

European Society of International Law (ESIL)

Annual Conference 2026 | Málaga, Spain

Pre-Conference workshop of the Feminism and International Law Interest Group

3-5 September 2026

‘Gender and Conflict in International Law’

The 2026 Annual Conference of the European Society of International Law will address the theme ‘International Law and Conflict: An Enduring Tension?’. The Feminism and International Law Interest Group invites contributions for its pre-conference workshop that explore the intersections between gender and conflict within the international legal order.

Conflict is a persistent feature of international law. It may take the form of armed violence, political contestation, ideological confrontation, economic coercion, institutional paralysis, or struggles over norms and values. At the same time, international law provides the language, rules, procedures, and institutions through which conflicts are defined, managed, resolved, or perpetuated. These processes are not gender-neutral.

Our IG workshop welcomes papers that examine how gender shapes, and is shaped by, conflict in international law. In preparing your proposals, we invite you to reflect on the following broad questions:

1. Gender and the understanding of conflict

How does international law define and categorise conflict? What forms of violence, coercion, or contestation become visible, and which remain marginal? How do gendered assumptions influence dominant understandings of security, sovereignty, crisis, or peace?

2. Gender and the governance or resolution of conflict

How are conflicts managed, adjudicated, negotiated, or mediated within international law? What rules regulate conflicts? What roles are assigned to different actors? How do rules, accountability mechanisms, peace processes, sanctions, reparations, or institutional responses engage with, or overlook, gendered dimensions of harm and responsibility?

3. Gendered and intersectional impacts of conflict

How are the burdens and consequences of conflict distributed across societies? In what ways do conflicts affect individuals and communities differently along lines of gender, sexuality, race, class, disability, age, or migration status? How does international law address, or fail to address, these differentiated impacts?

Contributions may engage with these intersections of gender and conflict from a range of perspectives (doctrinal, theoretical, empirical, historical, practice-oriented) and may focus on

specific areas of law, case studies, contemporary developments, institutional practices, litigation, normative frameworks, or broader patterns within the international legal order.

Submission Guidelines

We welcome abstracts for individual papers (300–500 words). Submissions should clearly outline the relevance of the topic to the workshop theme and its contribution to feminist engagements with international law. We welcome contributions from scholars and practitioners at all career stages and from diverse geographical and methodological backgrounds. Proposals from early-career scholars and practitioners are particularly encouraged.

Practical Information

- **Workshop Date:** Thursday 3 September 2026 (09:00–12:00)
- **Format and location:** The workshop is planned to take place **in person** at the Faculty of Law, **Universidad de Málaga** (room TBC), and we strongly encourage in-person participation wherever possible to foster community building and facilitate informal interactions among participants. However, we recognise that not all members may be able to travel, and in the interest of equity and accessibility, we will also accept applications from those unable to attend in person. We will strive to provide a *hybrid option* to ensure broader participation and inclusivity.
- **Submission Deadline:** 20 April 2026, midnight.
- **Submission documents:**
 1. Abstract, not exceeding 500 words.
 2. Author's name, affiliation, and email address.
 3. Author's CV, including a list of relevant publications (please note: the CV is consulted at a second stage, after review of the abstract, to ensure that the workshop programme is in line with EDI ESIL principles).
 4. Confirmation of ESIL membership or willingness to join ESIL if the paper is accepted.
 5. Please indicate in your submission whether you plan to attend the workshop **in person** or if you would like to be considered for *hybrid* participation.
 6. Selected speakers will be asked to 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.
- **Submission Email:** Please submit your proposal and related documents via e-mail at feminismesil@gmail.com

- Funding: The Interest Group is 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.
- Event registration: All participants, including speakers and chairs, at ESIL Interest Group workshops are required to register and are warmly invited to attend the whole Annual Conference. Detailed information will follow on the registration options including information on preferential fees for ESIL Members and the option to register to attend the pre-ESIL Annual Conference workshops only

Contact

For inquiries about the IG workshop, please contact us at feminismesil@gmail.com

Please visit the [ESIL Annual Conference website](#) for all relevant information about the event.

We look forward to receiving your proposals and to seeing you all in September!