

# **Report of the Human Rights Centre for 2025**

The Human Rights Centre remained active and continued successful cooperation with its partners through 2025.

## **Introduction of an International Human Rights Law Module within the Master of International and European Law**

During the accreditation process of the new master's program in International and European Law, the Human Rights Centre is proud to highlight the introduction of a new module in International Human Rights Law. At the beginning of the 2026/2027 academic year, students will have the opportunity to select modules through which they wish to pursue their specialization. The module in International Human Rights Law consists of one compulsory course: International and European Human Rights Law: Principles, Institutions and Enforcement, as well as a range of elective courses designed to deepen students' knowledge in various subfields.

The elective courses include Comparative Governments, European Non-discrimination Law, Human Rights in Armed Conflict and Transitional Justice, International and EU Labour Law, Business and Human Rights, and Digital Rights and the Future of Human Rights. This structure enables students to tailor their studies to their personal and professional interests while acquiring a broad foundation in human rights law.

The Human Rights Centre proudly emphasizes that students of law and other social sciences will have the opportunity to gain specialized and contemporary knowledge within an English-language master's program. The program will be based on newly developed syllabi that reflect relevant topics and current challenges in the field of human rights. Through a multidisciplinary approach and an international academic environment, students will develop advanced theoretical and practical skills essential for future professional engagement in this area.

## **Bulletin on the Case Law of the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union**

Since 2023, the Human Rights Centre of the University of Belgrade Faculty of Law has been continuously preparing bulletins on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in the field of asylum, to strengthen the capacities of the judiciary and enhance the consistent application of European standards in international protection proceedings.

In 2025, the Centre published one bulletin covering the relevant case law issued between January 1 and June 30, while the preparation of the second bulletin, covering decisions adopted between July 1 and December 31, is in progress. Each bulletin provides a structured overview of significant ECtHR and CJEU judgments, of relevance for administrative and judicial authorities operating in the field of asylum.

The purpose of these bulletins is to support more efficient decision-making by competent authorities of the Republic of Serbia, as well as to facilitate monitoring developments in international standards on asylum and international protection. The bulletins are prepared together in cooperation with the UNHCR Office in Serbia and the Administrative Court.

All bulletins are available on the website of the Institute for Legal and Social Sciences of the University of Belgrade Faculty of Law. Access link: <https://ius.bg.ac.rs/publikacije/билтен-праксе-европског-суда-за-људск-5/>.

## **Visit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

As part of his official visit to the Republic of Serbia, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, visited the University of Belgrade Faculty of Law on September 24, 2025, where he met with students and professors. Professor Ivana Krstić welcomed Mr. Türk on behalf of the Human Rights Centre, after which she introduced the students to his role and the importance of this mechanism within the United Nations system. Following Professor Krstić's opening remarks, the High Commissioner delivered a brief lecture on current human rights challenges and on the role of his Office in supporting UN Member States. During the meeting, students had the opportunity to ask questions, share their views, and present their personal experiences related to the ongoing protests, as well as broader issues concerning human rights, the rule of law, and social developments in Serbia.

After the discussion, the High Commissioner stated that he was "impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of these young people," emphasizing that the students had clearly expressed "a strong desire for a free and democratic society" and "a thirst for human rights." He underlined that their perspectives and expectations are of great importance at a time of profound public debate, and that the voices of students must be heard and respected.

This visit to the Faculty of Law provided an important opportunity to understand the challenges Serbia faces from the perspective of young people. The High Commissioner noted that open dialogue with students contributes to a deeper understanding of the needs and aspirations of a new generation. During his official mission, he also held numerous

meetings with representatives of the Government, the National Assembly, independent institutions, civil society, and international organizations.







## **Regional Visit of the United Nations Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls**

From September 30 to October 3, 2025, the United Nations Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls visited Belgrade as part of its regional convening in Serbia. The visit formed part of the Working Group's ongoing efforts to assess the situation of women's and girls' rights across the region, identify key challenges, and engage in direct dialogue with independent institutions, civil society organizations, and members of the academic community. The members of the Working Group were welcomed at the Faculty of Law by Dean Professor Bojan Milisavljević, Vice Dean for International Cooperation Professor Dalibor Đukić, and Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, Assistant Professor Filip Bojić.

During their stay in Serbia, the Working Group held numerous meetings with a wide range of actors involved in combating gender discrimination. The discussions covered a broad range of issues: from institutional mechanisms for achieving gender equality and the implementation of international standards, the role of artificial intelligence, to challenges related to violence against women, discrimination in employment and education, the position of women from marginalized communities, and the level of women's political participation and representation in public life.

As part of their regional visit, the members of the Working Group also traveled to Novi Sad, where they visited the city's railway station. They were briefed on the events of November 1, 2024, institutional responses, and the human rights concerns that emerged in the aftermath of the tragedy. This visit provided important insight into the broader social and political context. They were also hosted by the Vojvodina Bar Association and met with judges and attorneys.

A particularly significant part of the mission was the meeting with students of the University of Belgrade Faculty of Law. During the lecture, the Working Group members presented their mandate, key international standards, and current global challenges on women's and girls' rights. Students had the opportunity to ask questions and engage directly with the experts, gaining firsthand insight into how the United Nations' special procedures function.

This visit represents an important contribution to understanding the regional context and shared challenges faced by Western Balkan countries in advancing gender equality.







## **Lecture of the UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls**

Organized by the Human Rights Centre, members of the United Nations Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls delivered a lecture at the University of Belgrade Faculty of Law on September 30, 2025. The Working Group is composed of: Chair Claudia Flores (United States), Vice-Chair Ivana Krstić (Serbia), Dorothy Estrada-Tanck (Mexico), Haina Lu (China), and Laura Nyirinkindi (Uganda).

Established in 2010 by UN Human Rights Council Resolution 15/23 as one of the Council's special procedures, the Working Group's mandate includes monitoring, analyzing, and issuing recommendations regarding laws, policies, and practices that affect the rights of women and girls, with particular emphasis on eliminating discrimination in all spheres of public and private life. In carrying out its mandate, the Working Group cooperates with States, international organizations, and civil society to identify systemic challenges and promote the advancement of women's and girls' rights worldwide.

The purpose of the lecture was to introduce students to the role and significance of UN special procedures and to provide a clearer understanding of the Working Group's mandate and areas of competence. During the presentation, members outlined key mechanisms and tools the Working Group employs, underscoring the importance of international

standards and recommendations in improving the status of women and girls globally. The lecture was attended by undergraduate students, as well as students enrolled in the Law and Gender master's program and the doctoral studies program.





**Impressions of the First Generation of Students in the Law and Gender Master's Program**



In the 2024/2025 academic year, the first generation of students enrolled in the new English-language master's program Law and Gender completed their coursework. Despite the challenges they faced throughout the year, we are proud to share their impressions, which confirm that the program fully met their expectations and enabled meaningful academic and professional growth.

The students emphasized the importance of the program, describing it as innovative, stimulating, and highly relevant. They noted that the curriculum addresses issues of important social significance and that, in their experience, the program is unique not only in the region but also across Europe. They particularly valued its interdisciplinary approach and the way traditional legal fields are reexamined through gender-sensitive and intersectional lenses. Students who completed their undergraduate studies in other social science and humanities disciplines highlighted that the program was especially encouraging for them, enabling them to acquire essential legal knowledge and apply it in the analysis of concrete cases, an experience that significantly contributed to their academic development.

In their reflections, students repeatedly praised the quality of the teaching staff. They emphasized that professors were exceptionally approachable, supportive, and consistently available for additional guidance, which greatly enhanced their understanding of complex topics. The students also noted that the courses were thoughtfully designed, grounded in the most current and relevant literature, and structured in a way that fostered the development of critical thinking and the practical application of knowledge. The knowledge and experiences gained throughout the program are viewed by the students as invaluable for their future professional engagement, particularly in the fields of human rights and gender equality. Their impressions stand as a testament to the quality and importance of the program, as well as a meaningful encouragement for its continued development and advancement.



**LAWGEM**  
Master's Study Program  
Law and Gender



*Studying in the Law and Gender Master's program has been a truly inspiring experience. Coming from outside of law studies, I found it especially valuable to be part of a program that recognizes the need to bring together both law students and people from diverse social science backgrounds to exchange ideas, gain new insights and reconsider traditional views of law through a gender-sensitive and intersectional lens.*

*With a range of courses covering feminist legal theory, international and EU law, to human rights and gender equality, its innovative and interdisciplinary approach offers a unique opportunity to gain both theoretical and practical knowledge in gender mainstreaming in law. I also had the opportunity to learn from exceptional professors who specialize in these topics and are dedicated to shaping a future generation of gender-responsive professionals across legal, international and civil society sectors.*



*Overall, I would warmly recommend this pioneering program to anyone interested in connecting feminist theory and practice with legal studies.*

**Emilija Mladenović**

**1st generation of students of the  
Law and Gender Master's program**

<https://lawgems.ius.bg.ac.rs>



# LAWGEM

Master's Study Program  
Law and Gender



*The Law and Gender master's programme has been an enriching and transformative experience for me. At first, I was unsure about enrolling, since I was already pursuing another master's degree. Still, after attending the programme's promotion at the Faculty of Law, I knew it was the right choice for me.*

*What impressed me most was the unique atmosphere created by the combination of excellent courses, carefully selected reading materials, and supportive professors who were always approachable and willing to help. Coming from a non-law background, I especially valued how the programme encouraged me to think critically about justice, gender, and equality from perspectives I had never considered before.*

*What makes it genuinely special is the sense of community it fosters. As students, we formed a supportive and like-minded community, encouraging each other's growth and learning. Within this supportive environment, professors became true mentors, encouraging us to challenge ourselves, think critically, and grow both academically and personally.*



**Andrijana Milojević**

1st generation of students of the  
Law and Gender Master's program

<https://lawgems.ius.bg.ac.rs>





**LAWGEM**  
Master's Study Program  
Law and Gender



*The LawGem Master's program was a turning point in my journey. As a theologian, I have always worked on educating girls, especially those from minority communities, but this knowledge opened a new dimension for me – the legal and international perspective. I learned how to approach problems from different angles, how to position myself in challenging situations, and how to offer concrete solutions. These studies did not only transform my work – they shaped me as a person, strengthened my voice, and gave me greater power to contribute to society.*



**Muna Jusufspahić**  
1st generation of students of the  
Law and Gender Master's program

<https://lawgems.ius.bg.ac.rs>



**LAWGEM**  
Master's Study Program  
Law and Gender



*Enrolling in a Master's program at the Faculty of Law as someone without a formal background in law was at first intimidating. However, from the very beginning of the Law and Gender program, we were welcomed by highly knowledgeable and considerate professors, who shared their expertise with great understanding, which made the entire journey both engaging and enriching, filled with courses that were professional and useful.*

*This past year was by no means conventional, but that did not prevent me from gaining knowledge and experience that is equally interesting and useful, alongside wonderful professors and even more wonderful colleagues. As the president of the feminist association Osnažene, the knowledge I have gained and continue to gain in this program has allowed me to better understand, and actively contribute to, the legal transformation of the society we live in. For that, I am truly grateful to all the professors.*



*I would wholeheartedly encourage anyone to enroll, because this program is an empowering journey that gives you the tools to create real change.*

**Ana Zdrauković**

*1st generation of students of the  
Law and Gender Master's program*

<https://lawgems.ius.bg.ac.rs>

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

On November 14, 2025, the University of Belgrade Faculty of Law renewed its cooperation with the UNHCR Office in Belgrade through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. The Memorandum was signed by the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Dr. Bojan Milisavljević, and the UNHCR Representative in Serbia, Sufijan Adjali (Soufiane Adjali). This Memorandum represents the



continuation of a long-standing and substantive partnership between the Faculty of Law and UNHCR in the field of international refugee law and the protection of refugees.

Over the past years, this cooperation has been strengthened through numerous activities aimed at enhancing academic and institutional capacities in the area of international protection. One of the most significant initiatives is the continuous work of the Legal Clinic for Asylum and Refugee Law, currently coordinated by Prof. Dr. Bojana Čučković, which for eighteen years has enabled students to gain knowledge in working with asylum seekers and refugees. Since 2023, the Human Rights Centre has also established close cooperation with the Administrative Court, preparing bulletins of case law in the field of asylum and migration, including analyses of relevant judgments of the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union. These activities constitute an important part of the faculty's engagement within the "Sergio Vieira de Mello" Academic Chair, a network of universities recognized for their contribution to refugee education and the promotion of refugee rights. It is of particular significance that in 2023, Prof. Dr. Ivana Krstić became the first member from Serbia and only the second from Europe to be accepted into this initiative.

The signing of the Memorandum stands as a clear indication of the sustained commitment of both institutions to further strengthening their cooperation and to the continued advancement of knowledge and practice in the field of international refugee law.







**The Beginning of the New Academic Year in the Law and Gender and European Integration Master's Programs**

On Monday, 24 November 2025, the University of Belgrade Faculty of Law formally marked the beginning of the academic year for the Law and Gender master's program and the Master's in European Integration. The ceremony was opened by the Vice Dean for International Cooperation, Professor Dalibor Đukić, who welcomed the attendees and highlighted the importance of these programs for both the Faculty and the University. He was followed by the heads of the two master's programs, Professor Ivana Krstić and Professor Bojana Čučković, who warmly greeted the new generation of students and emphasized the value of English-language master's programs. They noted that such programs allow domestic students to study in an international academic environment, while also offering international students the opportunity to pursue their education in Serbia.

Professor Dragica Vujadinović, the lead coordinator of the LAWGEM project and former head of the Master's in European Integration program, also addressed the audience. She reflected on the development and achievements of both programs, particularly emphasizing their interdisciplinary approach to studying gender equality and European integration. The Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, Professor Filip Bojić, then shared his experience from his tenure as Secretary of the Master's in European Integration, emphasizing his long-standing commitment to maintaining academic quality and program excellence.

The event was attended by professors and teaching assistants from both master's programs, who presented the core courses and thematic areas students will study throughout the academic year. The enrolled students had the opportunity to introduce themselves, share their motivations for pursuing studies in gender equality and European integration, and ask questions regarding the structure and content of the programs.

Following the introductory session and a constructive discussion, the first lecture in the Law and Gender program was held as part of the compulsory course Methodology and Practical Skills. On the same day, the Master's in European Integration program began its academic year with an introductory lecture delivered by Assistant Professor Šejla Imamović from the Faculty of Law at Maastricht University (Netherlands).

This event marked a successful start for the new generation of students and reaffirmed the faculty's commitment to strengthening international programs and implementing innovative academic curricula.









## **Second Round Table on Asylum**

On Tuesday, 25 November 2025, the second Roundtable on Asylum was held, organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees (UNHCR) in Serbia. The event was opened by Soufiane Adjali, UNHCR Representative in Serbia, who welcomed participants and emphasized the importance of ongoing dialogue among state institutions, academia, and international organizations to strengthen the national asylum system. The Roundtable brought together representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, the Administrative Court, the Asylum Commission, the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, as well as members of the academic community, civil society organizations, and international organizations.

On behalf of the University of Belgrade Faculty of Law, Dean Bojan Milisavljević addressed participants, underscoring the importance of cooperation between academia and state bodies in developing and improving asylum procedures. Following his remarks, Prof. Dr. Ivana Krstić, Head of the Human Rights Centre and Chair of the Department of International Law and International Relations, welcomed the attendees. She noted the symbolic importance of holding the event on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and emphasized Serbia's international obligations, as well as the need for their consistent implementation in protecting asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection.

Professor Krstić then presented the "White Paper on the Asylum System in the Republic of Serbia: Legal Framework and Challenges", prepared by the Human Rights Centre of the Faculty of Law, and introduced the members of the research team. Parts of the report, examples of good practices, and key recommendations for strengthening both the normative and institutional framework of the asylum system in Serbia were presented by Professor Krstić, along with Professor Marko Davinić, Professor Bojana Čučković, Assistant Professor Marija Vlajković, and Junior Teaching Assistant Ana Memeti. Their presentations covered a broad range of issues, including procedural safeguards and building the capacity of administrative and judicial bodies. Particular attention was given to the need to harmonize national legislation with the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, as well as to improve practices concerning vulnerable categories of asylum seekers.

The presented analysis, followed by an engaging discussion, opened space for further reflection on opportunities to strengthen Serbia's asylum system through sustainable institutional cooperation, capacity-building, and more effective implementation of European standards in practice.



## **Meeting with Torsten Afflerbach, Head of Division, Inclusion and Anti-Discrimination Programmes, Council of Europe**

On Monday, 1 December 2025, the Human Rights Centre of the University of Belgrade's Faculty of Law hosted a meeting with Torsten Afflerbach, Head of the Division for Inclusion and Anti-Discrimination Programmes at the Council of Europe. The distinguished guest was welcomed by the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor Bojan Milisavljević, the Head of the Human Rights Centre and Chair of the Department of International Law and International Relations, Professor Ivana Krstić, as well as the Deputy Chair of the Department, Professor Bojana Čučković.

During the meeting, the Human Rights Centre's key activities were presented, with particular emphasis on initiatives to combat discrimination and support vulnerable groups. The discussion also addressed current challenges in implementing anti-discrimination legislation in Serbia, identified capacity-building needs, and opportunities to further strengthen cooperation between the Council of Europe and the Faculty of Law.

The meeting was attended by Teaching Associate Ana Memeti and students from the Faculty of Law, who shared their personal experiences, the



challenges they have faced in recent periods, their human rights-related activities, and potential ways to enhance youth engagement in the Council of Europe's programs and initiatives.

The discussion was constructive and marked an important step toward deepening the partnership between the Faculty of Law and the Council of Europe, with a shared goal of advancing inclusion, equality, and the protection of human rights.

## **Training Held for Officers of the Asylum Office**

Prof. Dr Ivana Krstić delivered a training session for officers of the Asylum Office on 19 November in Belgrade, organized by UNHCR, during which she addressed the latest standards of refugee protection as set out in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights. During the training, she presented key and illustrative cases and discussed how the established standards can be applied in domestic practice. She also introduced the Bulletin of Case Law and explained how it can inform decision-making in asylum cases. Finally, she conducted a practical session on using the HUDOC database, enabling Asylum Office officers to independently research judgments of the European Court of Human Rights relevant to the cases they adjudicate.

## **Round Table Held: Eight Decades of the United Nations and the Challenges of the 21st Century – Why Is Reform of the Three-Pillar System Necessary?**

On 23 December 2025, a round table entitled "*Eight Decades of the United Nations and the Challenges of the 21st Century: Why Is Reform of the Three-Pillar System Necessary?*" was held at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, in the Faculty's conference hall. The round table was opened and moderated by Prof. Dr Ivana Krstić, who emphasized the importance of the 80th anniversary of the United Nations as an opportunity to critically reassess the effectiveness of the existing system of collective security, human rights protection, and sustainable development.

Within the panel "*The Necessity of Reforming the United Nations – The Three Pillars*", the participants discussed the key challenges facing the UN in the contemporary international order. Prof. Dr Bojan Milisavljević

addressed the pillar of peace and security, highlighting institutional and political obstacles to effective responses to modern security crises and outlining possible directions for reform. Aleksandra Petrović, a human rights expert, focused on the human rights pillar, emphasizing the need to strengthen protection mechanisms and institutional resilience amid global challenges. Jelena Manić Petronikolos, UNDP Head of the Sustainable Development Goals Unit, discussed the pillar of sustainable development, underlining the importance of a new architecture of global solidarity and responsibility, particularly in the context of climate change and social inequalities.

The panel was followed by an engaging discussion with participants that addressed various models of UN reform and the role of international law in adapting the system to new global realities. The roundtable concluded with a shared assessment that reform of the United Nations system is essential to maintain its relevance and capacity to respond effectively to the challenges of the 21st century.





## **Conference Held: The Istanbul Convention – Perspectives on Its Implementation in Serbia**

On 23 December 2025, the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, hosted a conference "*The Istanbul Convention: Perspectives on Its Implementation in Serbia*", held in the Faculty's conference hall. The conference focused on presenting the Commentary on the Istanbul Convention and discussing key challenges and directions for its implementation within the Serbian legal and institutional framework. The conference was opened by Prof. Ivana Krstić, who emphasized the importance of the Commentary on the Istanbul Convention as a comprehensive interpretive tool for understanding state obligations and strengthening the implementation of international standards on the protection of women from violence, including domestic violence.

In subsequent sessions, Prof. Dragica Vujadinović addressed the significance of the Istanbul Convention in the contemporary social context, highlighting its role in advancing gender equality and protecting human rights. Mina Kuzminac discussed violence prevention and the transformation of social patterns that enable violence to persist, while Prof. Bojana Čučković presented the Convention's standards on the protection and support of victims and the challenges of their implementation in institutional practice.



Dr Ivana Barać Milovanović analyzed family law aspects of protection from violence against women, while Dr Ivana Marković focused on sexual violence and the issue of consent in light of the standards of the Istanbul Convention. Ana Zdravković examined victims' procedural rights and access to justice, and Ana Memeti highlighted the specific challenges in protecting migrant women and asylum seekers through an intersectional approach.

In the concluding part of the expert program, Dr Marija Vlajković discussed monitoring the implementation of the Convention and the role of the GREVIO monitoring mechanism, while Vanja Macanović from the Autonomous Women's Centre presented practical experiences and challenges related to the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

The conference concluded with an open discussion, during which participants exchanged views on the scope and limitations of the Istanbul Convention's implementation in Serbia, as well as on the importance of maintaining momentum in strengthening the normative and institutional framework for protecting women from violence.









