



WHERE WE ARE

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has its headquarters in the historic Palais Wilson building in Geneva, Switzerland. The five-storey and 225-room building by Lake Lemman was originally constructed in 1873-75 as Hôtel National. When Switzerland joined the then newly-created League of Nations in 1920, the premises became the world body's headquarters. In 1924, the building was renamed Palais Wilson after the US President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Woodrow Wilson, who played an important role in the establishment of the League of Nations during the 1919 Paris Peace Conference after World War I.

In 1937, the League of Nations moved to the purpose-built Palais des Nations on a far larger piece of land overlooking lakeside Geneva. In the following decades, Palais Wilson became the office of various government departments and, later returned to being a hotel. By the late 1980s, the building had fallen into serious disrepair. Fires in 1985 and 1987 severely damaged parts of the building. The Swiss authorities and the private Société des Hôtels Wilson restored and renovated the building extensively from 1993 to 1998. After the renovations were completed, Palais Wilson was made available to become OHCHR's Headquarters. Additional facilities at Avenue Giuseppe Motta, close to Palais des Nations, the United Nations European Headquarters in Geneva, also house part of OHCHR.



Swiss postage stamp featuring the Palais Wilson

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Replicas of 19th century stained glasses are special features of Palais Wilson



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The "Circle of Hope" by Carl Bucher was donated by the Swiss Mission