



Peace and Constitutions

*A hybrid Round Table of the IACL,
co-organized by
the Greek Association of Constitutional Law,
Aegean University (Greece) and
Ankara University (Turkey)*

Lesvos, 4-5 July 2025



Venue: University of Aegean, Mitilini, Lesbos
(with hybrid sessions)

Address: Mitilini 811 00, Greece

The theme

The conference delves into the constitutional entrenchment of peace as both a fundamental value and a guiding policy principle. While some constitutions explicitly renounce war or incorporate "peace clauses" articulating a state's commitment to peaceful conflict resolution and international cooperation, others lack such explicit provisions. In these latter cases, one should examine whether constitutional frameworks nonetheless impose restrictions on the use of force in foreign and defense policy, or establish affirmative obligations to foster peaceful relations. Furthermore, how do constitutions address internal peace, specifically concerning—but also extending beyond—principles of human dignity, equality, and the rule of law?

These questions are rendered particularly pertinent by the parallel and increasingly intertwined trends of constitutionalization of international law and internationalization of constitutional law. Moreover, given the unprecedented interconnectedness of humanity today, especially concerning distributive and recognition justice, and considering shared global goods like sustainable development, climate crisis mitigation, poverty eradication, and pandemic preparedness, these inquiries assume even greater urgency.

Program

Friday, 4 July 2025

17.00 Introduction-Greetings

17:45-18.15 Keynote speech– Manuel Jose Cepeda, Professor, member of the negotiating team on transnational Justice, former president of the Constitutional Court of Colombia, “*Constitutions and Peace: The Colombian Experience*”

18:15-18:30 Coffee Break

18:30-20.30 Session 1 – Constitutions and Peace at international level

Chairs: Selin Esen, Professor, Ankara University, First Vice-President of the IACL and Kostas Zoras, Emeritus Professor, Aegean University

- Merris Amos, Professor, Queen Mary University of London, “*The Right to Peace: Past, Present and Future*”
- Kostas Chrysosogonos, Professor, Law School of Salonica, “*Peace, as a precondition for constitutionalism*”
- Luc Heuschling, Professor, University of Luxembourg, “*Supremacy of International Law: A Contribution to Peace? The case of the Luxembourgish Tradition of Monism*”
- Maria Varaki, Lecturer, Kings College University, “*The Right to Peace under International Law*”

Saturday, 5 July 2025

10:00-10:30 Keynote speech –Sarah Nouwen, Professor, European University Institute, *“Peace agreements and constitutions”*

10:30-12:30 Session 2- Constitution and Peace at Domestic Level

Chairs: Grainne Burca, Professor, European University Institute and Spyros Vlahopoulos, Professor, Dean, Law School of Athens.

- Kaya Burak Öztürk, Associate Professor, Ankara University, Faculty of Law, *“Peace as a Euphemism for Order and Security: a Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing?”*
- Neva Öztürk, Assistant Professor, Ankara University, Faculty of Law, *“Peacebuilding and Refugee Repatriation: Legal Challenges and Pathways to Sustainable Reintegration”*
- Katerina Iliadi, Associate Professor, Law School of Athens, *“Energy Justice”*
- Zeynep Özkan Güneş, Assistant Professor, Çukurova University, Faculty of Law, *“Political Parties and Peace in Turkey”*
- Nikhil Erinjingat Assistant Professor, and K Kirthan Shenoy, Assistant Professor, Alliance University, Bangalore, *“Evaluating India's Commitment to International Peace and Security”*

12:30-15:00 Lunch Break

15:00-17:00 Session 3 Solidarity: The role of civil society in the promotion of peace within and among the states

Chairs: Panos Trigazis, President, Observatory of International Organizations and Globalization (PADOP), Şerife Ceren Uysal, Co-Secretary General, European Lawyers for Democracy and Human Rights (ELDH)

- Kardelen Altun, PhD candidate, Ankara University, Faculty of Law, *“Role of Civil Society on Constitution-Making in Divided Societies: Lessons from the Chilean Experience”*
- -Halil Imamoglu, PhD Candidate, Aegean University, *“Liquid We-ness: Aspects of social mobilizations concerning refugees. The demand of peace through social justice”*
- -Marek Piotr Kaczmarczyk, PhD Candidate, University of Warsaw, *“Economic security as the key to social peace through solidarity”*
- Michalis Poulimas, Assistant Professor, Aegean University, *“The contradictions of the European Union's migration and asylum policy: Is the prospect of peaceful coexistence between refugees and residents of host countries possible, desirable and feasible?”*
- Micol Guidetti Ferrario and Antonio Papaleo, Università degli Studi di Torino, *“Navigating the Crossroads of Direct Democracy and War: Is Civil Society a Catalyst for Peace?”*

17:00-17:30 Concluding Remarks

- George Katrougalos, Professor, Democritus University, UN Independent Expert
- Simina Tanasescu, Professor, Justice Constitutional Court of Romania