



GHS2024 Conference Workshops

Day One - Tuesday 18 2024, 1:30pm-6:00pm – Room C4.6

Sheffield Hallam University - "The Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Public Health Emergencies": a practical toolkit for public health practitioners and policy-makers

Public health emergencies pose an existential threat to the fulfillment of human rights and fundamental freedoms around the world. In 2023, the Global Health Law Consortium, an international network of academics focusing on global health law, together with the world-renowned human rights NGO known as the International Commission of Jurists launched a consensus-based set of principles and guidelines on human rights and public health emergencies (the PHE Principles).

This workshop aims to familiarise a non-legal audience, including policymakers and public health practitioners, with "The Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Public Health Emergencies." By gaining an understanding of this resource, participants are expected to:

- Acquire familiarity with the legal interpretation of international human rights, enabling the justification of policy reforms to enhance legal preparedness and frameworks in domestic public health and global health governance.
- Recognise specific requirements and rights provided by international frameworks and employ best practices to select fundamental principles that inform decision-making processes concerning public health measures in various areas. For instance, safeguarding vulnerable populations, supporting individuals deprived of liberty, and choosing proportionate or less restrictive measures.
- Conduct evidence-informed participatory and accountable processes that facilitate legally sound decision-making during public health emergencies in compliance with human rights principles.
- Determine the obligations of national, regional and multilateral authorities in both resource allocation and the creation of alternative resources to effectively address public health emergencies.
- Clarify the role of non-state actors, such as civil society and the private industry, in the fulfillment of human rights obligations during public health emergencies.

Target audience:

Leaders, researchers and representatives from government, international organizations and civil society, and public health experts, including those with and without a legal background.