After most countries reached an agreement – at least formally – on the need to respect fundamental rights and to punish any related violations, globalization and a series of its effects (obviously not all of them are inevitable and necessary) deeply changed the human rights agenda.

This report will analyse the problems determined by the new international framework, particularly those connected to the (numerical) growth of multi-ethnic societies; especially in specific areas, this phenomenon has historically been followed by an increase in armed conflicts, terrorism, and mass migration.

After a short summary of the important steps that led to the «revolution» of human rights after the Second World War, embodied by the 1948 Universal declaration of human rights, this report will try to briefly sum up the different steps of a new history and culture of human rights that started in 1975 (with the Helsinki Accords). When it seemed that a culture of human rights was generally accepted and shared (between the 90’s and the beginning of the new century), new challenges and problems arose.

A first series of problems is due to the onset of a possible «conflict between rights» in contemporary societies where these rights are recognized, because it is sometimes difficult to grant rights that are apparently contradictory and contrasting: e.g. the right to work and the right to health, the right to freedom and to safety, the right to interference and the commitment to peace, or the freedom of expression and the incitement to hatred. All these aspects are analysed through real cases, and we investigate how they tried to find a solution to these problems.

Today, a series of rights that seemed to be acquired is challenged; maybe not theoretically (even though sometimes this is the case), but definitely through government and administration practices. Some of these issues will be analysed in order to understand the answers that were found, and the problems that still exist (religious freedom, ban on torture, the right to move, to dress the way you like, and to wear religious symbols, the rights of minorities, etc.).

Finally, we will analyse the development of strategies based on dialogue, integration and education in order to spread the concept of (global) citizenship in multi-ethnic societies.