Conference of the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI) 2025

Protecting human rights from the global spread of organized crime

11-13 September 2025

Lima, Peru

Call for Proposals

The Annual Conference of the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI) in 2025 will focus on "Protecting human rights from the global spread of organized crime". The conference will take place in Lima, Peru, and will be jointly organized between the Institute of Democracy and Human Rights PUCP (IDEHPUCP) and the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI). This is a special edition of the conference, not only because it will be held for the first time in Latin America, but also because it marks the 25th anniversary of the foundation of AHRI.

The conference aims to unite scholars, practitioners, policymakers, civil society, human rights activists, and business leaders to explore the challenges and strategies for protecting human rights from the global spread of organized crime, examining its impact on vulnerable communities and discussing collaborative solutions to combat this growing threat.

Human rights continue to face unprecedented threats as the global spread of organized crime exacerbates existing inequalities and weakens institutions meant to protect their citizens. In this context, the 2025 Annual Conference of the Association of Human Rights Institutes will focus on "Protecting Human Rights from the Global Spread of Organized Crime", exploring how criminal activities undermine human rights and discussing ways to strengthen protections in an increasingly fragile world.

The conference will explore how organized crime threatens the realization of human rights globally, impacting vulnerable communities, undermining legal frameworks, and exacerbating social inequalities. It will address key challenges posed by criminal networks while examining national and international efforts to protect human rights, the role of legal

frameworks, and the importance of coordinated strategies to counteract organized crime and its effects on democracy.

In addition, the conference will dedicate a special session to reflect on the principal challenges encountered over the past two decades in consolidating a universal culture of human rights, as well as on those anticipated to emerge in the future, such as organized crime, artificial intelligence, and climate change. This session will mark the 25th anniversary of AHRI, offering a space to discuss the achievements and obstacles of the past while exploring collaborative strategies between academia, civil society, and other key actors to address these global challenges.

The AHRI Conference 2025 is designed as a hybrid event, allowing participants to engage either in person or remotely. At the moment of registration participants will have to choose the modality of their participation. Remote attendees will join the different sessions via a virtual meeting platform, such as Zoom.

Instructions for submissions:
We invite anyone interested in the Conference theme to submit proposals for panel discussions or papers related to the protection and promotion of human rights in the context of organized crime, for consideration within one of the following three tracks, aligned with the themes of the main panels:

- **Track A:** Global Perspective on Organized Crime
- **Track B:** Legal Frameworks and Institutional Responses to Organized Crime
- **Track C:** Remarkable actions in tackling organized crime: Best practices and prospects for improvement
- **Track D**: Human rights in perspective: A review of the past 25 years' challenges, and those to come in the years ahead.

We welcome proposals for panel discussions that engage human rights scholarship in conversation with all disciplines and methodologies relevant to the challenges posed by organized crime. This includes exploring its impact on social, economic, political, and legal systems worldwide. We will also consider proposals not directly linked to the conference theme if they are deemed relevant.

Conference tracks and sub-themes:

Participants are welcome to develop and submit proposals for papers or panel discussions focusing on the following sub-themes:

Track A: Global Perspective on Organized Crime

1. <u>Diverse conceptualizations and contrasting impacts of organized crime in the Global North and South regions</u>: This topic examines the various forms and impacts of organized crime across different global regions, focusing on the differences in economic, social, and political factors that influence its operation.

2. <u>Social contexts and the spread of organized crime</u>: This track examines how social factors such as inequality, unemployment, and social disintegration contribute to the spread of organized crime.

3. <u>State weaknesses, illicit economies, and organized crime</u>: This subject explores the relationship between state fragility, illicit economies, and the growth of organized crime, with a focus on understanding how these elements interact.

4. <u>Confluences between International Human Rights Law and organized crim</u>e: This discussion addresses how international human rights laws intersect with the challenges posed by organized crime, analyzing the current legal frameworks and their applications.

5. <u>The overlap between organized crime and armed conflicts - the role of international humanitarian law:</u> This topic examines the connections between organized crime and armed conflicts, examining the application and challenges of international humanitarian law in these contexts.

6. <u>Businesses, corruption, and transnational organized crime</u>: This topic explores the connections between business practices, corruption, and their roles in facilitating or combating transnational organized crime.

Track B: Legal Frameworks and Institutional Responses to Organized Crime

1. <u>The evolution of legal frameworks to protect human rights and strengthen democracy in the context of organized crime</u>: This topic explores how legal frameworks have evolved in response to organized crime and its effects on human rights and democratic institutions.

2. <u>Relevant jurisprudence on the defense of human rights against organized crime</u>: This topic examines key legal decisions and jurisprudence related to the defense of human rights in the context of organized crime.

3. <u>The role of international and regional human rights entities in addressing international organized crime</u>: This topic aims to explore the efforts and challenges of international and regional human rights organizations in dealing with organized crime.

4. <u>Ebbs and flows of security and criminal policies against organized crime</u>: This topic examines the historical and contemporary security and criminal policies designed to address organized crime.

5. <u>Electoral systems, political groups and organized crime</u>: This topic investigates the impact of organized crime on electoral systems and political groups, focusing on the implications for democratic processes and human rights.

Track C: Remarkable actions in tackling organized crime: Best practices and prospects for improvement

1. <u>Sustainable state or community programs, projects, and/or actions to address organized crime and its impact on human rights</u>: This discussion focuses on the examination of programs and projects that address organized crime, considering their impact on human rights.

2. <u>The role of civil society in the fight against organized crime</u>: This topic aims to explore the role of civil society organizations in combating organized crime and supporting victims, analyzing different approaches from various global perspectives.

3. <u>Regional approaches against transnational organized crime and related criminal dynamics:</u> This topic examines regional strategies implemented to combat various forms of transnational organized crime, including human trafficking, drug trafficking, and illegal mining. It explores the effectiveness and challenges of these efforts, as well as the dynamics involved in such crimes, with a focus on their impact on human rights and the protection of vulnerable populations.

4. <u>The impact of organized crime on the rights of children and adolescents:</u> This topic focuses on how organized crime affects the rights and well-being of children and adolescents. It explores the specific vulnerabilities of these groups to criminal exploitation and the broader social and human rights implications.

Track D: Human rights in perspective: A review of the past 25 years challenges, and those to come in the years ahead

1. <u>The Evolution of Human Rights in the Age of Artificial Intelligence and Mass Surveillance: Past, Present, and Future</u>: This discussion explores how technology has transformed human rights over the past 25 years and how artificial intelligence,

big data, and mass surveillance technologies will continue to influence these rights in the future. It compares State responses to privacy and freedom of expression in the digital age, as well as emerging threats from automation and AI.

2. <u>Climate Change and Human Rights: A Growing Challenge in Retrospect and Prospect:</u> This topic addresses the evolution of climate change as a human rights issue, examining both the challenges faced in recent decades and those projected for the future. It analyzes how past environmental crises affected the rights to housing, health, and water, and how these issues are expected to worsen in the coming decades, focusing on climate justice and forced displacement.

3. <u>Protección de Derechos de Migrantes y Refugiados: Reflexiones sobre el Pasado y Proyecciones Futuras:</u> This topic focuses on the historical and future challenges related to migration and forced displacement, particularly the impact of conflicts, economic crises, and climate change. It compares migration policies and protection mechanisms for rights over the past decades with future trends that could redefine the treatment of migrants and refugees, both nationally and internationally.

4. <u>Pandemics, Public Health, and Human Rights: Lessons from COVID-19 and Preparation for Future Crises:</u> This topic investigates the State responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and the key learnings in terms of human rights. It also analyzes how this experience can inform future responses to pandemics and health emergencies, ensuring that human rights are better protected in upcoming crises.

5. <u>The role of academia and civil society partnerships in the evolution of human rights:</u> This theme analyzes how academia, strategic partnerships with civil society, and other key actors have contributed to advancing human rights over the past 25 years. It also explores opportunities to strengthen these collaborations in the face of emerging challenges.

6. <u>New forms of international collaboration: challenges for human rights in an interconnected world:</u> This theme examines how international cooperation, including academic networks, multilateral initiatives, and civil society organizations, can address challenges such as organized crime, artificial intelligence, and climate change, emphasizing innovative approaches for a sustainable future.

Submission procedure:

Proposals for papers or panel discussions with a length between 300-500 words, should be submitted to the following email: academica.idehpucp@pucp.edu.pe

When submitting proposals for papers or panel discussions, participants must include the **following information:**

- Proposed title of paper or panel discussion.
- Abstract (300-500 words)
- The conference track and sub-theme for which the proposal should be considered.
- Names and affiliations of the author(s)
- A short bio (maximum 200 words)
- Modality of participation (in person - remote)

Successful applicants are required to submit a full paper of 4,000-8,000 words (excluding the bibliography) by no later than August 20th, 2025. The paper must follow the APA style guidelines and be submitted in MS Word format. Submissions should be formatted with 1.5 line spacing, using Times New Roman, size 12, with justified alignment, and all pages must be numbered consecutively.

Applicants are expected to present their papers either in person or online during one of the conference sessions scheduled for September 11-13, 2025.

Important dates:

- Opening for submission of abstracts/panel proposals: ***January 21st, 2025***
- Deadline for submission of abstracts/panel proposals: ***March 15th, 2025***
- Notification of abstract/panel discussion selection: ***April 15th, 2025***
- Opening of conference registrations: ***May 15th, 2025***
- Deadline for submission of full papers: ***August 20th, 2025***

Venue:

The AHRI Conference 2025 will follow a hybrid format. In-person activities will take place on the campus of the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP) in Lima, Peru. As of August 2025, the details of the Conference's agenda will be available on the webpage.

Conference website

The AHRI Conference 2025 website, which includes information on conference registration, fees, availability of potential grants, venues, agenda, accommodation, and any additional

details can be found at: [to be informed in December 2024]