



INTERNATIONAL INNER WHEEL

Report by Gerda Beck
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Vienna Human Rights Conference on 10 and 11 December 2023

The Year 2023 marks the 30th anniversary of the UN World Conference on Human Rights, which took place in Vienna.

in 1993. The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for everyone in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

To mark the end of the International Year of Human Rights, the Human Rights Office of the City of Vienna hosted the “Vienna Human Rights Conference” at the Vienna City Hall.

The framework for the event is provided by three anniversaries that were celebrated in 2023.

- 10 December marks the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10

December 1948. Austrian artist Victoria Coeln created a visual show, displaying the different colours representing human rights, a strong visible sight for everybody.

- The World Conference on Human Rights, which took place for the first time in Vienna in June 1993, celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2023.

- Ten years ago, in 2013, the process to make Vienna a “Human Rights City” was initiated.

During this international conference in Vienna common successes were reflected and there was a look at the challenges of the present and future:

- To what extent are human rights implemented at the local and international levels?

One of the most important discussions was about how human rights have been implemented in “Human Rights

Cities” at the local and the international level (examples from Austria, Germany, the Netherlands and Poland were shown) and the enormous possibilities for innovative concepts in “Human Rights Cities”.

- Which role do politics administration and civil society play in this field?

Best practices were shown in everyday political, institutional, and civil society life.

- How significant are human rights in the economic system or in climate and environmental policy?

The “complicated matters” and challenges of the importance of human rights in the economic system were discussed. Per using the example of IKEA, its Code of Conduct and the associated Supply Chain Act, corporate responsibility for the observance of human rights in global supply chains is ensured.

Discussions involved numerous local and international experts which took these milestones in human rights development as an opportunity to reflect on and discuss human rights achievements and challenges.

“The current global challenges remind us once again of the importance and significance of human rights. Human rights cities play a special role in this regard, as they make human rights a reality for their residents. Human rights are a guarantee for social cohesion and peace,” said Shams Asadi, Human Rights Commissioner.