

CALL FOR PAPERS

ONLINE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

“Combating Torture in Asia: Law and Practice”

Tuesday and Wednesday, 18th and 19th May 2021

Hanoi Time (GMT+7): 8.30am - 12.30pm

Jakarta Time (GMT+7): 8.30am - 12.30pm

Kuala Lumpur Time (GMT+8): 9.30am - 13.30pm

Manila Time (GMT+8): 9.30am - 13.30pm

Melbourne Time (GMT+10): 11:30am - 15:30pm

Dear Friend/Colleague,

In international human rights law, torture, as well as cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, cause grave human rights violations and is therefore banned at all times, in all places, including in times of war. The prohibition of torture has been universally stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 and complemented in the United Nations Convention against Torture (CAT) and its Optional Protocol.¹

Although most Asian states have ratified the CAT, “torture is an 'expanding scourge' in Asia”.² In that context, an online conference titled “Combating Torture in Asia: Law and Practice” will be hosted on **18th and 19th May 2021** by:

- Asian Law Centre, Melbourne Law School, The University of Melbourne
- School of Law, Vietnam National University Hanoi
- Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN)
- Graduate Academy of Social Sciences, Vietnam

The themes of the online conference will include:

- *Overview of opportunities and challenges in combating torture in Asia*
- *Promoting an effective legal framework for combating torture*
- *Developing a control mechanism of torture*
- *Investigating allegations of torture*
- *Interviewing torture victims and witnesses*
- *Training public officials on combating torture*
- *Cooperating with international mechanisms in combating torture*
- *Monitoring places of detention*
- *Raising public awareness on combating torture*
- *The role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and civil society in combating torture*
- *Public inquiries in combating torture*

We are inviting scholars and practitioners working in this area to submit abstracts that would fit within these broad themes of the conference.

Online Platform

The conference will take place online via the *Zoom Meetings* platform.

¹ Preventing Torture: An Operational Guide for National Human Rights Institutions

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https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/NHRI/Torture_Prevention_Guide.pdf

² HRW: Torture is an 'expanding scourge' in Asia, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2014/06/26/hrw-torture-expanding-scourge-asia>

Submission of Abstracts

Authors should submit a 200-300-word abstract, which includes a title of the proposed paper and his/her short biographical details (including name, email, academic appointment, affiliations).

Abstracts are to be submitted by **2 April 2021** via this link: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/k4pi>

If you have difficulties in submitting this form, please email Kathryn Taylor at k.taylor@unimelb.edu.au.

Notification of the result will be sent to you via email.

Submission of Papers

A limited number of speakers will be able to present at the conference, but all are welcome to submit papers for the conference website.

Please submit papers to Kathryn Taylor at k.taylor@unimelb.edu.au by **10 May 2021**. See 'Publication' for the preferred format of submitted papers.

Full papers are not required prior to the conference, although it would be very useful for participants if they are made available. Submitted papers will be uploaded to the conference website.

Publication

Selected papers will be published in the conference proceedings book, with agreement from authors. The conference proceedings book will not be published for commercial purposes.

To be included in the conference proceedings book, full papers (preferably 5000 – 8000 words, inclusive of footnotes) are to be submitted by **11 June 2021** to Kathryn Taylor at k.taylor@unimelb.edu.au

To facilitate the editing process, we would appreciate it if you could adhere to the submission deadline and follow the specifications below in preparing your conference paper. Failure to comply will result in the paper not being included.

- Paper Title, Author's Title and Name, University/Organisation, and Email Address
- Font: Times New Roman, size 12
- Single line spacing of text throughout
- Microsoft Word Document Format (.doc or .docx)
- Length: no more than 10,000 words, inclusive of footnotes (5000 to 8000-word papers are preferred)
- Referencing standard: Oxford Standard for the Citation Of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA): https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxlaw/oscola_4th_edn_hart_2012quickreferenceguide.pdf

Registration

Conference attendance is free; however, registration is essential (for both authors and participants without papers). Guidelines for conference attendance will be sent to you via email and provided on the conference website.

Please register your participation by **15 May 2021** via this link: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/74pi>

Successful registration will be confirmed shortly thereafter. If you have any technical difficulties when submitting this form, please email k.taylor@unimelb.edu.au

Contact

Conference website: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/c4pi>

Please direct queries about the conference to:

Kathryn Taylor (in English) at k.taylor@unimelb.edu.au

Giao, Vucong (in Vietnamese) at giaovnu@gmail.com