

Annual Report 2026

Coordinating Committee: Dr. Otgontuya Davaanyam (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg), Prof. Belen Olmos Giupponi (Middlesex University London), Dr. Nina M. Hart (King's College London/King's College London) and Prof. Cristina Elena Popa Tache (Danubius International 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 counts 400 members at the time of writing this Report.

1. Activities during 2026

1.1 ESIL IG BHR ECR Workshop, ESIL Research Forum

In April 2026, we hosted an online workshop for ECRs in connection with the ESIL Research Forum. To complement the Research Forum's theme, 'Sustainable International Law – Reconciling Stability and Change', our workshop was dedicated to the theme of 'Sustainability, Business & Human Rights: Evolutions from Soft to Hard Law', held online on 7 April 2026 (09:00-12:00 BST). The workshop included five thought-provoking presentations that explored both the trajectory of sustainability and international law as well as the actors and mechanisms shaping this law.

1.2 ESIL IG BHR Annual Workshop, ESIL Annual Conference

We also organised the IG's annual workshop, which took place in Málaga on the 3rd of September 2026 in occasion of the 19th Annual Conference of the European Society of International Law. The workshop was delivered in hybrid format and was well attended both in person and online. In line with the theme of the ESIL Annual Conference, which this year focussed on the question 'International Law and Conflict: An Enduring Tension?', the theme of the workshop was 'Business and Human Rights at the Fault Lines of Armed Conflicts'. The workshop featured valuable presentations that explored the questions of liability for corporations during armed conflict from theoretical and empirical perspectives.

Member Engagement and Contributions (2026)

Throughout the year, the Coordinating Committee welcomed proposals from members for the organisation of conferences, seminars, research fora, and other academic events related to Business and Human Rights. Members were also encouraged to reach out with further suggestions and requests to facilitate connections to academic peers to further the development of research proposals.

We continue to encourage contributions to the IG BHR's website in the form of short blog posts, book reviews, conference reports, and summaries of research seminars on current and developing areas of international law. These can be published regularly on our platform: <https://igbusinessandhumanrights.wordpress.com>.

2. Activities planned for 2027

2.1. Planned Participation in the 2027 ESIL Annual Conference and Organisation of an IG BHR Annual Workshop

As part of the 22nd Annual Conference of the European Society of International Law (ESIL), which will take place in Lisbon, Portugal in September 2027. The workshop will bring together scholars, practitioners, and civil society actors to developments in the BHR field as connected to the ESIL conference theme. The event will form part of the official ESIL Interest Group Workshop series and will reflect the group's ongoing commitment to fostering critical, transdisciplinary, and justice-oriented approaches to the field of business and human rights.

2.2. Planned Participation in the 2027 ECR Research Forum and organisation of an IG BHR Online Workshop

The IG intends to host an online workshop in line with 2027 ESIL Research Forum's theme, 'The European Union, the Council of Europe, and other Regional Organisations in a Changing World' in April 2027. We will issue a call for paper and programme in accordance with ESIL deadlines for IG participation.

Conclusion

This year, the IG welcomed a new co-convenor, Otgontuya Davaanyam, and sustained and expanded its presence in scholarly debates through organisation of relevant events and promoting events through professional and social media networks.

In the coming year, we aim to advance rigorous, interdisciplinary scholarship and debate on business and human rights, while supporting our members' contributions and strengthening the Interest Group's impact within ESIL and the wider international legal community.

Queries or proposals could be addressed to any of the members of the Coordinating Committee:

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