



**Nordic Asylum Law Seminar  
University of Iceland, 29-30 May 2017**

**Call for Papers**

A growing number of refugees and asylum seekers have fled to Europe to escape instability and persecution in countries such as Syria, Iraq, Eritrea and Somalia, and migration and asylum have become critical and hotly debated issues. Concerns related to security, territorial sovereignty and border control affect the response to the situation and there are alarming trends in the treatment of asylum seekers and refugees, as well as of irregular migrants in all parts of Europe. One aspect of this is the criminalisation of asylum seekers and refugees. However, fleeing persecution in an irregular manner is not a criminal act and irregular migrants also enjoy rights under international law, which need to be respected.

The overall theme of the 2017 Asylum Law Seminar is “Migration management and human rights – Refugee protection in crisis”. The chosen theme is to be interpreted broadly, but focus will be given to the situation in Europe and especially the Nordic countries.

The seminar will include speakers and participants from the Nordic countries as well as from other parts of the world; scholars, policy makers, politicians, judges, NGO representatives, state officials and other stakeholders. While the main focus of the seminar is on asylum law, we also seek papers from interdisciplinary perspectives from different fields such as migration studies, anthropology, sociology, political science and social work. The seminar consists of plenary sessions with renowned keynote speakers and workshops where papers submitted by scholars and other participants will be presented and discussed. Junior scholars are particularly encouraged to submit and present papers.

The Seminar is hosted by the University of Iceland Human Rights Institute and the Nordic Institute for Migration and Refugee Policy, in cooperation with the Icelandic Research Fund Centre of Excellence on Mobilities and Transnational Iceland.

We kindly invite interested participants to submit abstracts of not more than 400 words, preferably related to one of the following themes:

- EU developments: Reform of the Common European Asylum System and human rights
- Legislative developments in the Nordic Countries
- Normative conflict between International law, EU law and domestic law

- The criminalization of asylum and human rights
- Vulnerability and asylum
- Access to asylum – legal and safe paths to protection
- Assessment and determination of protection status in the Nordic countries
- Migration, asylum and human trafficking
- Movement of terrorists – screening of asylum seekers
- The treatment and reception of asylum seekers and refugees
- Public discourses on asylum seekers in Europe and the Nordic countries

The organisers would also be happy to receive proposals for a workshop theme and one or more papers related to it.

#### **Practical information**

Abstracts and workshop proposals should include author name(s), affiliation and short biographical information. The **deadline for submission is 15 January 2017**, and abstracts and proposals should be sent to [ekb2@hi.is](mailto:ekb2@hi.is)

Please note that travel and accommodation costs are expected to be covered by the participants themselves.

Further information can be provided by Erna Kristín Blöndal, member of the conference organising committee at ([ekb2@hi.is](mailto:ekb2@hi.is)). Other members of the committee are prof. Oddný Mjöll Arnardóttir (chairperson), dr. Vigdis Vevstad and Prof. Jens Vedsted-Hansen.