



LAW ON THE BOSPHORUS INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL 2014

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CRISIS

FIRST CALL

Istanbul University Faculty of Law – Leiden University, Leiden Law School Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

With the support of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Istanbul University Faculty of Law and Leiden University, Leiden Law School are proud to announce the First Call for the second edition of their joint International Summer School, to be held in Istanbul, between the **11-20 of August of 2014**. Following last years' theme of 'Current Trends in Human Rights Law', the second 'Law on the Bosphorus' summer school remains 'Human Rights-centric,' seeking to explore in-depth the nature, capabilities and credibility of Human Rights Law in the world today. Purposely seeking the ambiguity which lays therein, the theme of 'Human Rights in Crisis' will be oriented on Human Rights Law as it operates - or should ideally operate – when it is put most radically to the test. The ambiguity lies in the dual focus of the Summer School: what can we learn about Human Rights Law from the manner in which its functions in relation to different types of crises and, given the state of affairs in varied crisis situations in the world today, what currency does Human Rights law have as a diffuser of high-impact problems?

With this dual focus, on the one hand, the context of crisis creates a platform for an in-depth examination of the current state and operation of global transnational Human Rights Law, the various sources, actors and fora thereof. As such, the structure, functions and merits of Human Rights Law will be evaluated, as it is tested in the most difficult of circumstances in which it may be put to work. On the other hand, insight will be developed into various crisis situations and the manner in Human Rights Law may contribute to resolutions. This will call for an approach of both principle and practicalities: the Summer School will explore theoretical frameworks and issues, as well as analyze bottlenecks in actual application. An important area of focus will be comparative methodology and the ways of utilizing it in a transnational legal environment. Ranging from economic, ecological, post-conflict crises, to the current-day challenges presented by global migration and cyber-safety, the Summer School will allow for an integrated examination of the phenomena of Human Rights Law and the manner in which it is, or is not able to achieve, the aspirations which underlie the concept. Have the hopes which were vested in the communal recognition of Human Rights Law as a permanent boundary to gross transgressions become realized? Has the nature of Human

Rights Law altered since the early inception of this legal domain? Do evolutions in the institutional ‘hardware’ through which Human Rights Law is processed, developments in thinking about great legal ideas such as that of sovereignty and the Rule of Law and the massive expansion of scope and content of Human Rights Law in the hands of authoritative Courts, require a reconfiguration of premises and expectations? What type of crisis calls for what types of response and what may Human Rights Law achieve in that respect? Does the state of the world and the grave crises with which we are confronted show that the ideal of Universal Human Rights Law is utopian and non-feasible? Should there be elevation of standards in contexts of crises, or rather dilution of obligations? Are there ‘built-in escape mechanisms’ which may be deployed under special circumstances, or would they lead to undesirable general regression of standards? Do answers lie in diversity, relativity and flexibility, or rather in strict common compliance? What is the current teleology of Human Rights Law and What lies in the future for Human Rights Law and the world it seeks to keep in peace and security?

VENUE:

The program will be held in Istanbul University Faculty of Law’s historic premises at the heart of Istanbul-Turkey. The Summer School will take full advantage of the unique opportunities offered by this unique venue, embedding the academic programme with the excitement and beauty of Istanbul. The social program will include visits to historical sites such as Topkapı–Dolmabahçe Palaces, Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque and Maiden Tower and to Çağlayan Justice Palace, the largest Court in Europe.

TUTORS:

The lectures and workshops of the Summer School will be given by lecturers from Leiden Law School, of Leiden University and Istanbul University Faculty of Law as well as other guest lecturers. The Summer School will be introduced by internationally renowned Human Rights experts, who will be invited to open the program with a conference.

PARTICIPANTS:

Senior Level Students, Graduate Students, Young Researchers, Professionals, Lawyers and NGO members with a more than basic understanding and interest in Human Rights.

ACCOMMODATION:

Participants are responsible for their own accommodation arrangements. If needed, the program organizers will help find a suitable accommodation in a reduced rate within the vicinity of the venue.

TRAVEL, VISA & INSURANCE:

Most of the airways, including Turkish Airlines, have direct flights to Istanbul and most nationalities either do not need a visa, or need only e-visas/sticker visas. Please consult the Turkish Consulate near you or Ministry of Foreign Affairs (www.mfa.gov.tr). Participants are recommended to arrange adequate travel and health insurance.

REGISTRATION AND FEE:

The program is free of charge, whereas admission will be dependent on number of applicants and a process of selection based on participation requirements (see below, at applications). However, a small registration fee (100 Euros for students and 200 euros for non-students) will apply after a place is offered. The fee may be waived upon completion of the program.

DEADLINE AND CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATIONS:

The deadline for application for this first call is the **15th of May 2014**. For enquires and application: Miss. Burcu Dursun at summerlaw@istanbul.edu.tr and <http://insanhaklari.istanbul.edu.tr>. Applicants will be asked to submit a Curriculum Vitae, letter of motivation describing their purpose in attending the Summer School and an academic letter of reference.

DETAILED PROGRAMME INFORMATION:

Detailed information regarding the program will be provided upon application.