



International Business
and Human Rights
Interest Group



Call for Papers
ESIL Interest Group on International Business and Human Rights
21st Annual Conference of the European Society of International Law
‘International Law & Conflict: An Enduring Tension?’
Málaga, Spain | 3–5 September 2026
Interest Group Workshops: 2 & 3 September 2026

Theme:
‘Business and Human Rights at the Fault Lines of Armed Conflicts’
International Business and Human Rights Annual Workshop
3 September 2026 at 09:00-12:00 CEST
Málaga, Spain (& online)

Workshop Overview

The expansion of international law to corporate actors remains a work-in-progress and its application and functioning during periods of armed conflict similarly remains unsettled and much debated. This workshop will engage with these unsettled aspects of business and human rights law by examining questions of corporate responsibility, complicity, due diligence obligations, and accountability in relation to the protection and recognition of human rights in conflict-affected areas.

Discussions will explore the challenges of evaluating corporate actions in relation to armed conflict, including attributions of responsibility, identifying appropriate remedies, and ensuring access to appropriate courts, tribunals or other dispute settlement mechanisms. Contributors are encouraged to engage with these challenges from multiple perspectives and a wide range of methodologies.

By bringing together a diverse set of perspectives to examine these questions, the workshop aims to further the understanding and practical effect of the role of international law in managing the complex interplay of state and corporate actions to promote and protect human rights during periods of armed conflict.

Key Themes

Contributions are encouraged to address, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- ✚ Methods for or challenges in implementing and evaluating due diligence requirements in relation to conflict-affected areas, including the relevance and limits of UNGPs
- ✚ Theories of or challenges in establishing corporate responsibility for international human rights-related crimes (e.g., crimes against humanity)
- ✚ Theories for or challenges in calculating or justifying specific types of remedies for affected persons or communities in relation to the above-described crimes
- ✚ Theories for addressing challenges such as jurisdictional limitations in ensuring access to justice for victims

ESIL Selection Criteria

- Originality
- Methodology
- Relevance to the theme
- Respect for diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Priority for ESIL members

We also aim to ensure a balance between senior scholars and early career researchers.

Submission of Proposals and Timeline

All members of the ESIL Interest Group on International Business and Human Rights are invited to submit abstracts of up to **500 words**.

- **Deadline for submission:** 12 April 2026
- **Submission email:** esiligbhr@gmail.com
- **Required information:**
 - Author's name and affiliation
 - A short biography of the author (max 1pg)
 - Contact details, including email address
 - Membership status in ESIL and the IG
 - If you would like to be considered for the ESIL Early-Career Scholar Prize

Please email your **CV and abstract (max. 500 words, PDF format)**, indicating in the subject line **'ESIL IG BHR Workshop Call for Papers'**.

Selected authors will be notified by **27 April 2026**. They will be required to submit a draft paper of approximately **4,000 words** by **21 August 2026**, which will be circulated among workshop participants.

A detailed programme of the workshop, including the thematic blocks for presentations and discussions, will be circulated and published by the **mid-May 2026**.

Important Information

- The Interest Group cannot provide funding for travel and accommodation.
- ESIL travel grants and financial support options are available.
- All participants must register for the ESIL Annual Conference. There is an option to register for the Interest Group Workshops only, but participants are encouraged to attend the full event.
- Selected authors may opt to be considered for the ESIL Early-Career Scholar Prize, subject to eligibility conditions available on the ESIL website.

For inquiries, please email us at: esiligbhr@gmail.com.

Convenors: Nina M Hart, Belen Olmos Giupponi, Cristina Elena Popa Tache, Otgontuya Davaanyam.