Confronting hostile governments is nothing new for international human rights courts, treaty bodies, and other monitoring mechanisms. Yet the recent turn to populism poses a new type of threat that international human rights law (IHRL) institutions are ill equipped to meet.

Professor Helfer will identify the facilitating conditions that have, until recently, supported the international human rights system. He will also assess the distinctive challenges that populism poses to IHRL institutions, and review a range of legal and political tools that might be deployed to address those challenges and explore their potential efficacy and risks.

Professor Helfer argues that IHRL institutions should adopt four survival strategies for an age of populism—playing a long game, circumspection in interpretation, publicity and outreach, and creating windows of opportunity for supporters to mobilise.

This talk is based on a book chapter in *Human Rights in a Time of Populism: Challenges and Responses* (edited by Gerald L Neuman, 2019).