Online conference on the United Nations War Crimes Commission

19 November 2021

Programme (all times are in GMT)

9.30-9.40: Welcome address by Dr Amina Adanan (Lecturer/ Assistant Professor in Law in Maynooth University Law Department) and Prof Dan Plesch (Director of the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, SOAS, University of London).


9.55-11.00: Keynote panel discussion on the UNWCC with chaired by Dr Amina Adanan with:

Dr Julia Eichenberg (Senior Lecturer and Research Fellow at the University of Bayreuth)
Dr Mark Ellis (Executive Director, International Bar Association)
Prof Dan Plesch
Dr Ann-Sophie Schoepfel (Historian in Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich and Professor, Science Po Paris/ Nancy).

Q&A/ discussion.

11.00-11.15: Coffee break.

11.15-12.30: Concurrent panels:

Panel A: The Histories of the UNWCC 1, chaired by Dr Ann-Sophie Schoepfel

Ewan Lawson, PhD Candidate, Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, School of Oriental and African Studies.


Dr Dominika Uczkiewicz, Wrocław, Poland.

11.35-11.45: ‘War crimes against humanity continue’.

Nafisa Kiani, postgraduate student in MSc in Global Public Policy at SOAS.


Alice Lopes Fabris, PhD candidate at École Normale Supérieure Paris-Saclay/Institut des Sciences sociales du Politique.

11.55-12.30: Q&A/ discussion.

Panel B: The Histories of the UNWCC 2, chaired by Prof Dan Plesch


Umang Champaklal Modi, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda.


Tejas Sateesha Hinder, Undergraduate Student of Law, National Law Institute University, Bhopal, India and Teaching Fellow, The Human Projects.

11.35-11.45: ‘UNWCC and Sexual & Gender Based Violence as International Crimes - Significance and Application in the Contemporary Times’.

Bhumika Nanda, Assistant Professor from the School of Law, Bennett University.

Diletta Marchesi, PhD Fellow Research Foundation, Flanders (FWO), KU Leuven.

11.55-12.30: Q&A/discussion.

Panel C: Critical approaches to the UNWCC chaired by Dr John Reynolds (Associate Professor, Maynooth University Law Department)


Mateusz Piątkowski, University of Łódź, Poland.

11.30-11.45: ‘The UNWCC and the definition of war crimes: a failure of will’.

Prof. Robert Cribb, Professor of Asian History, Australian National University.

11.45-12.00: ‘Ethiopia, Italy and the archives of selective justice’.

Dr Megan Donaldson, Lecturer in Public International Law, UCL.

12.00-12.30: Q&A/discussion.

12.30-1.15pm: Lunch

1.15-2.30pm: Concurrent panels:

Panel D: The Trials of the UNWCC chaired by Prof. Andrew Williams (Professor of Law, University of Warwick)


Dr Ka Lok Yip, Assistant Professor Hamad bin Khalifa University.

1.30-1.45pm: ‘Defences and the UNWCC’.

Dr Dawn Sedman, Senior Lecturer, Nottingham Law School, Nottingham Trent University.
1.45-2.00pm: ‘Documenting the Historical Path of Crimes against Peace: Completing the UNWCC’.


2.00-2.30pm: Q&A/ discussion.

**Panel E: Lessons from the UNWCC in contemporary times chaired by Prof Dan Plesch**

1.15-1.30pm: ‘From Archives to a Modern Legal Paradigm: UNWCC Insights for Today’s International Justice’.

Marla Zgheib, Postgraduate Student for the MA in International Studies and Diplomacy, SOAS, University of London.

1.30-1.45pm: ‘War Crimes Against Culture: Poland’s Charge File Submissions to the UNWCC’.

Michael Fleming, Polish University Abroad, London.

1.45-2.00pm: ‘“Big fish” and “small fry” in localised applications of international criminal justice: The UNWCC, classes of perpetrators, and accountability in Timor-Leste’.

1.45-2.00pm: Camilla Johnson Wee, PhD Fellow, University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Law, Danish National Research Foundation’s Centre of Excellence for International Courts (iCourts).

2.00-2.30pm: Q&A/ discussion.

2.30-2.45pm: Coffee break.

**Panel F: ‘Universal Jurisdiction: Lessons from the past and current application’ chaired by Lennart Poulsen (Barrister, Chambers of Steven Kay QC, 9 Bedford Row)**

2.45-4.15pm: Panel discussion with:
Sarah Bafadhel (Barrister, 9 Bedford Row).
Prof. Olympia Bekou (Professor of Public International Law and Head of School, School of Law, University of Nottingham)
Tatyana Eatwell (Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers)
Marie O’Leary (Counsel for the Office of Public Counsel for the Defence at the International Criminal Court)
4.15-4.45pm: Close of conference

Closing comments by Dr Amina Adanan and Prof. Dan Plesch.

Closing remarks by Dr. Alanna O’Malley (Chair of United Nations Studies in Peace and Justice, University of Leiden)

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