



## Briefing Note & Calling Notice

# London Introductory Briefing for the Geneva Declaration on Human Rights at Sea<sup>® 1</sup>

Friday, 17 May 2019

Committee Room

Fishmongers' Hall, London Bridge, London, EC4R 9EL

### INTRODUCTION

The 'Geneva Declaration on Human Rights at Sea<sup>®</sup>' ("the Declaration"), which reflects existing law, is in the process of being developed along with international organisations, civil society, commercial entities and individual experts. The first draft was published on 5 April 2019<sup>2</sup>. Further development and amendments will be undertaken over the coming year in Geneva. Readers of the Declaration, observers and stakeholders requiring further information can contact via email: [enquiries@humanrightsatsea.org](mailto:enquiries@humanrightsatsea.org).

### OUTLINE

Under the collective approach of the independent Human Rights at Sea Think Tank platform, the Declaration will be transparently developed by a core drafting team of experts, observers and supporting stakeholders who will provide expertise, supporting references, independent oversight and funding.

### AIM

The aim of the Declaration is to ensure compliance with international human rights at sea, particularly in areas beyond territorial jurisdiction.

### CONCEPT

The concept of the Declaration is to deliver a plain-English soft law instrument which captures the concept of 'human rights at sea' and the founding principle that **'human rights apply at sea as they do on land'** for all persons living, working, transiting, or engaged in any other type

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<sup>1</sup> The concept of this Geneva Declaration on Human Rights at Sea has originated and been registered<sup>®</sup> through the Human Rights at Sea NGO at first instance reflecting its charitable objectives established in May 2015.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/2019/04/05/first-geneva-declaration-on-human-rights-at-sea-published/>

of activity at sea, reflecting internationally recognised fundamental human rights stemming from international conventions and instruments.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The Declaration's objectives are provisionally three-fold:

1. To continue the academic, legislative and policy debate to develop and eventually codify the concept of 'human rights at sea' at a universal level to ensure international human rights law is effective at sea.
2. To constitute a first step towards a soft-law instrument on 'human rights at sea' complimentary to the existing United Nations Law of the Sea Convention, which explicitly includes established International Human Rights Law for all persons living, working, transiting or engaged in any other type of activity at sea.
3. To be the basis for a debate on effective control mechanisms and remedies (criminal and/or civil) for addressing human rights abuses at sea; and eventual national legislative improvements in this respect.

## **AGENDA**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Friday, 17 May 2019</b>
<b>Location:</b>	The Fishmongers' Company, Committee Room, Fishmongers' Hall, London Bridge, London, EC4R 9EL
<b>Timings:</b>	<b>13h00-15h00</b>
	13h00 – 13h30: Welcome from Professor Steven Haines and Mr. David Hammond, introductions, aim and outline of the Declaration.
	13h30 – 14h00: Attendees views and engagement.
	14h00 – 15h00: Update to Version 1 <sup>3</sup> & consideration of main text and Annexes.

## **INITIATORS OF THE DECLARATION**

- David Hammond Esq. BSc (Hons), PgDL, Human Rights at Sea
- Prof. Anna Petrig, LL.M. (Harvard), University of Basel, Switzerland
- Prof. Irini Papanicolopulu, University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy
- Prof. Steven Haines, Greenwich University, United Kingdom

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/HRAS\\_GENEVA\\_DECLARATION\\_ON\\_HUMAN\\_RIGHTS\\_AT\\_SEA\\_5\\_April\\_2019\\_Version\\_1\\_LOCKED.pdf](https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/HRAS_GENEVA_DECLARATION_ON_HUMAN_RIGHTS_AT_SEA_5_April_2019_Version_1_LOCKED.pdf)



### **LEGAL RESEARCHERS**

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### **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & COPYRIGHT**

The Intellectual Property (IP) and international Copyright of concept, development and text of the Declaration primarily vests in the Human Rights at Sea charitable NGO, and the initiating authors.

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