

- 1 Feature Story
- 2 Human Rights Initiatives
- 4 Institutional Affairs
- 5 Global Engagement

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The Control Yuan

Newsletter

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2024 世界人權日專題講座

歷史的回聲： 極權體制下的歷史真相與人權運動

The Struggle for Historical Truth and Human Rights in Authoritarian Regimes

NHRC Chairperson Chen gives an opening remark (10 Dec. 2024)

“
Human rights are not just a one-day commemoration but a fundamental responsibility for Taiwan as a member of the global community
”

Human Rights Day Lecture

With Historical Memory as the Key, Taiwan Stands Against Authoritarianism

On December 10, 2024, the Control Yuan (CY) National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the French Office in Taipei co-hosted a special lecture for Human Rights Day 2024, “The Struggle for Historical Truth and Human Rights in Authoritarian Regimes.” The event featured Dr. Nicolas Werth, Chairperson of International Memorial, and Ms. Alexandra Polivanova, a representative of the organization, who shared their experiences in advancing human rights under authoritarian rule.

International Memorial is a Russian human rights nonprofit organization founded in 1987, dedicated to documenting and exposing the history of political oppression in the USSR and modern Russia. In recognition of its efforts, it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2022.

CY President and NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu emphasized that human rights are not just a one-day commemoration but a fundamental responsibility for Taiwan as a member of the global community. She also praised International Memorial’s efforts in verifying lists of political prisoners and preserving historical archives, serving as a valuable reference for Taiwan in advancing transitional justice and history education. 🇹🇼



Chairperson Chen (middle), Dr. Werth (6th right), Ms. Polivanova (5th right), NHRC commissioners and attendees pose for a group photo (10 Dec. 2024)



Award winners pose for a group photo (08 Dec. 2024)

Human Rights Poster Design

Human Rights Initiatives

Conveying Human Rights Through Design: “Color Our Rights” Promotes Equality and Non-Discrimination

NHRC hosted the awards ceremony for the “Color Our Rights: 2024 Human Rights Poster Design Competition” on December 8, 2024 at the Red House in Ximen, Taipei. This year focused on the theme of “Equality and Non-Discrimination” and, for the first time, invited international submissions through Taiwan’s overseas missions. The event received 1,365 entries from creators around the world, including participants from the UK, Finland, Portugal, and several Southeast Asian countries.

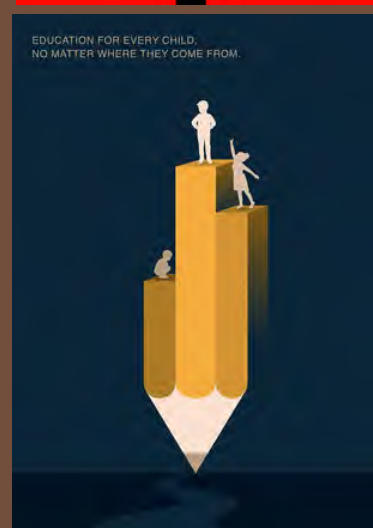
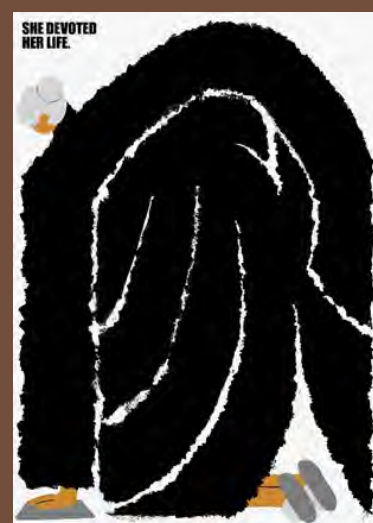
NHRC Chairperson Chen Chu emphasized that poster design serves as a creative and generational lens for interpreting human rights concepts, highlighting the power of innovation in advancing human rights awareness. She expressed hope that human rights issues will become more visible and better understood through such initiatives.

All winning entries are featured on the official website (<https://nhrc-postercompetition.net/>). 🇹🇼

Your Voice Plants the Seeds of Change

NHRC Releases Systematic Inquiry Report on Child and Youth Sexual Abuse Cases

On 8 January 2025, NHRC held a press conference to release its special report, “Your Voice Plants the Seeds of Change - Systematic Inquiry Report on Sexual Abuse in Schools and Placement Institutions.” NHRC announced the investigation results and called on society to acknowledge and prioritize the voices and feeling of children and youth, jointly building an environment of support and trust.



Selected award-winning posters ▲

你的聲音 種下改變的種子

校園及安置機構兒少性侵害
系統性訪查案專案報告發表會



NHRC unveils systematic inquiry report on child and youth sexual abuse, urging stronger protection measures (8 January 2025)

Vice Chairperson Wang Yu-Ling emphasized the urgency of child and youth protection. The report revealed that 80% of the 74 interviewed victims only disclosed their abuse years later, reflecting barriers to seeking help and inadequate support systems. She particularly thanked all interviewees for bravely sharing their experiences and underscored the need for systematic reforms to create a safe and nurturing environment for children and youth. The full systematic inquiry report is available online at <https://nhrc-yourvoice.com.tw/> 三

2024 Short Film Competition

Short for Human Rights

Capturing Taiwan's Human Rights Vibrancy in One Minute

To enhance public awareness of human rights and make effective use of online social media platforms, NHRC launched its first-ever "Short for Human Rights - 2024 Short Film Competition", encouraging students and the general public to express human rights ideas through one-minute videos.

The award ceremony, co-hosted by NHRC Vice Chairperson Wang Yu-Ling and CY Vice President Lee Hung-Chun, was held on May 25 at the Chang Yung-Fa Foundation International Convention Center. Award winners and their families were invited to attend, as 23 winning entries from both, including the student and general categories, were revealed and showcased along with the creators' concepts and video content.

Notably, several outstanding entries were submitted by high school students, indicating that human rights thinking has taken root among the younger generation. The Gold Award in the student category went to Hao Yi-Fen for "What Happened?", an abstract and artistically rendered portrayal of the emotional challenges faced by individuals with dementia and

VP Lee with Gold Award winner Hao Yi-fen from the Student Category (25 May 2025)



their caregivers. The work received unanimous praise acclaim from the judging panel.

Furthermore, People's Choice Awards were selected through online voting. The award went to a film illustrating the daily school life of autistic students in the student category. In the general category, the winner explored the revival of indigenous clothing traditions by contrasting generational perspectives. 三



Group photo of the award winners with their families, judges, and distinguished guests (25 May 2025)

Control Yuan Reviews 2024 Achievements and Sets Vision for the Future

The Control Yuan held its “2024 Performance Review Meeting” on January 13, 2025. Chairing the meeting, Vice President Lee Hung-Chun expressed sincere appreciation to all staff for their dedication over the past year. He encouraged everyone to build on this foundation by continuing to advance human rights protection and ensuring the CY’s services respond more effectively to the needs of the people in the coming year. 🇹🇼



VP Lee chairs the Performance Review Meeting (13 Jan. 2025)

Transitional Justice

VP Lee Acknowledges Overseas 228 Survivors Group’s Advocacy for Human Rights and Taiwan’s Democracy



VP Lee (right) presents a gift to Mr. Wang



CY members recognize the Group for their longstanding support of Taiwan’s democracy (24 Feb. 2025)

The Overseas 228 Survivors Homecoming Group, led by group leader Mr. Wang Ke-Hsiung, visited the CY on February 24, 2025. They were warmly welcomed by Vice President Lee Hung-Chun, representing President Chen Chu, along with many CY members. VP Lee expressed gratitude for the delegate’s enduring connection to Taiwan and their ongoing advocacy for education and remembrance of the 228 Incident. He also acknowledged their dedication to transitional justice and human rights issues, as well as their contributions to advancing Taiwan’s transitional justice efforts.

The meeting was attended by VP Lee and CY members Liu Tien Chiu-Chin, Fan Sun-Lu, Lin Wen-Cheng, Lin Yu-Jung, Hsiao Tzu-Yu, and former Secretary-General Lee Chun-Yi. Also joining the discussion was NHRC consultant Chen Chun-Hung, a professor of political science at Soochow University and former director of the National Human Rights Museum, who was specially invited to participate in the dialogue. 🇹🇼



NHRC and international partners collaborate on digital human rights at RightsCon 2025 (24 Feb. 2025)



Global Engagement

RightsCon 2025

NHRC and Global Partners Host Side Event on Digital Rights



NHRC Vice Chairperson Wang delivers opening remarks



Philippine CHR Commissioner Dumarpa (2nd right) shares insights on digital threats faced by human rights defenders

For the first time, RightsCon, the global digital human rights conference, was held in Taiwan. On February 24, 2025, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the Philippine Commission on Human Rights (CHR) co-hosted the “2025 Digital Human Rights International Workshop” to explore digital rights and policy strategies.

NHRC Vice Chairperson Wang Yu-Ling highlighted concerns about AI’s impact on marginalized communities, including algorithmic discrimination, privacy risks, and labor conditions. NHRC Commissioner Lin Wen-Cheng stressed the need to mitigate discrimination risks, enhance transparency, and conduct human rights impact assessments in Taiwan’s draft “Basic Act on AI.”

The workshop gathered representatives from foreign institutions and NGOs in Taiwan. Philippine CHR Commissioner Beda Angeles Epres called for joint strategies among national human rights institutions, while Commissioner Faydah Maniri Dumarpa emphasized digital rights as an essential extension of human rights and urged stronger protection policies for human rights defenders. 🇵🇭



Dr. Sue Keay (middle) and Rep. Robert Fergusson (4th left) visit NHRC (5 March 2025)

AI for Equality

NHRC and Australian AI Expert Dr. Keay Exchange Insights on Gender and Technology



while AI development may exacerbate digital divides, it offers new opportunities for preserving Indigenous languages

On March 5, 2025, Dr. Sue Keay, Director of the AI Institute at the University of New South Wales, and Robert Fergusson, Representative of the Australian Office, visited the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). They held in-depth discussions with NHRC Vice Chairperson Wang Yu-ling and other commissioners on topics including gender equality, women's empowerment, Taiwan's progress on the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Fundamental Act, and the role of AI in preserving Indigenous languages.

Vice Chairperson Wang emphasized the shared commitment of Taiwan and Australia to universal human rights values. She reaffirmed the NHRC's dedication to monitoring the implementation of international human rights standards in Taiwan and expressed hope for closer cooperation with Australia in promoting global human rights advancement.

Dr. Keay highlighted the persistent gender gap in science and technology, stressing the importance of education in sparking interest and boosting participation

among women. She also noted that while AI development may exacerbate digital divides, it offers new opportunities for preserving Indigenous languages. Drawing from Australia's own experiences with language loss, she pointed to Taiwan's TAIDE (Trustworthy AI Dialogue Engine) initiative as a promising model for using AI in cultural and linguistic preservation. 🇺🇸



Vice Chairperson Wang (right) presents a souvenir to Dr. Keay

NHRC Welcomes Luxembourg Parliamentarians, Deepen Taiwan–Luxembourg Human Rights Exchange

A delegation of four Members of the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies, led by MP Stéphanie Weydert and including MP Ben Polidori, Liz Braz, and Ricardo Marques, visited NHRC on April 8, 2025. NHRC Vice Chairperson Wang Yu-Ling welcomed the delegation, accompanied by Commissioners Lin Wen-Cheng and Yeh Yi-Jin. Both sides engaged in discussions on a range of topics, including the development of human rights in their respective countries, the rights of migrant workers, juvenile delinquency, and the abolition of the death penalty.

MP Braz noted that human trafficking and juvenile delinquency remain significant human rights challenges in Luxembourg. The delegation also expressed interest in Taiwan's progress toward abolishing the death penalty and the livelihood of migrant workers. NHRC reaffirmed its long-standing position in support of abolishing the death penalty. While recognizing the lack of social consensus on the issue, NHRC emphasized its commitments to fostering public dialogue.

Regarding issues such as the mistreatment of domestic migrant workers, exploitative conditions faced by foreign fishermen, and undocumented migrant workers pregnant who are or raising children, NHRC will continue to monitor these issues and has



NHRC Vice Chairperson Wang (left) presents a gift to MP Stéphanie Weydert



Luxembourg parliamentarians engage with NHRC on Human Rights during their visit

urged the government to uphold migrant workers' rights in accordance with international human rights standards.

Vice Chairperson Wang emphasized that Luxembourg and Taiwan both share the universal values of freedom and democracy. According to “Freedom in the World 2025”, published by Freedom House, both countries ranked among the highest, with Luxembourg scoring 97 and Taiwan 94. Wang underlines that “Human rights are a never-ending pursuit”. There is no perfect score, but we look forward to working alongside like-minded international partners to advance human rights worldwide. 🇵🇸



Group photo of NHRC representatives and the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies delegation (8 April 2025)

IAC Convener Lin represents CY at the virtual meeting with IOI Standing By-Laws Committee (23 April 2025)



Control Yuan Attends First Virtual Meeting of the IOI Standing By-Laws Committee



Committee members engage actively during the meeting

On April 23, 2025, Member Lin Wen-Cheng, convener of the CY's International Affairs Committee (IAC), represented the CY at the first virtual meeting of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) Standing By-laws Committee ("the Committee"). Since joining the IOI in 1994, the CY has actively participated in IOI activities to fulfill its membership obligations. In January 2025, when the IOI Secretariat invited expressions of interest for Committee membership, the CY volunteered to serve as a member on the Committee.

The term for the current Committee members runs from 2024 to 2028. In addition to the CY, represented by President Chen Chu, the Committee members include: Ms. Nashieli Ramírez Hernández, IOI President and President of the Human Rights Commission of Mexico City; Mr. Chul-Whan Ryu,

Chairman of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission of South Korea; Mr. Reinier Van Zutphen, National Ombudsman of the Netherlands; Mr. Joseph Zammit Mckeon, Parliamentary Ombudsman of Malta. The Committee is chaired by Mr. Chan Jick-chi Jack, Ombudsman of Hong Kong, while the IOI General Secretariat serves as an observer and provides executive assistance.

At this inaugural virtual meeting, Committee members engaged in meaningful exchanges and in-depth discussions. English was adopted as the Committee's working language, and its terms of reference were formally confirmed. The IOI General Secretariat also provided a brief update on proposed by-law amendments. The second

meeting was held on May 12, 2025 in Rabat, Morocco, in a hybrid format. The CY remains committed to contributing actively to the Committee and advancing the IOI mission. 🇹🇼



CY has actively participated in IOI activities to fulfill its membership obligations.