



**British Institute of
International and
Comparative Law**

Annual Impact Report 2024/2025 **Responding to Global Challenges**

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Introduction from the Chair of Trustees

Welcome to the BIICL Annual Report covering the period 2024-2025. Over this time we have seen many changes both globally and within BIICL itself. Challenges to the international rules-based order continue to multiply and the role of BIICL to advance understanding of the importance of international law and the rule of law grows ever more important.

The United Nations Charter celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2025. The Charter's three pillars – Peace and Security, Human Rights, and Development – remain as relevant today as they did when first adopted. To realise them, we still require a solid international legal order that is fit to address contemporary challenges such as nationalism, terrorism, insecurity, new technologies, and climate change. Strengthening and advancing the concept of the Rule of Law and its application is essential as societies and global institutions come under increasing strain. BIICL's comparative approach ensures that the perspectives and experiences of different jurisdictions enrich the legal debate and support convergence and harmonisation.

Within BIICL, we said a fond farewell to our Director, Professor Spyros Maniatis, who left in September 2025 for a new role in Taiwan after seven years at the helm. He had played a crucial role in expanding our outreach to new regions, spearheading innovative projects to address the demands of our rapidly evolving global landscape. In particular, he championed extension of our work on climate change, AI and other new technologies.

Following an extensive search process, we are delighted that Sonya Sceats is our new BIICL Director/CEO from April 2026. Joining us from the charity, Freedom from Torture, Ms Sceats brings extensive experience of charity leadership and a commitment to building BIICL's expertise and voice in support of international cooperation and the Rule of Law.

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

Eve Salomon, CBE



Responding to Global Challenges

The UN's Pillars

International law is the key to stable international relations, collective security, and sustainable development.

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

The Immunity of State Officials from Foreign Criminal Jurisdiction: Lessons from the United Nations War Crimes Commission

In 2024, BIICL started a new project exploring the work of the United Nations War Crimes Commission (UNWCC). The UNWCC, which operated between 1943 and 1948, was a multinational body comprised of eminent lawyers from 17 Member States that supported national legal systems around the world to conduct domestic prosecutions of Axis personnel accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and exterminations that would today be classified as genocide. The Commission's members included key architects of modern international law, such as René Cassin and judges of the Permanent Court of International Justice. The UNWCC made pioneering contributions to the development of international criminal law in that period, including determining that officials at all levels of seniority could be prosecuted for these grave crimes in the domestic courts of foreign States, and endorsing multiple national indictments of Adolf Hitler while still the sitting head of the State of Germany.

After 1948, access to the archive of this important body remained highly restricted for more than 60 years. This project will interrogate the archive in order to identify long overlooked insights that might inform the development of contemporary international law and practice, beginning with two key questions:

1. Does the expert opinion and practice of the UNWCC and its 17 Member States lend any support to the argument that State officials, however high, do not enjoy immunity from foreign criminal jurisdiction with respect to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide?
2. Does the UNWCC provide a model that could be used to lend international legitimacy to national prosecutions today?

<https://www.biicl.org/projects/the-immunity-of-state-officials-from-foreign-criminal-jurisdiction-lessons-from-the-united-nations-war-crimes-commission>

Antony Wenton , Kristin Hausler, Prof. Dan Plesch

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

The BIICL project 'Beyond theoretical differences on international law: Identifying common ground among states on unlawful behaviour in cyberspace' concluded in 2025 with a report *Sovereignty and its Relation to Primary Rules of International Law*.

The report examines underlying normative issues pertaining to the status and function of sovereignty and its relation to primary rules of international law that have been brought to the forefront of discussions among states in debates concerning the application of international law to new technologies.

The report was a result of extensive engagement with experts and practitioners in public international law, including a survey, semi-structured interviews, and roundtable discussions. Rather than convening experts focused on the application of international law to new technologies, this project instead seeks to engage general international law scholars and those with specialised expertise in the normative issues central to the research, namely, sovereignty and obligations of conduct – often referred to as “due diligence obligations”. In adopting this approach, the project aims to offer a unique contribution by examining the foundations of the normative claims made in debates over how international law applies to new technologies. While the research is prompted by normative issues in debates concerning the application of international law to new technologies, its findings are relevant to international law broadly and to a range of topics therein.

https://www.biicl.org/documents/194_sovereignty_and_its_relation_to_primary_rules_of_international_law_final.pdf

Jack Kenny



Combating Forced Labour in Cuban Medical Missions

The findings of our project looking at forced labour in Cuban Foreign Medical Missions (CFMM) were published in 2025. The CFMM programme has been the flagship initiative of the Cuban Government for decades, recruiting and deploying thousands of health professionals abroad and integrating international students into its medical training system. The benefits of this programme, which is part of Cuba's medical internationalism strategy, have been praised by Cuba and beneficiary countries alike, as it supports host States' efforts to ensure healthcare is provided in areas where it may be difficult to guarantee those services without such missions. Yet Cuban doctors, who are part of those missions, and a range of stakeholders, including United Nations (UN) experts, civil society organisations and journalists, have raised concerns about the working and living conditions of those doctors. Those concerns point towards practices amounting to exploitation of Cuban medical personnel as well as coercive and retaliatory measures against those who denounce these practices or seek to leave the missions. The outputs present research undertaken by BIICL on the international human and labour rights standards with which CFMMs should align, as a basis for recommendations to Cuba, host countries and civil society. The findings are presented through a main report entitled 'Cuban Foreign Medical Missions: Challenges and Opportunities Through the Lens of International Human Rights and Labour Standards', a literature review, and a first of its kind analysis of the bilateral agreements that underpin cooperation on these missions.

<https://www.biicl.org/publications/combating-forced-labour-in-cuban-foreign-medical-missions>

Jean-Pierre Gauci, Rosana Garcandia, Georgia Greville, Celine Hocquet, Victoria Wyndham and others

What can International Disaster Law Learn from Global Health Responses?

In December 2025, the University of Strathclyde published a policy brief on the theme of "What can International Disaster Law Learn from Global Health Responses?" This document is the result of a collaboration between BIICL, the University of Strathclyde, and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. It sets out a range of recommendations to inform the negotiation of a proposed treaty on the protection of persons in the event of disasters, which the UN General Assembly hopes will be elaborated and concluded by the end of 2027. Given the clear linkages between disasters and health and the recent adoption of a Pandemic Agreement, the Policy Brief identifies important lessons that international disaster law can take from experiences in responding to global health emergencies.

<https://www.biicl.org/publications/what-can-international-disaster-law-learn-from-global-health-responses>

Anthony Wenton with Thérèse O'Donnell, University of Strathclyde

Assessing the Modern Slavery Impacts of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022: One Year On

This project, exploring the impact of the changes brought about by NABA on the identification and wellbeing of people with lived experience of modern slavery published its findings in June 2024. The report *Assessing the Modern Slavery Impacts of the Nationality and Borders Act: One Year On* documents wide-ranging negative impacts of the Act on survivors and the agencies supporting them.

In summary the report documents a wide range of detrimental effects of the Act, categorised across impacts on decision-making outcomes, impacts on people with lived experience of modern slavery, and impacts on organisations working in the modern slavery sector. These outcomes risk undermining both survivor recovery and the UK's ability to effectively tackle modern slavery.

https://www.biicl.org/documents/183_naba_report__biicl_branding_final.pdf

Noemi Magugliani, Jean-Pierre Gauci and John Trajer with Robyn Phillips and Jasmine Selby, Human Trafficking Foundation



Harry Weinrebe Memorial Event

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.



Judge Joan Donoghue with Catherine Amirfar, Kristin Hausler and Spyros Maniatis



Sir Tim Eicke KC

Our 2025 annual Weinrebe lecture, supported by Debevoise & Plimpton, was given by Sir Tim Eicke KC, outgoing UK Judge at the European Court of Human Rights, who provided a strong defence of the role of the Strasbourg Court, highlighting not only the significant human rights advances it generated at the domestic level but also the many misrepresentations that lead to calls for withdrawal. With regard to inter-state proceedings, he underlined how the Strasbourg Court “comprehensively engaged with the question of Russia’s responsibility as a matter of international law for the human rights violations” that occurred in armed conflicts, adding that “it is difficult to see how it can legitimately be said the Convention or the Court have outlived their usefulness and are no longer fit for purpose.”

https://www.biicl.org/documents/202_odonnell-et-al-strathclyde-2025-what-can-international-disaster-law-learn-from-global-health-responses.pdf

Immigration Detention and the Rule of Law: Safeguarding Principles (2nd ed.)

In December 2025, we launched the second edition of *Immigration Detention and the Rule of Law: Safeguarding Principles*. This handbook articulates Safeguarding Principles that set clear limits on the exercise of powers of immigration detention, while also seeking to ensure the dignity of persons detained under these powers. It proceeds from the understanding that any form of detention without such clear limits poses serious challenges to human rights and the Rule of Law. The handbook is intended to inform the work of a wide audience, including policymakers, legal practitioners, judges and civil society actors working in this area. It draws its inspiration from a core set of standards developed within international human rights law, distilling these into discrete and easily digestible principles designed to inform litigation, policy design and broader engagement with Parliamentary and policy processes. The principles are now grouped into themes including: overarching principles, legality, non-arbitrariness, treatment in detention, and judicial oversight and remedies.

Beyond the updated principles, we also published a commentary applying the principles to some key legislative and policy developments in the UK as well as additional tools to facilitate the use of the principles by stakeholders.

<https://www.biicl.org/publications/immigration-detention-and-the-rule-of-law-safeguarding-principles-2nd-ed>

Jean-Pierre Gauci, John Trajer, Julinda Beqiraj and, Georgia Greville with Justine N. Stefanelli (ASIL)

2024/2025

BIICL produced

34 new research reports

and initiated

14 new projects



Responding to Global Challenges

Law and Change

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

The Global Toolbox on Corporate Climate Litigation

The Global Toolbox on Corporate Climate Litigation is a major international initiative developed by BIICL to conduct a comparative analysis of legal actions targeting corporate actors for their contributions to climate change. During 2024, the project entered a wide-reaching dissemination phase aimed at expanding the use and impact of the Toolbox's resources – developed with over 200 experts across 17 jurisdictions and 5 continents.

The Toolbox responds to growing demand from judges, litigators, academics, and civil society for strategic, comparative, and practice-oriented resources to navigate this complex and rapidly evolving field. It offers a dynamic, open-access platform presenting legal arguments, procedural innovations, case law trends, and expert commentary – supporting legal communities in developing effective tactics and fostering transnational learning.

In 2024–2025, the project hosted national conferences in each of its target countries and organised regional summits across five continents. These hybrid events brought together judges, legal practitioners, NGOs, and academics to promote, exchange, and identify transferable strategies. Targeted judicial trainings were delivered in Africa, Europe, Asia and the Americas, including sessions co-hosted with the African Judicial Education Network on Environmental Law (AJENEL), IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the EU Forum of Judges for the Environment (EUFJE). In addition the toolbox group launched the *Climate Law and Litigation Blog* and the *Corporate Climate Litigation* podcast, in which world-leading experts unpack landmark cases, legal strategies, and global trends in this field.

These initiatives leverage the expertise of the project's International Expert Group (IEG) to inform a broader audience. Members of the research team are often invited to speak at conferences across the world as experts in this field and the Toolbox was cited in the 2024 UN Special Rapporteur's report on the implementation of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, presented at the 79th session of the UN General Assembly. It was also recognised in the report by the Grantham Research Institute (London School of Economics) as a leading initiative in the corporate litigation space.

This project exemplifies BIICL's mission to inform global decision-making, promote climate accountability, and support legal frameworks for a just transition through independent, comparative legal research.

<https://www.biicl.org/ccl-toolbox>

Ivano Alogna, Crisela Bernadino, Duncan Fairgrieve, Jean-Pierre Gauci, Irene Pietropaoli, Anthony Wenton with, Ingrid Gubbay (Hausfeld) and, Nigel Pleming KC (39 Essex Chambers).

Reflections on the ITLOS Advisory Opinion

On 21 May 2024, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) unanimously rendered the Advisory Opinion on the Request submitted by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law. The Advisory Opinion, which has been referred to as a "landmark decision", has brought climate change into the realm of the Law of the Sea Convention and activated its provisions, in particular in Part XII, with regard to anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions.

In March 2025 we were honoured to welcome Judge Tomas Heidar, President of the ITLOS, to give the annual Grotius Lecture at the Institute, providing insights on the Advisory Opinion on the Request submitted by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law in 2024. ITLOS unanimously rendered the Advisory Opinion and has brought climate change into the realm of the Convention on the Law of the Sea with its decision. We are grateful to Judge David Anderson CMG, who served as a Judge of ITLOS (1996-2005) and a former member of our Public International Law Advisory Panel, for introducing Judge Heidar at the event.



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

In 2024, BIICL, together with Milieu Consulting srl, was commissioned by the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) to undertake a research project on Better Regulation tools and active subsidiarity to support the policy priorities of the CoR. The report presenting the research findings was published by the European Committee of the Regions in September 2024.

In two parts, the report examines existing European Union (EU) instruments and processes on Better Regulation as well as possible reforms within the current Treaty framework, and reforms with a view to potential Treaty amendments. It sets out arguments for a stronger consideration of the territorial dimensions in EU law-making processes, including a closer collaboration of the European Commission (EC), the European Parliament (EP), and the Council with the CoR, and a paradigm shift towards a genuine application of the subsidiarity approach.

Based on the analysis, the report concludes with five overarching recommendations to the CoR decision-makers, all aimed at strengthening the CoR's capacity to provide better input to policy-making within the context of the Better Regulation agenda.

<https://www.biicl.org/publications/charting-the-course-to-better-eu-law-making-optimisation-of-eu-treaties-through-inter-institutional-cooperation-with-the-european-committee-of-the-regions>

Alina Holzhausen, Jean-Pierre Gauci, Rosana Garcíandia with, Jennifer McGuinn (Milieu Consulting srl)

Mapping Third Party Litigation Funding (TPLF) in the European Union

In 2022, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on responsible private funding of litigation which called on the Commission to propose legislation that would regulate TPLF in the EU. The Commission, on its response to the resolution, committed to conduct a mapping study that would take stock of the situation in the EU. BIICL and Civic Consulting, supported by experts from the Asser Institute and from Risk & Policy

Analysts (RPA), carried out the study including over 200 contributions from across the EU. The study maps legislation, practice, and debate on TPLF in the EU Member States and four non-EU countries (United Kingdom, Switzerland, United States, and Canada).

In light of the results and data gathered in the legal research and the consultation, three different approaches are considered in the study, along with their rationale: no regulation, light-touch regulation, and strict regulation. The results of the study will be used by the Commission's services to assess the appropriate follow-up to the European Parliament resolution on responsible funding of litigation.

<https://www.biicl.org/projects/mapping-third-party-litigation-funding-in-the-european-union>

Eva Lein, Sara Razai, Constance Bonzé

Investment protection in global banking and finance

Working with AHALI Dispute Resolution LLC and Womble Bond Dickinson, BIICL undertook a comprehensive empirical study on investment protection in global banking and finance, examining 149 international investment cases. The study examines the publicly available decisions of investor-State tribunals addressing the protection of investments in the banking and finance sector. The report concludes:

- Investor-State disputes in the banking and finance sector have increased significantly over the past two decades, often occurring in clusters following external shocks such as economic crises.
- A small number of States face most of the claims, with countries like Argentina, India, and Croatia experiencing a disproportionately high number of arbitrations.
- Investors in banking and finance disputes have a higher likelihood of success and settlement compared to investor-State cases generally.
- Tribunals have confirmed limits on permissible State interference with banking and finance investments.

<https://www.biicl.org/publications/empirical-study-international-investment-law-protections-in-global-banking-and-finance>

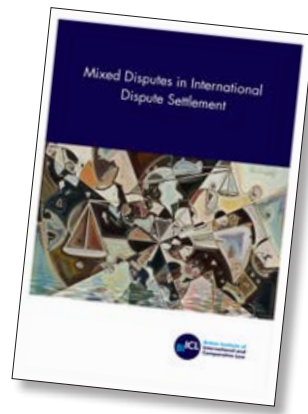
Yarik Kryvoi with Prof Arif Hyder, and Kai-Chieh Chan (AHALI)

Mixed Disputes in International Dispute Settlement

This report examines the settlement of mixed disputes by international courts and tribunals, providing examples from the practice of international courts and tribunals in the law of the sea and other areas of international law.

Mixed disputes are defined as cases brought before international courts and tribunals involving intertwined legal issues governed by different legal regimes, encompassing both disputes over matters falling within the forum's jurisdiction (internal issues) and disputes implicating rules beyond that jurisdiction (external issues). As a result, disagreements may arise on the scope of a forum's subject-matter jurisdiction. Does the forum lack jurisdiction over the external issue? Can it decide the external issue under certain conditions? Alternatively, does the forum lack jurisdiction over both internal and external elements in a specific mixed dispute?

While the term mixed disputes is particularly prevalent in the law of the sea discourse, the issues in the dispute settlement system under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) have parallels in other fields of international law. Accordingly, the report focuses on mixed disputes in the law of the sea and the tests and techniques used by the relevant courts and tribunals but also looks at practice beyond the law of the sea to infer tenable findings on international dispute settlement more broadly including the approaches of dispute settlement bodies dealing with issues relating to international human rights law, international criminal law and international trade and investment law.



<https://www.biicl.org/publications/mixed-disputes-in-international-dispute-settlement>

Constantinos Yiallourides, Jean-Pierre Gauci, Alina Holzhausen, Abhijeet Shrivastava

Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA)

In November 2024, BIICL co-organised the conference “Developing the UK-EU Relationship: TCA Review and Beyond” with the Centre for European Law and Internationalisation (CELI), University of Leicester. The conference brought together academics, policymakers and other practitioners, to discuss the likelihood and potential scope of any revisions to the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) concluded between the UK and the EU whose review is expected in 2026. Panels discussed selected areas for amendment or expansion of the cooperation, such as trade in goods and services, mobility, social security coordination, cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and cooperation in security and defence matters.

<https://www.biicl.org/events/11960/developing-the-uk-eu-relationship-tca-review-and-beyond>

Julinda Beqiraj with, Prof. Katja Ziegler (University of Leicester) and, Sir Robert Jennings (Centre for European Law and Internationalisation – CELI)



Bridging the Justice Gap – How Smart Technology Can Support Access to Legal Advice for Underserved Communities

Over the course of 2025 we undertook research on how smart technology can help address the justice gap resulting in a report published in October 2025. The report addresses the critical need for understanding and improving access to legal services for underserved communities, outlining some of the opportunities and challenges for smart technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), as tools for enhanced access to justice for all.

The report maps communities underserved by legal services, identifies the stakeholders involved in addressing some of those gaps and finally considers how smart technologies can facilitate the work of such entities in bridging the justice gap as well as the obstacles that must be addressed.

<https://www.biicl.org/publications/bridging-the-justice-gap-how-smart-technology-can-support-access-to-legal-advice-for-underserved-communities>

Jean-Pierre Gauci, Iris Anastasiadou

Responding to Global Challenges

Rule of Law Resilience

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



Parliamentary Engagement, including Rule of Law Monitoring of Legislation

The Bingham Centre engaged with Parliamentarians during 2024-2025 through multiple channels, from informing debates on Bills, to organising meetings for an All-Party Parliamentary Group and providing written and oral evidence to Parliamentary committees.

Through the Rule of Law Monitoring of Legislation Project, our researchers analyse UK Bills to identify Rule of Law issues. Parliamentarians have cited our reports more than 75 times since the project began in 2018, prompting important changes to proposed legislation.

In early 2024, we challenged the Safety of Rwanda Bill through several reports to the House of Commons and House of Lords, highlighting the serious dangers it posed to the separation of powers, access to court and respect for international obligations. Although the Bill was ultimately passed, our constructive amendments informed the stance of Peers in the House of Lords, which repeatedly voted to modify some of the Bill's worst features. The process was prolonged and the legislation was never implemented.

In the run-up to the 2024 election, we organised meetings for the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on the Rule of Law, covering the digitalisation of welfare benefits and the regulation of litigation funding, and an *ad hoc* meeting for Lord Anderson of Ipswich KC on the Safety of Rwanda Bill. These meetings enabled MPs and Peers to discuss Rule of Law issues with our panellists and to obtain their views and input on amendments.

Following the July 2024 election, the Bingham Centre contributed to the UCL Constitution Unit's publication *MPs' Role in the Constitution: A Practical Guide*, which was sent to all MPs elected to the new Parliament and emphasises the responsibility of MPs to protect the Rule of Law in a constitutional system based on Parliamentary sovereignty.

The new government, while making welcome commitments to Rule of Law principles, still went on to introduce Bills that required close Rule of Law scrutiny. We began with a survey of the Bills in the King's Speech and followed it by noting the continued use of problematically broad delegated powers. In the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill (eventually passed at the end of 2025), we challenged the widening and retrospective application of immigration detention powers in our

published report, and worked with civil society organisations to brief Peers who secured amendments restricting the scope of another set of powers to impose curfews, electronic tagging and other restrictions on lawful migrants.

In late 2025 when the House of Lords Constitution Committee held an inquiry into the Rule of Law, the Bingham Centre submitted written evidence and our Director gave oral evidence to the opening session of the inquiry highlighting the vital contribution which the Rule of Law makes to democracy and economic growth. In its 2025 report, the Constitution Committee made extensive references to our work.



The Dynamics of the Judiciary in Ukraine in the Context of the Rule of Law and the EU Accession Aspirations

The project is a critical and in-depth study of Ukraine's judicial system from the post-Soviet era to the present, examining key aspects including judicial reforms, independence of the judiciary within a Rule of Law framework, anti-corruption measures, the impact of the on-going full-scale Russian invasion on judges and their courts, issues of efficiency and accountability, and harmonisation with Council of Europe and EU standards in the context of Ukraine's EU accession aspirations.

Since the project was launched in autumn 2024 the team has published monthly updates on the Ukrainian judiciary field, blogs, concept papers and video interviews with prominent judges. The project has already had an impact on the engagement of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) with Ukrainian judicial reforms, as it provided briefings which informed the decision of the Council of Ministers to approve the progress of reforms following the *Volkov v Ukraine* judgment on the judicial disciplinary system. The project team also created a new organizational chart of the Ukrainian court system which was uploaded to the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) website.

Judges interviewed for the project included: Lord Neuberger, former President of the UK Supreme Court, Professor Paul Lemmens, President of the Administrative Tribunal of the Council of Europe, Judge Anna Adamska-Galant of the ECtHR and Ukrainian Supreme Court Judges Olena Kibenko, Kostiantyn Pilkov, and Ivan Mishchenko. The project convened a public event on the use of AI in courts, where Ukrainian, Polish and UK experts discussed innovations that have been introduced in the legal systems of their respective jurisdictions, and the development of Council of Europe standards by bodies such as CEPEJ.

This research, which is unprecedented among studies of the Ukrainian judiciary in its scale and depth, aims to produce recommendations for the on-going process of judicial reform in Ukraine and alignment with EU and Council of Europe standards in particular.

<https://binghamcentre.biicl.org/projects/the-dynamics-of-the-judiciary-in-ukraine-in-the-context-of-the-rule-of-law-and-the-eu-accession-aspirations>

Tetyana Antsupova, Sergii Koziakov, Jan van Zyl Smit, Julinda Beqiraj, Mariia Tymofienko

Bingham Lecture 2024: The Rule of Law in an Age of Populism

The 2024 Bingham Lecture was given by the Attorney General, the Rt Hon Lord Hermer KC. The lecture was Lord Hermer's first full-length speech following his appointment as Attorney General. Lord Hermer discussed the profound linkages between the Rule of Law, democracy and human rights, and examined threats posed by populists who seek to delegitimise the institutions that are essential for upholding these values. He went on to outline the government's plans for Rule of Law restoration and resilience in three principal areas: "rebuilding the UK's international Rule of Law leadership"; "defending and strengthening Parliament's role in upholding the Rule of Law" and "promoting a Rule of Law culture".



Attorney General, the Rt Hon Lord Hermer KC

Independent Commission on UK Counter-Terrorism Law, Policy and Practice

The Bingham Centre's Independent Commission on UK Counter-Terrorism Law, Policy and Practice carried out a wide-ranging public examination and review of UK counter-terrorism law, policy and practice. Chaired by the Rt Hon Sir Declan Morgan PC KC, former Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, the Commission's members include former cabinet ministers from Labour and Conservative government (John Denham, Dominic Grieve KC and Baroness Sayeeda Warsi) and others with senior experience in the judiciary, policing, legal practice and academia.

After three years of research and consultation with over 200 experts, practitioners, policymakers, academics, and community representatives, the Commission published its final report in November 2025. This presents 113 recommendations to ensure the UK's counter-terrorism framework remains effective, proportionate, and firmly rooted in the Rule of Law.

The report finds that while the UK's counter-terrorism system remains among the most capable globally, it has expanded in scope and complexity – sometimes at the expense of focus, transparency, and public confidence.

Key recommendations include:

- A major overhaul of the Prevent programme, placing it within a local, multi-agency safeguarding model that covers a range of violence-related risks to public safety.
- A narrower statutory definition of terrorism, ensuring precision, proportionality, and protection for lawful protest.
- Reform of proscription powers, raising the legal test, introducing automatic reviews, and ensuring stronger Parliamentary scrutiny.
- Reform of terrorism offences, tightening evidential thresholds and improving guidance to ensure prosecutions are proportionate, fair, and grounded in clear intent.
- Restoring fairness and equality in citizenship law, limiting deprivation of citizenship to narrowly defined circumstances, strengthening safeguards and judicial oversight, and ensuring equal treatment under the law.



- A national strategy for social cohesion, recognising that long-term security depends on inclusion, equality, and community resilience.
- Expanded oversight powers for the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, and systematic, transparent evaluation across all counter-terrorism measures.

The report's concluding observations highlight six guiding principles for reform – effectiveness, proportionality, accountability, fair process, equal treatment, and evidence-based policy – as the foundation for a modern, legitimate, and rights-respecting counter-terrorism system.

This landmark report offers a practical roadmap for reform to strengthen both security and the Rule of Law.

<https://binghamcentre.biicl.org/publications/report-of-the-independent-commission-on-uk-counter-terrorism-law-policy-and-practice>

Dr Tufyal Choudhury

Public and Youth Engagement Programme

The Bingham Centre’s Public and Youth Engagement Programme aims to reach audiences beyond the legal sector and equip young people in particular with the knowledge, skills and confidence to become active, participatory citizens. The team also participates in standard-setting on public legal education (PLE) as members of the Public Legal Education Network hosted by the Law Society and the Bar Council.

Following the national curriculum review for England which recommended expanding education in Citizenship to primary schools, the project team published an article “Embedding the Rule of Law in Citizenship Teaching: the Time is Now” in the *Association for Citizenship Teaching Journal*. The team has worked with members of the Association, individual Citizenship teachers and academics at the UCL Institute of Education to pilot a new set of teaching resources on public international law.

In 2024 it also introduced a series of educational workshops for primary schools, delivered by volunteer law students and law graduates under our supervision. Educational resources are also available on our Rule of Law Hub including bite-size videos, blog posts, podcasts and our award-winning textbooks for teachers covering topics such as justice, human rights and the Magna Carta.

<https://binghamcentre.biicl.org/projects/public-and-youth-engagement-programme>

Ola Ugwu, Atoosa Khatiri, Jan van Zyl Smit, Jean-Pierre Gauci, Florence Skinner

The Rule of Law and Judicial Selection: Developing a Toolkit for Improving Outcomes and Accountability in Selection Processes

The Bingham Centre is undertaking a collaborative project with the International Bar Association (IBA) to develop practical guidance on how judicial selection processes can be improved to strengthen the Rule of Law. The project, which runs until December 2026, aims to produce a toolkit of good practice recommendations.

This toolkit must be practically useful, avoiding a complete redesign of the judicial selection process. Rather, it will provide a menu of recommended actions for improving specific aspects or stages of the selection process. It aims to address problems that are reported in many jurisdictions such as patronage, nepotism, cronyism, outdated or unclear selection criteria, a lack of rigorous evaluation of candidates, and misconceptions and misunderstandings about judicial selection among the professional community and the wider public.

The toolkit is being designed for practising lawyers who are frequently involved in selection processes as candidates, referees or assessors and are better placed than the judiciary itself to contribute to public debates on judicial selection issues.

In 2025, the project team consulted with members of the IBA, including through presentations to the Bar Leaders’ conference and a meeting of the Federation of Advocates and Barristers. At the IBA’s annual conference in Toronto in November, they hosted a panel with senior judges, litigators and civil society activities discussing recent reforms and controversies in the selection of judges in Mexico, Ghana and Ireland.

<https://binghamcentre.biicl.org/projects/the-rule-of-law-and-judicial-selection-developing-a-toolkit-for-improving-outcomes-and-accountability-in-selection-processes>

Jan van Zyl Smit, Luca Montag

2024/2025

BIICL hosted
more than

130

events in
2024 and
2025

Review of the Venice Commission's Rule of Law Checklist

During 2025, Bingham Centre supported the first official review of the Venice Commission's Rule of Law Checklist, by convening and participating in conferences, and publishing research findings. The Bingham Centre originally helped to develop the Checklist in 2015 and 2016 as a comprehensive tool to assess a country's adherence to the Rule of Law. The Checklist is in use across the Council of Europe (the UK and the other 45 states who are parties to the European Convention on Human Rights).

In July 2025, the Bingham Centre co-convened a conference for members of the Venice Commission, UK and international Rule of Law experts at the Foreign Office, where the gathering was addressed by the then Foreign Secretary, David Lammy MP, and the Attorney General, Lord Hermer KC.

A subsequent two-day conference, co-hosted with the University of Leicester, focused on the work of the Venice Commission and the European Court of Human Rights, and was addressed by serving and retired members of both bodies.

In a review of the practical use of the Checklist, we published a report on *Uses of the Venice Commission's Rule of Law Checklist in the UK*, which found limited use until the government, and the Attorney General in particular, began to take a closer interest in 2024. Our researchers also gave conference presentations on the use of the Checklist in EU accession debates, during a Venice Commission supported conference in Milan, and as part of a global Rule of Law Workshop organised by Stanford Law School.

When a revised Checklist was finally adopted in December 2025, the Bingham Centre welcomed its expansion to address current challenges, including civic education as a cornerstone of the Rule of Law, a subject which we had promoted at the Foreign office conference.

Lucy Moxham, Nandini Mitra, Julinda Beqiraj, Jan van Zyl Smit



Attorney General Lord Hermer KC

Public Inquiries and the Implementation of Their Recommendations

In July 2024, former UK Prime Minister Theresa May, now Baroness May of Maidenhead, gave the keynote address at our event 'Abuse of Power, Effective Inquiries and the Rule of Law: Lessons for the Future'.

Lady May drew on her book *The Abuse of Power: Confronting Injustice in Public Life*, in which she examined the resistance by public institutions to the scrutiny they face at inquiries. Barristers Edwin Glasgow CBE KC and Pete Weatherby KC, shared their experience of appearing in many prominent inquiries, including several of the proceedings in relation to the Hillsborough stadium disaster. Mr Weatherby KC and Deborah Coles, spoke about the "Hillsborough Law" proposals, which they had helped draft. The success of this event led the Bingham Centre to develop a new project on 'Public Inquiries – Effective Oversight of Recommendations', which began its work in autumn 2025. The project is examining ways of promoting more effective oversight of the recommendations made by public inquiries.

Without scrutiny, public bodies may fail to implement valuable recommendations which could prevent the recurrence of similar harms to those the inquiry investigated. The project examines recent UK inquiries and current debates in depth, and draws on comparative studies of how inquiry recommendations are handled in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

Jan van Zyl Smit, Lucy Moxham, Henry Sreaton

Bingham Colloquium 2025: Democratic Institutions Under Pressure: Judicial Perspectives

In June 2025, in a variation on the Bingham Lecture format, we convened the first Bingham Colloquium at LSE. This event brought together an outstanding panel of former apex court judges: Lord Sumption (UK), Justice Stephen Breyer (US), Professor Kate O'Regan (South Africa) and Professor Noelle Lenoir (France).

The panel addressed the question of how courts handle politically charged cases involving major political figures or raising fundamental issues about the separation of powers. Each judge emphasised that such court decisions had to be understood in the light of the constitutional frameworks and history of their country: from parliamentary sovereignty in the UK and the limits on judicial power in France, to the South African post-apartheid model that expressly entrusted wide constitutional review powers to the courts, and the US Constitution which left the Supreme Court with weighty responsibilities of constitutional interpretation.



Responding to Global Challenges

The Interface with Business

We continue to expand our work on the interface between law and business through the work of our established forums and projects focused on the development of corporate responsibility in areas of human rights.

Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence (HREDD)

The EU's adoption of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) in June 2024 represented a landmark shift towards mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence (HREDD) obligations for large companies. This legislation responds to the pressing need to address corporate impacts on people and the planet through enforceable standards, filling a gap left by voluntary frameworks. Companies, policymakers, civil society, and affected communities are all impacted: businesses must adapt governance and supply chain practices; policymakers must transpose complex EU provisions into national law; and rights-holders stand to gain stronger protections and access to remedy. Yet uncertainties in interpretation, the interaction with existing laws, and the implications of the EU 'Omnibus' proposal create a demand for authoritative research and guidance. BIICL research and events for policy makers have provided a chance to discuss and clarify these developments.



Towards New Human Rights and Environment Due Diligence Laws: Reflections on Changes in Corporate Practice

This project examined the practical impacts of existing and emerging HREDD laws on internal corporate processes. Combining empirical research with comparative legal analysis, the project identified patterns of organisational change, implementation challenges, and opportunities for legal refinement. The report published in October 2024, has provided the first systematic evidence of how companies are adapting to mandatory HREDD laws, influencing both policy debates and corporate compliance strategies. It has been cited by policymakers and referenced in consultations on the CSDDD's implementation.

A workshop in May 2025 "Transposing the CSDDD: Navigating Legal Uncertainties amidst the Omnibus Proposal and Implementation Challenges", was co-organised with NOVA School of Law and KU Leuven. It convened legislators, government officials, academics, and practitioners for an expert exchange on transposition strategies, identified potential conflicts with national frameworks, and explored best practices. Insights from the workshop led to a targeted policy brief which directly informed national transposition processes by clarifying the legal scope of obligations, liability provisions, and alignment with international standards such as the UNGPs and OECD Guidelines.

<https://www.biicl.org/publications/transposing-the-csddd-navigating-legal-uncertainties-amidst-the-omnibus-proposal-and-implementation-challenges>

Irene Pietropaoli, Jasmine Elliott, Sofia Gonzalez De Aguinaga

"Thank you for organizing. It was a very productive event. We truly appreciate having these spaces for open dialogue, collaboration, and mutual learning. They are invaluable for strengthening our relationships and aligning on shared goals."

—Message from a policy makers in the Spanish

Human rights in global supply chains: Measuring the effectiveness of home state regulatory models on corporate behaviour.

Since the adoption of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) in 2011, various national legislative developments are being aimed at turning the voluntary UNGPs into binding legal obligations for corporate human rights impacts within global supply chains. The leading examples of such laws are those of the UK, Germany, France, Norway, and the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD). Although these laws are built on the concepts of the UNGPs, they each follow different models in terms of scope, types of duties imposed, and level of enforcement, and they are all enacted by the 'home states' of transnational corporations, namely those countries where the companies at the top end of global supply chains are based. The new laws introduce novel duties for companies regarding their external impacts on human rights in their global value chains.

In a project started in February 2024, BIICL is investigating and comparing the effect of each of these home state legal models on corporate practice. Through 2024 and 2025 the project team held expert consultations with NGO's, businesses and academics to develop a model for assessing the effectiveness of these laws. The project will continue with findings to be published in 2027.

<https://www.biicl.org/projects/human-rights-in-global-supply-chains-measuring-the-effectiveness-of-home-state-regulatory-models-on-corporate-behaviour>

Irene Pietropaoli, Jasmine Elliott, Sofia Gonzalez De Aguinaga



The Business Network

The Business Network includes leading listed businesses headquartered in the UK. The network meets quarterly providing a forum for members to identify and exchange learning on Rule of Law issues in their countries of operation. Priority Rule of Law issues that are regularly discussed include those related to international trade, human rights, corruption, and climate change. Recent discussions included the role of business in supporting the Rule of Law in the Global North and the Global South, forced labour import bans, corporate climate change litigation, human rights due diligence indicators and recent geopolitical changes examining how global businesses can best respond and prepare for geopolitical risk.

During 2025 the Business Network for the first time co-organised an event in collaboration with the Business and Human Rights Forum and the Competition Law Forum at BIICL 'From Environmental to Human Rights Business Collaboration-a Competition Law Lens' which was followed up by a blog post including the key takeaways.

Sofia Gonzalez De Aguinaga, Florence Skinner

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BP plc

Centrica plc

Diageo plc

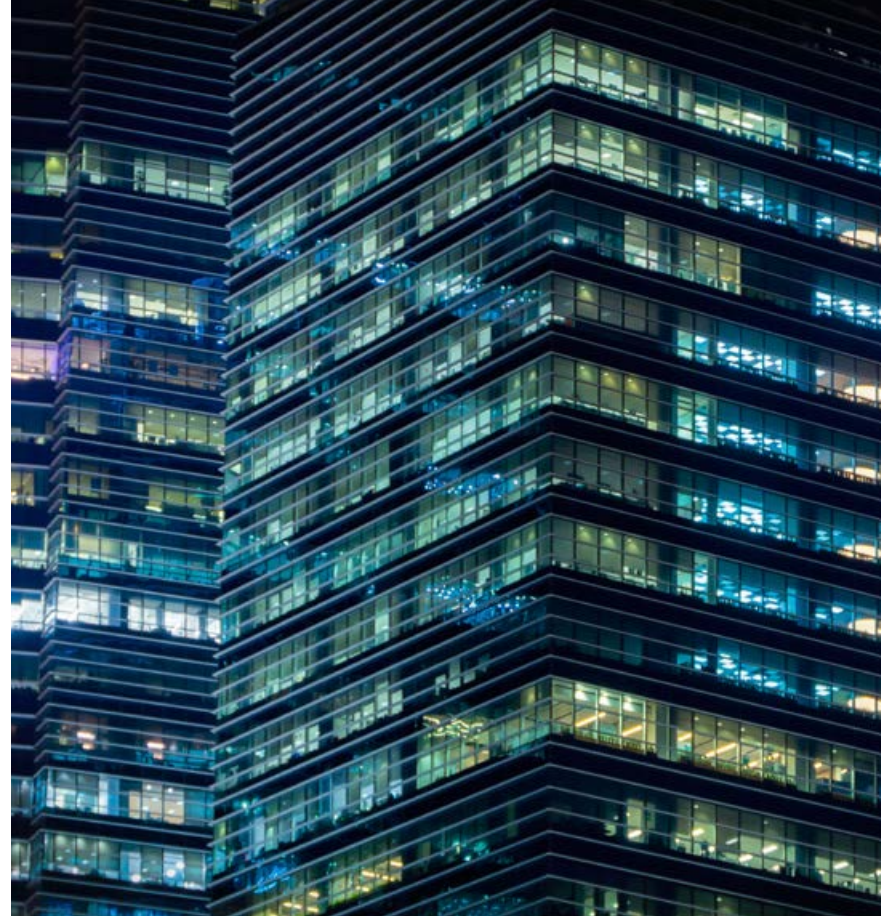
HSBC Bank plc

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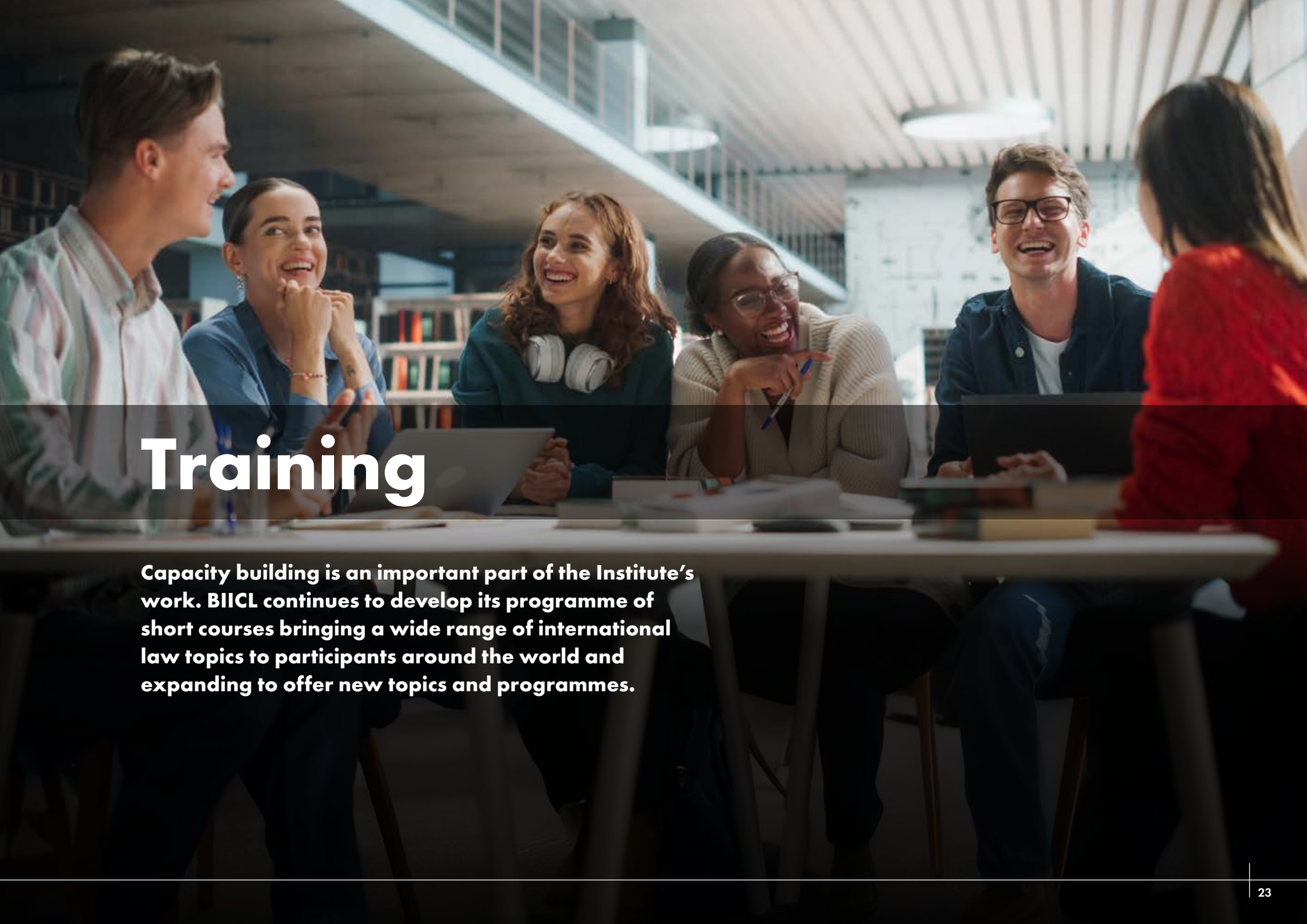


2024/2025

More than

10,000

**people registered
for our events at
BIICL during 2024
and 2025**



Training

Capacity building is an important part of the Institute's work. BIICL continues to develop its programme of short courses bringing a wide range of international law topics to participants around the world and expanding to offer new topics and programmes.

Over 2024 and 2025, BIICL's training programme continued to grow, reaching an increasingly global audience with varied professional backgrounds and reinforcing the Institute's commitment to advancing respect for the Rule of Law at the international and domestic level.

Our portfolio of short courses continued to address many of the most pressing global issues – from trade and climate change to cultural heritage protection, migration, artificial intelligence, and labour law. We further expanded our programme with a short course on cyber operations and another on transitional justice. Our offering of summer schools has continued to be particularly attractive with participants from a wide range of countries joining both our programme on law and technology delivered with the University of Lausanne, and our public international law summer school.

Our courses attract an increasingly diverse and international cohort of both legal and non-legal professionals from governments, law firms, chambers, NGOs, civil society, and academia. Virtual and hybrid formats have enabled us to engage participants across all regions.

Over 2024 and 2025 we piloted expert briefings, running sessions on Trade and Tariffs, Universal Jurisdiction and Corruption and Arbitration.

Tailored in-house training sessions continued to grow in demand, and we strengthened collaborations with partners to further develop our teaching and training portfolio.

BIICL's online education offering also continues to flourish. The Citizenship and the Rule of Law MOOC, developed in partnership with the University of London, now has over 28,000 enrolments since its launch in 2020. The course offers an introduction to the day-to-day engagement with the Rule of Law, empowering participants to engage critically with the core requirements of the Rule of Law, explain why and how the Rule of Law is best protected and apply Rule of Law principles to issues in everyday life. Our online course on the International Investment Law and Dispute Resolution course remains popular among participants from governments, industry, and legal practice worldwide. It covers the history and the rationale of protection of foreign direct investments, applicable law, the key principles of international investment law and investor-state dispute settlement.

Training programmes report strong satisfaction, highlighting well-structured and informative sessions, opportunities to deepen understanding of complex legal issues, the expertise of tutors, and the value of interaction with both faculty and peers. We have seen many learners returning for multiple courses. Attendees' feedback frequently notes the courses' impact on professional development, career progression, and day-to-day work.



The high quality of BIICL's training is maintained by bringing together leading academic experts and practitioners from law firms, governments, and civil society. Most courses are delivered by BIICL research fellows alongside external tutors, ensuring that teaching reflects the Institute's active research and a broad spectrum of practical experience. Partnerships with institutions such as Singapore Management University, the University of Lausanne and others continued to strengthen our ability to offer world-class training.

Training Scholarships

2024-2025 also saw the addition of an additional scholarship scheme kindly funded by the Bluston Charitable Settlement. As part of our commitment to diversity and inclusion, we continue to offer scholarships to individuals from groups under-represented within the legal community. In 2025, we undertook an evaluation of our scholarship offer with the scholarships receiving an average rating of 4.8 out of 5.

Looking ahead, BIICL remains dedicated to providing high-quality, relevant, and accessible legal education on a global scale. In 2024–2025, we will continue our established programmes while expanding our range of advanced training workshops and executive education initiatives.

“**Beyond the academic content, it fostered meaningful connections with peers and mentors, enriching both my network and perspective in the field.**”

“**The scholarship enhanced my understanding of Public International Law, which has greatly informed my work in NGO operations focused on justice, human rights, and international cooperation.**”

Short Course Programme

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

"This course is truly exceptional. It provides a very strong introduction to climate law."

"Ultimately, this scholarship has given me a seat at the 'table' to help shape a future where AI benefits all members of society."

"The course was excellent value for money. All of the presenters were leaders in the field."

Foundations of Public International Law

Public International Law in Practice

Climate Change Law

Climate Change Litigation

International Trade Law

**War in Ukraine in Context
- History, Politics and Law**

Business and Human Rights

International Refugee and Migration Law

Artificial Intelligence Governance

International Cultural Heritage

Transitional Justice – Timing and Tools

Cyber Operations and International Law

International Labour Law

Energy Law

Law of the Sea

**Cross-Border Commercial Dispute
Resolution**

"The course was excellent and well-organized. I appreciated the practical examples and engaging discussions."

"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."

"Very much appreciated facilitators approach for current world information."

"Really informative, accessible and interactive – even as a non-Lawyer."

International and Comparative Law Quarterly

BIICL's renowned journal, the International & Comparative Law Quarterly (ICLQ), continues to be among the top-ranked for its subject areas, with a wide international readership. The 2024–2025 Clarivate Journal Citations show the ICLQ's enduring prominence, with its Impact Factor having risen from 1.6 to 2.0, ranking 48th of 434 law journals (six places higher than in 2023). The journal's Citation Indicator also rose, reflecting sustained performance year-on-year.

ICLQ Forum launch

In 2024, the ICLQ announced its most exciting development since expanding subject coverage in the 1980s – the creation of the ICLQ Forum, a special issue dedicated to showcasing the breadth of topics that fall within the journal's scope. Each Forum will provide in-depth analysis of a single theme, subject to the ICLQ's usual rigorous academic scrutiny and editorial process.

The first Forum, launched at an event in November 2025, focuses on 'Law of the Sea: Present Challenges and Future Directions', featuring both invited submissions and papers selected from a public call. It was co-edited by former ICLQ General Editor Professor Sir Malcolm Evans, ICLQ Editorial Board Member Professor Richard Barnes, invited experts Dr Rozemarijn Roland-Holst, Dr Constantinos Yiallourides and Dr Jack Kenny.



Forum launch for Law of the Sea: Present Challenges and Future Directions

New Members of the Editorial Board

In response to the ever-increasing number of submissions, the Editorial Board welcomed two new members in 2024. Professor Richard Barnes of the University of Lincoln and Adjunct Professor of Law at the Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea at the University of Tromsø joins with a wealth of law of the sea expertise. Dr Lawrence Hill-Cawthorne, Associate Professor at the University of Bristol and Co-Director of the Centre for International Law, brings expertise in PIL, IHL, IHRL and ICL. The journal's excellence rests on the Editorial Board's critical judgement and scholarly leadership, and both are already valued members of the Board.

Editorial Team

2025 saw the appointment of an Assistant Editor. Adaena Sinclair-Blakemore holds an LLM from the University of Cambridge, and has worked at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law and the European Court of Human Rights. She was previously Editor-in-Chief of the Melbourne Journal of International Law, Senior Editor of the Cambridge Human Rights Law Journal, and a General Editor of the Cambridge International Law Journal.

Transition to Open Access

With support from its publisher, Cambridge University Press, the ICLQ has continued to embrace the global transition in academic publishing to Open Access, increasing its OA content from 6% in 2019 to 78% in 2024. This shift promotes wider access to research and helps address global inequalities in knowledge dissemination. Open access articles can be read through the ICLQ pages.

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-and-comparative-law-quarterly/open-access>

Anna Riddell-Roberts, Adaena Sinclair-Blakemore

Forums at BIICL

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 Business and Human Rights.

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.

Competition Law Forum

During 2024 and 2025 the Competition Law Forum saw a heavy focus on technology and digital market issues, with a growing emphasis on Artificial Intelligence. In addition to the annual Tech Antitrust roundtable event with Linklaters LLP the forum held roundtable discussions on criminal cartel enforcement and corruption in government procurement, Sports Law, the future of Article 102 TFEU and an intimate discussion on the future of anti-trust and competition enforcement in the USA from an active policy participant.

During 2025 the forum has continued to host roundtable discussion events focusing on the Competition and Markets (CMA) role and responsibilities including a review of the first 100 days of its chairman, Doug Gurr, an examination of the CMA's new consumer regime and two events hosted in Brussels examining European Commission (EC) merger guidelines and the EC review of the Digital Markets Act.

Liza Lovdahl Gormsen, Phil Evans

Investment Treaty Forum (ITF)

During 2024 and 2025 the ITF has continued to thrive as a dynamic platform for insightful discussions and meaningful engagement in the field of international investment law.

The forum has organised a series of thought-provoking events that delved into key issues shaping the landscape of investor-state arbitration, worked on research projects, contributed to debates on the reform of investor-state arbitration and hosted two public conferences each year.

ITF public conferences continue to be an opportunity for members to network and keep updated. Topics including Contracts with States in International Investment Law, Legal and procedural consequences of illegality in international investment law and Geopolitics and International Investment Law have been featured in the biannual conferences.

Roundtable events provided by the forum examined the efforts of UNCITRAL Working Group III to reform ISDS systems, procedural rule overhauls and reforms to better balance human rights due diligence and international investment protections and the sanctions related ISDS disputes delving into the jurisdictional and merits issues expected in investment treaty disputes. More recently the forum hosted a roundtable examining international investment law protections in global banking and finance.

The Young ITF community continues to host its own discussions including a thought-provoking debate focused on the potential of mediation as a transformative tool in ISDS, and a debate on the topic "This House believes that a State should not be allowed to rely on domestic illegality to avoid its international obligations."

Yarik Kryvoi



Audley Sheppard KC

Product Liability Forum (PLF)

During 2024 and 2025 The Product Liability Forum (PLF) has played a leading role in shaping the new EU Product Liability Directive. PLF members, including Duncan Fairgrieve, have worked closely with the European Commission throughout the review and adoption process, participating in expert groups and stakeholder meetings. The forum has also undertaken research into vaccine injury compensation schemes across jurisdictions, Collective redress and litigation funding in Europe and the liability of online platforms which resulted in the paper ‘Product liability and online marketplaces: comparison and reform’.

The PLF continued to organise a number of seminars and webinars bringing together practitioners, academics and policymakers to examine the practical application of policy and developments in product liability and safety law. Event themes in 2024 and 2025 included the revised Product Liability Directive, forever chemicals/PFAS and the post-Brexit landscape for UK product regulation. There was also an event hosted in Dublin co-organised with the European Law Institute (ELI).

Duncan Fairgrieve KC (hons)



PLF Event Dublin September 2024

Business and Human Rights Forum

The Business and Human Rights Forum (formerly the Human Rights Due Diligence Forum) addresses the need for legal practitioners to navigate evolving human rights and environmental due diligence regulations. With regulatory divergence between jurisdictions such as Europe and the US and emerging discrepancies in legislations across jurisdictions, many legal professionals require peer exchange and expert guidance.

During 2024 and 2025 the forum organised roundtables on a potential UK Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) model; an event exploring the differing US–EU

regulatory landscapes and a public conference focused on HRDD’s implications for future corporate human rights and climate litigation. In addition in September 2024 for the first time the forum held a joint event with the Investment Treaty Forum on recent developments in human rights and investment law. This continued in September 2025 with a joint event with the Competition Law Forum and the Bingham Centre’s Business Network.

These events share best practices among legal professionals, for better consistency and rigour in legal advice. The annual conference reaches a wider audience - including non-members – and helps shape debate on HRDD litigation trends and regulatory alignment.

Qualitatively, participants report enhanced comprehension of transnational compliance challenges, better strategies for incorporating HRDD clauses, and strengthened legal networks. Quantitatively, the Forum has directly engaged dozens of practitioners and indirectly influenced broader drafting practices and policy consultations.

In October 2024, the forum also launched a podcast series, “Reimagining the Law: Business and Human Rights” aiming to discuss business and human rights issues in different contexts and provide short conversations to engage and reflect on for lawyers working in business and human rights.

<https://www.biicl.org/bhrforum>

Irene Pietropaoli and Jasmine Elliott



Business and Human Rights Forum Annual Conference 2025

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

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 not only to refurbish our entire premises but to develop the highly specialised, but extremely important, 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, both in the UK and overseas, on the Rule of Law and how the law is important to their daily lives.

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

A gift to the BIICL 60+ Appeal will move us closer to our shared vision of a just and peaceful world where human rights are respected and the Rule of Law and international law are upheld through resilient legal systems.

To make a donation, or find out more information on joining the President's Circle, please visit www.biicl.org/60thappeal or contact: Diane Denny, Development Director on +44 (0)20 7862 5433, d.denny@biicl.org.

2024/2025

The ICLQ Ranked

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with Impact Factor
of 2.0 and had an
increased Scopus
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Arts and Humanities Research Council
Baker Botts LLP
Bonaverio Institute
Cambridge University Press
Centre for European Law and Internationalisation (CELI)

City St Georges University of London
Climate Change Legal Initiative (C2LI)
CMS
Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
Essex Court Chambers
European Law Institute (ELI)
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP
Frontier Economics
Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer LLP
IADC
Institute for Government (room host)
Institute of Small and Micro States (ISMS)
IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
King's College London
Korea Institute of Ocean Science & Technology
Latham and Watkins LLP
Leeds University
Linklaters LLP
London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), Law School

McCann FitzGerald LLP
Michael Beverley Innovation Fellowship
New York University (NYU), School of Law.
NOVA Centre on Business, Human Rights and the Environment (NOVA BHRE)
Quadrant Chambers
Refugee Legal Support
Restitution partners
SOAS, University of London
Step toe International (UK) LLP
The CEU Democracy Institute
The Review of Democracy (RevDem)
The Society of Legal Scholars (SLS)
Transnational Dispute Management (TDM)
UKRI
University of Lausanne (UNIL)
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In 2024, we appointed 11 Honorary International Law Practice Fellows at BIICL to help foster debate and collaboration among future leaders in international law. Together, we are working to promote a thriving community of practitioners, judges, scholars and others committed to supporting the advancement of international law.

With our Practice Fellows, we have convened closed roundtables and public events with leading experts to explore new ideas, confront challenges and identify practical solutions to help further international law. Our roundtables have addressed pressing issues such as attacks on international shipping by Houthi armed forces, and the European Court of Human Rights, examined from the perspectives of both the bar and the bench.

Our Practice Fellows also play a vital role in championing BIICL's work within their own organisations. Their insights and guidance ensure that our research and wider activities remain closely aligned with the most urgent and topical issues facing the international law community.

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Over
750
individuals attended
BIICL training over
2024 and 2025

We provided almost
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