



# ESIL Interest Group on Migration and Refugee Law

## Pre-conference ESIL Interest Group Event

### **“Children in the context of migration and asylum: a further layer of legal standards limiting State sovereignty?”**

**Athens (Greece), 12 September 2019**

**-- CALL FOR PAPERS --**

The European Society of International Law (ESIL) Interest Group (IG) on Migration and Refugee Law is organizing a pre-conference side event on 12 September 2019 (Wednesday) in Athens (Greece) entitled “*Children in the context of migration and asylum: a further layer of legal standards limiting State sovereignty?*”, in the framework of the 15<sup>th</sup> ESIL Annual Conference to be held 12-14 September 2019.

The IG on Migration and Refugee Law (MigRefLaw) will focus on international legal issues concerning children in the context of migration and asylum, also to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The workshop aims at exploring the international legal standards and safeguards protecting children on the move in need of protection, which represent additional limitations to State sovereignty when it comes to these children’s admission to, stay in, and expulsion from the territory of host States.

The IG MigRefLaw acting as the organising committee for this event therefore welcomes proposals for papers addressing mainly (but not limited to) the following themes:

- Interplay between international refugee law and the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Child-specific safeguards in the UN Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees: common universal concepts and protection standards on the rise?;
- Towards ending immigration-related detention of children: evolving areas of law;
- Returning unaccompanied children in an irregular situation – reconciling human rights implications with State sovereignty;
- Stateless children on the move: identification, protection and durable solutions, including naturalisation – scope of State duties;

- New developments in the application of the “best interests of the child” principle by international/regional courts and tribunals: an overarching principle with sharp teeth further limiting State sovereignty?;
- Protecting children in the context of migration with tools of private international law, in particular victims of trafficking in human beings: a sovereignty issue?

The IG MigRefLaw invites submissions of abstracts, written in English or French, of no more than **500 words**. Applications should be submitted to [migreflaw@gmail.com](mailto:migreflaw@gmail.com) by **1 June 2019**, with a short curriculum vitae containing the author’s name, institutional affiliation, and contact information (e-mail and phone number). Selected speakers will be notified by 1 July 2019 via e-mail.

Kindly note that the IG is unable to provide funding for travel and accommodation. Please see the [ESIL website](#) for information about travel grants and carers’ grants offered to ESIL members, and other relevant information about the conference.

Selected speakers are strongly encouraged to become members of the ESIL and to register for the Annual Conference; please note, however, that the Society is unable to offer reduced conference registration fees to speakers at pre-conference events (please do not register as agora speakers!).

Selected speakers can indicate their interest in being considered for the ESIL Young Scholar Prize, if they meet the eligibility conditions as stated on the ESIL website. The ESIL Secretariat must be informed of all speakers who wish to be considered for the Prize by 15 May at the very latest.

After the selection process, we are not aiming for fully-fledged papers from the selected speakers but for contributions of up to 3000-3500 words (extended abstracts). The eventual short papers (extended abstracts) should be sent to the IG conveners by **1 August 2019** in order to circulate them amongst the panellists prior to the workshop.

The IG MigRefLaw Coordinating Committee:

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