

Nottingham International Criminal Justice Conference

University of Nottingham, Nottingham, 13–14 July 2026

Call for Papers

International criminal justice and its international institutions are in a truly agenda-shaping moment. Simultaneously, the number of states exercising their jurisdiction to pursue domestic prosecutions of individuals responsible for international crimes grows by the day, and new hybrid criminal justice institutions are being pursued and announced for situations around the world. Yet, this moment exposes – perhaps most starkly than ever – the politics of international criminal justice, the fragility of its institutions and its norms, and their vulnerability to realpolitik and the interests of the powerful. It might be argued that a marker of the success of international criminal justice’s norms and institutions is its ability to pose a credible threat to the interests of those actors who, until recently, enjoyed the assumption of impunity. However, it is equally true that international criminal justice’s temerity to pursue accountability for the powerful and their allies places international criminal justice and its institutions in an existentially dangerous place.

Following hugely successful conferences in 2024 and 2025, in 2026 the University of Nottingham School of Law in partnership with the [International Criminal Justice Unit](#) of the [University of Nottingham Human Rights Law Centre](#) is once again organising a two day conference to bring together people working across the diverse field of international criminal justice. At this interdisciplinary conference, we are aiming to foster connections between academics, practitioners and policymakers, as we hear about recent developments in research and practice, and explore, discuss and debate current issues in the field.

We invite submissions from academics and practitioners at all stages of their professional career that tackle the following themes:

- International criminal justice and its crises
- New developments in international criminal law
- Politics or pragmatism? Reflecting on the work of the ICC
- Beyond the ICC: International criminal justice within domestic jurisdictions
- International criminal justice’s blindspots
- An international criminal justice for the present and for the future?
- Teaching international criminal law

Those interested in presenting should submit a **300 word abstract** on their proposed presentation by **22 April 2026**. Applicants whose abstracts have been accepted will be notified by 8 May 2026. To submit an abstract or register interest in attending the Conference, please use this [Application Form](#).

Following on from the success of the previous years’ in-person conferences and to provide participants and attendees with the opportunity to make connections and develop their networks, the conference will be held in-person at the University of Nottingham’s University Park campus from 13-14 July 2026. All attendees will need to fund their own travel and accommodation, and there will be a small registration fee to contribute to the cost of hosting the event.

Conference Organisers:

*Professor Olympia Bekou, Head of the International Criminal Justice Unit, HRLC
Dr Hemi Mistry, Member of the International Criminal Justice Unit, HRLC*

Enquiries about the conference should be directed to Dr Hemi Mistry (hemi.mistry@nottingham.ac.uk).

About International Criminal Justice at the University of Nottingham

The School of Law at the University of Nottingham has long been associated with excellence in international criminal law research and research-led teaching. Established in 2003, the [International Criminal Justice Unit](#) of the [University of Nottingham Human Rights Law Centre](#) has hosted high-profile conferences and organised seminars, including at the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Assembly of States Parties annual sessions. The ICJ Unit currently has responsibility for the National Implementing Legislation Database (NILD) of the International Criminal Court's Legal Tools Project. The School of Law has a vast network of alumni who have gone on to forge careers in international criminal justice as academics and practitioners. The organisers hope to welcome some of these alumni back to Nottingham for this conference, while also extending this network to include a wider community of academics and practitioners working in the space of international criminal justice.

Beyond international criminal law specifically, the School of Law has a rich pedigree in the fields of human rights, criminal justice, criminal evidence, humanitarian law, disaster law, international organisations law, and the jus ad bellum. In addition to the Human Rights Law Centre, the School is home to the [Nottingham International Law and Security Centre \(NILSC\)](#) and the [Criminal Justice Research Centre](#). Reflective of this breadth of expertise, this conference takes an open and pluralistic approach to addressing the most pressing challenges addressed by and affecting our field.

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