

Hosting Global Justice: The Netherlands as Host State of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and International Criminal Court (ICC)

Call for Papers

- **Conference format:** In-person (online participation is not possible)
- **Location:** The Hague, Netherlands
- **Date:** 15 April 2027
- **Abstract deadline:** 1 December 2026
- **Cost:** Free registration; lunch/coffee and a conference dinner provided
- **Travel & accommodation:** Participants cover their own costs (no funding available)

Conference theme

For more than a century, the Netherlands has occupied a unique position in the international legal order as host to many of the world's leading institutions of international justice. Today, The Hague is home to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Criminal Court (ICC), and numerous other international organizations, thereby earning its reputation as the International City of Peace and Justice.

This role has become increasingly visible. At a time when the ICC faces significant external political pressure and the ICJ has been at the center of intense international debate following recent decisions in high-profile cases, renewed attention is being paid not only to the courts themselves, but also to the conditions that enable them to carry out their judicial functions independently and effectively. As host state, the Netherlands provides the diplomatic support, security, infrastructure, and practical cooperation that allow these institutions to operate, while also navigating the political and societal challenges that accompany this responsibility.

This conference places the Netherlands' role as host state at its center. We examine how the Netherlands fulfils its obligations toward the international courts it hosts, how this role has developed over time, and how it may evolve in an increasingly contested geopolitical environment. The conference seeks to bring together scholars and practitioners from international law, political science, history, sociology, international relations, and related disciplines, and aims to foster dialogue between academia and the institutions that shape and sustain the daily practice of international justice. In addition to academic contributions, we welcome the participation of representatives from international courts and tribunals, the Municipality of The Hague, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other public institutions and organizations supporting the international legal ecosystem in the Netherlands.

Who can submit?

- We invite submissions from scholars, practitioners, and activists across disciplines and career stages.
- Co-authored submissions are welcome, provided that at least one author can attend and present in person in The Hague.

Practicalities

- The conference will be held on site in The Hague. Online participation is not possible.
- The conference is free of charge. Lunch, coffee, etc. will be provided, and speakers are invited to a conference dinner in the evening of the conference day.

- We are unable to provide funding or financial assistance for travel and accommodation. Selected speakers are thus expected to cover these costs themselves.
- Selected papers will be considered for publication in a special journal issue (details to be announced).

Submission guidelines

- Please submit your abstract by 1 December 2026.
- Send to both o.spijkers@luc.leidenuniv.nl and l.lo.giacco@law.leidenuniv.nl.
- Subject line: "Hosting Global Justice Conference – Abstract Submission"
- File format: Word document (doc or .docx)
- Your submission must include:
 - Title of the paper
 - Speaker(s) name(s), institutional affiliation(s), and contact information (email address)
 - Abstract (max. 500 words)
 - Short bio of the speaker(s) (max. 200 words)

Abstract submitters will be informed of our decision within two weeks of the submission deadline.

Organizers

The conference is organized by Otto Spijkers (Leiden University College) and Letizia Lo Giacco (Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies). The conference is part of the KIEM research project "Hosting Global Justice: The Netherlands as Host State of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC)".

Contact

For questions regarding the conference or submissions, please contact Otto Spijkers at o.spijkers@luc.leidenuniv.nl.