

ESIL IG on International Human Rights Law – Annual Report 2021

In 2021 the Interest Group organized a series of events, which were all conducted virtually due to the restrictions of the COVID pandemic.

1.) On February 23rd, 2021, the Interest Group in cooperation with the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) at Ruhr University Bochum hosted an online discussion about sanctions and their negative human rights implications between Pierre Thielbörger, the co-convenor of the Interest Group and Executive Director of the IFHV, and Alena Douhan, the UN Special Rapporteur on negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights.

2.) The Interest Group and the IFHV conducted a webinar on February 25th, 2021, dealing with Hannah Arendt's essay "We Refugees". The panel consisting of Itamar Mann (Faculty of Law, University of Haifa), Sabah Carrim (Writer & Genocide Scholar, University of Texas) and Farah Alfaisal (NOHA-Alumni, Ruhr-University Bochum) discussed how different disciplines can benefit from Hannah Arendt's insights for addressing the challenges forced migration poses today.

3.) On June 8th, 2021, the Interest Groups on International Human Rights Law and International Courts co-organized an online workshop on the 70th Anniversary of the European Court of Human Rights. The event was entitled "The Influence, Legacy and Future of the European Court of Human Rights in the International Legal Order" and included a series of panels. Special thanks to Veronika Fikfak who took the lead in organizing this conference.

Panel 1 – 'Strasbourg on the international plane'

Panel 2 – 'Strasbourg and the EU'

Panel 3 – 'What Strasbourg has to offer'

4.) On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the Interest Group and the IFHV co-hosted a webinar with John Ruggie on June 21st, 2021. The discussion was moderated by Pierre Thielbörger and also included Anita Ramasastry (University of Washington) and Robert McCorquodale (University of Nottingham) and dealt with the past, present and future of the Guiding Principles.

5.) In June the Interest Group and the IFHV co-hosted events dealing with the topic of COVID-19 vaccinations. The first webinar on "The COVID-19 Vaccination Gap" took place on June 23rd and included Diane Desierto (Notre Dame Law School), Ruth Okediji (Harvard Law School) and Matthew Kavanagh (Georgetown University). The second webinar on June 28th was titled "COVID-19 Vaccinations and Human Rights". The panel consisted of Sissy Katsoni (Ruhr-University Bochum), Marko Milanovic (University of Nottingham) and Iris Goldner Lang (University of Zagreb).

6.) On September 23rd the Interest Group and the IFHV in cooperation with the Graduate Institute in Geneva will conduct the Zoom-webinar "Ecocide - Fighting Climate Change with International Criminal Law?". The panel which features Philippe Sands (UCL), Kai Ambos (Göttingen), Jorge Vinuales (Cambridge/Geneva) and Paola Gaeta (Geneva) will discuss the first legal definition of the international crime of 'ecocide' and its potential contribution to protect the environment against mass damage and destruction.