Venice International University
International PhD Academy

Preventing and combating violence against women – the Istanbul Convention after EU accession

Venice International University
January 26-30, 2026

Faculty
Sara De Vido, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Delegate of the Rector for gender equality – coordinator of the Academy
Marina Calloni, University of Milano-Bicocca, Director of the UNIRE network – co-coordinator of the Academy
Zeynep Gülru Goker, Sabanci University, Director of Sabanci University Gender and Women's Studies Center of Excellence – co-coordinator of the Academy
Micaela Frulli, University of Florence
Daniela Belliti, University of Milano-Bicocca, UNIRE net
Ayşe Betül Çelik, Sabanci University
Cenk Özbay, Sabanci University
Sara Dal Monico, Ca' Foscari University of Venice
Olaf Köndgen, Council of Europe, OCEAN network
Alessandra Fornetti, Venice International University
Ilda Mannino, Venice International University

Program

Daily morning coffee breaks: 10.45 - 11:00

Monday, January 26, 2026
Day 1

9:00-9.15	*Registration*
9.15-10.00	Opening and Introduction (*VIU & Scientific Coordinators*) Round of presentation
10.00-12.30	• The OCEAN network and the Istanbul convention *Olaf Köndgen*

	• The text of the Convention and the relationship of this instrument with other legal instruments in other human rights systems, like the Inter-American one *Sara De Vido & Micaela Frulli* • Its implementation by GREVIO *Sara De Vido & Micaela Frulli*
12.30-13.45	*Lunch*
13.45-14.40	• The interpretation of the Istanbul Convention provided by the European Court of Human Rights *Sara De Vido & Micaela Frulli*
14.45-16.15	• Guided debate: what is consent in sexual relationship? The approach of the Istanbul Convention and insights from domestic systems. *All*
16.15-18.00	• How to communicate research to a wide audience Alessandra Fornetti & Ilda Mannino (VIU) **Transversal skills**

Tuesday, January 27, 2026
Day 2

9.15-12.30	• The EU accession and legal consequences of it, including the adoption in 2024 of the Directive on countering violence against women and domestic violence that comprises the important dimension of cyber violence *Sara De Vido* – discussion on point of strength and weakness • The jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the EU mentioning the Istanbul Convention *Sara De Vido & Sara Dal Monico*
12.30-13.45	*Lunch*
13.45-16.45	**The contemporary politics of the Istanbul Convention:** • Anti-gender politics, democratic backsliding and reactions to the Istanbul Convention: Comparative perspectives across Europe *Zeynep Gülru Göker* • The aftermath of the withdrawal from the Convention in Turkey: Social movements and feminist institutional responses *Zeynep Gülru Göker & Ayşe Betül Çelik*

Wednesday, January 28, 2026
Day 3

9.15-12.45	**Intersectionality and the Istanbul Convention** • Conflict, war and the protection of refugees and forcibly displaced persons *Ayşe Betül Çelik* • The Istanbul Convention, populist masculinities and political homophobia *Cenk Özbay*
12.45-13.45	*Lunch*
13.45-17.00	Movie or documentary and structured debate *Sabanci or Milano-Bicocca to guide this final part*
17.00-18.30	Working in group: preparation of posters for the final day **Transversal skills**
Evening	*Social Dinner*

Thursday, January 29, 2026
Day 4

9.15-12.30	• The Istanbul Convention and the protection Intersectionality will be a cross-cutting issue (homeless women, women with disability, migrant women, for example) *Marina Calloni & Daniela Belliti*
12.30-13.45	*Lunch*
13.45-15.00	• Socio-political-cultural impact and public debates in EU countries about the application of the Istanbul Convention *Marina Calloni & Daniela Belliti*
15.00-17.30	• Working on the final presentations / transversal skills *Sara Dal Monico*

Friday, January 30, 2026
Day 5

9.15-12.30	**Poster presentation**
12.30-13.45	*Lunch*
13.45-16.15	The experience of the network UNIRE: best practice for preventing violence against women. *Marina Calloni* **Sharing of experience among the participants as final discussion and wrap up** *(All)*

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Faculty short bios

Sara De Vido is Full Professor of International Law, Department of Economics, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, and is a delegate of the Rector for Gender Equality. She is senior expert on violence against women, by appointment of the European Commission, at the European Network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination, based at Utrecht University. She is legal expert for the European Commission of the EU network on preventing gender-based violence and domestic violence (2024-25) and drafted the report EU law in light of the Istanbul Convention. Legal Implications After the Accession. She is affiliated with the Manchester International Law Centre (UK), where she co-founded the Women in International Law Network (Wilnet). She is PI of the PRIN project Gendering international legal responses to chronic emergencies (2023-2025) and unit contact person of the PRIN PNRR project Ecce Human. She is also a member of the doctoral college 'Law, Market and Person' at Ca' Foscari University, Venice. She is a lecturer at Venice International University (she has taught Global Governance, Peace, Security, Cooperation and Development, Gender Studies and Globalisation, Ethics, Welfare and Human Rights).

Marina Calloni is a full professor of Political and Social Philosophy at the Department of Sociology and Social Research – University of Milan-Bicocca, winner of the competition for the return of Italian scholars. She obtained a PhD in Philosophy at the University of Pavia and a PhD in Political and Social Sciences at the European University Institute in Florence. She was a scholarship holder at the University of Frankfurt, a Senior researcher at the London School of Economics; a contract professor in Bremen, Lugano, Kurume, Vienna; fellows at the University of Notre Dame and Columbia University. She has held conferences in 47 countries and published 250 scientific papers in several languages. She is responsible for the academic network UNIRE and is a consultant for the "Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into Femicide" (Senate of the Republic). In 2020, President Mattarella awarded her the honor of "Officer of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic". Research topics: human rights and fundamental freedoms; gender issues; critical theory of society; critique of violence; citizenship and public sphere; research networks and international cooperation.

Zeynep Gülru Göker is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the Sabancı University and the Director of SU Gender (Sabancı University Gender and Women's Studies Center of Excellence). She received her undergraduate degree in Social and Political Sciences from Sabanci University (2003) and her Ph.D. in Political Science from the City University of New York Graduate Center (2011) with a specialization in political theory. Her research is focused on participatory and deliberative democracy, feminist political theory, gender and dialogue, the politics of gender equality and care ethics/politics. She was the co-PI at Sabanci University of EU GEARING-Roles (Gender Equality Actions in Research Institutions to Transform Gender Roles) (2019-2023) led by Deusto University. She is on the Management Committee of the COST Action Network: CHANGECODE: Research Network for Interdisciplinary Studies of Transhistorical Deliberative Democracy; on the editorial board of the Journal of Deliberative Democracy and is among the co-conveners of the European Group for Organizational Studies Standing Working Group "Pushing the Boundaries of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Theorizing Transformative Change in

Organizations." Her research has been published in high-ranking journals such as Gender, Place & Culture, Third World Quarterly, Globalization, Societies & Education, European Journal of Women's Studies, Women's Studies International Forum and New Perspectives on Turkey.

Micaela Frulli is Professor of International Law at the University of Florence. She was Marie Curie Fellow at the European University Institute (2010) and she has published extensively in the field of public international law. Her research interests include international criminal law, the law of immunities, United Nations peacekeeping. Amongst her publications: *War Crimes and the Conduct of Hostilities. Challenges to Investigation and Adjudication* (co-editor with *Judge* F.Pocar and Prof M. Pedrazzi, Elgar, 2013). She is member of the Editorial Board of QIL (Questions of international) and member of the *International Law Association* study group on the role of individual in international law.

Daniela Belliti is a research fellow in political philosophy (SPS/01) at the Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milano-Bicocca. Her research focuses on gender-based violence, migration, and the role of universities in promoting gender equality. She is a key contributor to the UN.I.RE. project, which aims to strengthen academic networks against gender violence. She has co-authored several publications, including works on solidarity during the COVID-19 pandemic and the role of education in preventing gender violence. She has participated in seminars addressing gender violence in migration contexts. She is also involved in the SFERA project, focusing on the development of anti-violence networks. Her work contributes to the advancement of gender studies and social justice initiatives.

Ayşe Betül Çelik received her Ph.D. in political science from the State University of New York at Binghamton in 2002 and is a full Professor at Sabanci University in Istanbul, Turkey. She teaches political science and conflict resolution. She is an expert on ethnic conflict, reconciliation, dialogue, forced migration, peace processes and gender and peacebuilding. She has several articles and a co-authored book on Turkey's Kurdish Question, forced Kurdish migration and role of NGOs in the conflict. She also teaches gender awareness to high school teachers in several cities in Turkey. She is one of the founders of the Turkey Antenna of the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network. Prof. Çelik received "Ufficiale Dell Ordine Della Stella D'Italia"- Official (Ufficiale) of Order of the Star of Italy (Ordine della Stella d'Italia) which is a recognition of the highest degree conferred by the President of the Italian Republic in 2021 for her work in conflict resolution and gender.

Cenk Özbay is a professor of sociology and gender studies at Sabancı University. He holds a PhD in sociology and a graduate certificate in gender studies from the University of Southern California. His research explores gender and sexualities, masculinities, queer cultures, and social inequalities. He focuses on globalization, neoliberalism, urban studies, youth cultures, and workplace governmentality. His work has been published in top journals such as *GLQ*, *Sexualities*, and *Urban Geography*. He has authored and edited several books on gender, intimacy, and urban life in Turkey.

His latest work examines queer spaces, neoliberalism, and masculinity in contemporary Turkey. He has received multiple fellowships and research grants from national and international institutions. He aims to bridge critical theory, activism, and interdisciplinary scholarship through his research.

Sara Dal Monico is a Research Grant Holder at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, specializing in international law and human rights. She holds a Ph.D. in International Law and has contributed extensively to scholarly literature. Her research interests encompass the intersection of international law with human rights, focusing on issues such as the criminalization of abortion, the principle of solidarity in the European Union, and the legal dimensions of free trade agreements. She has authored several publications, including articles in the *ORDINE INTERNAZIONALE E DIRITTI UMANI* journal and contributions to the *EUWEB Legal Essays* series. She has also co-authored a chapter on the Istanbul Convention in the book *Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence* by Elgar Publishing. Her work critically examines the implications of legal frameworks on gender and human rights. Dr. Dal Monico is actively involved in academic discourse, contributing to the advancement of legal scholarship in her areas of expertise. Her research continues to influence discussions on international law and human rights. For more information on her publications, visit her personal profile at Ca' Foscari University.

Olaf Köndgen is an Advisory Board member of the Open Council of Europe Academic Networks (OCEAN) and Coordinator of the OCEAN Programme. The OCEAN Programme unites universities, research institutions and scholars from the Council of Europe´s 46-member states around the shared goal of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.