

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

**FUTURE OF WOMEN'S
RIGHTS: MARKING
THE ANNIVERSARIES
OF CEDAW AND
THE ISTANBUL
CONVENTION**

Inter-University Centre

Dubrovnik (IUC), Croatia

1-2 April 2026

Wednesday, 1 April 2026
Norms, Institutions and Policy Implementation

09:00 – 09:30

Registration

09:30 – 10:00

Welcome Address from the Faculty of Law University of Zagreb & Conference Objectives and Structure

Nada Bruer Ljubišić,

Executive Secretary of the Inter University Centre Dubrovnik

Prof. Elizabeta Ivičević Karas, Vice-dean of the Faculty of Law

Prof. Antonija Petričušić,

Leader of the NINA Project / Conference Organizer

10:00 – 11:00

Keynote Speech

Prof. Emerita Rebecca J. Cook, Faculty of Law University of Toronto

The Importance of Eliminating Systemic Discrimination to Achieve Gender Equality

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00

Panel I:

Expert Discussion - Are Existing International Standards Still Achieving Milestones in Women's Rights Protection?

Nahla Haidar, Chairperson of CEDAW Committee

Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) at 45: Impact and Challenges

Prof. Feride Acar, former Chairperson of CEDAW Committee and former President of GREVIO

Violence against women as discrimination and a human rights violation: How the Istanbul Convention expands and enhances CEDAW and what GREVIO's monitoring reveals?

Dr. Dubravka Šimonović, former Chairperson of CEDAW Committee & former UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls

From Norms to Implementation: Realising the Full Potential of CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention

Justice Aruna Narain, Supreme Court of Mauritius, former CEDAW Committee Rapporteur

Gender-Based Violence Against Women Jurisprudence: An Analysis of Three Recent Views of the CEDAW Committee

Moderator: **Prof. Ivana Radačić,**

Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30

**Panel II:
Expert Discussion - Gender Equality Policy in the Republic of Croatia:
Where Are We and Where Are We Going?**

Marija Lugarić,
MP, Head of the Parliamentary Committee on Gender Equality

Margareta Mađerić,
State Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Pensions, Family and Social Policy

Irena Sarta,
Office for Gender Equality of the Government of the Republic of Croatia

Darijo Jurišić,
Ombudsperson for Persons with Disabilities

Tatjana Vlašić,
Deputy Ombudsperson of the Republic of Croatia

Moderator: **Prof. Antonija Petričušić,**
Faculty of Law University of Zagreb

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30

**Panel III:
Diplomatic Perspectives on Gender Equality:
Good Practices and International Standards**

Ambassador HE Jessica Blitt,
Embassy of Canada to Croatia

Ambassador H. E. Fabien Fieschi,
Embassy of France to Croatia

Marko Vešligaj, MEP,
Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, European Parliament

Saša Gavrić,
OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Moderator: **Dr. Senada Šelo Šabić,**
Institute of International Relations and Development, Zagreb

Thursday, 2 April 2026
Gender Equality in an Era of Backlash

9:30 – 11:00

Panel IV: Women's Rights Between Innovation and Contestation

Prof. Zlata Đurđević, Faculty of Law University of Zagreb
Gender-Based Persecution as a Crime against Humanity before the ICC

Prof. Nina Gumzej, Faculty of Law University of Zagreb
*Women's Rights in the Age of Artificial Intelligence:
From Algorithmic Discrimination to Technology-Facilitated Violence*

Aida Riđanović, executive director of SOLIDARNA – foundation for human rights and solidarity - *Structural equality, cultural blame: how 'feminization' narratives undermine women's rights without repealing them*

Prof. Ksenija Turković, Faculty of Law University of Zagreb & Koraljka Bakota, Association Paritet sada za ravnopravnost spolova
How the Media in Croatia Reported on the Istanbul Convention

Prof. Sunčana Roksandić, Faculty of Law University of Zagreb & Danijela Raspović Tomac, Office for the Suppression of Corruption and Organised Crime (USKOK) & Marijana Jurić Vukašin, USKOK and doctoral candidate, Faculty of Law University of Zagreb
Women in High-level Positions as Perpetrators of Corruption in Croatia

Moderator: **Nina Čolović,**
Institute for Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00

**Panel V:
Governance and Transformation of Gender Equality**

Dr. Senada Šelo Šabić, Institute of International Relations and Development, Zagreb - *Mainstreaming Gender in EU Enlargement: Women, Backlash, and Accession from Below*

Prof. Malliga Och, Denison University, United States of America
Cities for CEDAW: From Promise to Commitment

Adnan Kadribašić, gender equality expert, Bosnia and Herzegovina
*Involving Political Parties for Gender Equality:
Strategies, Opportunities and Obstacles*

Dr. Ivana Radačić, Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb
Feminism at the time of the Great Turning

Vinka Lozica, Citizen association KaP, Vinka Lozica, Town of Korčula
Microlocal Perspective on the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention

Moderator: **Prof. Ivana Tucak,**
Faculty of Law Josip Strossmayer University of Osijek

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30

**Panel VI:
Populism, Constitutionalism, and Political Struggle over Gender Equality**

Prof. Anita Blagojević & Prof. Ivana Tucak,
Faculty of Law Josip Strossmayer University of Osijek
*Rise of Populism and Rights of Women in Croatia:
Some Constitutional Considerations*

Prof. Barbara Havelková, Faculty of Law University of Oxford
*Challenges to domestic implementation of women's human rights:
The non-constitutionalization and avoidant constitutionalization of gender in
Czechia and Slovakia*

Prof. Magdalena Grabowska,
Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences
*Socialist legacies, struggles over the gender equality and
new feminist mobilisations in Poland*

Nina Čolović,
Institute for Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb, Croatia
*Meaning and Limits of Emancipation:
The Critique of the Theory Built on Anti-Gender Movements*

Moderator: **Prof. Ksenija Turković, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb**

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30

**Panel VII:
Beyond Liberal Feminism - Intersectional, Postcolonial and
Structural Perspectives on Women's Rights**

Dr. Emina Bužinkić,
Institute of International Relations and Development, Zagreb, Croatia
*Women's Rights and the Limits of Liberal Feminism:
Racialized, Minoritized, and Unassimilable Feminist Horizons*

Prof. Antonija Petričušić, Faculty of Law University of Zagreb
What is Being Gender-mainstreamed in the Gender Equality Policy in Croatia?

Andreja Fileš-Ružić, doctoral candidate Faculty of Law University of Zagreb
Integrating a Gender Equality Perspective into Croatian Minority Policy

Dr. Jelisaveta Blagojević, Historical Institute of the University of Montenegro
*Challenges in the Protection of Migrant Women:
The Implementation of CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention in Montenegro*

Moderator: **Prof. Anita Blagojević,**
Faculty of Law Josip Strossmayer University of Osijek

17:30 – 17:45

Conference Closing

Organizing Committee

Associate Professor Antonija Petričušić

Faculty of Law University of Zagreb, president of the Organizing Committee

Professor Emerita Rebecca Cook

Jackman Faculty of Law University of Toronto

Associate Professor Barbara Havelková

Faculty of Law University of Oxford

Professor Silvia Suteu

European University Institute, Law Department

Professor Olja Družić Ljubotina

Faculty of Law University of Zagreb

Professor Nina Gumzej

Faculty of Law University of Zagreb

Associate Professor Ana Horvat Vuković

Faculty of Law University of Zagreb

Dr. Ivana Radačić

Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences in Zagreb

Dr. Dubravka Šimonović

former CEDAW chair and former UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls

Scientific Board

Professor Violeta Beširević, Union University Law School Belgrade

Professor Anita Blagojević, Faculty of Law Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek

Dr. Elena Caruso, University of Bristol Law School

Professor Ivana Dobrotić, Faculty of Law University of Zagreb

Professor Melina Grizo, Iustinianus Primus Faculty of Law Ss Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje

Assistant Professor Ranka Jeknić, Faculty of Law University of Split

Professor Emma Lantschner, University of Graz

Professor Mathias Möschel, Central European University, Department of Legal Studies

Professor Maja Munivrana, Faculty of Law University of Zagreb

Professor Petra Roter, University of Ljubljana

Professor Judit Sandor, Central European University

Dr. Kyriaki Topidi, European Centre for Minority Issues

Professor Inga Winkler, Wageningen University, Department of Social Sciences

Dr. Adriana Zaharijević, University of Belgrade, Institute for philosophy and social theory

MNNA



 **Funded by
the European Union**
NextGenerationEU

250 | 250 GODINA
NEPREKIDNOG DJELOVANJA
PRAVNOG FAKULTETA
SVEUČILIŠTA U ZAGREBU