



**British Institute of
International and
Comparative Law**

Annual Impact Report
New Directions
2023/2024

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Introduction from the Director

A key focus for this year was the development of our new Strategy for 2024-2026. We spent time exploring our role and the values we want BIICL to embody, culminating in a Strategy Day in October 2023 which brought trustees and staff together to shape our future priorities.

We refreshed our mission as a global, applied research institute, acting as a hub for new ideas, and bringing together governments, international organisations, judiciaries, practitioners, and business.

International law is the bedrock for stable international relations, collective security, and sustainable development. Our international and comparative legal analysis helps to strengthen democracies, promote the rule of law and human rights, and support legal systems to respond to social, economic, technological, and environmental change. Our purpose is to contribute informed, independent thinking in law and decision making for a global community, helping to uphold the rule of law at the international and national level.

We have identified various cross-cutting themes and priorities for our work over the next three years, to be taken forward by our three Centres (International Law,

Comparative Law and the Rule of Law), our specialist Forums (Competition Law, Investment Treaty Law, Product Liability and Human Rights Due Diligence), and the Business Network. Forming the main structure for this year's report, these themes comprise:

- Promoting International Peace and Security;
- Strengthening International Legal Standards;
- Support for Human Rights and Sustainable Development;
- Law and Change: Managing Global Crises;
- Law and Change: The Impact of Technology;
- Legal Reform and Rule of Law Resilience; and
- Law and Business.

Alongside this activity, we have continued to offer topical events and to expand and diversify our training programme. Our journal, the International and Comparative Law Quarterly (ICLQ), remains one of the foremost publications in its field.

Thank you to all of our funders, members and supporters for your continued involvement in our work.

Highlights of 2023/2024

We welcomed Eve Salomon CBE, the new Chair of our Board of Trustees

The Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law continued its scrutiny of proposed UK legislation examining the Rule of Law implications of the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill.

The ICLQ remained the top journal for European and Comparative Law with its highest-ever Clarivate Impact Factor of 2.0.

BIICL research on labour law examined conditions for workers in Asia, Cuba and the EU, as well as the move to ban imports of goods made with forced labour.

Work in the area of Modern Slavery looked at those with lived experience of modern slavery, and the impact of the Nationality and Borders Act.

BIICL continued its work in Corporate Climate Litigation, providing a report on the EU Emissions Directive, setting up the resource hub for the Global Toolbox and participating in a COP28 official side event.

Senior figures from the judiciary in Ukraine and the UK were hosted at BIICL for discussions about the court structure and developments in Ukraine.

David Lammy set out how a future Labour government would put rule of law at the heart of its foreign policy.

BIICL published 20 new reports detailing our research and started 12 additional new projects.



Promoting International Peace and Security

Benefits of the Rules-Based International Order (RBIO)

BIICL researchers are examining the meaning of the RBIO concept, its relationship with public international law, and the reasons and conditions where such an order is beneficial.

The concept of the 'rules-based international order' (RBIO) refers to a system in which countries adhere to established norms, treaties and agreements to govern their interactions. It seeks to establish a fair, just, open and predictable system of governance on the global stage. In regions often characterized by diverse cultures, histories, and socio-economic challenges, the pursuit of RBIO is crucial for fostering stability, promoting human rights, and facilitating sustainable development.

Nations in the Global South are working towards strengthening institutions, enhancing legal frameworks, and promoting accountability at both national and international levels. This involves addressing historical legacies of colonialism, and socio-economic disparities, as well as navigating complex geopolitical landscapes. In this context, RBIO is not only a legal concept but also a vehicle for fostering cooperation, resolving conflicts and advancing the well-being of populations. It underscores the interconnectedness of the world and provides opportunities to shape a more inclusive and equitable global order reflecting the aspirations and contributions of all nations.

The project team hosted a public event in early 2024 to discuss the meaning of the Rules-Based International Order and its relationship with public international law. The discussions have been summarised in a report and further explorations of the RBIO will continue.

[READ MORE](#)

Julinda Beqiraj, Iris Anastasiadou, Kristin Hausler



War in Ukraine

The war in Ukraine and Russia's earlier annexation of the Crimean peninsula and its establishment of non-recognised entities (the so-called "Donetsk/Luhansk People's Republics") has resulted in a significant deterioration in human rights, as well as economic and security repercussions across the region.

In light of the large-scale damage that has since been incurred by Ukraine's civilian structures, energy sector and the environment, much of the reparations discussion to date has focused on the infrastructural recovery of Ukraine. However, victims of serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law also have an inherent right to remedy and reparation. While Russia's invasion of Ukraine has perpetuated general destruction across Ukraine, it has also led to atrocities on an individual level. BIICL convened a discussion of these issues and a report of the discussion, *Individual Reparations for Human Rights Violations in Ukraine*, was published.

[READ MORE](#)

Jean-Pierre Gauci, Roman Petrov, Kateryna Busol with Daniella Apodaca and Felix Torres, Birmingham Law School

In parallel, BIICL researchers were part of a team examining how cultural heritage can be better protected from the effects of armed conflicts, in Ukraine and beyond. The report, *Protecting cultural heritage from armed conflicts in Ukraine and beyond*, includes an analysis of the applicable international law and policy frameworks and the practice of key international actors in Ukraine, as well as in past conflicts. It concludes with a set of specific recommendations to the EU and its Member States to strengthen the protection of cultural heritage from the effects of armed conflicts, now and in the future.

[READ MORE](#)

Kristin Hausler and Elke Selter with Dr Evelien Campfens (Leiden University) and Dr Andrzej Jakubowski (University of Opole)



Immunity and International Criminal Tribunals

The 2023 Annual Grotius Lecture was given by Judge Joanna Korner CMG KC of the International Criminal Court on the topic of *Immunity and International Criminal Tribunals*. Whether immunity can act as a bar to the arrest and prosecution of alleged perpetrators of international crimes remains a highly topical and hotly debated area. Judge Korner traced the evolution of the doctrine of immunity from prosecution for heads of State and other high officials, from the Tokyo and Nuremberg Trials through to the ongoing work of the International Criminal Court.



Judge Joanna Korner

In June 2023 Karim A. A. Khan KC, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court was our guest at the annual Harry Weinrebe memorial event. He was in conversation with Shehzad Charania MBE, GCHQ Director of Legal Affairs and International Relations. The ICC Prosecutor talked openly about ongoing cases and the challenges faced by his office in its daily work and how it overcomes those challenges.

BIICL published
20
new reports detailing
our research and
started **12** new
projects.

Centre for International Law Impact Hub

The Centre for International Law (CIL) has established a new hub to bolster, document and communicate the impacts of its work. This Impact Hub identifies opportunities to respond to calls for inputs or consultations at the international, regional, and domestic levels. It thus ensures that our work contributes to the development and strengthening of international legal standards.

As a result, over the past year, research by CIL members has been cited in several reports by UN Special Rapporteurs following the submission of inputs based on previous and ongoing projects. This included submissions cited by the Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, in their respective reports to the UN General Assembly. Other impact opportunities included the review of the Welsh Government's training material for frontline workers, building on the findings of our project on the 'Identification of adults with lived experiences of modern slavery in the UK', and exchanges with governments and organisations discussing the findings of this and related projects including our work on the impacts of the Nationality and Borders Act on responses to modern slavery.

Alina Holzhausen



Discussions around Ukraine projects with British Academy fellows during an event for donors



**Strengthening International
Legal Standards**

Charting the course to better EU law-making: optimisation of EU Treaties through inter-institutional cooperation with the European Committee of the Regions

At the start of 2024 BIICL was commissioned by the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), working with Milieu Consulting srl, to gather and analyse data on the impact and quality of better regulation tools. The project is also exploring arguments for and approaches to a stronger consideration of the territorial dimension in EU law-making in particular through the strengthening of active subsidiarity.

This study supports the CoR's policy priority of bringing Europe closer to its people, as well as one of the key activities on better regulation and active subsidiarity of the Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX). It builds on suggestions made at the Conference on the Future of Europe that the role of the CoR and local and regional authorities in EU policymaking should be reinforced to take into account the experience of the subnational level with the implementation of EU law, and to recognise the concepts of active subsidiarity and multi-level governance as core elements of European democracy.

The project will report later in 2024 with an evaluation of what has been done so far and recommendations for the future. Findings will inform the wider work of the CoR and its Commissions concerning better regulation and active subsidiarity.

[READ MORE](#)

Jean-Pierre Gauci, Rosana Garciandia and Alina Holzhausen

Implementation of the EU industrial emissions directive

In April 2022, the EU Commission published its proposal for a revised Industrial Emissions Directive (IED), which includes several changes to the current IED framework.

The proposal contains a novel provision (Article 79a) that grants a compensation right to victims suffering from health damages caused by the unlawful operation of large-scale industrial activities. Within this provision is a clause (Article 79a (4)) that aims to adapt the burden of proof to enable victims to make effective use of



the compensation right. While such provisions are not novel in EU legislation, this would be a first under the EU environmental law framework.

A BIICL comparative study has examined how the adapted burden of proof could be implemented at the national level, as well as what legal barriers to implementation might exist, through a comprehensive analysis of relevant legal provisions and case law in six EU Member States.

The study considered the compatibility of the provision with national law and how Member States have implemented other EU directives with provisions that adapt the burden of proof. It also surveyed relevant national case law on civil liability and environmental pollution.

The report concluded that the concept of adapting the burden of proof in the interests of justice is not alien to any of the jurisdictions studied and that, in principle, Article 79a(4) of the revised IED could be integrated into each system. The survey of existing national case law also confirmed that there were few examples of environmental pollution cases in which the burden of proof was adapted. Generally, it was observed that claimants struggled to prove causation in pollution cases without an adapted burden of proof.

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Ivano Alogna and Anthony Wenton

Performance Requirement Prohibitions in International Investment Agreements

Performance requirement prohibitions (PRPs) are distinct types of treaty provisions that appear in many international investment agreements (IIAs) which seek to curtail States' abilities to impose performance requirements. In a comprehensive study of six states and over 500 international investment agreements, BIICL and Steptoe International (UK) LLP found that many States have turned back the clock and renewed their use of performance requirements as economic policy instruments in recent years.

The study showed that it is increasingly common to find elaborate PRPs in complex trade and investment treaties. While PRPs are widespread, appearing in hundreds of IIAs, they have thus far eluded close and systematic scrutiny.

This study provided a comprehensive framework to understand the typically complex PRP provisions in IIAs and their implications, situating them within their broader geopolitical and economic context. In particular, it analysed the evolving trends and rationales underlying States' treaty-drafting approaches to prohibiting performance requirements – and to narrowing the scope and applicability of PRPs where deemed necessary. It also considered the kinds of disputes that have arisen under PRP provisions of IIAs, and the prospects for such disputes in the future.

The study was launched at an Investment Treaty Forum event in January 2024.

[READ MORE](#)

Yarik Kryvoi with Christophe Bondy, Alexandre Genest and Michael Lee of Steptoe International (UK) LLP



Dynamic Competition and Big Tech Mergers

During the year the Competition Law Forum examined the new Digital Markets Act (DMA), discussed Ecosystem Competition and analysed the impact of dynamic competition in the area of Big Tech mergers. Discussions involved policymakers from the EU Commission, Competition and Markets Authority as well as lawyers and academics. The points raised contributed to consultations on many new pieces of legislation.

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Liza Lovdahl-Gormsen and Phil Evans



Third Party Litigation Funding in the European Union

The practice of Third Party Litigation Funding (TPLF) has steadily grown in the EU. On behalf of the EU Commission, BIICL is working with Civic Consulting, The Asser Institute and Risk & Policy Analysts (RPA) to analyse information on the legal framework and practical operation of TPLF in the EU Member States and in selected third countries.

Over 30 National Experts, alongside external highly regarded experts in the field, are contributing to the study which will report in early 2025.

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Eva Lein, Constance Bonze, Sara Razai



Support for Human Rights and Sustainable Development

GLP-POWER: Platform for Organising by Workers for Empowerment and Recognition

BIICL is working with Solidar Suisse and Pragma in a project aimed to assess and promote new and innovative modes of organising for marginalized informal and precarious workers in Asia. GLP-Power seeks to enhance workers' agency and effective bargaining, increase the visibility of workers' causes, and support regional solidarity and inclusion while overcoming the impediments and restricted democratic space in their environments.

Generally excluded from labour laws and collective bargaining, informal workers are more exposed to violations of labour rights including health and safety issues, and more vulnerable to abuses and discrimination.

BIICL's role is to provide international and comparative law analysis to support the work of the platforms which will be developed in each of the countries, at the sub-regional level and eventually at the regional level. On the basis of this analysis, BIICL will also develop and deliver capacity building materials and sessions for the platforms. This will include training on workers' rights and on the relevant international legal frameworks that enable their protection, including ILO Conventions and UN human rights frameworks.

[READ MORE](#)

Jean-Pierre Gauci, Georgia Greville, Sara Al Khashlok, Rosana Garciandia, Aditi Shetye, Alina Holzhausen and Victoria Wyndham



Combatting Forced Labour in Cuban Medical Missions

The Cuban government's Foreign Medical Missions (CFMM) programme has sent around 400,000 Cuban healthcare professionals abroad to provide medical assistance during short-term health crises, natural disasters, and more recently the COVID-19 pandemic. Since its inception in 1962 the programme has placed medical professionals in over 164 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Europe.

However, international organizations and NGOs have raised concerns regarding the use of exploitative practices and repressive measures within the programme. This research project will explore the CFMM programme from the perspective of international labour and human rights law, analysing the working conditions of participants of the programme in host countries around the world through research across a wide range of sources. In doing so, it will examine the compliance of the CFMM programme with international legal standards with the aim of better understanding and documenting the lived experiences of participants of the programme.

BIICL will work to inform efforts to combat forced and exploitative labour in the CFMM programme, including advocacy activities. The project will identify promising practices in host countries such as Mexico and Brazil, and issue recommendations on measures that will help Cuba and receiving States to ensure that the programme complies with international labour and human rights standards. Going forward, the project will support relevant entities and individuals by providing capacity-building and networking opportunities.

[READ MORE](#)

Jean-Pierre Gauci, Rosana Garciandia, Iris Anastasiadou, Georgia Greville and Victoria Wyndham

Attracting Global Skills and Talents to EU's cities and regions

One of the key elements of the European Union's strategic approach to legal migration is the facilitation of the recognition of qualifications and skills of third-country nationals. One of the challenges in this is that EU member States have diverse qualifications and education systems, which are a primary competence of the Member States.

During 2023 BIICL undertook a research study aimed at exploring current practices across the EU on behalf of the European Committee of the Regions. The research focussed on identifying promising practices in EU regions that have developed frameworks and procedures to facilitate the recognition of qualifications and skills of third-country nationals and successfully integrated these people into their labour market.

The final report, published in February 2024, provides recommendations on how to attract skilled workers to EU cities and regions facing the talent development trap and examines the facilitation of the recognition of qualifications and skills of third-country nationals as one of the tools for achieving this objective.

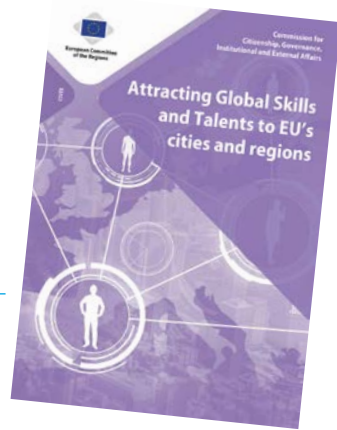
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Jean-Pierre Gauci, Rosana Garcandia and Georgia Greville

Examining the Non-Punishment Principle for Trafficked Persons

The non-punishment principle was established in 2002 by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. It states 'trafficked persons should not be subject to arrest, charge, detention, prosecution, or be penalised or otherwise punished for illegal conduct that they committed as a direct consequence of being trafficked.'

Working with the International Bar Association (IBA), during 2023 BIICL completed a comparative analysis examining the status of the non-punishment principle and its global interpretation and implementation. Using relevant international documents, jurisprudence and practices across Argentina, Australia, Canada, India, the United



Kingdom and the United States, as well as contributors from several IBA Committees, the project team drafted and distributed a global survey among IBA members and anti-trafficking stakeholders and coordinated six case studies.

The research identified considerable variances in states' definitions of the non-punishment principle, thresholds used for implementation and variation in the identification of those who are trafficked persons.

Barriers to the application of the principle included lack of awareness and training, lack of trained legal representatives to support the principle, as well as the presence of procedural requirements and processes that act as barriers to non-punishment; and the thresholds and limitations placed on statutory protections.

The final report, 'Human trafficking and the rights of trafficked persons – an exploratory analysis on the application of the non-punishment principle,' aims to provide guidance to better understand the structural, legal and practical barriers to the implementation of the principle, and to contribute to the ongoing conversation among judges, lawyers, legislators and policymakers on the protection of trafficked persons and the application of the non-punishment principle.

[READ MORE](#)

Jean-Pierre Gauci, Noemi Magugliani with the International Bar Association

Identification of Adults with Lived Experiences of Modern Slavery in the UK

Early in 2024, BIICL published the report of a project which examined the formal procedure for identifying adults with lived experience of modern slavery in the United Kingdom.

The research focused on three main areas: identification related training provided to First Responder Organisations; qualitative and quantitative data related to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and qualitative and quantitative data related to the Duty to Notify. In particular, the project undertook a first-of-its kind-analysis of the Duty to Notify data and analysed reasons why adults with lived experience of modern slavery refuse to be referred into the NRM.

The findings raise significant questions over the quality of modern slavery referrals made in the UK. The report highlighted the increase in the number of those refusing to be referred to the NRM and a lack of detail about the reasons for this. One of the key issues that emerged from the research was the poor access to training for

First Responders and the research recommended training be made mandatory for professionals making NRM referrals and DtN reports, while also encouraging First Responder Organisations to consider partnering with other frontline organisations and modern slavery lived experience advisory groups on training programmes. The project also created a pilot framework for monitoring training effectiveness.

[READ MORE](#)

Noemi Magugliani, John Trajer and Jean-Pierre Gauci

Analysing the Impact of the UK Nationality and Borders Act's Modern Slavery Provisions on Survivors

Following on from the Identification of adults with lived experiences of modern slavery project, the BIICL team is now investigating the impacts of the UK Nationality and Borders Act (NABA) on the identification and wellbeing of people with lived experience of modern slavery in the UK.

The Nationalities and Borders Act passed into law in April 2022, with a number of its provisions relating to modern slavery coming into effect in January 2023. These include changes to the definition of the 'reasonable grounds' decision within the National Referral Mechanism (NRM, the national system to identify survivors of modern slavery in the UK), the introduction of a procedure to exclude people from modern slavery protections on grounds of public order (if someone served a term in jail) and bad faith, and an altered entitlement to additional recovery periods. Other changes introduced by NABA include new definitions of 'victims' of modern slavery and human trafficking, the adoption of 'Temporary Permission to Stay' guidance, and amendments to the NRM referral form and prompt sheet.

The project is exploring the impact of the changes brought about by NABA on the identification and wellbeing of people with lived experience of modern slavery, including on their decisions to enter the NRM, their ability to access support, and the wider impact on affected communities. The research team will publish its findings late in 2024.

[READ MORE](#)

Noemi Magugliani Jean-Pierre Gauci and John Trajer with the Human Trafficking Foundation and the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group



Homelessness and Human Rights

Homelessness impinges on a range of rights including the right to adequate housing, the right to life and respect for human dignity. Human rights law creates a number of positive obligations which arguably require a comprehensive approach to address rough sleeping and precarious housing situations.

In October 2023 we hosted an event looking at this with distinguished practitioners and academics identifying key legal challenges and opportunities for further action and suggesting how International Human Rights Law can inform a comprehensive approach, involving cooperation between governments, organisations, and communities.

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Iris Anastasiadou



Training

Courses Offered in 2023

Public International Law in Practice

An opportunity to learn about developments in particular areas of public international law and their application in law, policy and practice.

“A great introduction to many aspects of international law with very knowledgeable speakers...”

Law of the Sea

An informative overview of the international law of the sea and current challenges facing the world's oceans and seas.

“Really informative with applied case studies. It has given me lots of pointers which will help me with my own research and was all round an excellent course”

International Migration and Refugee Law

A unique overview of International Migration and Refugee Law examining the main legal frameworks, concepts, and actors in the field.

International Labour Law

Offers a chance to learn about international labour law and how it applies to contemporary issues for workers and employers.

International Cultural Heritage Law

Course focuses on cultural heritage as an international legal concept and examining key threats and international instruments adopted over past decades to protect it.

Business and Human Rights

Provides a better understanding of the corporate responsibilities around human rights' impacts and the growing legal implications of the UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights.

“Fantastic course! High-level content was delivered in a clear, interesting and engaging way. Fascinating discussions occurred in every session and helpful resources shared throughout.”

Artificial Intelligence, Law and Ethics

Offers an understanding of the legal, regulatory and policy developments related to artificial intelligence and the ethics related to this important area.

“Thanks for [giving] me this opportunity. It was great pleasure to learn new things in law, networking and skills building.”

Foundations of Public International Law

Offers a working knowledge of the structure and functioning of international law.

“The course was really complete and comprehensive. I have already recommended it to colleagues.”

Climate Change Law

A comprehensive overview of climate change law and legal responses to the current climate crisis. Explores the way climate change impacts other areas of international law.

“It covers important salient issues in this area of law in a way that bridges both theory and practice.”

WTO Law

Offers an in-depth and applied knowledge of the regulatory framework of the multilateral trading system of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

“A very meaningful course, well thought-of structure, good quality resource persons, very engaging and professionally delivered.”

War in Ukraine in Context: History, Politics and Law

Offers an interdisciplinary overview of prerequisites, current trends and future scenarios of the War in Ukraine and will enable participants to understand the reasons for the conflict and to find political and legal solutions to combat its consequences.

“The course did an exceptional job of covering the most relevant part of the war’s context in great detail.”

Cyber Operations and International Law

Examines how cyber-operations interact with sovereignty, human rights and humanitarian law, due diligence obligations, the use of force and non-intervention.

Cross Border Dispute Resolution

Offers a concise understanding of key issues across a broad range of areas of dispute resolution including updates on current developments and case law.

Climate Change Litigation

Considers climate change litigation analysed as a global phenomenon, including landmark examples at the international and domestic levels.

Energy Law

Provides an overview of the principal legal and regulatory issues in the renewable and non-renewable energy sector from an international and comparative perspective.

“Very interesting range of topics and engaging speakers.”

Aviation Law

Covers the economic regulation of air transport, competition law influences, environmental concerns in aviation and how national security impacts civil aviation.

“Excellent throughout, enthusiasm for and knowledge of the areas discussed was impressive.”

Summary of Training at BIICL

Over 2023-2024 BIICL's training programme continued to expand, catering to a global audience with diverse professional backgrounds and building on BIICL's commitment to promoting respect for international law around the world.

Our programme of short courses continued to address some of the most pressing issues around the globe – from trade to climate change, from the protection of cultural heritage to migration, from artificial intelligence to labour law.

We have expanded our programme of short courses to include topics like cyber operations and international law and a specialised course on the war in Ukraine in context. We have also added summer schools to our repertoire of courses – offering a summer school on law and technology with the University of Lausanne and another on public international law. We delivered tailored in house training and are working with other partners to develop executive education programmes. New courses being developed include Transitional Justice, International Dispute Settlement and International and Transnational Criminal Law.



BIICL continues to offer online courses, such as the Citizenship and the Rule of Law MOOC run in partnership the University of London, which has had over 22,000 enrolments since it was launched in 2020, and the International Investment Law and Dispute Resolution course which continues to attract participants from governments, industry and legal practice globally.

We have reached wider and more international audiences including legal and non-legal professionals from governments, law firms, chambers, NGOs, civil society, and academia. Our virtual and hybrid formats have allowed us to reach audiences all around the world. BIICL's training programs see high participant engagement and retention, with many returning for multiple courses.

Attendees reported high satisfaction levels, noting that the sessions were well-structure and educational. Participants appreciated the opportunity to deepen their understanding of complex legal fields; the knowledge and experience of the tutors and the opportunities for interaction with expert tutors and peers. Testimonials highlighted the courses' effectiveness in enhancing professional knowledge and networking opportunities. Participants overwhelmingly reported thinking that the courses would be beneficial to their careers and directly applicable to their day to day work.

The quality of BIICL's tuition is ensured by bringing together academic experts and practitioners from law firms, governments and civil society. Most of our courses are delivered by BIICL research fellows alongside external tutors allowing courses to benefit from ongoing research at the institute and the breadth of experience that they and the external tutors bring to the issues under discussion. We also partner with external institutions (like Singapore Management University) to continue to deliver the highest quality courses possible.

To support BIICL's commitment to diversity and inclusion we offer scholarships to those coming from groups and communities that are currently under-represented in the legal community.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to developing and delivering high-quality, relevant legal education on a global scale. We will continue to offer our range of short courses while also developing a series of advanced training workshops and executive education programmes.

In 2023
we enrolled
550
participants
on our short
courses



Law and Change – Managing Global Crises

Global Perspectives on Corporate Climate Legal Tactics

The project *Global Perspectives on Corporate Climate Legal Tactics* was established in the autumn of 2022. It aims to make corporate climate litigation speedier, more efficient, effective and predictable so that claims can be resolved with the minimum delay. It will become an authoritative reference point for litigators, judges and other adjudicators and will progressively lead to a change in corporate behaviour.

“I can attest to the fact that [the Global Toolbox] contains a wealth of information and insights that will be useful to the litigators, judges and others going forward.”

Prof David Boyd, former UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment



The project actively involves over 200 international experts, who have come together for national or comparative workshops and to review project outputs. National rapporteurs, covering 17 jurisdictions and 5 continents, have researched the current status and future possibilities of corporate climate litigation in their jurisdictions. Their reports have enabled an in-depth comparative analysis of the similarities and differences across distinct legal systems and the possibilities for applying case law and adopting precedents not previously considered. This

analysis has been published in a freely accessible online resource, the Global Toolbox on Corporate Climate Litigation (the Toolbox), one of the three elements of the Corporate Climate Litigation Platform.

The Global Toolbox was [launched](#) at a hybrid event in March 2024, followed online around the world. The project has now transitioned into its dissemination phase, with a series of conferences and summits scheduled to take place throughout 2024.

[READ MORE](#)

Ivano Alogna, Aditi Shetye, Alina Holzhausen, Jean-Pierre Gauci

The Role of Cultural Heritage in Strengthening Climate Resilience

Intangible cultural heritage law (ICH) has an important impact on climate change mitigation and adaptation, and strengthens the resilience of communities.

During 2023, BIICL worked in partnership with the Institute of Small and Micro States (ISMS) and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) to complete a multi-level analysis of the frameworks relevant to its protection in selected Pacific Island States. Applying a human rights lens, the project examined cultural heritage law, climate change and environmental law, disaster response and displacement to map out and examine the adequacy of those frameworks.

The study highlights how ICH is part of the identity of South Pacific Islanders, crucial for the existence of communities, and the cultural diversity of the South Pacific region. Due to climate change, ICH faces particularly high threats to such an extent that it might even be lost. The report analysed the protection frameworks for ICH in relation to environmental, climate, and disaster response laws.

Key findings indicate that while ICH is generally safeguarded under international human rights and cultural heritage laws, it is less protected by intellectual property laws. Although environmental policies often reference ICH, domestic policies could improve by integrating ICH into climate adaptation, recognizing its role in resilience, and involving communities in decisions impacting their cultural heritage.

Overall the report recommends raising awareness of the importance of ICH and ensuring it is included in laws and policies with increased communication and cooperation between all relevant sectors. It is hoped that this Report will be used to inform practices in other regions and that lessons can be drawn from the South Pacific experience and expertise.

[READ MORE](#)

Kristin Hausler, Dr Berenika Drazewska and Alina Holzhausen



Deep Seabed Mining & International Law

Deep-sea mining in the world's global commons has become a topic of intense debate, with a growing call for a moratorium or a precautionary pause until the environmental and social impacts are better understood. Governments, NGOs, and companies are all weighing in on this issue, which has significant potential implications for the future of our planet.

Our webinar *Deep Seabed Mining & International Law: Is a Precautionary Pause Required?* in May 2023 explored the key legal, environmental, and social implications of deep-sea mining and whether international law requires implementing a moratorium or a precautionary pause on deep-sea mining until social and environmental implications are better understood.

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Constantinos Yiallourides, Ingrid Gubbay, Jean-Pierre Gauci



COVID-19 and the Law: Protections and Recovery for Vulnerable Groups

In early 2022, BIICL's Centre for Comparative Law and the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies of Law and Policy at Kyoto University were awarded a JSPS-UKRI grant to examine the legal responses to the pandemics' impact on vulnerable groups. Collaborating with researchers and practitioners from Japan, Asia, and Europe, *COVID-19 and the law: Protection and recovery for vulnerable groups* examines the legal mechanisms that were put in place to support vulnerable groups such as small businesses, consumers, migrants and children.

The project helps inform valuable insights and solutions to legal and business communities to navigate, recover and learn from the Covid-19 pandemic from a comparative perspective. With engagement from policy-makers and senior legal actors, the project offers concrete solutions to encourage a legal environment that safeguards commercial activities post-pandemic. These include *The Breathing Space Guidelines* which propose a set of practical guidelines to encourage a more conciliatory approach to contractual disputes and the BIICL-CEDR Breathing Space podcast series on smarter approaches to dispute resolution.

With the project scheduled to end in February 2025, a conference will be held in October 2024 at Kyoto University to bring together the project findings and offer recommendations and best practices.

[READ MORE](#)

Sara Razai, Eve Lein and Constance Bonze with Helen Dodds, Consultant, and Yuko Nishitani, Kyoto University





Law and Change – The Impact of Technology

Law and Change

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is touted as the remedy for many of the economic, social, political and cultural contentions in an epoch where social demographics are unbalanced, economic growth is slowing, labour markets are fragile, and global trade is wracked with protectionism.

The arrival of the pandemic has heightened calls for AI and big data to help innovate economies out of the worst effects. This transition presents significant challenges for the ecosystems of law firms, and the requirements of due process in the exercise of litigation.

BIICL's Centre for Comparative Law is collaborating with Professor Mark Findlay (Honorary Senior Fellow, BIICL and former Director of SMU Centre for AI and Data Governance) on a series of webinars on 'Law and Change'. This series examines how global crises are changing law and how law and legal services can assist in the orderly management of global change.

[READ MORE](#)

Eva Lein, Sara Razai and Constance Bonze with Prof Mark Findlay

Disaggregation of Digital Information and Data Sovereignty Compliance

Trends show that most of the computing activity that is performed locally on end-user computers will eventually shift into the Cloud. Yet reliance on cloud resources controlled by third parties, and whose use is shared, comes with risks, including reduction or loss of customer control, increased service provider control of data, security risks, and lack of transparency regarding the locations of providers. The huge amount of data stored outside national boundaries has become a critical issue that is closely related to the question of government control over domestic data (i.e. data sovereignty), where rules introduced by states may result in both protection and limitations for companies that wish to use cloud services.

In a research project looking at the UK, EU, US and Australia, BIICL concluded that data sovereignty rules are upheld if digital information is disaggregated and disbursed across multiple geographic jurisdictions, where each storage service provider only has access to, and processes a random fraction of, binary digits related to the original information, otherwise unintelligible on its own. Moreover,

relying on diversification of storage services seems a secure and resilient approach that reduces security risks. Any damage, loss, or unwarranted access to data stored with a specific provider would only affect a random set of binary digits. This approach would also help to ensure continued availability of data in the event of loss of functionality, end of business of the storage platform or data corruption.

[READ MORE](#)

Iris Anastasiadou, Julinda Beqiraj and Jean-Pierre Gauçi

Beyond Theoretical Differences on International Law: Identifying Common Ground Among States on Unlawful Behaviour in Cyberspace

This project seeks to carry out research related to underlying normative issues that have a direct impact on the debate among states over the application of international law to state cyber operations.

The project will attempt to move beyond theoretical disagreements over the existence and application of rules and obligations of conduct by adopting an approach that focuses on clarifying the status of relevant underlying normative aspects of international law and identifying common ground among states on unlawful behaviour in cyberspace.

The research outputs of this project will provide analysis relevant to informing state positions on both the normative status of relevant law and the boundaries and content of unlawful activities in cyberspace.

[READ MORE](#)

Jack Kenny



Artificial Intelligence in the Context of Business and Human Rights

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the most transformative technology that has developed following the endorsement of the UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights in 2011. This makes it necessary to assess the suitability of the business and human rights framework to address AI technologies' effects on human rights. AI is different from any other business sector. Its development is rapid and unpredictable which makes regulation difficult because of the time needed to negotiate a legal framework.

However, the existing business and human rights framework may provide the enabling tool to regulate AI applications, linked with corporate responsibility to conduct Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) to identify, prevent, mitigate, and account for how they address human rights impacts. This process is now a requirement under newly established legislation in several European countries and upcoming at the EU level.

As AI evolves and humans adapt, the business and human rights framework – based on the three pillars of State's duty to protect human rights, the corporate responsibility to respect human rights, and access to remedy for victims – can become the core concept for regulating AI application and development. It may provide a universally agreed set of norms for assessing and addressing the effects of AI on individuals and society, and the responsibilities of both States and business, covering all human rights and all business enterprises.

[READ MORE](#)

Irene Pietropaoli, Iris Anastasiadou and Jean-Pierre Gauci with Holly MacAlpine

LawGPT?: Using AI to Modernize Judicial Systems, Legal Practices and the Future of Legal Work

As part of the Law and Change webinar series, organised in partnership with the Singapore Management University, BIICL hosted an event on the present and future impacts of artificial intelligence (AI), especially machine learning, in the legal sector. The discussion considered state of the art applications of AI to research, analyse and apply law and regulations. It also explored the future for judges, lawyers and clients in particular areas of law where AI is changing legal information processing, decision-making and even law-making. A recording of the event is available via the link below.

[READ MORE](#)

Eva Lein, Constance Bonze, Sara Razai, Prof Mark Findlay

WTO Deputy Director Ellard Highlights the Impact of Technological Developments on Global Trade

In a keynote speech at the 2023 Annual WTO Conference organized by BIICL in London on 6 October, WTO Deputy Director-General Angela Ellard outlined how technological developments are changing the face of international trade. DDG Ellard commended BIICL on all the work it does in research, teaching, and publishing on pressing legal and policy issues, including on international trade and the WTO.

Commenting at the event DDG Ellard said "BIICL stands for objectivity, rigor, and creativity".

[READ MORE](#)

Julinda Beqiraj, Prof Dr Gabrielle Marceau, Iris Anastasiadou





Proposing Legal Reform and Supporting Rule of Law Resilience

Rule of Law Monitoring of Legislation Project, Phase 2

At the end of 2023, the Rule of Law Monitoring of Legislation Project entered Phase 2 of its work (2023-2025), supported by funding from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. The project team produced several reports on the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill to inform Parliamentary debate. As well as being cited regularly in the House of Commons and House of Lords, a number of the project's reports have been discussed by the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on the Rule of Law, for which the Bingham Centre provides the secretariat.

[READ MORE](#)

Jan van Zyl Smit, Lucy Moxham, Ronan Cormacain, Oliver Garner, Jeff King, Murray Hunt, Katie Lines

During the period covered by this report, the APPG's meetings have included discussions on the Rule of Law impact of the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill and the Illegal Migration Bill, and a joint meeting with the Hansard Society on improving practices of delegated legislation. The APPG also convened a meeting with input from the Child Poverty Action Group to discuss the Digitalisation of Universal Credit and its impact on the Rule of Law, as well as further Rule of Law risks arising from the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill.

[READ MORE](#)

Murray Hunt, Jan van Zyl Smit, Maia Cohen, Ronan Cormacain

Public and Youth Engagement Programme

The public and youth engagement programme (PYEP) at the Bingham Centre continues to provide young people with the knowledge, skills and confidence to become active, participatory citizens. The PYEP Programme offers interactive workshops on democracy, human rights and the rule of law in schools across the country throughout the academic year and links with other charities such as the Heritage of London Trust and Sportinspired to run joint events.

During 2023 the programme centralised its materials for schools and young people in a Digital Hub including all the Rule of Law materials produced by the Bingham Centre in collaboration with other organisations as well as recruiting university students as ambassadors to extend the reach of the programme. Finally the team organised Rule of Law workshops for young people with parliamentarians and academics at the House of Lords.

[READ MORE](#)

Ola Ugwu

Prohibiting Products Made with Forced Labour in the EU Market

In September 2022, the European Commission published a Proposal for a Regulation on prohibiting products made with forced labour on the Union market. To help shape the design of the Regulation, BIICL was commissioned to design a model law which was launched in November 2022 by the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament. In March 2024, a provisional agreement was reached at trilogue level and the Regulation was then approved by EU member states. The Regulation will prohibit economic operators from placing and making available on, or exporting from, the Union market products made with forced labour. As the world's largest single market, the EU has an enormous opportunity to set global leadership in its design of laws and approaches to address systemic forced labour in corporate supply chains.

[READ MORE](#)

Irene Pietropaoli, Jasmine Elliott

Independent Commission on UK Public Health Emergency Powers

The Independent Commission on UK Public Health Emergency Powers was launched on in October 2022. It was created as an independent body that operated separately from the UK and Scottish Covid-19 Inquiries, with the goal of informing both these Inquiries.



The Commission reviewed emergency public health laws and parliamentary procedures in the four UK nations, and considered how far these laws and procedures could be enhanced so as to better protect the rule of law and promote accountability, transparency and parliamentary control of executive action.

The final report of the commission was published at a launch event at the Institute for Government in May 2024, which was attended by parliamentarians, policy makers, public health professionals and a member of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry team.

[READ MORE](#)

Lucy Moxham, Katie Lines

Examining Counter-Terrorism Law, Policy and Practice

Since its launch in 2021, the Independent Commission on UK Counter-Terrorism Law, policy and practice has engaged with over 150 policymakers, practitioners, civil society organizations, and community groups through various channels and received over 70 written submissions. During 2023/24 the Commission examined the UK strategy of preventing radicalisation to terrorism, the challenges relating to managing terrorist offenders in prison and after their release and oversight and accountability of counterterrorism. In the coming year the Commission is finalising its report and recommendations with the view to publication of the report in early 2025.

[READ MORE](#)

Tufyal Choudhury, Rachael Beaumont

“After 15 months intensive work on the way emergency public health legislation was made, used and enforced during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission makes 44 recommendations to enable the four governments in the UK to better protect the rule of law and good governance in future public health emergencies, while acting quickly to secure timely and effective public health outcomes.

“Our recommendations focus on the design of legislation (including the protection of human rights), the enhancement of parliamentary procedures, improvement of legal certainty, and the appropriateness of enforcement action. They are based on our research and on evidence from those with experience and expertise of law making, public health, policing, and human rights in all parts of the UK and in ten other countries. I very much hope that they will inform the UK and Scottish COVID-19 inquiries and government planning for future emergencies. The design of public health emergency frameworks is important because such frameworks are the foundation for wide scale interventions of the type imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic, which had such a great impact on everyone in the UK.”

Sir Jack Beatson, Commission chair

The UK and International Human Rights

The implementation of human rights is a priority Rule of Law issue. Better national implementation of human rights will improve the lives of individuals and groups around the world, and will support the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, the University of Bristol, the Universal Rights Group, and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP conducted a global survey over the course of 2020 to 2023 to understand the systems and processes that States have put in place to implement, report and follow-up on their international human rights commitments. A case study, 'The implementation of human rights recommendations in the United Kingdom', was published in June 2023. The UK offers an interesting national case study given the complexity of its constitutional arrangements and the challenges presented for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland by operating as sub-state actors within an international system focused on state parties. This case study aims to contribute to conversations about how best to translate international human rights norms into domestic reality. It presents a summary of data collected over the course of 2020 to 2023 as part of the wider global survey and offers an insight into the framework in the UK.

[READ MORE](#)

Murray Hunt and Lucy Moxham, with Marc Limon, Universal Rights Group, Prof Rachel Murray, Human Rights Implementation Centre (HRIC) at the University of Bristol and staff of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP (pro bono research support)

In January 2023, a report *The Making of Bills of Rights: Relevant International Human Rights Law Obligations: An Analysis of the United Kingdom's Obligations*, was published following a collaboration between the Bingham Centre, the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights at the University of Oxford, and the Centre for the Study of Human Rights Law at the University of Strathclyde. The study focused on international human rights law (IHRL) obligations that are relevant both to making and amending domestic bills of rights. The report examines five IHRL obligations that are binding on the United Kingdom: the obligation to respect, protect and fulfil human rights; the obligation to provide an effective framework of remedies; the obligation to monitor and report on human rights; the obligation to ensure public participation in shaping bills of rights; and the obligation of non-regression in rights protection.

[READ MORE](#)

Murray Hunt, Prof Alan Miller, University of Strathclyde, Prof Catherine O' Regan, Bonavero Institute, Emma Rowland, University of Oxford

The Importance of the International Rule of Law

In July 2023, David Lammy (now Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs) set out how a future Labour government would seek to restore Britain's global influence and reputation by putting the rule of law at the heart of its foreign policy.

[READ MORE](#)





Law and Business

The Business Network

In 2023, Anglo American, BP, Centrica, Diageo, HSBC, Rolls-Royce, and Shell International, leading listed businesses headquartered in the UK, and members of the Business Network, showed a strong interest and commitment to upholding the Rule of Law in the jurisdictions where they operate. Their General Counsel, legal, human rights, and sustainability teams led and engaged in discussions around key Rule of Law challenges, took leadership in identifying collective action steps, and contributed to co-designing and producing high-quality research undertaken by the Institute (involving the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, the Modern Slavery Policy and Evidence Centre, and other relevant areas within BIICL).

Key highlights in 2023 included:

- welcoming Centrica as a new member;
- launching and implementing a new Business Network Strategy 2023-2024.

At its quarterly meetings, the Network considered a range of rule of law challenges covering: ESG compliance and reporting; how to support and uphold the rule of law across jurisdictions in which members operate; the potential of contractual clauses to address Scope 3 emissions in business value chains; and the link between environmental issues and human rights.

Findings from a Bingham Centre research project on the role of capital market actors in addressing modern slavery were presented. Network members also participated in a BIICL-led study exploring the use of *Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice*.

[READ MORE](#)

Sofia Gonzalez De Aguinaga

Modern Slavery in Business Supply Chains- Accelerating Change: The Potential of Capital Market Actors in Addressing Modern Slavery

In 2023, the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law in partnership with Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking (FAST), and with funding from FCDO and the Modern Slavery Policy and Evidence Centre (PEC), undertook a research project exploring the influence and effectiveness of policies and practices of capital market actors in

addressing modern slavery. Outputs from this project included an evidence review, investor brief, policy brief, blog, and dissemination events.

Modern slavery remains a global challenge, affecting the lives of an estimated 50 million individuals in 2021. The finance sector has played a key role in providing access to finance to vulnerable people exposed to modern slavery risks. However, little is known about capital market actors' policies and practices to address modern slavery in their value chains. With the global target to eradicate modern slavery by 2030 it is now crucial to understand their role of capital and market actors to inform the development of effective and sustainable solutions.

The project included the voices of Global South investors in the conversation and all participants were pleased to share their insights and learn from colleagues across both the Global South and the Global North.

The research was well received by investor coalitions globally. The CCLA Find It, Fix It, Prevent It Programme invited the team to present the findings in-person and responses from its member investors confirmed that the findings resonated with the challenges they face. The Programme is interested to work with the research team to implement some of the recommendations. The research was also presented to the Investors Against Slavery and Trafficking Asia Pacific Coalition who learned about on-the-ground realities in SE Asia.

Other positive feedback came from companies working on sustainability. A validation workshop (a key feature of Modern Slavery PEC-funded research) helped policymakers to engage in cross-departmental discussion on this topic.

The FAST Survivor Consultant noted that her engagement in this research project helped build her capacity to engage more effectively with the financial sector and thus help create a leadership network for engagement. Likewise, the Bingham Centre research lead expressed having gained valuable insights into how to work with people with lived experience as peer researchers.

[READ MORE](#)

Sofia Gonzalez De Aguinaga

Establishing Mandatory Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence Regulation in Europe

When the European Commission presented the BIICL-led study on regulatory options for due diligence in the supply chain in April 2020, it launched the process towards the establishment of an EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD). After lengthy negotiations, the European Council approved the final text of the Directive in March 2024. The CSDDD will introduce mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence for large EU companies and create a legal liability for environmental and human rights violations within their supply chain. BIICL's leadership role in advancing this regulation has been recognised by donors including the UKRI's AHRC, which have provided additional funding to build evidence on the impact and effectiveness of human rights due diligence laws.

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Irene Pietropaoli, Jasmine Elliott and Sofia Gonzalez De Aguinaga

Tax-Related Measures in Investor-State Related Arbitration

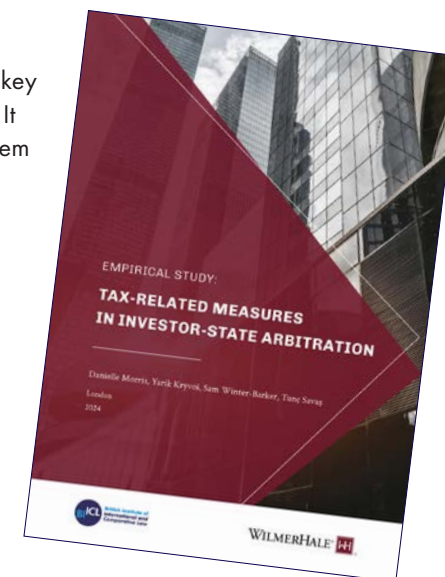
Tax-related disputes often come hand-in-hand with political controversies and are related to current debates about the legitimacy of arbitration, the limits of tribunals' powers and the efforts to reform the system of investor-State dispute resolution.

At a meeting of the Business Network in December 2023, BIICL and WilmerHale launched a report on taxation measures in investment disputes. The report takes an empirical approach to assess various aspects of these disputes: the geographic origins of claimants and respondent States; the economic sectors involved; the types of measures challenged; and the likelihood of success, among others. In addition to painting a big picture of tax-related disputes and identifying patterns in tribunals' decision-making, the report discusses specific treaty provisions that give rise to tax disputes.

The report will help those working in the field of investor-State arbitration to better understand the key statistical trends and patterns of decision-making. It will also assist those involved in reforming the system of investor-state dispute resolution or investment treaties.

[READ MORE](#)

Yarik Kryvoi, BIICL, Danielle Morris, Sam Winter-Barker and Tunç Savaş WilmerHale



International and Comparative Law Quarterly

The *International & Comparative Law Quarterly* (ICLQ), published by BIICL, is known for its coverage of public and private international law, comparative law, human rights, and European law, and its exploration of the intersections between these areas.

In September 2023, after 11 years, Sir Malcolm Evans KCMG stepped down as Editor in Chief, passing the role to Professor Alex Mills. The ICLQ is extremely grateful to Sir Malcolm for the years of dedication and expertise he has brought to the Journal, and we look forward to working with Alex over the coming years.

The ICLQ's academic impact is evidenced by its 2-year Impact Factor, which reached a new high of 2.0, making it the top-ranked journal in European and comparative law and second in international law. Its 5-year Impact Factor also rose from 2.023 to 2.2, reflecting its long-term influence. The ICLQ also performed well in the Journal Citation Indicator (JCI), indicating its strong performance in law but also comparatively across academic fields.

In 2023, many ICLQ articles performed well on the Altmetric Attention Score, which measures article impact across social media, academia, and the media. Notably, an article on the status of Gaza as occupied territory under international law,

published in October 2023, currently has a score of 272, placing it in the top 5% of all research tracked by Altmetric. This article has been widely shared on the social media platform X and cited by news outlets globally, illustrating the ICLQ's broader societal impact. Another example of real-world impact is demonstrated by the Supreme Court of Mexico citing an article in Volume 72(3) on the role of courts in plastic pollution governance in support of their decision to uphold the 2019 ban on the sale and distribution of virgin plastic bags in the state of Oaxaca.

With support from Cambridge University Press, the ICLQ has embraced the global transition in academic publishing and significantly expanded its Open Access offerings, increasing from 6% of its output in 2019 to 59% in 2023. This shift promotes wider access to research and helps address global inequalities in knowledge dissemination.

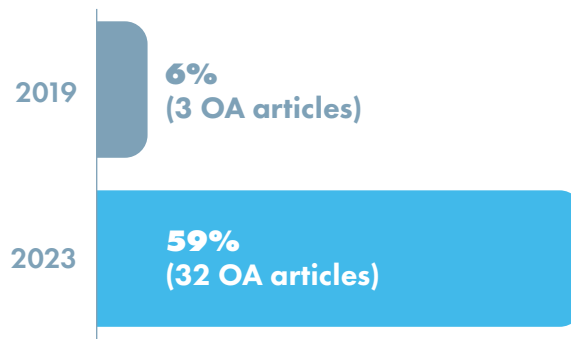
The ICLQ is committed to supporting early career researchers, offering publishing workshops and awarding an annual Early Career Prize. In 2023, the prize was awarded to Frances Anggadi for her article on legal stability in the context of maritime zones.

[READ MORE](#)

Anna Riddell-Roberts

INTERNATIONAL & COMPARATIVE LAW QUARTERLY

Articles published Open Access:



623,191

Downloads in
2023 (compared to
590,000 in 2022
– a 5.6% increase)

Membership

Individual Membership of BIICL is open to all and provides an opportunity to participate in a diverse community of practitioners, scholars and others with an interest in international and comparative law, and the rule of law. Members are kept informed of BIICL's latest research and developments, and are able to engage in debate and discussion through our programme of topical events, courses and conferences. Our membership includes judges, solicitors and barristers, government officials, regulators, international civil servants, in-house counsel, academics and students, and many non-lawyers. A range of individual and organisation membership packages are available. All members receive a substantial discount on events and training courses plus access to our renowned journal, the International and Comparative Law Quarterly.

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BIICL Forums

Our research activities are enhanced by specialist discussion and working groups, called Forums, which cover the areas of Competition Law, Investment Treaty Law, Product Liability Law and Human Rights Due Diligence.

The Forums bring together those with a serious engagement in these areas, including solicitors, barristers, in-house counsel, policy advisers, lobbyists, academics, government officials, regulators and international officials.

They provide secure opportunities to share experiences and exchange opinions, contribute to policy initiatives, and promote research in these important areas of law and practice.

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How You Can Help

Our donors make a tangible difference in the world. Their support enables BIICL to continue its vital and global work in advancing the field of international and comparative law, conducting ground-breaking research, and promoting the rule of law.

As a small, independent charity, BIICL relies on gifts from individuals and foundations, support from trusts, companies and research grants, and income from events, training, and publications. Our ability to address emerging legal issues in international law, threats to the rule of law, and pressing global challenges such as climate change and the rapid development of technology, depends on the ongoing support of our members, donors, funders and sponsors.

Our special thanks go to the following foundations for their extremely generous and longstanding support of the Institute and its Centres: Sigrid Rausing Trust, Jones Day Foundation, Dorset Foundation, Laudes Foundation, FILE, Sybil Shine Memorial Trust, Bluston Charitable Settlement, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust and JRSST Charitable Trust.

To make a gift to the Institute, please visit: www.biicl.org/supportingbiicl

BIICL 60+ Appeal

Chaired by Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, the BIICL 60+ Appeal continues to have a hugely positive impact on the Institute. Generous gifts from our supporters have enabled us to refurbish our entire premises, and develop our highly specialised programmes of research that you have read about in this report. Thanks to the kindness of our supporters we have also been able to expand our engagement with young people and the wider public in the UK and overseas on the Rule of Law and how these rights are important to their daily lives.

We are extremely grateful to all of those who have supported the Appeal so far, a list of whom can be found overleaf. We would particularly like to thank those individuals who have made generous personal donations and thereby joined the BIICL 60+ Appeal President's Circle.

With further support of the 60+ Appeal, BIICL can continue to help advance the understanding of international and comparative law in the UK and around the world, and to promote the Rule of Law in national and international affairs. For more information on the BIICL 60+ Appeal, its President's Circle, or to make a donation, please visit www.biicl.org/60thappeal

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