

**THEMES FOR 2017 AND 2018**  
**Student Seminar for Global Citizenship and Peace**  
**Mater's Summer School for Global Citizenship and Peace**

**2017**

**Free and Equal: The United Nation's turn to Human Rights Protection Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)**

The United Nations is the center of the global human rights regime, yet until recently it neglected the physical abuse and political disenfranchisement suffered by people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). In the last decade, however, this situation has changed remarkably. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has powerfully urged all states to address the human rights abuse of LGBT persons. He has declared the struggle for the protection of LGBT rights 'one of the great, neglected challenges of our time'. The UN has launched a major global education campaign on LGBT rights, called "Free and Equal." Similarly, in a controversial landmark speech at the UN, Hilary Clinton, as US Secretary of State, enjoined the world to recognize that "gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights". And in 2016, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on "Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation, and gender identity," thereby mandating the appointment of a United Nations Special Expert on SOGI.

In 2017 the INU program on Global Citizenship and Peace will examine the history and development of this controversial change in policy focus at the international level, and will explore its implications and political dynamics within global politics.

**2018**

**Food and Water Insecurity**

In 1947 the UN affirmed the right of all to adequate food, and in 2010 access to clean drinking water and sanitation were declared rights. With the world population growing to nine billion in 2050, pressures on the availability of food and water are on the rise – food demand by 2050 is expected to increase 70% on the present. Added to the pressures of population growth are the consequences of global conflict, widespread poverty, and crucially, the impact of global climate change.

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals address both Food Security and Water and Sanitation, placing them in the context of sustainable development. In 2018 the INU program on Global Citizenship and Peace will examine how states and the institutions of the international system are responding to these challenges, and the implications that they have for global politics when considered more broadly.