Italy’s oldest law journal on human rights, called “*I diritti dell’uomo. Cronache e battaglie*” (i.e. “Human Rights, Chronicles and battles”), published since 1990 and edited by an important Italian editor, Editoriale Scientifica. The law journal is recognised as a scientific publication. It is an instrument that aims at contributing to spread human rights awareness and to foster the democratic dialogue on the matter. The journal is structured into different thematic sections: articles and essays are written by prestigious scholars; notes and comments speak about jurisprudence and human rights bodies; news and opinions allow the debate on emerging issues.

The quarterly release of the journal provides a continuous update on the most relevant human rights legislation and a helpful analysis of the leading jurisprudence on human rights matters, both at the national and the international level. The legal expertise of the authors ensures a technical and critical approach to the study of the subjects and it constitutes a cornerstone for lawyers, jurists, human rights defenders, civil society, and NGOs.

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