

# Centre for International Law

## Winter Newsletter 2025

The entire CIL Team wishes you a very happy New Year 2025!

We hope that you have started this New Year well and managed a restorative break over the holidays. We look forward to seeing you again over the course of the year and advancing international law together. You may want to save the date for our upcoming **Grotius lecture**, which will be given by ITLOS President Tomas Heidar on the 27th of March. In the meantime, we are pleased to share with you some information about our most recent activities.

On 3 October, we were delighted to welcome **Judge Joan Donoghue** at the Institute, following her appointment as new [BIICL Vice-President](#). In conversation with Catherine Amirfar (Debevoise & Plimpton LLP) on the occasion of the 2024 Harry Weinrebe Memorial Event, Judge Donoghue reflected on the role of the International Court of Justice in addressing geopolitical crises and its relations with other adjudicating bodies, the growing docket of cases involving erga omnes partes obligations, and the issues associated with requests for provisional measures, scientific and technical evidence, and gender equality, among others. In doing so, she drew from her personal experience at the Court, where she served as a Judge from 2010 to 2024 and as President from 2021 to 2024. You can now watch this insightful conversation [here](#).



We look forward to continuing working with Judge Donoghue to further the development of the CIL's work across the field of public international law and dispute settlement.



In October, we were also honoured to be once again one of the co-convenors of the [London Conference on International Law](#). If you missed out on participating in the London Conference on International Law 2024, you can now catch up on demand. Every plenary session and panel discussion is available to watch in the conference video box set – 25 videos in total containing nearly 30 hours of content. The plenary sessions are accessible [here](#). The London Conference

was also an opportunity to launch the second edition of the UK Supreme Court's Public International Law booklet. The publication takes readers through highlights from the Court's international cases over the last 15 years. You can download the booklet [here](#).

If you would like to know more about our work and ways to support us, do not hesitate to get in touch with [Kristin Hausler](#), Dorset Senior Fellow & Director of the Centre for International Law.

To jump to a particular section, please click on the hyperlinks below:

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## TRAINING COURSES & TEACHING

The 2025 programme of courses is currently being finalised and most of our courses for the year are already open for bookings. Courses include:

- Foundations of Public International Law
- Public International Law in Practice
- Business and Human Rights
- Climate Change Law
- Climate Change Litigation
- Artificial Intelligence Governance
- Cultural Heritage Law
- Law of the Sea

We are also excited to be hosting, for the second and third consecutive year respectively, our Summer Schools on:

- Public International Law (14-18 July) and
- Law and Technology (30 June to 4 July)

We will also be hosting a series of advanced workshops. The topics will be confirmed in the coming weeks/months.

You can find out more about our programme of upcoming courses at:

[www.biicl.org/upcoming-courses](http://www.biicl.org/upcoming-courses).

## BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS

We recently started a **podcast** for the HRDD Forum titled 'Reimagining the Law: Business and Human Rights'. In the first episode, [Dr Irene Pietropaoli](#) talks with Eve Salomon CBE about the reintroduction of the Foreign Agents Law in Georgia, and in October, we released a discussion that [Dr Jasmine Elliott](#) had with Professor Robert McCorquodale about his recently published book. Previews of the episodes [are available on the HRDD Forum](#) website.



Our [HRDD Annual conference](#) took place on 9 October. Two expert panels came together to discuss the current state and potential future development of corporate human rights and climate change litigation. On 15 October, we launched [a report on the impacts of mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence \(mHREDD\) regulation on corporate practice](#), presenting key findings and recommendations to inform the design and implementation of more

effective mHREDD laws. This report is the culmination of a year-long research project aimed at producing evidence of internal corporate responses to mHREDD legal models to inform the design and implementation of mHREDD laws.

## CLIMATE CHANGE LAW

The dissemination of the [Global Perspectives on Corporate Climate Legal Tactics](#) project has further progressed through several events and the publication of national reports, which are now available on the [project's webpage](#).

On 10 December, we launched the **BIICL Climate Law and Litigation (CLL) Blog**, a new platform dedicated to advancing innovative legal strategies and actionable solutions to address the climate crisis. This blog builds on the collaborative efforts of the Toolbox project's International Expert Group and the BIICL Team, and showcases insights from leading practitioners, academics, judges, and scientists worldwide. Its mission is to amplify diverse perspectives, bridge climate law with broader governance challenges, and make complex legal scholarship accessible and practical. You can explore the inaugural issue here: [BIICL Climate Law and Litigation Blog](#). As always, all blog posts are also available on the [general BIICL Blog](#). The Climate Law and Litigation Blog will be published bi-monthly, with each issue featuring a *Focus of the Month* on a key topic while remaining open to contributions about *New Developments* in climate law and litigation.

In addition, we continued to disseminate our research in different ways. On 30 September and 1 October, we co-organised a two-day conference in Aix-en-Provence with Aix-Marseille University and Paris-Saclay University titled 'Climate Change Litigation and Corporations: Comparative Perspectives in France and Europe'. The event explored critical issues in corporate climate litigation, including causes of action, evidentiary challenges, remedies, and emerging trends. The conference brought together two major research initiatives and a leading sustainability-focused institute, the Global Perspectives on Corporate Climate Legal Tactics project, hosting its [French National Conference and European Regional Summit](#), the ANR Proclimex project, examining the role of expertise in climate litigation, and the Institute of Law, Ethics, and Heritage at Paris-Saclay University, renowned for its work on corporate responsibility and environmental law.

On 16 October, the Canadian Toolbox event was hosted at York University by Hassan M. Ahmad, National Rapporteur for Canada and Assistant Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School. Professor Ahmad shared his insights and findings, focusing on the three core axes of analysis that underpin the Toolbox research: causes of action, procedural and evidentiary challenges, and available remedies. The national report for Canada, its executive summary, and the event recording are available here: [Global Toolbox National Conference – Canada](#).



**Litigância climática transnacional e circulação de modelos**  
Direito transnacional: "the migration and impact of legal norms, rules and models across borders" (Shaffer and Bodansky, 2012)

Direito transnacional do Clima?

- Narrativas comuns (p. ex. emergência climática) e circulação de argumentos, teses e conceitos científicos e jurídicos (p. ex. separação de poderes, defesas 'drop in the ocean' e substituição perfeita, ciência de atribuição, *no-harm rule*, *duty of care*);
- Corpo de casos domésticos em diferentes jurisdições e sistemas jurídicos, referidas pelos magistrados;
- Comunidade epistêmica.

On 29 November, the Brazilian rapporteurs hosted a webinar to explore the application of our Global Toolbox on Corporate Climate Litigation in Brazil. The event focused on topics such as access to justice, relevant legislation, corporate law in climate litigation, and the impacts of corporate behavior on Indigenous communities. Academics, legal practitioners, and NGO representatives working with Indigenous groups shared their perspectives on the future of corporate climate litigation in

Brazil. The webinar was organised in collaboration with our project partners at the Law, Environment, and Justice in the Anthropocene (JUMA) research group at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro. The event programme, the Brazilian National Report, its executive summary in English and Portuguese, as well as the recording are available [here](#).

On 15–16 October 2024, [Dr Ivano Alogna](#) served as a trainer at the Future Earth Research School, organised by the CMCC Foundation in Bertinoro, where he delivered sessions on 'Climate Change Litigation as a Risk to Public Authorities and Private Actor's', 'The Role of Science in Climate Litigation Cases', and 'Due Diligence Laws and Climate Change Litigation: Corporate Climate Accountability'.





On 18 October, he spoke at the ICON•S Italian Chapter V Annual Conference held at the University of Trento. On 24 October, he delivered a presentation on ‘Global Perspectives on Climate Change Litigation’ as part of the Seminar Series on Climate Change Law and Sustainability at the Catholic University of Lyon. Subsequently, on 1 November, Dr Alogna participated in the [World Sustainability Conference: Navigating Change through Climate Action and Adaptation](#), organised by The Green Institute, where he presented on ‘A Global Toolbox to Navigate Corporate Climate Litigation’.

Continuing his engagements, on 4–5 November, Dr Alogna spoke at the international workshop ‘Varieties of Climate Agency with a Special Focus on Climate Litigation’, organised as part of a research project funded by the DAAD between the University of Hamburg and the University of Cambridge, and hosted by the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, and Hughes Hall in the University of Cambridge. On 28 November, he delivered the keynote address on ‘Global Perspectives on Climate Change Litigation at the conference Climate Change Litigation: Emerging Issues and Concerns’, organised by the Institute of Law, Nirma University, and Paryavaran Mitra. On 5 December, he acted as a discussant during a conference on the ‘Contributions de l’Amérique latine à l’esquisse d’un droit commun’, hosted by the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, ISJPS. Finally, on 6 December, Dr Alogna participated in the roundtable ‘New Approaches to Liability: Corporate and Criminal Accountability’, during the event ‘Accelerating Climate Solutions through Child & Youth-Focused Litigation’, organised by King’s College London in partnership with Generations Together, Our Children’s Trust, and the World Council of Churches.



## CULTURAL HERITAGE LAW



On 18 November, [Kristin Hausler](#) participated in a special event marking the 70th anniversary of the 1954 Hague Convention for the protection of cultural property. Held in Bern, Switzerland, this event was jointly organised with the Swiss National Commission for UNESCO. It was an opportunity to launch the [latest edition of FORUM](#), a publication of the Swiss Federal Office for Civil Protection, focused on the safeguarding of cultural

heritage. In this volume, Kristin published an article that discussed the potential of the 1954 Hague Convention in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. In this piece, she also explained the role of heritage protection in the broader peace and security agenda.

Note also that Kristin will participate in the [CHASE Dialogues on museums and restitution](#) on 28 January at the Royal Institution in London.

## INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW

On 13 October, [Kristin Hausler](#) participated in the International Nuremberg Principles Academy Forum 2024 'For Every Child: Protecting Children's Rights in Armed Conflict'. She spoke on the final panel, which discussed ways forward to protect future generations, along with Prof Diane Marie Amann, Betty Kaari Murungi, and Leila Zerrougui. The event was opened with a keynote address delivered by Karim A. A. Khan KC, and concluded with an address by Navi Pillay.



On 16 October, [Anthony Wenton](#) convened a roundtable discussion on '[Lessons from the United Nations War Crimes Commission for Contemporary Immunities Law](#)'. Participants included judges from international criminal courts, ICL practitioners and scholars, and a member of the UN International Law Commission. This free and frank discussion under the Chatham House Rule explored various

mechanisms for holding State officials at all levels of seniority accountable for international crimes. The core focus was on the potential contemporary application of the pioneering work of the United Nations War Crimes Commission, which operated in the 1940s, including whether the UNWCC provides a model that could be used to establish a similar body today to support and legitimise prosecutions of international crimes in domestic courts.

**LUR** London Ukrainian Review Issue 3 (2024)



**Justice for Ukraine**

[Dr Kateryna Busol](#) collaborated with the Ukrainian Institute London on two occasions. She contributed to the special issue of the [London Ukrainian Review](#) with a piece '[Ukraine's Pursuit of Justice: Empowering the Law Domestically and Internationally](#)'. Kateryna also presented at the event '[From Impunity to Accountability: Reparations for Russia's Atrocities](#)' held at London's Europe House on 4 November.

In December, Dr Busol participated in the **Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court** in The Hague, The Netherlands. Kateryna presented at a side-event 'Using Technology to Improve Investigations of Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes' (SGBC). The presentation outlined the key findings from a year-long research on the role of technology in



redressing SGBC perpetrated in Sierra Leone, Ukraine, and against the Yazidi community. The project was led by Prof Valerie Oosterveld, Western Research Chair in International Criminal Justice and Professor, University of Western Ontario (Canada), and Special Adviser to the ICC Prosecutor on Crimes Against Humanity.

## INVESTMENT TREATY LAW



On 8 November 2024, the Investment Treaty Forum convened the [Forty-Second ITF Public Conference – Illegality in International Investment Law](#) to address the severe consequences that can arise when an investment is deemed illegal. These consequences include the denial of substantive protections, jurisdiction, and potential claims for damages. Despite numerous arbitral decisions and scholarly debates on the topic, there remains significant uncertainty about how illegality impacts international investment.

The conference participants discussed how illegality might influence various aspects of investment activities and dispute resolution procedures, including violations of host laws, the use of evidence obtained by illegal means, and illegality in investment contracts. Specifically, investments made in violation of the host state's laws, such as environmental regulations or licensing requirements, may be considered illegal and, thus, not entitled to protection under international investment agreements (IIAs) or international law. Additionally, if an investment is obtained through bribery, fraud, or other forms of corruption, tribunals may rule that the investment is tainted and therefore unprotected. The forum brought together leading practitioners, academics in international investment law, and representatives from governments to delve into these complex issues and discuss the intricate interplay between investment legality and international law protections.

On 15 October 2024, the Investment Treaty Forum in cooperation with Arnold & Porter conducted an event on [Sanctions-Related ISDS Disputes - Issues of Jurisdiction and Merits](#). The event participants reflected on the notable increase in investment treaty claims related to measures enacted in response to sanctions. These disputes are centred around Western sanctions targeting entities allegedly connected to the Russian government and various countermeasures taken by Russia against entities from what are referred to as "unfriendly jurisdictions." Anticipating the rise of more investment arbitrations, a timely panel was organised to address these developments. The discussion focused specifically on the jurisdictional and merits issues that are expected to arise from these cases. The panel provided an in-depth exploration of the legal complexities involved in these



disputes, offering insights into the evolving landscape of international investment law under the shadow of geopolitical conflicts.

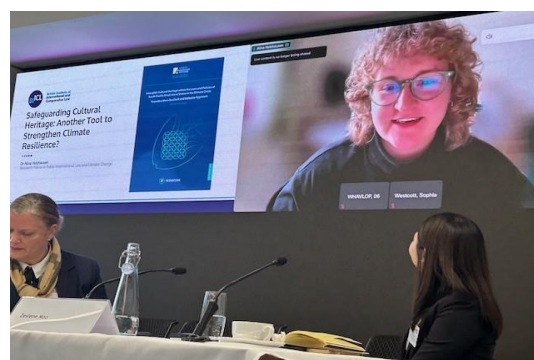
## INTERNATIONAL DISASTER LAW

On 21 October, BIICL and the FCDO supported a multidisciplinary workshop at the University of Strathclyde on the topic '[What can International Disaster Law Learn from Global Health Law?](#)'. The event built on lessons learnt during BIICL's 2023 event on '[The Search for Equity under the Pandemic Treaty](#)', which resulted in a policy brief for negotiators of the Pandemic Treaty. The Strathclyde workshop will similarly result in a policy brief for negotiators of the proposed UN General Assembly treaty on the protection of persons in the event of disasters. The brief will be launched at a BIICL event in 2025. [Anthony Wenton](#) addressed the room on positive human rights obligations applicable to both treaty regimes. [Katie Lines](#) spoke on the importance of adherence to the rule of law in disaster contexts.



The [2024 Small States Conference](#) focused on the issue of Disaster, Disruption & Resilience. Convened in collaboration with the Institute of Small and Micro-States and Wilmer Hale, the one-day conference addressed innovative solutions, provided opportunities for sharing promising practices, and to explore how small nations build resilience to safeguard their communities and economies. The conference also addressed disputes

relating to the issues caused by disasters and disruptions. As part of the 'Disaster and Disruption' panel, [Dr Jean-Pierre Gauci](#) delivered a presentation entitled 'Migration, Disruption and Resilience: Perception, Presentation and Response' - in which he explored Malta's migration management trajectory over the past 25 years. [Dr Alina Holzhausen](#) delivered a presentation entitled 'Safeguarding Cultural Heritage: Another Tool to Strengthen Climate Resilience', in which she shared research findings from a recent project at BIICL on [Intangible Cultural Heritage within the Laws and Policies of South Pacific Small Island States in the Climate Crisis](#). The final report of the project can be accessed [here](#).





## LABOUR RIGHTS

As part of our '[Labour Exploitation in Cuban Foreign Medical Missions](#)' project, during the reporting period we have undertaken an extensive search for **agreements between Cuba and States hosting Cuban foreign medical missions**. We have developed an expansive dataset of these agreements and have also been working, including through freedom of information requests, on securing access to the relevant documents. We have also developed, piloted, and are currently in the process of implementing the analytical framework for these agreements with the analysis to be finalised over the coming months. As part of the same project, we are undertaking an analysis of the conditions as identified in our literature review (reported on in the previous newsletter) from the perspectives of various fields of international law with a focus on labour law, human rights law, and the law of State responsibility.



In November, [Dr Jean-Pierre Gauci](#), Victoria Wyndham, and [Georgia Greville](#) attended the regional exchange of the [GLP-POWER Project](#). The meeting brought together partner organisations and grassroots implementing organisations from South and Southeast Asia to discuss various developments around **labour rights for informal workers in the region**, identifying similarities and differences in both issues faced and the modes of organising being undertaken by these groups. This was an opportunity to meet and discuss more

directly with implementing partners, as well as to present our work including the research and database of gig work-related litigation. Beyond the exchange, we also convened, in early November, a training of trainers (ToT) on migrant workers rights. Attended by around 50 stakeholders from South and Southeast Asia, the ToT was an opportunity to engage with the intersection and interaction of international labour standards, international migration standards and human rights law more broadly.

Work has also continued on our project addressing reforms of the **Kafala system in Jordan** with discussions with local stakeholders and the development of further research tools. We are currently in the process of finalising the initial report for the research phase of the project.

## LAW OF THE SEA

The Institute has signed a letter of cooperation with the International Seabed Authority to strengthen their collaboration on matters related to the work of the Enterprise – the operational arm of ISA established under Article 170 of UNCLOS. Under the agreement, both organisations will work together in organising joint lectures, research projects, workshops, conferences, and publications to foster dialogue among stakeholders and disseminate information about the work of the Enterprise. Read more [here](#).





In addition, [Dr Constantinos Yiallourides](#) delivered a presentation titled 'Maritime Disputes, Sea Lines, and Security Challenges in the Mediterranean Sea' at the 12th Global Ocean Regime Conference. This prestigious event, held on 4–5 November 2024 in Busan, South Korea, was jointly hosted by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea and the Korea Maritime

Institute (KMI). The conference focused on critical challenges facing international straits and sea lines of communication in strategic regions amidst escalating geopolitical conflicts.

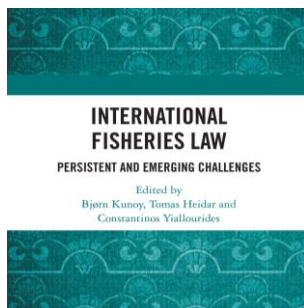
Dr Yiallourides also participated in the Eastern Mediterranean Initiative (EMI) Track-II Diplomatic Dialogue, held from 13–17 November 2024 at the Maison de la Paix in Geneva, Switzerland. This dialogue, co-hosted by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and SwissPeace, brought together regional experts, including academics, diplomats, and former government officials, to address evolving regional dynamics in the Eastern Mediterranean. Participants discussed strategies to mitigate the consequences of conflicts, foster regional stability and peace, and develop realistic, conflict-sensitive approaches to cooperation. Learn more about the EMI Dialogue [here](#).



In December, BIICL held **training courses on Energy Law and the Law of the Sea in London** (2–5 December 2024). Both courses featured insights from leading experts in government, industry, academia, and practice. **H.E. Judge Tomas Heidar, President of ITLOS**, delivered a distinguished closing lecture on Dispute Settlement and the Role of ITLOS.

On 6 December 2024, BIICL collaborated with the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST) to co-host a Maritime Boundary Delimitation Workshop. The workshop explored developments in maritime boundary delimitation practice through the lens of international courts and tribunals. A workshop report will be available in the coming weeks.



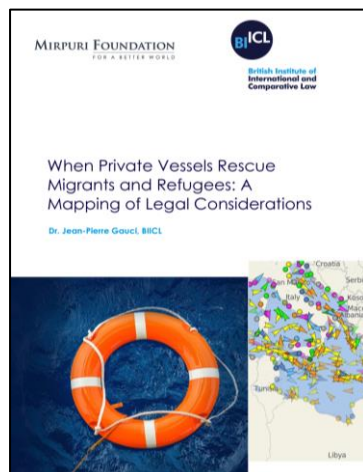


Finally, we are pleased to announce the latest book publication, “*International Fisheries Law: Persistent and Emerging Challenges*” (Routledge, 2024), co-edited by Prof Bjørn Kunoy, Judge Tomas Heidar and Dr Constantinos Yiallourides. The comprehensive volume addresses pressing issues in international fisheries law with insights from leading scholars and practitioners in the field. A free preview PDF, including the table of contents, list of contributors, and introduction, is available [here](#).

## MIGRATION & ANTI-TRAFFICKING

Over the last quarter we continued our work on [Immigration Detention and the Rule of Law](#), a project funded by the Nuffield Foundation and which is updating a set of safeguarding principles developed by BIICL in 2012. Our work over this period has involved matching key developments with the principles and agreeing about principles which will be combined and additional principles to be added. In particular, we are developing safeguarding principles relating to the privatisation of immigration detention (also taking into account the evolving business and human rights frameworks) and around alternatives to detention and the safeguards required in that context.

**Our work in the area of migration and trafficking has continued to be recognized by domestic and international organizations.** We were asked by a UK devolved administration to provide feedback on the training that was being developed for frontline workers in the Modern Slavery space. This request built on our work, funded by the Modern Slavery Policy and Evidence Centre, which undertook an analysis of training provision for frontline workers in the UK and developed a framework for the evaluation of such training (see the [project report here](#)).



Moreover, building on our work on the [Role of Private Vessels when they Rescue Migrants and Refugees at Sea](#), [Dr Jean-Pierre Gauci](#) was invited to participate in a meeting of the Centre for Humanitarian Action at Sea, held in Geneva, which brought together representatives from international organisations, governments, coast guards, and the private maritime sector (including shipping and insurance, amongst others) as well as human rights organisations. At the session, Dr Gauci chaired a working group on data - analysing and drawing recommendations on both what data is available; what data should be collected and analysed, and possible platforms for the compilation and sharing of information.

Later in November, Dr Gauci participated in a two day workshop convened, in Rome, by the Office of the UNHCR Special Envoy for the Central Mediterranean discussing issues of rescue in the Central Mediterranean. In his contribution to a panel at the workshop, Dr Gauci highlighted some of the critical challenges facing rescue operators at sea when implementing the obligation to rescue those in distress, and how this links to both commercial implications for private vessels but also issues of State responsibility when it comes to instructions to rescue, bilateral relationships with other States, and issues around disembarkation and delays thereof.

## PEOPLE AT THE CIL



We are delighted to welcome [Abhijeet Shrivastava](#) who joined the CIL as a Researcher in International Law and Dispute Settlement in November 2024. He will support the implementation of our work on international dispute settlement. Abhijeet holds first-class degrees from Cambridge University and Jindal Global Law School. He has published widely in the field, including in his role as Rapporteur for the *Oxford Reports on International Law*, and has previously assisted Dr Penelope Ridings for the International Law Commission and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

We have also continued to host **volunteer researchers**. This January we welcome a new cohort of interns to the CIL team including Jonathan Tucker and Sophia Kontos from Harvard University; Grace Johannesen and Giorgio Caripidis from Notre Dame; Margarita Azizbekyan from Humboldt University and Hanan Sahnoud, Rebecca Lloyd, Elena Murphy and Lada Volkova from Melbourne University.

## UPCOMING EVENT

Save the date for our upcoming Grotius lecture with ITLOS President Tomas Heidar on 27 March 2024. In the meantime, consider joining us for:

### [BlueRights: Life, liberty and health at sea](#)

24 January 2025

**COST**  
EUROPEAN COOPERATION  
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

COST Action "Life, liberty and health: ensuring universal protection of human rights at sea" (BlueRights) CA23103

**SAVE THE DATE**

COST Action BlueRights opening Conference  
**"Life, liberty, and health at sea"**  
24 January 2025, 9.00 – 16.30  
London, United Kingdom

The opening conference of COST Action BlueRights will bring together leading experts and stakeholders from international and national institutions to discuss protection of the right to life, the right to liberty, and the right to health at sea. The conference will feature experts panels and a closing stakeholders roundtable, to assess current developments and explore future actions in the protection of people at sea and their rights.

Attendance in person or online. To register, go to <https://bluefurl.eu/27to25>.

**SOAS**  
University of London

**BIICL**  
British Institute of  
International and  
Comparative Law

**University  
of Basel**

BIICL is delighted to be co-hosting the BlueRights: Life, liberty, and health at sea - Conference together with SOAS University of London and Basel University. The event will feature expert speakers from academia, international organisations and civil society. Do not miss this chance to learn, connect, and contribute to the ongoing conversation on human rights at sea.

We hope to see you soon at our forthcoming events or training courses, in person or online!

**Stay tuned for our next newsletter, which will be out in April 2025**