



British Institute of
International and
Comparative Law

BIICL Strategy 2024-2026 (summary version)

What we do and how we do it

The British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL) combines a world-class, global applied research institute mind-set with a charitable ethos to serve and advance the disciplines of international law, comparative law, and the rule of law.

Our research has real-world impact, influencing governments and international organisations, legislators, policy makers, businesses and others; it is augmented by our discussion sessions, training programmes, conferences, specialist forums, and our prestigious academic journal, the *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*.

We embrace a multi-disciplinary approach with international and comparative perspectives. We have a convening role and respond to critical, emerging legal issues.

Vision

Our vision is for a just, peaceful, and safe world where the rule of law is upheld and human rights respected, underpinned by resilient legal systems that respond to social, economic, technological, and environmental change.

Mission

Our mission is to contribute towards informed, independent thinking in law and decision making for a global community and to uphold the rule of law at the international and national level.

BIICL's strategic aims

Our charitable purpose is to serve and advance the disciplines of international and comparative law in the UK and around the world, and to promote the rule of law in national and international affairs.

Times of great change, when the very systems and structures on which our civilisation is built are challenged, bring about opportunities to reshape and rethink the principles and practices that are important to us, as a society. Over the next few years there will be an additional focus on security and resilience of democratic institutions, challenges to human rights, climate change, and the risks and opportunities of technology.

Strategic Aim 1: Responding to Global Challenges – The UN's Pillars
International law is the key to stable international relations, collective security, and sustainable development.

2025 will mark the 80th anniversary of the United Nations Charter, which established the UN's pillars that remain relevant today and can only be realised with a solid international legal order that is fit to address contemporary challenges such as nationalism, terrorism, insecurity, new technologies, and climate change.



The Centre for International Law aims to support the realisation of peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development (the UN pillars). This will be achieved by meeting the following three objectives:

Better understanding of contemporary legal issues and their international law angles;

Increased knowledge of international law; and

Developing and strengthening international legal standards.

Strategic Aim 2: Responding to Global Challenges – Law and Change

With so much change in the world, our legal systems are challenged to respond in positive, coherent, and cohesive ways. Perspectives and experiences of different jurisdictions enrich the legal debate and support convergence and harmonisation.

The Centre for Comparative Law will continue the Law and Change series of projects, events, and discussions which focus both on the impact of change on the law and on the question of how law can bring about change across a variety of areas, including managing global crises and the impact of technology on our cities and societies.

We will focus on challenges to, and innovation in, dispute resolution including the impact of digitalisation and AI, green dispute resolution, third party litigation funding, and collective redress.

We will strengthen our activities on the basis of a regional-comparative approach, being an anchor for European Law in the UK and expanding our presence across the globe.

Strategic Aim 3: Responding to Global Challenges – The Rule of Law – Resilience

Strengthening and advancing the concept of the rule of law and its application is essential as societies and global institutions come under increasing strain.

The Bingham Centre's research and events will seek to equip specific institutions and sectors to strengthen and advance the concept of the rule of law. This will involve working on:

Legislatures: to examine the rule of law risks posed by new legislation and to improve existing law-making processes;

Justice systems: to ensure that legal institutions provide fair and impartial access to justice;

Government responses to emergencies: including situations arising from the global climate emergency;

Public understanding and measurement: to develop and deliver programmes that promote understanding of the rule of law among younger audiences and the wider public.



Strategic Aim 4: Responding to Global Challenges – The Interface with Business

We will expand our work on the interface between law and business:

The Human Rights Due Diligence Forum, a pioneer in the field, has become the established platform for practitioners in business and human rights;

The Competition Law Forum, which has been discussing the impact of market regulation for more than twenty years, will grow its presence internationally;

The Investment Treaty Forum will maintain its leadership in investment law, built on practical studies and events, within an increasingly challenging geopolitical context;

The Product Liability Forum, another BIICL pioneer, has become the hub for practitioners and academics in consumer protection law, with a focus on developments in medicine and technology.

Our Business Network will continue to advise us on the issues that most concern them, bringing an additional perspective to the work of our Centres.

Our internal priorities: ensuring BIICL's success

Our principles

Our core principles are human rights, the rule of law, tolerance, and fairness. We strive to be a diverse and inclusive organisation.

Our values

How we operate is just as important to us as what we do. Our three core values inform how we work, both internally and externally.

Integrity: We conduct and share independent, applied research with academic rigour and professionalism. We aim to be a responsible, fair, and transparent organisation.

Collaboration: We bring together different disciplines and networks to create positive change. We engage with our stakeholders effectively and respectfully. We aim to be inclusive, approachable, and supportive, and nurture the potential of our team and networks.

Leadership: We aim to be influential and use our expertise to help the organisation deliver its mission.

Our stakeholders

Our stakeholders include governments, legislators, policy makers, the judiciary, academia, businesses, practising lawyers, non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations, students, and people with lived experience.



Internal priorities

To achieve our external goals, the BIICL organisation needs to remain healthy, vibrant, and sustainable, and respond to challenges with agility and speed. We have identified six areas to focus on.

Area 1: Nurturing talent and collaboration

To maintain and grow our expertise in a wide range of areas we acknowledge that we need to nurture, attract, and retain the best talent. It is the cross-pollination of ideas and experiences that will foster an innovative, proactive, future-looking organisation.

Area 2: Promoting the impact of our work

We are conscious of the diversity of our audiences and the broad spectrum of outputs that our work creates. We aim to effectively communicate what we do and the positive change it brings in more impactful ways to more audiences.

Priority 3: Fostering meaningful networks

We will continue to strengthen and expand our valuable network of ambassadors, volunteers, alumni, and partners, including funders and collaborators.

Priority 4: Investing in our culture

Our people are our greatest asset towards achieving our vision. Investment in their continuing development is crucial to our success. We will nurture an open, fair, and inclusive environment.

Priority 5: Developing a resilient organisation

Sound financial and governance structures are critical to our ability to deliver our mission for the long term. We will continue to anticipate, review, and respond to strategic and operational risks and opportunities, both internal and external.

Priority 6: Embracing technology

Working with and investing in the right technologies will increase efficiency and give the organisation even greater agility and responsiveness.