



In collaboration with



Present:

Three Strategic Litigation Roundtables

Thursday • 23 September 2021 • 15:00 -18:00 CEST (Geneva)

Tuesday • 26 October 2021 • 18:00 -20:00 CEST (Geneva)

Thursday • 28 October 2021 • 8:00 -10:00 CEST (Geneva)

The 70th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention offers a time of reflection on its effectiveness and implementation. Although the Convention has saved millions of lives, implementation challenges remain. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated many of these challenges and has had a disproportionate impact on displaced persons. In addition to the direct risks from the virus itself, both physically and mentally, the pandemic has also impacted the economic health of displaced persons, as many lost their jobs or small businesses. The pandemic has also infected political and civil rights and has reduced civic and asylum space: border closures; push-backs; limits on freedom of movement; gender-based violence; discrimination and xenophobia are just a few of the many challenges.

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The first session will provide an opportunity to share insights on recent legal issues in different jurisdictions. In the second session, we are glad to introduce the Global Strategic Litigation Council for Refugee Rights which will serve as a hub for activists seeking to use strategic litigation and related legal advocacy to advance the protection of refugee rights and the consistent and progressive development of international law worldwide. The third panel will explore a few of the litigation challenges on COVID-19 related border closures and ensuring the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in COVID-19 relief grants.

15:00 – 15:10 CEST - Welcome and Opening

- Jessica Therkelsen, Director, Legal Protection, HIAS
- Madeline Garlick, Chief, PPLA, Division of International Protection, UNHCR

15:10 – 16:10 CEST - Global Roundup

- Raza Husain, QC, Matrix Chambers, UK,
 - on [G v G](#) and the intersection between the Refugee Convention and the Hague Convention
- Roshni Shanker, Ara Trust (India),
 - on [Mohammad Salimullah v. Union of India](#)
- Blaine Bookey, Center for Gender & Refugee Studies,
 - on [Matter of A-B-](#) and other gender related forms of persecution
- James A. Goldston, Open Society Justice Initiative,
 - on [Zhao v NET](#)
- Q&A/Open Discussion

16:10-16:50 CEST - The Global Strategic Litigation Council for Refugee Rights (GSLC)

- Introduction of the GSLC
 - Ian M. Kysel, Cornell Law School
- GSLC Working Group on Legal Status & Lawful Stay
 - Dr. Annette Mbogoh, Kituo Cha Sheria
- GSLC Working Group on Detention & Due Process
 - Alejandra Macías Delgadillo, Asylum Access Mexico
- Q&A/Open Discussion

16:50 – 18:00 CEST - Protection during COVID

- Sally Gandar, Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town, South Africa
- Lee Gelernt, American Civil Liberties Union
- Dr. Zsolt Szekeres, Hungarian Helsinki Committee
- Q&A/Open Discussion

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We look forward to listening, learning, and inspiring each other. If you have not already done so:

[Please register here](#)

An invitation via MS Teams will be sent to all registered participants prior to the roundtable.

Please feel free to share this invitation and registration form with interested parties.