



Location:

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

Main Hall (2nd floor)

1st Building, TSU

60th anniversary of the Covenants: Bridging Rights Gaps for Vulnerable People.

Fifth annual International Conference in memoriam of 100 anniversary of honorable Academician Professor Levan Alexidze, in cooperation with COST (CA23103 - Life, liberty and health: ensuring universal protection of human rights at sea (BlueRights))

September 24-25, 2026

Tbilisi, Georgia

Day 1, 24 September 2026

11:30-12:00 – Registration, refreshment coffee

12:00-13:00 - Opening Ceremony

Vice Rector of Tbilisi State University Professo Erekle Astakhishvili

Prof. Dr. Anna Petrig, LL.M. (Harvard), Chair of COST Action (BlueRights), Chair of International Law and Public Law of University of Basel - online

Dr. Moris Shalikashvili, Dean, Faculty of Law, TSU

Prof. Irine Kurdadze, Director of ILI

Mrs. Khatuna Totladze, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia (TBC)

Dr. Zviad Gabisonia, Deputy Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia (TBC)

Mr. Ivane Abashidze, Director of Georgian Maritime Transport Administration

13:00–13:20 Coffee break



13:20-14:30

Plenary Session I: Advancing the Right to Health at Sea: Legal Frameworks, Governance and Blue Rights

Chair/Moderator:

Dr. Eka Siradze, Associated Professor, TSU

Keynote Speaker:

Professor Irini Papanicolopulu, COST Action (BlueRights) Vice Chair, British Academy Global Professor of International Law, Chair, ILA Committee on Protection of People at Sea

Speakers:

Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja, Head of administration, Lecturer IMLI, **online**

Patricia Kennedy B.Soc. Sc. M. Soc. Sc. PhD Social Policy, Lecturer in Social Policy School of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork, Republic of Ireland - “Health policy and seafarers: is Universal Health Care (UHC) an achievable goal?”

Mr. Ivane Abashidze, Director of Georgian Maritime Transport Administration of Georgia

14:30-15:30 Lunch

15:30-17:30 Plenary Session II: Universal Human Rights Protection in Practice: Implementing the International Covenants in a Changing World

Chair/Moderator:

Dr. Irine Kurdadze, Professor, TSU, Director of International Law Institute (ILI), Jean Monnet Chair holder

Keynote Speaker:

Professor Konstantin Korkelia, TSU, UN HRC (TBC)

Speakers:

Plenary Session II: Universal Human Rights Protection in Practice: Implementing the International Covenants in a Changing World.

Dr. Niko Tatulashvili, Head of the Human Right’s Department of the Administration of the Government of Georgia – ‘Implementation of UN Covenants at the National Level - Georgia’s case

Dr. Natia Kalandarishvili-Mueller, Professor of International Law, Alte University, Georgia



Ms. Nino Nikolaishvili Ministry of Justice of Georgia

Associated Professor Tamar Zarandia and Dr. Nana Mchedlidze, TSU Faculty of Law

16:20-16:40 – Coffee Break

19.00 Dinner

Day 2, 25 September 2026

10:00-10:30 – Registration, coffee refreshment

10:30-12:00 Plenary Session III: Mental Health Vulnerabilities in the Maritime Environment

Chair/Moderator: Prof. Dr. Irini Papanicopolulu

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Gia Tchkonja, Distance Medical Integrated Support Services (DMISS) for Seafarers

Speakers:

Associated Professor Eka Siradze, TSU, ILI

Associated Professor, Dr. Nihan Sensbursa, Fasta Marine Sciences Faculty, Ordu University, Turkiye - “Seafarers’ Psychological Well-Being on Board: Challenges, Coping Strategies and Solutions”

Dr. Nino Begalishvili, TSU

12:00-13:00 – Lunch

13:00-15:00 Plenary Session IV: Advancing Universal Human Rights Protection: Responding to New Vulnerabilities and Emerging Risks

Chair/Moderator: TBC

Keynote Speaker:

Associated Prof. Benedikt Harzl, University of Graz

Speakers:

Dr. Guram Ghvinjilia, Associated Professor, Caucasus International University, Georgia

Assistant Professor Mariam Kevlishvili, TSU, ILI

Assistant Professor Nino Rukhadze, TSU, ILI

Mr. Besarion Bokhashvili, UNHCR Georgia



13:50-14:10 - Coffee break

15:00 – 15:30 Closing Remarks

16:00-19:00 - sightseeing (Tbilisi or Mtskheta)

19:00 - Dinner