

Symposium

Seeking Refuge, Finding Solidarity? Challenges and Chances for Ukrainian Protection-Seekers in Europe



June 1st, 2022

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. CET



UNIC



Seeking Refuge Finding Solidarity? Challenges and Chances for Ukrainian Protection-Seekers in Europe

Overview

In the three months since the escalation of the conflict in Ukraine, over six million Ukrainians have sought protection in neighbouring countries, but many more have been forced from their homes and displaced within their own country.

At the EU level, the Council of the EU invoked the Temporary Protection Directive which grants Ukrainians the right to stay, work, and study in any EU member state for an initial period of one year. However, as in the application of every other EU directive, EU member states have national laws and regulations that envisage the application of the temporary protection regime within their home countries. Turkey -whilst not being an EU member state- has their own national rules and regulations on temporary protection as well which parallels the obligations envisaged under the EU Directive. While the national responses and established legal systems of protection may vary, they have shown that there is a favourable attitude towards Ukrainian refugees. This is especially visible when compared with the policies, border treatment, and media images of other refugee groups. There is a clearly demonstrated difference in the willingness of many States to admit Ukrainian refugees on the one hand and other refugees on the other.

European higher education and research community has expressed its undivided support to Ukrainian universities, students and staff. We, as members of the UNIC Alliance of Universities stand in solidarity with those who have to flee from Ukraine for their safety, with those who are in Ukraine and find themselves unable to continue living their lives, and with those who for other reasons are at risk due to the invasion, including Russian students and scholars at risk due to speaking out against the invasion.

Taking into account the legal aspects of protection of Ukrainian refugees in Europe, the Law Faculties from University of Zagreb (Croatia), Ruhr University Bochum (Germany), University of Lodz (Poland), University of Deusto, Bilbao (Spain) and Koç University, Istanbul (Turkey) as members of UNIC alliance, are organising the **Symposium "Seeking Refuge, Finding Solidarity? Challenges and Chances for Ukrainian Protection-Seekers in Europe"**.

UNIC is the European University of Post-Industrial Cities, an alliance of universities committed to boosting mobility and inclusion for social impact.

The symposium will focus on three topics:

- ✓ **National Regimes for Ukrainian protection-seekers in Europe.**
- ✓ **The Role of Law Faculties and Universities in providing support to Ukrainian students and scholars.**
- ✓ **The Right to Leave and Discriminatory Admissions of Protection-Seekers**

Keynote address:

Cathryn Costello (Hertie School and the Centre for Fundamental Rights, Berlin, Germany)

&

Itamar Mann (Faculty of Law, University of Haifa, Israel)

The event will take place online,

on June 1st, 2022 from 10 AM to 3 PM (CET)

This event is free and open to the public, but registration is required.

Please register by May 31st at:
[Registration link](#)



Programme

09:45 Registration

10:00 Organizer's Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Mirela Krešić, Faculty of Law, University in Zagreb
- Kornelia Freitag, Ruhr-Universität Bochum

10:10 Keynote presentation: *Fleeing the Russian invasion of Ukraine: Flight, Refuge and Implications for the Global Refugee Regime*, Cathryn Costello

10:30 Keynote presentation: *Refugees and the Politics of Equality*, Itamar Mann

10:50 Discussion

11:00 **Panel I: First 100 days - national regimes for Ukrainian protection-seekers in Europe**

Chair: Goranka Lalić Novak

Panelists:

- Croatia – Teo Giljević
- Germany - Benedikt Behlert
- Poland - Izabela Florczak
- Spain - Gustavo de la Orden
- Turkey - Meltem Ece Oba

12:30 Break

12:45 **Panel II: The Role of Law Faculties and Universities in providing Support to Ukrainian Students and Scholars**

Chair: Spyridoula Katsoni

Panelists:

- Kornelia Freitag, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs, Ruhr-Universität Bochum
- Felipe Gómez Isa, Vice-Dean for International Relations and 2030 Agenda, Law School, University Deusto
- Mirela Krešić, Vice-Dean for students, Faculty of Law, University in Zagreb
- Melissa Abache, International Student Recruitment Director of Koç University
- Agata Dąbrowska, student, Faculty of Law in Lodz
- Eric Rücker, student, Refugee Law Clinic Bochum

13:45 **Panel III: 'Good Refugee, Bad Refugee? On the Discriminatory Practices at the Ukrainian Borders'**

Chair: Felipe Gómez Isa

Panelists:

- Clenched Teeth or Open Arms? Discrimination or Differentiation of Ukrainian Protection-Seekers in Europe - Pierre Thielbörger
- From 'Do Not Refuse' to 'Admit': The Scope of the Obligation to Admit Protection-Seekers fleeing Ukraine - Spyridoula Katsoni
- Access to the territory and the asylum system at the external borders of the EU - Goranka Lalić Novak
- Polish law on assistance for Ukrainian citizens in the light of the decision on temporary protection - Marcin Górski

14:45 Wrap Up

Keynote speakers



Cathryn Costello is a Professor of Fundamental Rights at the Hertie School and Co-Director of the Centre for Fundamental Rights. She is a leading scholar of international and European refugee and migration law and also explores the relationship between migration and labour law in her work. She is also Professor II at the University of Oslo and is on special leave from her previous post as Professor of Refugee and Migration Law at the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford. She is currently the Principal Investigator of RefMig, a five-year ERC-funded research project exploring refugee mobility, recognition and rights. She has undertaken research for UNHCR, the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. She holds a doctorate in law from the University of Oxford.



Itamar Mann is a professor of law at the University of Haifa and a human rights lawyer. His scholarship combines insights from law, history, and political theory. His book, [Humanity at Sea](#), was published by Cambridge University Press in 2016, and he has published widely in leading journals. As a lawyer, he has been working to address problems of border violence and border injustices for more than a decade. Since the summer of 2021, he is the President of Border Forensics, a Geneva-based NGO dedicated to investigating border violence worldwide. He is also a TED Fellow, and his [TED talk](#) is available here.

Panelists



Teo Giljević is an associate professor at the Department for Administrative Science at the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, Croatia. His research interests include public administration, police and governance of migration, asylum, and integration. Most recent publications: *Migration and Asylum Governance in CEE Countries: Between Historical Legacies and the Europeanisation Process* (with G. Lalić Novak; *Croatian and Comparative Public Administration*, 22,1, 2022) and *Croatian Public Administration: Good Governance Accompanied by an Authoritarian Legacy* (with G. Lalić Novak & I. Lopižić; in: *Public Administration in Conflict Affected Countries*, J. Nemeč J & P.S Reddy (ed.), Palgrave, 2021).



Benedikt Behlert is a PhD student and research associate at the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) at Ruhr-Universität Bochum (RUB). His PhD project analyses the relationship between public administrative bodies and individuals subjected to their power from a human rights law perspective. Benedikt is an associate member of the Sylff Mikrokolleg on Forced Migration at RUB.



Izabela Florczak is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Labour Law, Institute of Social Security Law and Social Policy, Faculty of Law and Administration, University of Lodz (Poland); Member of the Coordinating Committee of the Polish Scientific Network of Labour Law and Social Security Cooperante; Vice Director of the Centre of Migration Studies of the University of Lodz. Scientific interests: basis of employment; migration labour law; atypical employment; new forms of employment.



Gustavo de la Orden Bosch is a predoctoral research assistant at the Institute of Human Rights Pedro Arrupe at the University of Deusto (Bilbao, Spain). His research interests include migration, asylum, human rights, International Law and Criminology. His PhD thesis analyses the securitization and criminalisation of migration at the external borders of the European Union and its impact on the rights of asylum seekers and refugees.



Meltem Ece Oba is a research assistant at the Department of Private International Law of Koç University, Law School, Istanbul. Ece holds a master's degree (MJur) from the University of Oxford (Harris Manchester College) and LLM from Koç University where she wrote a thesis on the temporary protection regime under Turkish law with a focus on Syrian refugees in Turkey. Her research interests include private international law and law of foreigners and international protection. She is currently enrolled at the PhD program of Koç University Faculty of Law, working on her dissertation.



Kornelia Freitag is Chair of American Studies and Vice-Rector for Academic and International Affairs at Ruhr University Bochum. Her research interests are US literary history and poetry as well as literary and cultural theory. She has published on topics ranging from the poetry of Stephen Crane to experimental women writers to Asian American poetry. In terms of urban studies, her main interests are the representation of the city in US media and the ways in which US city scripts influence German ideas of the city and its scripting.



Felipe Gómez Isa is Professor of Public International Law, researcher at the Pedro Arrupe Institute of Human Rights of the University of Deusto (Bilbao, The Basque Country, Spain), and Vice-Dean for International Relations of Deusto Law School. He is National Director of the European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratization organized by 40 European Universities in the framework of the Global Campus of Human Rights (Venice, Italy) since 2000. He was the Spanish representative to the Working Group for the elaboration of an Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (UN, 1998 and 1999). He has been Visiting Professor in several European and Latin American Universities. He has published extensively on issues related to the universal protection of human rights, particularly children and women's rights; transitional justice or indigenous

peoples' rights. In December 2019 he was elected as Vice-President of the Global Campus of Human Rights, a leading global academic organization dealing with human rights issues.



Mirela Krešić is a Professor of Law and the Vice-Dean for Teaching, Mobility, Students and Study programmes at the Faculty of Law University of Zagreb where she teaches "Croatian Legal History" and "Women's Legal History". Her research interests focus on the Croatian legal history especially in the field of private law (e.g. inheritance law, commercial law) and women's legal history. She is a member of a University of Zagreb Core Team for the implementation of UNIC and responsible for managing Inter-University mobility.



Melissa Abache is the director of international student recruitment at Koç University and manages undergraduate, graduate and summer program international marketing and recruitment activities. She has 8 years of experience in Turkish higher education that include developing and managing joint scholarship and sponsored student programs with national and international government and non-profit organizations that have included refugee and displaced student groups. She is originally from Venezuela, where she graduated as an Urban Planner from Universidad Simon Bolivar, and was later a Chevening Scholar at the London School of Economics in the UK (MSc in Development and Environment Studies). Before working in international education, Melissa held different roles in sustainability and community engagement consulting in Spain and the UK in the public and private sectors.



Agata Dąbrowska is student of law; Faculty of Law and Administration; University of Łódź; coordinator of the student volunteer team for legal assistance to people from Ukraine; Member of Academic Support Network – IVR for Ukraine which helps Ukrainian scholars, Ph. D. students and students in their academic development; Interested in theory and philosophy of law, especially transitional justice and communicativeness in law making.



Eric Rücker has studied law in Bielefeld and is now completing his law studies in Bochum with a concentration in EU and international law. Since 2020, he is board member of the Refugee Law Clinic Bochum which helps refugees arriving in the Bochum region. Since 2022, he is student assistant at the chair of German Public Law and Public International Law and the IFHV.



Pierre Thielbörger is Professor of Public Law and Public International Law as well as director of the Institute for the International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) and co-director of the law faculty's Centre for International Affairs at Ruhr University Bochum. He is President of the General Assembly of the Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA), member of the advisory board of the German Institute for Human Rights and co-convener of the Interest Group on Human Rights of the European Society of International Law. In 2021, he was named as one of the "Professors of the Year" by the Unicum foundation in the category "law and economics". His areas of expertise are of international law, human and fundamental rights, and the law of peace and armed conflict.



Spyridoula Katsoni is a PhD Candidate and Research Associate at the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV), and a Managing Editor of the *Völkerrechtsblog*. Her PhD research focuses on the shared responsibility arising from contributions to refoulements, while her research interests include refugee law, human rights law, treaty interpretation, and the law of international responsibility.



Goranka Lalić Novak is an associate professor at the Department for Administrative Science at the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, Croatia. Her research interests include public administration and governance of migration, asylum, and integration. Most recent publications include the book *Migration Law - Croatia* (Kluwer Law International, 2022) and the paper *Migration and Asylum Governance in CEE Countries: Between Historical Legacies and the Europeanisation Process* (with T. Giljević; *Croatian and Comparative Public Administration*, 22,1, 2022). Goranka is deputy project leader of the UNIC for University in Zagreb.



Marcin Górski is a professor of the Department of European Constitutional Law, University of Łódź; member of the Centre of Research on Migration Law of the Polish Academy of Science; member of Team Europe Poland; attorney-at-law; former member of the Human Rights Committee of the National Bar of Attorneys; head of the Legal Service of the City of Łódź Local Government.

Organizing committee

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