

A conference presented by IBA Law Students and the European Law Students' Association (ELSA)



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The European Law Students' Association

IBA – ELSA Law Students' Conference 2017

International Human Rights Law

4–5 November 2017, Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London, London, England

The IBA-ELSA Law Students' Conference brings together students from all levels of their legal training to engage in sessions covering substantive legal theory as well as informative vocational panels. Attending the conference provides invaluable opportunities to build connections with your fellow peers.

Topics include:

- The history and overview of International Human Rights bodies
- The Council of Europe and European Court of Human Rights
- Death penalty and international human rights law
- International human rights bodies
- Environmental law and human rights
- Women and international human rights
- International human rights law and terrorism



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Programme

Conference Co-Chairs

Nigel Micallef *Vice President for Seminars & Conferences, ELSA International, Brussels*

Vaneeta Sharma *Co-Vice Chair, IBA Law Students' Committee, London*

Saturday 4 November

0830 – 0900 **Registration**

0900 – 0910 **Welcome by IBA Law Students' Committee and the European Law Students' Association (ELSA)**

0910 – 0930 **Keynote speech**

0930 – 1100 **Session one**

The history and overview of international human rights bodies

Today international human rights law affects many areas and aspects of work both directly and indirectly. This session will focus on the emergence of recognised international human rights standards and the reasoning for their creation. Through a broad overview of the emergence of international human rights law and practices, delegates will be introduced to themes that will continue over the next two days, as well as the international bodies responsible for ensuring human rights are adhered to globally.

1100 – 1130 **Coffee/tea break**

1130 – 1300 **Session two**

The Council of Europe and European Court of Human Rights

The Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights are important warrantors of human rights. Even so, they face many challenges in their struggle to ensure a dignified life for every European citizen. This session aims to provide an insight into the work of these institutions and understand how they ensure the protection of human rights in Europe.

1300 – 1400 **Lunch**

1400 – 1600 **Session three**

Death penalty and international human rights law

It has been argued that the death penalty violates two essential human rights: the right to life and the right to live free from torture. Both rights are protected under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the UN in 1948. This session will concentrate on the death penalty debate answering questions of the death penalty and ethics, morality, war and public/state protection. Through case law and studies, the panel will examine the debate from both pro and anti-death penalty perspectives.

1600 – 1630 **Coffee/tea break**

1630 – 1800 **Session four**

Careers session

A career in international human rights law is wide-reaching and links an array of disciplines. Careers can range from, but are not limited to, working as a lawyer with the UN, the Council of Europe, a national government, as well as for Non-Governmental Organisations and development organisations globally. This session focuses on exploring different possible career paths whilst providing advice and guidance on how to be a success in the international human rights law arena.

1800 – 1900 **Drinks reception**

Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London

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0930 – 1000 **Registration**

1000 – 1130 **Session five**

International human rights bodies

This session will examine the international human rights bodies in further detail. Bodies such as the UN, ECHR and the ICC have developed and evolved over decades. Analysis into the creation and purpose of these bodies will be explained in detail with an assessment of what they have achieved for international human rights law. A need to assess the effectiveness of these bodies is required and in this panel session the progress that has been made will be questioned and looked at.

1130 – 1200 **Coffee/tea break**

1200 – 1330 **Session six**

Environmental law and human rights

In this session, we will take a look at the relationship between human rights and environmental law. These two issues are closely connected because human rights can only be guaranteed within a habitable environment. Hence, we must work to understand how environmental protection can be included in human rights related projects.

1330 – 1430 **Lunch**

1430 – 1600 **Session seven**

Women and international human rights

The international human rights framework has promoted and implemented human rights standards and norms to eradicate discrimination against women and to guarantee women's fundamental rights.

This session will focus on the mechanisms aimed at eliminating discrimination namely the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the UN Committee that is responsible for the conventions interpretation and implementation.

The session will look at instances where discrimination and human rights violations against women continue. The panel will aim to analyse and assess the impact to date that such convention and legislation has had on women's rights worldwide and examine the fundamental question and consider what challenges and obstacles the international human rights framework now faces in securing women's rights at the international and domestic level.

1600 – 1630 **Coffee/tea break**

1630 – 1830 **Session eight**

International human rights law and terrorism

This session will draw on past cases and focus on the measures and practices used in situations involving the war on terror and terrorism. The panel will discuss the effects of the practices used, the legality of such practices and how the human rights of a terrorist and the wider public are often sacrificed in the alleged pursuit of justice.