

PRESENTATION OF CESTUDIR
(CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN HUMAN RIGHTS, CA' FOSCARI UNIVERSITY)

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Cestudir (Centre for the Studies in Human Rights) was founded in Spring 2012 within the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage, Ca' Foscari University, to replace the former CIRDU (Inter-Departmental Research Centre on Human Rights) dating back to 2004.

Cestudir follows the path of its predecessor, in particular with regard to the annual seminar organized on the international day against torture (26 June), at its 13. edition, which has gained importance at both the national and the international level: among the speakers, the President of the European Committee for the prevention of torture, under the aegis of the Council of Europe, who came twice, and the Former UN Special Rapporteur on torture Manfred Nowak.

The activity of the centre has increased over the years, and has included some international conferences: in 2005 on the relationship between economic and social rights and governors, in 2008 on freedom of religion, in 2014 on genocide. Members of the Cestudir have participated, along with other actors – in particular Fondazione Venezia per la ricerca sulla pace, Europe Direct of the Venetian municipality, Fondazione Benetton Studi e Ricerche – to the organization of conferences and workshops on the issues of migration and refugees rights, of development in Europe, on cultural identities of the minorities.

Cestudir has recently presented to the UN Committee on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, a comment to the *Draft update of General Recommendation No. 19 (1992) on gender based violence against women*. The call for comments was launched by the committee. Our contribution has been published in the official website <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/DraftUpdateGR19.aspx>.

Innovative aspect of the centre can be found in its subtitle: “for the rights of the living, of the individuals, of the communities, of peoples”, which explains the growing attention of the centre on women’s rights and gender issues, but also on torture against animals.

As written in Article 2, para. 2, of its statute, in the last years “the Centre has, among its purposes, the connection between Academia and the Venetian civil society, promoting cultural actions aimed at strengthening rights of persons and communities, at the development of the rights of the citizens and intercultural relations, at the preservation, enhancement and promotion of the territory, including the *safeguard of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage* of Venice and its hinterland”.

Cestudir has published several books in the last years, and some are forthcoming. Books have originated for example from the Conference in February 2014 on genocide, the seminar in November 2014 on Home-Made Violence, the conference in November 2015 on cultural heritage. The Centre has organized (and will organize in the future) public presentations of these books.

The list of the Centre’s activities and publications (and of its predecessor CIRDU) is available on the website unive.it/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=132995. (Books published by Edizioni Ca' Foscari are available on free download).