

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTEREST GROUP ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS 2019/2020

Coordinating Committee: **Dr. Mara Tignino** (University of Geneva), **Prof. Angelica Bonfanti** (University of Milan), **Prof. Belen Olmos Giupponi** (Kingston University), **Dr. Mihaela Maria Barnes** (Visiting Fellow, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, Cambridge University)

The Interest Group on Business and Human Rights (IG BHR) is pleased to submit this report to our members and stakeholders. The membership of the IG BHR remains strong with 367 members at the time of writing this Report. In January 2020, the Coordinating Committee welcomed Prof. Belen Olmos Giupponi from Kingston University who will work alongside Dr. Mara Tignino, Prof. Angelica Bonfanti and Dr. Mihaela Maria Barnes. The Coordinating Committee would like to thank Dr. Marta Bordignon and Dennis West for their leadership and efforts during their time as members of the Coordinating Committee.

1 ESIL Annual Conference Workshop – 12th September 2019, Athens

The ESIL IG BHR prepared a Call for Papers called “Sovereignty and the Extraterritorial Obligations of States under International Human Rights Law.” The Call for Papers served as the basis for selection of the speakers of the Workshop that was held in Athens on September 12th, 2019 during the ESIL Annual Conference. The Workshop was a success and we would like to thank all the participants – in particular our speakers and moderators – for their efforts: Dr. Mara Tignino, Laura García Martín, Prof. Eugene Kontorovich, Dr. Antonella Angellini, Fanny Pulver, Dr. Georgia Chatzitheodorou, Dr. Naoyuki Okano, Dr. Martin Andrew Jarrett, Dr. Ana Gascón Marcén and Shashwat Singh. Prof. Marko Milanovic delivered the Keynote Speech.

2 Interdisciplinary Research Workshop on Business and Human Rights – Jointly organised by the BHRights Initiative, IABS and the ESIL IG on Business and Human Rights – 23rd and 24th November 2019, Geneva

On the occasion of the 2019 UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, the ESIL IG BHR organised together with BHRights and International Association for Business and Society a joint “Interdisciplinary Research Workshop on Business and Human Rights” which was held on 23rd and 24th of November 2019 at the University of Geneva. The Research Workshop was well attended and we would like to thank all the participants – in particular our speakers conveners and

moderators – for their efforts: Prof. Judith Schrempf-Stirling, Dr. Samentha Goethals, Prof. Vasanthi Srinivasan, Prof. Kathleen Rehbein, Dr. Mara Tignino, Prof. Angelica Bonfanti and Dr. Mihaela Barnes.

3 Activities during 2020

The Annual Conference of the European Society of International Law was supposed to have taken place in Stockholm in September 2020, but as a result of the COVID – 19 pandemic it was postponed to September 2021. In lieu of the usual ESIL Annual Conference Workshop, the Coordinating Committee organised an Online Workshop titled “Business and Human Rights during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Impacts, Responses and Future Implications.” The Online Workshop was held via Zoom and was well-attended, with close to 100 participants. We would like to thank all the participants – in particular our speakers – for their efforts: Dr. Olena Uvarova, Prof. Pierre Thielboerger, Timeela Manandhar, Dr. Elena Pribytkova, Dr. Deborah Russo, Stephanie Triefus and Dr. Talya Şans Uçaryılmaz. The Welcome Remarks were delivered by Prof. Makane Moïse Mbengue (University of Geneva). The Keynote Speech was delivered by Prof. Michael Addo (University of Notre Dame, London).

4 Agenda for 2021/2022

The Agenda of the IG BHR for 202/2022 will focus on the following priorities:

- Organisation of the 2021 ESIL Annual Conference Workshop in Stockholm.
- Increasing the visibility of the IG at the next UN Forum on Business and Human Rights.
- The Coordinating Committee has decided to open the website of the IG BHR for participation from our members. We welcome contributions in the form of short blog pieces, book reviews, reports from conferences, research seminars and other similar items which will be posted on <https://igbusinessandhumanrights.wordpress.com/>
- Support Members’ activities in the field of Business and Human Rights.
- Increasing the visibility of the IG BHR by using social media platforms such as Twitter for the posting of news and events.

5 Members’ Queries and Participation

We welcome proposals from our Members for the organisation of conferences, seminar, research fora and other similar events concerning Business and Human Rights generally. If you have any other queries or any of the members of our IG would like to make any proposals in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Members of the Coordinating Committee by email:

- Dr. Mara Tignino: Mara.Tignino@unige.ch
- Prof. Angelica Bonfanti: angelica.bonfanti@unimi.it
- Prof. Belen Olmos Giupponi: Belen_Olmos_Giupponi@biari.brown.edu
- Dr. Mihaela Barnes: mihaela.barnes@graduateinstitute.ch