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# The Indian Society of International Law

V. K. Krishna Menon Bhawan, 9, Bhagwan Dass Road, New Delhi - 110001

20 May 2026

Ref. No. ....

## One Day Seminar on

### The Refugee Convention At 75 Years: Then, Now and Beyond

#### In Collaboration With UNHCR, India

Adopted in the aftermath of the Second World War, the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees remains the cornerstone of the international refugee protection regime. Seventy-five years on, its principles of protection, international cooperation and responsibility-sharing continue to guide responses to forced displacement. These foundations are reinforced by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes refugees and host communities within a shared pursuit of inclusive and sustainable development, and by the UN Pact of the Future, which reaffirms renewed commitment to multilateralism to address complex global challenges, including displacement.

Over seven decades, the Convention has proven remarkably resilient and adaptable. UNHCR's interpretative work, including its Handbook and Guidelines on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status and subsequent Guidelines on International Protection, has demonstrated that the Convention can respond to evolving forms of persecution, including those by non-State actors, in situations of armed conflict, and in the context of gender-related and other identity-based harms.

At the same time, new challenges have emerged. Many States continue to uphold their obligations generously, but there has been an increase in deterrence-oriented measures being introduced, including through the externalization of asylum and migration controls, restrictive interpretations of the refugee definition, return practices at sea and on land without due process, and the increased use of detention. These practices raise serious questions regarding compliance with the principle of non-refoulement and with international refugee and human rights law and principles more broadly.

Globally, UNHCR has engaged States, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders through the Global Compact on Refugees, the Global Refugee Forum, and other multilateral processes to strengthen responsibility-sharing, expand complementary pathways, and advance durable solutions including voluntary repatriation, local integration, and resettlement.


Against this backdrop, the Indian Society of International Law and UNHCR India is organising a one-day academic seminar on **"The Refugee Convention at 75: Then, Now and Beyond" on 28<sup>th</sup> July (Tuesday) at ISIL** to foster scholarly debate and generate policy-relevant research, with particular attention to developments in Asia and the Global South and generate high-quality academic contributions suitable for publication in an edited volume, to inform legal scholarship, judicial practice and policymaking.

7/7/26

## Call for Papers

Contributors are invited to submit papers under the following broad themes (non-exhaustive):

1. How does the 1951 Refugee Convention serve State interests on peace and security, development and the realization of the SDGs?
2. Global South refugee hosting approaches: Lessons to be learnt
3. Externalization of refugee protection
4. Balancing National Security and Humanitarian Imperatives
5. Expanding Protection Space: Complementary Forms of Protection, Mixed Movements and People on the Move
6. From Detention to Dignity: Alternatives to detention
7. Progress from traditional Durable Solutions and international solidarity/ cooperation -: Integration, self-reliance, voluntary repatriation, resettlement and complementary pathways
8. Routes based approach: challenges of conflation between refugees and migrants and required responses

  
(Dr UC Jha)  
Secretary General

### Submission Guidelines:

**Abstract:** Max. 300 words with five keywords to be submitted by 15 June, 2026

**Acceptance Notification:** 20 June, 2026

**Full Papers:** 6000-7500 words, to be submitted by 10 July, 2026

**Authors:** Maximum 2 Authors allowed

**Last Date of Registration:** 10 July, 2026

**Submissions** to be mailed at [isilevents.2026@gmail.com](mailto:isilevents.2026@gmail.com) with subject as name of Author (s) with title of the paper in MS Word format

Citations must conform to ISIL Citation Style

(<https://www.isil.aca.org/download2021/ijilguidelines.pdf>)

**Registration Fee:** Rs. 1000/- (Faculty and Research Scholars); Rs 750/- (Students)

**Payment Mode: Through NEFT in favour of:**

The Indian Society of International Law

A/C No. 2417257041316

**IFSC Code** CNRB0002417

**Branch:** Canara Bank 6 Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi

Share the screenshot and submit registration form after successful payment at [isil@isil-aca.org](mailto:isil@isil-aca.org)

**For further Information**, contact: Dr Kanika Sharma, Assistant Professor (Sr.) Head- Centre for Advanced Studies in International Humanitarian Law and Military Law, ISIL ([kanak\\_sharma03@yahoo.com](mailto:kanak_sharma03@yahoo.com)) (M) 9289366902.

**Note:** Selected papers will be considered for publication in ISIL's forthcoming edited volume, subject to peer review and editorial approval.