



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
ADVOCATE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY



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UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI
Pravna fakulteta



CALL FOR PAPERS

The Advocate of the Principle of Equality
and
Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana

jointly host the

**12TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025 of the
Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination**

at the

**Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
From 2nd to 4th July 2025**

The conference in Ljubljana builds upon the past success of BCCE's annual conferences, which were held in: Paris (Sciences-Po 2012), California (Berkeley Law 2013), Brussels (Université Libre de Bruxelles 2014), Shanghai (Jiao Tong University 2016), Dublin (Trinity College 2017), Melbourne (Melbourne Law School 2018), Stockholm (University of Stockholm 2019), Cape Town (University of Cape Town 2021), Hong Kong (University of Hong Kong 2022), Netherlands (Utrecht University 2023), and Bengaluru (National Law School of India University and the Oxford Human Rights Hub).

CONFERENCE THEME

The (R)evolution of Equality Law: Reflecting on 25 Years of Anti-Discrimination Law in Europe & Beyond

The adoption of the Employment Equality Directive (2000/78/EC) and the Race Equality Directive (2000/43/EC) in 2000 marked a transformative moment in the EU's commitment to combatting discrimination and promoting equality. These directives – followed by other legislation in subsequent years – established a robust yet broad and general legal framework prohibiting discrimination on grounds including race, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, gender, and sexual orientation using a variety of conceptual tools to challenge discrimination in employment, social protection, education, and access to goods and services. Over the past 25 years, the EU's legislative framework and the jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) have profoundly shaped the legal and social fabric of Member States. By harmonizing laws across the diverse systems of the Member States, the directives laid the foundation for a unified European approach to anti-discrimination law and policy while at the same time providing inspiration for a debate on the role of law in democratic societies in pursuit of equality on a global scale.

However, since the implementation of these directives, the realization of the full vision of EU law and policy in this field has faced significant challenges. For example, fragmented and inconsistent systems of legal protection are in place across different fields in combination with different protected grounds. The EU's legal framework often struggles to capture the complexities of intersecting identities, such as multiple and intersectional discrimination, based on several protected grounds. Moreover, while the directives address overt and localized instances of discrimination, they perhaps remain less equipped to dismantle structural and systemic inequalities that perpetuate disadvantage across different social spheres and generations. Furthermore, enforcement varies across Member States and is impeded by barriers, such as limited access to justice, inadequate institutional support, and insufficient public awareness. Divergent socio-political and economic contexts have influenced the effectiveness of implementation, undermining the harmonized vision of equality that the directives aimed to achieve. Reflecting on these challenges occurs against a backdrop of a multitude of global developments. For example, rising populism and democratic backsliding have tested the resilience of equality protection. Climate change has disproportionately affected vulnerable populations, underscoring the need to address environmental justice within equality law. Persistent economic inequality and the precarity of informal work have exacerbated disparities, demanding systemic solutions to ensure more just outcomes. Profound changes in the technological landscape, particularly the emergence and mainstreaming of different manifestations of artificial intelligence, have raised new questions concerning equality and anti-discrimination.

The commemoration of 25 years of this (r)evolution of anti-discrimination law in Europe and beyond presents an opportune moment to reflect on the achievements, limitations, and future potential of equality law *globally*. Inspired by the evolution of equality law in the EU throughout the last quarter of the century, we seek paper proposals addressing the broad questions posed by the general conference theme – *The (R)evolution of Equality Law*. We encourage proposals to explore a broad range of topics, such as:

- The role of different foundational values, such as equality or liberty, or ideologies, such as liberalism or conservatism, in the development of equality law;
- Fragmentation v. coherence of legal protection against discrimination across different grounds and fields of protection;
- The challenge and potential of intersectionality in developing anti-discrimination law;
- Developing specific conceptual tools, such as (sexual) harassment or hate speech, under the umbrella of anti-discrimination law for comprehensive protection against discrimination;
- The role of affirmative action as well as proactive powers and duties in redressing equality harms;
- The role of national equality bodies, NGOs, and social movements in the development of equality law in a national, regional, and/or global context;
- Developing equality law against a backdrop of (new) socio-political realities, such as democratic backsliding and rising populism, nationalism, authoritarianism, etc.;
- Assessing the impact of comparative law on the development of protection against discrimination and promoting equality through law;
- The role of the EU as a global player in developing anti-discrimination law – between myth and reality;
- Contemporary technological and digital challenges in the evolution of equality law.

Paper proposals may address the broader topics listed above, by way of example, or any area of equality and anti-discrimination law, such as race, religion, caste, class, and age discrimination; language, culture, and ways of life; decolonization; Indigenous rights; wealth and tax inequality; family, public life, and gender; citizenship, migration, and statelessness; climate crisis; discriminatory violence and hate crimes. We welcome particularly submissions on issues reflecting themes of the BCCE's working groups:

- Climate Equality,
- COVID-19,
- Digital Equality,
- Disability Rights,
- Equity and Criminal Justice,
- Gender-based Harassment and Violence,
- Global Systemic Racism,
- Intersectional Class Discrimination,
- LGBTQI+,
- Migration and Equality
- Pay Equity and Living Wage.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

We invite submissions for individual presentations as well as panel proposals on the theme of the conference and aspects of equality law more generally. We also encourage authors of recent monographs and edited collections to submit proposals to have panel discussions of their recent scholarship on the evolution of equality law.

We encourage submissions from scholars at all stages of their careers, including PhD/SJD candidates (however, this call is not open to undergraduate students), as well as legal practitioners and other professionals working in the field of anti-discrimination law and policy. We welcome a wide range of approaches and perspectives, including normative, doctrinal, critical, and interdisciplinary; submissions are invited from scholars working in law and allied disciplines of social sciences and humanities.

Individual paper proposals

Individual paper proposals should include a title, abstract, five keywords, and *author information*. Abstracts should not exceed 500 words and indicate how your paper fits the theme of the conference, its objectives, and its methodology. Author information includes a *brief biography* of a maximum of 100 words suitable for publication on the conference website and/or conference booklet, including the *author's affiliation and email address*.

Panel proposals

Panel proposal should include a *title* and an *abstract for the entire panel* (no more than 250 words) as well as *titles, abstracts, five keywords and author information for all papers* (see instructions for individual paper submissions above). Each panel should contain at least three (3) and at most four (4) papers; the proposal should also designate an additional person who will assume the role of chair or assign that role to one of the panelists. Any of the authors may submit the panel proposal.

Proposals for *panel discussions or roundtables on recent monographs and edited collections* should include a *title* and an *abstract for the entire panel* (no more than 500 words) as well as relevant information about all panelists or discussants (a *brief biography*, including *affiliation and email address*). Each panel should contain no more than four (4) panelists or discussants; the proposal should also designate an additional person who will assume the role of chair or assign that role to one of the panelists.

Selection criteria

Submissions will be assessed based on:

- Originality and innovative nature of the work,
- Relevance to the conference themes and subthemes.

Submissions should:

- Include all the elements specified above for each type of proposal,
- comply with the specified word count requirements.

TIMELINE

- Abstracts are due **1 February 2025**.
- The abstracts will be reviewed, and invitations will be sent in **March 2025**.
- Either detailed presentation outlines, presentation slides or full papers will be due on 1 June 2025. Full papers will be made available to the conference participants.

FINANCES

The conference organizers strive to keep the conference fee as low as possible. Please note that the conference organizers cannot cover travel and accommodation.

CONTACT

Please send individual paper submissions and panel proposals as well as any queries relating to the Conference to: annualconference2025@law.berkeley.edu.

ABOUT ORGANIZERS

- Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination [[link](#)]
- Advocate of the Principle of Equality [[link](#)]
- University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Law [[link](#)]