



ESIL Interest Group on Migration and Refugee Law

presents:

Pre-conference ESIL Interest Group Workshop

“Asylum in Times of Conflict: Unsettling the Boundaries of Refugee Protection”

Málaga (Spain), 3 September 2026, 9:00-12:00 CET

– CALL FOR PAPERS –

The Interest Group (IG) on Migration and Refugee Law ([MigRefLaw](#)) of the European Society of International Law (ESIL) is organising a workshop on 3 September 2026 in Málaga (Spain) as a side event of this year’s [ESIL Annual Conference](#). The theme of the Conference is “International Law and Conflict”, which the IG MigRefLaw workshop will address in the context of migration and refugee law.

The IG MigRefLaw pre-conference workshop will focus on asylum in situations of armed violence and conflict. Armed conflicts continue to generate large-scale displacement across and within borders. At the same time, refugee movements are increasingly shaped by broader and sometimes less visible forms of violence, including protracted insecurity, occupation, structural violence and inequality. These realities raise important conceptual and normative questions regarding the scope, coherence, and limits of international protection regimes. The workshop welcomes critical and theoretically informed contributions examining asylum in situations of armed violence and conflict, as well as the conceptual tensions embedded in the legal frameworks governing protection.

It welcomes presentation proposals that focus on (but are not limited to) the following topics:

- The protection of conflict refugees from different regional perspectives
- The protection of Palestinian refugees under international and regional refugee law
- The relationship between collective self-determination struggles and individual protection needs

- The legal treatment of displacement caused by non-state armed groups
- Racist and colonial influences that shaped international refugee law and the definition of a refugee
- The impact of the Eurocentric influences on the protection not afforded to conflict refugees under the 1951 Refugee Convention
- Influences on the interpretation of the exclusion clauses of the 1951 Refugee Convention
- The impact of externalization practices on specific conflict refugees

The IG MigRefLaw invites submissions of abstracts, written in English, of no more than **300 words**. The candidates are invited to make clear methodologies and approaches/perspectives. Abstracts should be submitted to the IG conveners at migreflaw@gmail.com by **10 April 2026**, and should also include the author's name, institutional affiliation, contact information (e-mail), and whether the applicant is a member of ESIL (these details are excluded from the word count). Selected speakers will be notified by 24 April 2026 via e-mail. After the selection process, we are aiming for extended abstracts of 1500 words from the selected speakers. The extended abstracts should be sent to the IG conveners by 15 July 2026. After the workshop, interested participants will have the opportunity to submit their revised contributions for consideration to the Völkerrechtsblog in the context of a symposium organised in collaboration with the IG MigRefLaw.

The Interest Groups are unable to provide funding for travel and accommodation. Selected speakers will be expected to bear the costs of their own travel and accommodation. Some [ESIL Travel Grants](#) and [ESIL Carers' Grants](#) will be available to offer partial financial support to speakers who have exhausted other potential sources of funding. Please visit the [ESIL Annual Conference website](#) for all relevant information about the event.

All participants, including speakers and chairs, at ESIL Interest Group workshops are required to register for the event and more detailed information will follow in due course.

Selected speakers should indicate their interest in being considered for the [ESIL Early-Career Scholar Prize](#), if they meet the [eligibility conditions](#) as stated on the ESIL website. The [ESIL Secretariat](#) must be informed of all selected speakers who wish to be considered for the Prize before 30 April.

The IG MigRefLaw Coordination Committee

Sara ARAPILES

Sissy KATSONI

Giulia RAIMONDO

Daniela VITIELLO

The [Interest Group on Migration and Refugee Law](#) (MigRefLaw) is one of the interest groups of the [European Society of International Law](#). The IG focuses on the law and policy of states and international organisations with regard to people who seek entry to their communities. The movement of people across borders is a defining reality of our time. This IG aims to provide a forum for discussion on the legal principles and processes governing the movement of people as well as their reception in host communities. By doing so, the group hopes to build a shared knowledge base among ESIL members interested in migration and refugee law.