



25th Specialization Course in International Criminal Law for Young Penalists

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW, THE CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY CONVENTION, AND TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

Siracusa (Italy) and online May 25-30, 2026

University of Galway (IE)
Middlesex University Department of Law (UK)
International Association of Penal Law – AIDP



MONDAY, MAY 25				
09.30-10.00	Opening Ceremony • Prof. William Schabas, Course Director • Francesco Italia, Mayor of Siracusa • Mr. Jean-François Thony, President of The Siracusa Institute	13.00-14.00 <i>Lunch Break</i>	14.00-15.30	Session 2 – The Draft Convention on Crimes Against Humanity: Background, Purpose, and Key Features <i>Speakers:</i> • Prof. Leila Sadat • Prof. Olympia Bekou • Dr. Alessandra De Tommaso
10.00-11.00	<i>Speaker:</i> • Prof. William Schabas <i>Break</i>		15.30-16.00	<i>Break</i>
11.00-11.30	General Discussion		16.00-17.30	General Discussion
11.30-13.00				
TUESDAY, MAY 26				
09.30-11.00	Session 3 – The Draft Convention on Crimes Against Humanity: Defining Crimes Against Humanity <i>Speakers:</i> • Prof. Leila Sadat • Prof. Olympia Bekou • Dr. Alessandra De Tommaso • Prof. Sharon Weill	13.00-14.00 <i>Lunch Break</i>	14.00-15.30	Session 4 – The Draft Convention on Crimes Against Humanity: Implementation and Prosecution <i>Speakers:</i> • Prof. Leila Sadat • Dr. Alessandra De Tommaso • Prof. William Schabas • Prof. Sharon Weill
11.00-11.30	<i>Break</i>		15.30-16.00	<i>Break</i>
11.30-13.00	General Discussion		16.00-17.00	Session 5 – Cinema and International Justice: The Nuremberg Trial <i>Speaker:</i> • Prof. William Schabas

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27				
09.30-11.00	Session 6 – Victims before International Criminal Courts: Rights, Participation, and Reparations <i>Speakers:</i> • Amélie Bécquart • Prof. Reina Sfeir • Judge Margaret deGuzman	13.00-14.00 <i>Lunch Break</i>	14.00-15.30	Session 7 – Crimes against Humanity in Practice: Enforced Disappearances and Contemporary Situations <i>Speakers:</i> • Prof. William Schabas • Prof. Marina Eudes • Prof. Yvonne McDermott
11.00-11.30	Break		15.30-16.00	Break
11.30-13.00	General Discussion		16.00-17.30	Session 8 – Small Groups Exercise
THURSDAY, MAY 28				
09.30-11.00	Session 9 – Evidence, Technology, and International Criminal Justice <i>Speakers:</i> • Prof. Yvonne McDermott • Amélie Bécquart	13.00-14.00 <i>Lunch Break</i>	14:00 – 15:30	Session 10 – Current Challenges in International Justice <i>Speaker:</i> • Francesca Albanese
11.00-11.30	Break		15:30 – 16:30	General Discussion
11.30-13.00	General Discussion		16:30 – 18:00	Poster Session (library) • Kamil Sobański: "Is the Future of International Criminal Trials Virtual?" • Anna Maria Puigderrajols Triadó: "Domicide: a large-scale and systematic rights violation" • Khadija Bashar: "How Community Action Leads to Social Change" • Oleksandra Astasheva: "Challenges in Protecting and Restoring Human Rights During the Potential Reintegration of De-Occupied Territories in Ukraine" • April Hoang: "The Establishment of Ecocide under the Rome Statute : the Evolution of Environmental Accountability" • Marcel Warrel Ella Ebane: "Rethinking the Architecture of International Criminal Justice: Towards a hybrid model combining universal jurisdiction and a permanent court in an era of declining multilateralism"
			16:30 – 18:00	Poster Session (online) • Bailey Chavez: "International Criminal Court and defining harm for cyber-enabled crimes under the Rome Statute" • Patrick Siegle: "Judging Aggression: Law, Power, and the Special Tribunal for Ukraine"

FRIDAY, MAY 29				
09.30-11.00	Session 11 – Transitional Justice: Concepts and Approaches <i>Speakers:</i> • Prof. Marina Eudes • Prof. Reina Sfeir • Judge Margaret deGuzman	13.00-14.00 Lunch Break	14.00-15.30	Session 12 – Transitional Justice: Contemporary Situations <i>Speakers:</i> • Prof. Reina Sfeir • Judge Margaret deGuzman • Shoshana Levy
11.00-11.30	Break		15.30-16.00	Break
11.30-13.00	General Discussion		16.00-17.00	General Discussion
			17.00-17.30	Presentation of the activities of the Young Penalists of the AIDP Speakers: Emanuele Birritteri, Isabel Gibson
SATURDAY, MAY 30				
09.30-11.00	Session 13 – The Effectiveness of International Criminal Law <i>Speakers:</i> • Shoshana Levy • Prof. Olympia Bekou • Dr. Alessandra De Tommaso	13.00-14.00 Lunch Break	14.00-15.30	Session 14 – Conclusions <i>Speaker:</i> • Prof. William Schabas • Prof. Leila Sadat
11.00-11.30	Break		15.30-16.30	General Discussion
11.30-13.00	General Discussion		16.30-17.00	Closing Remarks • Mr. Filippo Musca, Director General, SII • Prof. William Schabas, Course Director
			19.00	Aperitivo at “Al Porto”, Foro Vittorio Emanuele II, 6
Monday, 1 June: Submission deadline of the written assignment Thursday, 4 June & Friday, 5 June: Oral examination				
NB: not mandatory, only for participants interested in receiving the Diploma of the Siracusa International Institute				

General Information

- The Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights launches the **25th Specialization Course in International Criminal Law for Young Penalists** on International Criminal Law, The Crimes Against Humanity Convention, and Transitional Justice. The course will take place between **Monday, May 25, and Saturday, May 30, 2026** in a hybrid format, in person, at the headquarters of the Siracusa Institute, located in Siracusa, Italy, and online, via Zoom. The optional final examination for the Diploma will take place exclusively online. The written assignment must be submitted by Monday, 1 June, and the oral examination will take place on Thursday, June 4, or Friday, June 5, based on slot availability.
- The course consists of **14 daily sessions** over six days, for a total of approximately 30 contact hours. The daily sessions consist of keynote lectures, panel discussions, and **small-group exercises**, which aim to stimulate interaction among participants.
- The daily sessions are scheduled approximately from 9.30 to 17.30 CEST. Each session will be **broadcast live** on a dedicated digital platform. In addition, during the course, and for one week after the end of the course, participants will have access to **video recordings** of all daily sessions.
- In advance of the course, all registered participants must **access the Institute's e-learning platform**, from which the faculty's recommended course readings and other relevant documents can be downloaded. Each participant will have their own personal profile for accessing these materials. PowerPoint presentations and other course resources will be added to the platform at the beginning or end of each session.
- Once the course is completed, participants can take an **online examination** to receive the **Diploma of the Siracusa International Institute**. The examination will have a written and an oral component. The written exam is assigned via email on the last day of the course (Saturday), and usually consists of three questions related to topics discussed during the course. Candidates are expected to answer two of the three assigned questions respecting the word limit and the assigned deadline. Candidates are then invited to take an oral examination, held online via Zoom, consisting of a discussion on the written assignment with an external examiner. Successful participants will be among the Institute's graduates and eligible for a prize to be awarded to the person who achieves the best examination result, and two runners-up.
- For participants in person, **attendance** is required at all live sessions: failure to attend more than two live sessions will disqualify participants from receiving the certification of participation or the Diploma. For participants online, watching the recorded

video of the sessions will qualify for attendance, but at least 5 sessions should be attended live; in any case, attendance of all live sessions is encouraged.

Eligibility

- The course targets mainly recent law graduates, practitioners, academics, and students from across the globe, who are pursuing higher education or careers in the fields of international criminal law and international relations.
- To be eligible for the course, participants should have **a university degree in law, or other relevant education and experience**.
- Being a course for young penalists, participants should be **35 years of age or under**.
- Applicants who do not fulfil the eligibility criteria may also be accepted into the course, qualifying as **Auditors**. Auditors will be granted the same level of participation in the course and, upon completion of the course, they will receive an attendance certificate stating that they took part in the course as auditors.
- The working language will be **English**.

Registration Costs & Scholarships

- The registration for the course is open to all interested applicants. The **application form** should be filled out online at the Institute's website: <https://www.siracusainstitute.org/course/specialization-course-in-icl/>. In the application form, applicants will be asked to specify if they wish to attend in person or online.
- Please see below the **registration costs** for the different categories of participants:

Early-bird applications:

- In-person participants and auditors: **€ 900**
- Online participants and auditors: **€ 500**

Applications after early-bird deadline*:

- In-person participants and auditors: **€ 1050**
- Online participants and auditors: **€ 600**

**Please check the deadline on our website.*

The registration costs for all participants include access to the course online platform, with the academic material and video recordings of all sessions. The registration costs for participants in person include lunches on course days (6 lunches in total) and 1 social dinner.

- The Institute will offer a **limited number of scholarships to participants in person coming from Global South Countries**. The scholarship covers access to the course online platform, including academic material and video recordings of all sessions, lunches on course days (6 lunches in total), 1 social dinner, and accommodation in half board for 6 nights (travel costs are not included). No scholarships will be available for participants/auditors online, for auditors in person, and for participants in person coming from non-Global South Countries.
- All accepted participants, including auditors and scholarship recipients, are required to **join the International Association of Penal Law (AIDP)** as Young Penalists (€ 45). Membership information can be found on the AIDP website (www.penal.org).

- All accepted participants will receive an acceptance letter in due course, with further information on technical details, methods of payment and relevant deadlines.

Cancellation Policy

- A participant may cancel his/her registration at no cost until Friday, 8 May.
- In case of cancellation after Friday, 8 May the Institute will retain 50% of the Registration Costs.
- If a participant in person decides to attend online before Friday, 8 May, the Institute will refund the difference in the Registration Costs.
- If the online component is cancelled because the minimum number of online participants has not been reached, the participant can request a full refund or pay the difference to attend the in-person course.

Faculty

Professor William A. Schabas (Canada/Ireland) - COURSE DIRECTOR

Professor of International Law, Middlesex University, School of Law, UK; Professor Emeritus of International Criminal Law and Human Rights, Leiden University, The Netherlands; Honorary Chairman, Irish Centre for Human Rights, University of Galway.

Speakers in alphabetical order:

Ms. Francesca Albanese (Italy) United Nations Special Rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian Territories

Ms. Amélie Becquart (France) French Magistrate; Legal Adviser for Cooperation, External Affairs Unit, Office of the Prosecutor

Professor Olympia Bekou (Greece) Professor of Public International Law and Head of the School of Law, University of Nottingham, UK

Judge Margaret deGuzman (USA) Judge at the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT). She is also the James E. Beasley Professor of Law at Temple

Dr. Alessandra De Tommaso (Italy) Senior Lecturer in Law, LLM Program Leader at Middlesex University (London, United Kingdom). Her work focuses on international criminal law, corporate criminal liability.

Professor Marina Eudes (France) Professor of Public Law at Paris Nanterre University. She teaches international criminal law, international humanitarian law, and international human rights law, and she co-directs academic programmes in international and European law.

Ms. Shoshana Levy (France) Specialized assistant in the *crimes against humanity and war crimes unit* of the Parquet national antiterroriste (National Anti-Terrorism Prosecutor's Office) in Paris, France. Jurist specialized in international criminal law and international humanitarian law and a specialist in transitional justice processes in Colombia

Professor Yvonne McDermott Rees (UK) Professor of Law at the Queen's University, Belfast .

Her work focuses on international criminal law, criminal procedure, evidence, and human rights, and she leads interdisciplinary research projects in these areas

Professor Leila Sadat (USA) Former Special Advisor on Crimes Against Humanity to the ICC Prosecutor; James Carr Professor of International Criminal Law, School of Law, Washington University in St Louis, USA

Professor Reina Sfeir (Lebanon) Professor of Human Rights Law and Transitional Justice at several Lebanese Universities and Director of the Human Rights Legal Clinic at La Sagesse University in Beirut. She previously served as Outreach Officer at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) and Liaison and Legal Officer with the Victims Participation Unit at the STL. She currently serves as Commissioner at Lebanon's National Commission

for the Missing and Forcibly Disappeared. Her work focuses on international crimes, victims' rights, enforced disappearances, and post-conflict accountability."

Professor Sharon Weill (USA) Associate Professor of international law at The American University of Paris, where she directs the Justice Lab, and she teaches in graduate programmes including international affairs and international law. She also holds a research associate position at Sorbonne University and teaches as a senior lecturer at Sciences Po Paris. Her work focuses on the relationship between law, armed conflict, and the role of courts, combining legal doctrine with socio-legal approaches.

**If you have any questions, please contact the Siracusa Institute at
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