In memory of Professor Brigit Toebes (1969-2026)

Jernej Letnar Černič



Photo credit: University of Groningen (2026)

Academia can sometimes be a hostile, unwelcoming, and unforgiving place. In such an environment, one appreciates those who challenge that conduct and instead offer kindness, openness, and a willingness to break down barriers and find new solutions and approaches. Brigit Toebes was an example of that. I met Brigit during my doctoral studies

at the University of Aberdeen, when she served as my second supervisor. Brigit was an excellent scholar of international human rights law and has published particularly on the right to health. Trained at Utrecht, she later moved to Aberdeen before returning to Groningen, the Netherlands. Her doctoral thesis, "The Right to Health as a Human Right in International Law," was one of the first comprehensive examinations of the right to health in international human rights law (Toebes, 1999). Beyond the right to health, she also bridged much regional research on economic and social rights, consistently working to advance state and corporate obligations in this area. Brigit served on the International Advisory Board of this journal.

Academia sometimes forgets that it exists for and because of people. It should never be considered as the end in itself. Brigit always tried in her relationships to humanize academia through relationships with fellow professors, researchers, staff and students. During my years at Aberdeen, she was always a mentor and advisor, both academically and beyond, and was always available for questions and advice. We had many stimulating debates, and thereby she helped me grow and progress. In international human rights, she advised me on a robust methodological and normative framework to structure my research. She also offered practical advice on navigating and moving forward in a foreign country. After some years in Scotland, she then moved to Groningen, where she continued her work on the right to health and beyond. We stayed in touch beyond my studies, even after she moved to the Netherlands. We later co-authored a piece on corporate human rights obligations under economic, social and cultural rights (Toebes, Letnar Černič, 2012). She also visited and presented at a conference I co-organised in Bled in 2013.

Brigit was an example of integrity, kindness, mutual respect and tolerance. I try to carry forward the message Brigit gave me in my relationships with my own students and col-

leagues. I try to give them the same advice and encouragement, doing my best to keep Brigit's spirit alive. She will be deeply missed. My deepest condolences to her family.

LITERATURE AND SOURCES:

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DIGNITAS
REVIJA ZA ČLOVEKOVE PRAVICE / SLOVENIAN JOURNAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS

EDITORIAL POLICY

1 ABOUT

Scientific Journal Dignitas – Slovenian Journal of Human Rights aims to publish original scientific articles and short case notes on constitutional and international human rights law. It occasionally also publishes concise translations of critical judgments of the European Court of Human Rights of the Council of Europe, especially those regarding the claims of Slovene complainants, legal commentaries on decisions of the European Court of Justice, key documents, studies, opinions, and conclusions of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), general information about important events in the area of human rights protection in Slovenia and internationally.

The Journal aims to publish two yearly issues. Scientific magazine Dignitas is a part of the international IBZ base.

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Dignitas – Slovenian Journal of Human Rights is published three times per year (in July, October and December).

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New University is a member of the CrossCheck plagiarism detection initiative. In cases of suspected plagiarism CrossCheck report is available to editors of Dignitas – Slovenian Journal of Human Rights to detect instances of overlapping and similar text in submitted manuscripts. CrossCheck is a multi-publisher initiative allowing the screening of published and submitted content for originality.

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