

Call for Papers

Gonzaga in Florence 2024 Human Rights Conference
Cultural Heritage As a Human Right

May 23-25, 2024

Florence, Italy

Gonzaga University School of Law invites proposals for paper/panel presentations at its 2024 Human Rights Conference in Florence, Italy. The 2024 conference will be the eighth edition of this annual conference that the Law School co-hosts with Gonzaga in Florence and the Center for Civil and Human Rights at Gonzaga Law. Previous conferences have addressed topics such as [Black Lives Matter as a Global Human Rights Movement](#), [Equal Justice as a Human Right](#); [Freedom of Expression as a Human Right](#); [Women's Rights as Human Rights](#); Artificial Intelligence, Government, Corporation, and Human Rights; and Climate Change and Human Rights

Prior conferences have showcased distinguished academics and lawyers from over a dozen countries and five continents. Keynote speakers have included Professor Paul Butler, Georgetown University Law Center; Dr. Teresa Sullivan, President Emerita of the University of Virginia; the Honorable Raul Pangalangan, Judge of the International Criminal Court and former Dean of the University of Philippines College of Law; the Honorable Mary Murguia, Chief Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; Professor Frank Pasquale, Cornell Tech and Cornell Law School; and Professor Surya Subedi, Leed University.

The 2024 conference is scheduled for May 23-25 and the theme is [Cultural Heritage As a Human Right](#). The conference will begin with an evening keynote reception at the beautiful Palazzo Budini Gattai in central Florence on Thursday, May 23, followed by a full-day program on May 24 and a half-day program on May 25 on the Gonzaga in Florence campus that will include multiple panels, keynote speakers, and a culminating *aperitivo* dinner on the 24th and lunch on the 25th. Confirmed keynote speakers include Marion F. Werkheiser, Esq. and Greg Werkheiser, Founding Partners of [Cultural Heritage Partners, PLLC](#). For selected speakers Gonzaga will waive speaker conference fees, including for program events and meals. Depending on available resources, Gonzaga also may be able to provide lodging in Florence for the dates of the conference and limited travel reimbursement.

One of the major goals of the conference is to consider the complex link between human rights and international cultural heritage law. Several thematic reports submitted to the Human Rights Council have focused on the right of access to, and enjoyment of, cultural heritage. Cultural heritage is an important public good for individuals and communities in terms both their symbolic, spiritual, or historical values and the preservation of identities and development processes. Therefore, intentional destruction of cultural heritage, in conflict and non-conflict

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situations, by states or non-state actors, is a violation of human rights. The International Criminal Court decided in a historic case that destruction of protected cultural heritage is a war crime, and at times, a crime against humanity. We are hoping that this conference will be able to explore the interconnections between human rights and cultural heritage by examining the ways in which international human rights laws have contributed to the growth and maturity of international cultural heritage as its own distinct field of international law and how cultural heritage has increasingly been integrated into the human rights legal regime. Further, the conference hopes to further explore how international human rights law intersects with and can enhance protection and accountability and transitional justice efforts.

We anticipate a plenary panel to open the conference focusing specifically on the complex link between human rights and cultural heritage and efforts to develop effective legal regimes and implementation of such legal regimes. We also welcome paper proposals that explore other legal and interdisciplinary topics relating to cultural heritage and human rights. We will organize selected papers into several concurrent panels.

Paper proposals are invited on any topic that explores cultural heritage and human rights issues, including but not limited to:

- the nexus between international cultural heritage and international human rights legal regimes;
- cultural heritage as a human right and human rights as including cultural heritage;
- war, cultural cleansing, and international humanitarian law;
- cultural heritage, environment, and development;
- civil society, indigenous people, corporations, governments, international organizations and cultural heritage protection under international heritage law;
- trade, cultural heritage, and human rights under international economic law; and
- prevention, restitution, justice, and accountability under international law and other intersectional legal regimes.

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To submit a proposal, please email a paper abstract (one to two pages) and CV to the Director of Global Legal Education and Professor of Law, Dr. Upendra Acharya, at acharya@gonzaga.edu. The deadline for priority consideration of proposals is **December 15, 2023**.

The conference is co-sponsored by Gonzaga University School of Law and its Center for Civil and Human Rights; Gonzaga In Florence, Cultural Heritage Partners, PLLC; The Soufan Center; and the Special Human Rights Interest Group of the Asian Society of International Law (Singapore).

Select papers presented at the conference will be offered publication in a special joint edition of *Gonzaga Law Review* and the *Gonzaga Journal of International Law*.

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