



GNLU CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SCIENCES
GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, GANDHINAGAR, GUJARAT, INDIA

28th February and 1st March, 2026
Gujarat National Law University,
Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

GCRCJS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW

REINVIGORATING INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL
LAW BY INNOVATION, INCLUSIVITY, AND
GLOBAL ACCOUNTABILITY

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In the recent years, the International Criminal Justice system has been increasingly strained by the rising conflicts, the weakening of international cooperation, and the emergence of new forms of violence. According to the Uppsala Conflict Data Program and the Peace Research Institute Oslo, in 2024 there were more than 60 active interstate conflicts, resulting in over 158,000 deaths during that year alone. This establishes the urgency of developing a system which addresses these and other future concerns.

Despite the existing frameworks, including ICL, there is a continued issue of implementation, enforcement, as well as state cooperation. The nature of international crimes has shifted significantly since the post World War II evolution of ICL. There is a resurgence of armed conflicts, and an increase of private military actors and non-state armed groups. The emerging threats that have further tested the adaptability of ICL: The use of digital surveillance and autonomous weapons, corporate involvement in crimes such as forced labour, arms trade and resource exploitation, and reproductive violence, gender-based harm and environmental destruction during conflicts.

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Gujarat National Law University is a statutory university established by the Government of Gujarat under the Gujarat National Law University Act, 2003. The University is recognised by the Bar Council of India and the University Grants Commission. The University functions as a nodal agency to uplift legal education in the State of Gujarat. The University offers teaching, research and training programmes in law and inter-disciplinary fields such as Arts, Commerce, Science and Technology, Business Administration and Social Work at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. It is the only National Law University offering integrated undergraduate law degrees in five areas- B.A. LL.B., B.S.W. LL.B., B.Com. LL.B, B.B.A. LL.B, and B.Sc. LL.B.; full-time LL.M., MBA in Financial Management and Business Laws and PhD in law and other disciplines as recommended by the UGC as well as diploma/certificate courses in various areas.

01.

**ABOUT
GUJARAT
NATIONAL
LAW
UNIVERSITY
(GNLU)**



**ABOUT
GNLU
CENTRE FOR
RESEARCH
IN CRIMINAL
JUSTICE
SCIENCES
(GCRCJS)**

The GNLU Centre for Research in Criminal Justice Sciences (GCRCJS) is a specialised Research Centre focused on advancing the study of criminal law through comprehensive research and academic discussions. Since its inception, GCRCJS has organised numerous significant events, including the 13th Asian Criminology Conference, 1st and 2nd GCRCJS International Conference on Crime & Technology, and multiple editions of our flagship Legislative Drafting Competition. GCRCJS actively facilitates the exchange of ideas through initiatives like the 'Crime and Justice: A Discourse Series,' the newsletter: 'The Crime and Justice Gazette,' and the blog: 'Crime & Justice Blog.' The Centre has hosted several prominent figures for webinars and guest lectures, including Hon'ble Mr Justice Aravind Kumar and Hon'ble Mr Justice Nilay V Anjaria, Sitting Judges at the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India; Hon'ble Mr Justice Alpesh Y Kogje, Hon'ble Ms Justice Gita Gopi and Hon'ble Ms Justice Sangeeta Vishen and Hon'ble Ms Justice Nisha Thakore, Sitting Judges at the Hon'ble Gujarat High Court; Shri Shekhar Naphade, Ms. Rebecca John, Senior Advocates at the Supreme Court of India and Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, Senior Advocate, Additional Solicitor General at the Supreme Court.

02.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

The Conference aims to provide a platform for:

- Proposing actionable strategies to address International Criminal Law's emerging and underrepresented challenges.
- Presenting pathways to strengthen ICL's ability to withstand the increased number of wars, diminishing international cooperation and lack of accountability.
- Forging collaboration among researchers to create a supportive network for continued study and analysis.
- Promoting conversations among researchers, development practitioners, and policymakers to align goals and initiatives.
- Promoting interdisciplinary research in ICL to shape an inclusive, effective, and resilient approach to global justice.
- Offering a platform where evidence based research from academics and researchers is shared with policy makers to discuss emerging issues affecting the world with respect to ICL.

03.

CONFERENCE THEMES

The Conference will primarily focus on

“Reinvigorating International Criminal Law by Innovation, Inclusivity, and Global Accountability”.

SUGGESTIVE SUB-THEMES

- **Institutional Gridlock and ICC's Credibility Crisis:**
Non-cooperation, enforcement failures, and delayed justice.
- **Sovereignty vs. International Intervention:**
Doctrinal tensions between domestic autonomy and international concern.
- **Selective Justice and Political Bias:**
Power dynamics in prosecutions, sanctions, and institutional bias.
- **Alliance of Domestic Laws with ICL:**
Convergence of domestic systems and ICL for effective prosecution.
- **Procedural Fairness and Rights of the Accused:**
Analyses framework followed by Interpol or ICC, with respect to rights of the accused, trial legitimacy, punishment, and defenses including plea bargaining, superior orders, mental state defenses, and evidentiary rules.



A. Reviving International Criminal Law: Institutional Challenges and Reforms

■ Crimes Against Humanity, Genocide and Prevalence in 21st Century:

Legal development, scope, and prosecution of widespread or systematic attacks against civilian populations, including persecution, torture, and genocide.

■ New Frontiers in Warfare and Accountability:

War crimes in Russia–Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Gaza; accountability for collateral damage and autonomous weaponry.

■ Child Victims of War and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation:

Addressing concerns of children born from conflict-related sexual violence or affected by war and incarceration.

■ Innovation in Evidence and Investigation:

Suggesting newer technologies and methodologies, while examining admissibility and reliability of existing technologies and methodologies, such as satellite imagery, AI forensics, OSINT, and digital media, which are used as tools for documenting and prosecuting for war crimes.

■ Cross Country Collaboration for Investigation of International Crimes:

Exploring frameworks for transnational cooperation, evidence-sharing, and joint mechanisms to effectively investigate and prosecute complex international crimes.

B.

War Crimes, Victim-Centered Justice and Innovation in Evidence



C. Gender, Identity, and Reproductive Justice in International Criminal Law

■ Sexual and Reproductive Violence as International Crimes:
Includes forced pregnancy, denial of abortion, coercion, and the invisibility of male survivors.

■ LGBTQ+ Rights and Expanding Definitions of Gender-Based Crimes:
Addressing intersection of gender identity, sexual orientation and crime during conflicts, and advocating for inclusive definitions.

■ Gender Justice in ICL Institutions:
Representation, sentencing outcomes, and institutional biases.

- **Corporate Liability:**
Accountability of MNCs for forced labour, war profiteering, and environmental damage.
- **Terror Financing, Technology and Cybercrime:**
Impact of digital platforms, cryptocurrencies, and surveillance tools.
- **Cyber Warfare and AI:**
Legal challenges of autonomous weapons, digital aggression, and cyber operations.
- **Ecocide and Environmental Harm:**
Defining green crimes in ICL and proposing mechanism to address the same.
- **Non-State and Transnational Actors:**
Legal treatment of militias, cartels, private military companies, and transnational organised crime.
- **Maritime Piracy in the 21st Century:**
Analysing piracy in international waters (Somalia, the South China Sea) and the legal challenges of universal jurisdiction, enforcement cooperation, and overlap with other ICL aspects.



D. Emerging Issues in ICL

The above themes and sub-themes are merely indicative in nature and not exhaustive. Participants may submit an abstract on any contemporary, relevant, and connected issue of the International Criminal Law.

The Conference will feature plenary sessions, panel discussions, paper presentations, and interactive sessions among the participants, judges, speakers and attendees.

04.

STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE

05.

WHO CAN ATTEND THE CONFERENCE?

The Conference is aimed at Students, Researchers, Criminal Justice Professionals, NGO Practitioners, and Academicians, Practitioners, Advocates, and Experts in the areas of Criminology, Victimology, Law, Sociology, International Relations, Human Rights, Gender Studies, Technology, Environmental Studies, and allied sciences.

Awards:

Awards will be given for the top three research papers of the conference across all the sessions.

06.

PRIZES & CERTIFICATION

Certificate:

All the participants who will be presenting a paper will receive a Certificate of Participation whereas the top three papers will be awarded Certificates of Merit.

Prize Money:

1st Prize: INR 15,000/-

2nd Prize: INR 10,000/-

3rd Prize: INR 5,000/-

07.

MODE OF THE CONFERENCE

The Conference will be conducted in offline mode only.

Foreign participants may be provided limited virtual participation upon request on a case to case basis

08.

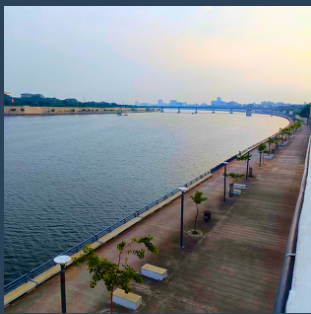
KEY ATTRACTIONS

All Images are for Illustrative Purposes only.

CULTURAL STALLS



OUTGOINGS



NETWORKING DINNER



09.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS & DEADLINES

*All deadlines mentioned are in
Indian Standard Time (IST).*

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION
20th November, 2025

NOTIFICATION OF
ACCEPTANCE
30th November, 2025

PAYMENT OF
REGISTRATION FEES
31st January, 2026

FULL PAPER SUBMISSION
31st January, 2026

Research Papers on the above theme and sub-themes are invited from Academicians, researchers, students, Criminal Justice Professionals, NGO practitioners, Advocates, and experts in the fields of Criminology, Victimology, Law, Sociology, International Relations, Human Rights, Gender Studies, Technology, Environmental Studies, and Allied Sciences.

Interested participants are invited to submit an abstract (300 words) via the Google Form below:

[Submit Here](#)

The selected authors will be required to submit their full papers along with a registration fee and will be invited to present the same during the Conference.

The abstract and the full papers should only be submitted via the provided Google Forms. Submissions made through email or other channels will not be considered.

10. OBSERVER DETAILS

The Conference also allows individuals to observe the Conference Proceedings by registering as an Observer. Being an Observer gives you access to attend any and all presentation sessions, plenary sessions, roundtable discussions, etc. The registration formalities for registration as an observer shall be complied with on or before 31st January, 2026.

Observer registration can be done on this link:

[Observer Registration Link](#)

Details and Specifics for Registration of Paper Presenters shall be communicated post abstract acceptance to the selected authors.

GNLU STUDENTS
INR 1500

FOREIGN STUDENTS
USD 65

INDIAN
STUDENTS/RESEARCHERS
INR 2500

FOREIGN
PROFESSIONALS
USD 100

INDIAN PROFESSIONALS
AND ACADEMICIANS
INR 4500

INDIAN
OBSERVERS
INR 1000

FOREIGN
OBSERVERS
20 USD

11.

PARTICIPATION FEES

Note: The fee mentioned is applicable per individual participant. In the case of co-authored papers, each co-author is required to pay the registration fee as per their respective category.

- *Participants from SAARC nations are eligible for a reduction in fees, subject to the submission of adequate proof of nationality or institutional affiliation. For any further queries, contact us at confgrcjs@gnlu.ac.in.*
- *All amounts mentioned are exclusive of taxes and other charges as may be applicable. Charges for Accommodation shall be communicated to the selected authors post abstract acceptance.*

PAPER PRESENTERS

Indian Participants

Once the abstract is accepted, the registration fee must be paid at the time of full paper submission. A submission form and payment link will be provided along with the notification of acceptance.

Payment portal shall be open from 30th November, 2025 to 31st January, 2026.

Foreign Participants

Upon acceptance of the abstract, the registration fee must be paid at the time of full paper submission. A submission form, along with bank details, will be provided in the acceptance notification. Foreign participants are required to complete the payment to the provided bank account by 31st January, 2026 (IST).

Note: The fee mentioned is applicable per individual participant. In the case of co-authored papers, each co-author is required to pay the registration fee as per their respective category.

12.

PAYMENT DETAILS

OBSERVERS

Indian Observers:

Indian Observers are required to pay the applicable registration fee using the payment details provided below, on or before 31st January, 2026.

OBSERVER PAYMENT LINK

Foreign Observers:

Foreign Observers shall make the necessary payment on the bank details provided in the registration form, on or before 31st January, 2026 (IST).

13.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Authors must adhere to the following guidelines for Abstract:

- The participants are requested to submit an abstract of a maximum of 300 words in Microsoft Word and PDF document;
- Font style – (Italic) Times New Roman;
- Font Size – 12;
- line spacing – 1.5;
- The abstract must include keywords (maximum: five);
- The abstract must include a clear indication of the objectives, major results and implications;
- All abstracts will be subject to blind review and only those abstracts approved by the reviewers will be selected to submit their complete paper for the final presentation;
- The criteria for evaluation are Relevancy, Methodology and Originality.

14.

ACCOMMODATION

The Committee will reach out to the authors whose papers have been accepted, regarding accommodation. The specifics thereof regarding venue, fees etc. shall be communicated with the authors later on.

Ahmedabad offers different modes of travel- bus, auto, taxis and metro. The venue of the Conference is forty-five minutes away from the Ahmedabad Railway Station and Ahmedabad Bus Depot, half an hour from the Gandhinagar Railway Station, twenty minutes away from the Ahmedabad Airport. PDEU Metro Station is within 50 meters and Cab services are available to travel from Ahmedabad to Gandhinagar.

Address: 5M36+F8P, Attalika Avenue Knowledge Corridor, PDPU Rd, Koba, Gujarat 382421

Following is the Google Maps link to get to GNLU:

15.

HOW TO REACH GNLU?



[Google Maps Link](#)

16. PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Chief Patron

Prof. (Dr.) S. Shanthakumar
Director, GNLU.



Organising Secretary

Prof. (Dr.) Anjani Singh Tomar
Professor of Law, GNLU and Head, GNLU Centre for
Research in Criminal Justice Sciences.



Co-Organising Secretary

Dr. Saira Gori
Assistant Professor of Law, GNLU and Member, GNLU
Centre for Research in Criminal Justice Sciences.



STUDENT ORGANISING COMMITTEE

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