

CONCEPT NOTE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
Leaving No One Behind: Law, Justice and Inclusive Governance in an Age
of Global Transformation

19th and 20th November 2026 (Hybrid Mode)

Organised by

Presidency School of Law, Presidency University, Bengaluru

About Presidency University, Bengaluru

Presidency University, Bengaluru, established under the Presidency University Act, 2013, is a multidisciplinary institution committed to academic excellence, innovation, research, and industry-oriented education. As part of the esteemed Presidency Group of Institutions, which has been shaping educational excellence for nearly five decades, the University has emerged as one of India's leading centres of higher learning. The University is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and its professional programmes are approved by the respective statutory bodies, including the Bar Council of India (BCI).

Spread across a vibrant 100+ acre campus in Bengaluru, India's technology and innovation capital, the University offers a wide spectrum of undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes in engineering, management, law, design, commerce, computer science, media studies, liberal arts and sciences, and allied health sciences. Its academic philosophy integrates rigorous scholarship with experiential learning, interdisciplinary engagement, research, entrepreneurship, and global exposure.

Accredited with *NAAC 'A' Grade*, Presidency University has earned recognition for its commitment to quality education, student success, and institutional excellence. The University has received the prestigious *QS I-GAUGE Gold Rating* and has been featured in the *QS World University Rankings: Asia*, reflecting its growing international standing and commitment to global academic standards.

The University has consistently been recognized in national rankings and surveys for its multidisciplinary education ecosystem, academic innovation, industry engagement, and student outcomes. With a strong emphasis on research and internationalization, Presidency University has established collaborations with leading institutions across the world, creating opportunities for academic exchange, joint research, and global learning experiences.

Guided by the motto "*Gain More Knowledge, Reach Greater Heights*," Presidency University continues to nurture future-ready professionals, researchers, innovators, and leaders equipped to contribute meaningfully to society and address contemporary global challenges.

About Presidency School of Law

Presidency School of Law (PSOL), Presidency University, Bengaluru, is a dynamic institution committed to excellence in legal education, research, professional training, and social impact. Approved by the Bar Council of India (BCI) and functioning within a multidisciplinary university ecosystem, PSOL offers contemporary legal education through its B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) and B.B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) programmes with specializations in Constitutional Law, Business Law, International Trade Law, Crime and Criminology, International Law, and Intellectual Property Law. The School also offers LL.M. programmes in Intellectual Property and Technology Law, International Law, Criminal Law, Corporate Law, and Constitutional & Administrative Law, along with a vibrant Ph.D. programme that promotes advanced legal scholarship and interdisciplinary research.

The School's academic framework integrates doctrinal learning with practical legal training through moot courts, legal aid initiatives, ADR training, internships, research projects, policy engagement, simulation exercises, and industry collaborations. Students benefit from interaction with distinguished academicians, judges, senior advocates, policymakers, industry experts, Professors of Practice, and Professors Emeritus, creating a rich ecosystem that bridges legal theory and professional practice.

Presidency School of Law has earned national recognition for academic excellence, including being named the Best Emerging Law College in India (*India Today Best Colleges Survey 2025*), receiving an AAA+ Rating (*Careers360 India's Best Law Colleges 2025*), being ranked among the Top 4 Law Colleges in Karnataka (*CSR Rankings 2024*), securing the 16th position nationally (*IIRF Law Rankings 2023*), and being recognized as a Top Law School of Eminence by *GHRDC Law Schools Survey 2026*, ranking 5th in India, 8th in Karnataka, and 9th in South India.

About the Conference

The world is changing faster than the law that governs it. Artificial intelligence is entering courtrooms, workplaces and welfare offices. Millions of people are on the move as refugees and migrants. Populations are ageing, climate change is displacing communities, and personal data has become both an asset and a vulnerability. In the middle of all this stand the people whom legal systems have historically served the least: women and children, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, LGBTQI+ persons, refugees, migrants and the poor.

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development rests on one central promise: that no one will be left behind. This conference takes that promise seriously and asks a direct

question. As technology, demography and the environment transform our societies, is law keeping its promise to the most vulnerable, and if not, what must change?

The Conference aligns closely with several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 5 (*Gender Equality*), SDG 10 (*Reduced Inequalities*), SDG 13 (*Climate Action*), SDG 16 (*Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions*), and SDG 17 (*Partnerships for the Goals*). Through its focus on inclusive governance, access to justice, protection of vulnerable populations, technological accountability, climate justice, migration, and social welfare, the Conference seeks to contribute to global conversations on building equitable, resilient, and rights-based societies.

Hosted in Bengaluru, India's leading hub for technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, and knowledge industries, the Conference provides a timely platform to examine how law and governance can respond to the challenges and opportunities arising from rapid social, technological, and environmental transformation.

The conference deliberately brings many fields of law and policy onto one platform. A scholar of family law, a criminologist, a data protection researcher, a migration expert and a technology lawyer are all, in their own way, working on the same problem: how legal systems include or exclude people. By placing these conversations side by side, the conference seeks insights that no single field can produce alone. Papers are invited from scholars of law, political science, social work, public policy, economics, technology and related disciplines, from India and across the world.

Preference for grounded research: While doctrinal and theoretical papers are welcome, preference will be given to papers built on *empirical analysis, field studies, surveys, case studies and comparative studies* across countries. The organizers particularly encourage work that examines how laws operate in practice, in courtrooms, welfare offices, refugee camps, care homes, workplaces and online spaces, and what comparative experience from different jurisdictions can teach us.

Objectives of the Conference

1. To critically examine how legal systems across jurisdictions are responding to technological, demographic, environmental, and socio-economic transformations, and their implications for vulnerable and marginalized communities.
2. To provide an interdisciplinary and international platform for scholars, judges, policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and civil society actors to engage in comparative dialogue on contemporary legal and governance challenges.

3. To promote empirical, field-based, and comparative legal research that evaluates the effectiveness of laws, policies, and institutions in advancing inclusion, equity, and access to justice.
4. To develop evidence-based policy recommendations for strengthening inclusive governance, protecting human rights, enhancing access to justice, and regulating emerging technologies in a rapidly changing world.
5. To foster international academic collaboration, knowledge exchange, and research partnerships, while contributing to a robust body of peer-reviewed scholarship on law, justice, and sustainable development.
6. To advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by encouraging research and dialogue on equality, inclusion, climate justice, strong institutions, and partnerships for sustainable and equitable development.

The Conference themes are designed to examine contemporary challenges affecting vulnerable and marginalized populations through the lenses of equality, welfare, migration, climate justice, technology governance, and inclusive legal institutions, thereby advancing the principles of social justice, human dignity, and sustainable development.

Conference Themes and Sub-themes

The Conference is organized around five broad and interdisciplinary themes that explore the intersections of law, justice, governance, technology, sustainability, and human rights in an era of global transformation. Scholars, practitioners, policymakers, judges, researchers, and students are invited to contribute under any of the themes listed below. The sub-themes are indicative and not exhaustive.

Theme 1: Women, Children, Gender and Sexuality: Equality Before the Law

Sub-themes:

- Gender justice and constitutional equality: comparative country experiences
- Violence against women and children, including online and technology-enabled abuse
- Women, work and the care economy
- Child rights, child protection, juvenile justice and children in digital spaces
- Child labour and trafficking of women and children
- LGBTQI+ persons and the law: decriminalization, recognition of relationships and gender identity
- Discrimination on the ground of sex, gender or sexual orientation in employment, healthcare and services
- Queer families, adoption, succession and family law reform
- Artificial intelligence, algorithmic bias, and gender equality
- Reproductive rights, bodily autonomy, and comparative constitutional perspectives

Theme 2: Social Welfare, Disability and Ageing: The Inclusive Welfare State

Sub-themes:

- Rights to health, food, housing and education: from legal text to actual delivery
- Social security for gig, platform and informal workers
- Digital welfare systems: identification, exclusion errors and due process
- Evaluating welfare schemes: field studies, social audits and comparative welfare models
- Implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Legal capacity, guardianship, inclusive education and reasonable accommodation
- Rights of older persons: elder abuse, pensions, maintenance and long-term care
- The Digital Divide: Accessibility of technology for persons with disabilities and senior citizens
- Ageing populations, demographic transitions and legal responses
- Assistive technologies, digital accessibility and inclusive innovation

Theme 3: Refugees, Migration and Displacement: People on the Move**Sub-themes:**

- The 1951 Refugee Convention at seventy-five: is it still fit for purpose?
- Non-refoulement, pushbacks and the externalization of asylum
- Statelessness, citizenship and the right to nationality
- Refugee protection in countries that have not signed the Convention
- Refugee women, children and claims based on sexual orientation and gender identity
- Internal displacement, development-induced displacement and durable solutions
- Climate-related displacement and planned relocation
- Labour migration, human trafficking, migrant smuggling and worker rights
- Borders, surveillance technology and the rights of people on the move
- Digital identity, biometric governance, refugee registration and data protection

Theme 4: Climate Justice, Environmental Governance, Vulnerability and Sustainable Development**Sub-themes:**

- State obligations after the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on Climate Change
- The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment
- Climate litigation and the protection of vulnerable communities
- Just transition, green jobs and equitable development
- Environmental displacement and its human consequences
- Biodiversity, ecological governance and community rights
- Corporate accountability, ESG and greenwashing
- Energy transition, climate finance and the Global South
- Climate justice, indigenous communities and traditional knowledge

- Climate adaptation, vulnerability and resilience of marginalized communities

Theme 5: Technology Governance, Privacy, Intellectual Property and Digital Justice

Sub-themes:

- Comparative approaches to regulating artificial intelligence
- Algorithmic bias and discrimination against vulnerable groups
- Artificial intelligence in courts, policing and public administration, and liability for automated harms
- Comparative data protection regimes, surveillance and civil liberties
- Digital privacy, data governance and protection of vulnerable populations
- Authorship, inventorship and intellectual property in the age of generative artificial intelligence
- The 2024 WIPO Treaty on genetic resources and traditional knowledge, and access to medicines
- The UN Convention against Cybercrime and its human rights implications
- Victimology, restorative justice, prison reform and criminal justice for marginalized communities
- Forensic science, digital evidence and fair trial rights

Nature of Papers Preferred

The Conference particularly encourages submissions that contribute to evidence-based scholarship, policy discourse, and comparative legal analysis. Preference will be given to:

- *Empirical Research:* Papers supported by quantitative or qualitative data, including surveys, interviews, case studies, court record analysis, and other empirical methodologies.
- *Field-Based Studies:* Research grounded in the experiences of institutions and communities, including welfare offices, courts, prisons, shelters, care homes, educational institutions, workplaces, and other sites of legal and social engagement.
- *Comparative and Cross-Jurisdictional Studies:* Papers comparing legal frameworks, judicial approaches, public policies, or governance practices across two or more jurisdictions.
- *Policy-Oriented Research:* Studies that critically evaluate existing laws, programmes, or institutions and offer evidence-based recommendations for reform and inclusive governance.
- *Doctrinal and Theoretical Analyses:* Scholarly contributions examining legal principles, jurisprudential developments, and emerging theoretical perspectives, particularly those engaging with recent international, regional, or national developments.

Target Audience

The Conference is designed to bring together a diverse community of stakeholders committed to advancing law, justice, inclusive governance, and sustainable development. It welcomes participation from:

1. *Academics, researchers, and faculty members* in law, social sciences, public policy, governance, technology, environmental studies, and related disciplines.
2. *Policymakers, legislators, and government officials* involved in law-making, public administration, social welfare, digital governance, and sustainable development.
3. *Judges, legal practitioners, mediators, arbitrators, and members of regulatory and quasi-judicial bodies.*
4. *Representatives of international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations, and advocacy groups* working in the areas of human rights, social justice, climate action, migration, gender equality, disability rights, and digital governance.
5. *Research scholars, doctoral candidates, post-doctoral fellows, students, and young professionals* from India and abroad.
6. *Industry professionals, corporate leaders, compliance officers, technology experts, and policy consultants* engaged in areas such as artificial intelligence, data protection, ESG, sustainability, and corporate governance.

Important Dates

Particulars	Date
Last Date for Abstract Submission	September 7, 2026
Notification of Acceptance	September 22,2026
Last Date for Full Paper Submission	October 15, 2026
International Conference (Hybrid Mode)	November 19-20, 2026

Publication Opportunity

Selected papers, after a rigorous double-blind peer-review process, will be considered for publication in reputed Scopus-indexed journals, a Scopus-indexed edited volume, or conference proceedings, subject to the editorial policies, peer-review requirements, and publication standards of the respective publisher. Publication decisions shall be based on the quality, originality, relevance, and scholarly merit of the submissions. Details regarding publication outlets and submission guidelines will be communicated to the authors of selected papers in due course.

Best Presenter Awards

For each Conference Theme (Track), two Best Presenter Awards shall be conferred:

1. Academician and Professional Category
2. Student and Research Scholar Category

The *Academician and Professional Category* shall include faculty members, researchers, policymakers, government officials, judges, legal practitioners, industry experts, corporate professionals, members of regulatory bodies, and representatives of national and international organizations.

The awards shall be determined by the Session Chairs and Evaluation Panel based on:

- Originality and significance of the research;
- Quality, depth, and rigor of analysis;
- Relevance to the Conference theme and objectives;
- Contribution to scholarship, policy, governance, or professional practice;
- Clarity and effectiveness of presentation; and
- Ability to engage in scholarly discussion and respond to questions.

The decision of the Evaluation Panel shall be final and binding.

Guidelines for Contributors and Participants

1. *The Conference will be conducted in a hybrid mode.* International presenters and participants may attend either online or in person. National presenters are encouraged to participate in person; however, online participation may be permitted in exceptional circumstances with prior approval of the Organizing Committee.
2. *No presentation in absentia shall be permitted.* At least one author must attend the Conference and present the paper in the designated session.
3. *A maximum of two co-authors is permitted per paper.* All authors and co-authors intending to attend the Conference or receive certificates must complete the registration process separately.
4. *Interdisciplinary submissions are strongly encouraged.* The Conference welcomes contributions from law, social sciences, public policy, governance, economics, management, environmental studies, technology, health sciences, and other related disciplines that engage with the Conference theme.
5. *Preference will be given to empirical, field-based, comparative, and policy-oriented research.* Papers drawing upon surveys, interviews, case studies, court records, fieldwork, social audits, comparative legal analysis, and interdisciplinary methodologies are particularly encouraged. Doctrinal and theoretical contributions are also welcome.
6. *All submissions must represent original scholarly work and will be subjected to plagiarism screening.* The similarity index should not exceed 10% (excluding references, quotations, and bibliography). The use of generative artificial intelligence tools for language assistance or research support must be appropriately disclosed where applicable. Papers lacking substantial human authorship, originality, or academic integrity may be rejected at any stage of the review process.

7. *All registered presenters whose papers are accepted and presented at the Conference shall receive a 'Certificate of Presentation'. Printed certificates will be provided to in-person presenters, while electronic certificates will be issued to online presenters.*
8. *Registered participants attending the Conference without presenting a paper shall receive a 'Certificate of Participation'.*
9. *No Travel Allowance (TA), Daily Allowance (DA), or accommodation support shall be provided by the Organizing Committee. However, information regarding suitable accommodation options near the University campus will be made available upon request.*
10. *The decision of the Organizing Committee regarding acceptance of abstracts, scheduling of presentations, awards, certification, and related matters shall be final and binding.*

Registration Details

The registration fee shall be payable *per author/participant* upon receipt of the abstract acceptance notification. A maximum of *two authors* is permitted per paper, and each author must register separately. Registration shall be confirmed only upon receipt of the applicable fee. ***The registration fee, once paid, is non-refundable and non-transferable.***

Category	Indian Delegates (INR)	International Delegates (USD)
Academicians, Faculty Members, Professionals, Policymakers, Legal Practitioners and Industry Experts (maximum two authors per paper)	Rs. 2000	USD 25
Research Scholars (maximum two authors per paper)	Rs. 1500	USD 18
Students (maximum two authors per paper)	Rs. 1000	USD 12

The registration fee covers participation in all technical sessions, conference-kit, certificates, refreshments, and lunch for in-person participants.

Note: International registration fees are approximate equivalents of the Indian registration fees at prevailing exchange rates and have been rounded for ease of payment.

The registration fee has been intentionally kept affordable to encourage broad participation from scholars, students, researchers, practitioners, policymakers, industry experts, and other stakeholders committed to advancing law, justice, and inclusive governance.