

Editors' Note

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This Issue hosts the Proceedings of the International Conference “Advancing Human Dignity: International and EU Legal Pathways to Justice, Inclusion and Non-Discrimination”, held in hybrid format on 21 November 2025. The Conference was jointly organised by the Faculty of Law of Transilvania University of Braşov (Romania) and the Department of Legal Sciences (School of Law) of the University of Salerno (Italy).

The event took place within the framework of the International and European Criminal Law Observatory (IECLO) and marked the inauguration of the 3rd Edition of the Jean Monnet Module EU-GLOBACT “Transnational Crime and EU Law: towards Global Action against Cross-border Threats to common security, rule of law and human rights” (Project number 101126599 - funded by European Commission Erasmus + Programme – Jean Monnet Action. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them).

The Conference addressed the protection and promotion of human dignity, which remain fundamental priorities within both international law and European Union legal systems. It examined how legal frameworks, institutional practices, and judicial developments at European and global levels can be mobilised to advance justice, foster inclusion, and combat discrimination in all its forms.

By bringing together diverse scholarly and professional perspectives, the event aimed to stimulate critical dialogue on how law and policy can more effectively safeguard the inherent dignity of every individual. The one-day Conference brought together national, European, and international academics and experts for an interdisciplinary exchange on both the potential and the limitations of existing legal frameworks. The Proceedings largely mirror the structure of the Conference and are organised into six sections.

The first section focuses on Advancing Human Dignity under International Law and includes contributions on biomedicine (Duminică), starvation in armed conflicts (Cifra), migration and human rights violations (Mussi), discriminatory neutrality and coercive inclusion (Oriolo), the principle of humanity in modern warfare (Staiano), sustainable development (Pagano), climate justice and the rights of future generations (Popa Tache), and the new Convention for the protection of the legal profession (Savu E.C.).

The second section addresses Advancing Human Dignity under EU Law, examining topics such as the due diligence principle (Bularca and Nicolaie), end-of-life issues (Busillo), the EU's green transition (Byamugisha), access to justice (Cozgarea), the right to welfare (Mauri), corporate sustainability (Mercier), human dignity as a principle of interpretation in EU law (Neagoe), and the use of empirical data in justice systems (Solis and Basystiuk).

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The third section explores Advancing Human Dignity under Criminal Law, with contributions on domestic violence (Bârsan and Gorgovan), protection against discrimination (Coman), environmental criminal justice (Di Donato), enforcement law (Ghihaia), the criminal-legal relationship (Ghigheci), gender discrimination in the case law and policies of the International Criminal Court (Focillo), hate crime laws (Najandimanesh), and the persecution of Roma communities from Nuremberg to the present (Surlovska Ristevska).

The fourth section is devoted to Advancing Human Dignity in the Digital Era. It includes analyses of dignity at work in relation to personal data protection (Anghel), post-mortem data protection (Conti), accessibility and equality in digital public administration (Csatlos), algorithmic contracting in transport services (Gheoculescu), the discriminatory effects of AI on personality rights in employment (Matefi), non-discrimination in the digital age with reference to EU general principles (Niţoiu) and the broader EU legal framework (Pisapia), criminal liability in the age of artificial intelligence (Schultz), and EU values in the implementation of AI systems (Vâlcu).

The fifth section examines Public Law Pathways to Human Dignity, covering issues such as the discriminatory effects of certain citizenship laws (Barbu and Cerbu), procedural pathways to human dignity (Bedic), public pensions as an expression of human dignity (Dinu C.G.), Kosovo's pre-emptive implementation of international human rights instruments (Kullaj and Hajredini), defensive democracy (Nica), and the legal status of graves as sites of memory (Şchiopu).

The final section addresses Private Law Pathways to Human Dignity, with contributions on the sociological and legal dimensions of human dignity in labour relations (Boghirnea), disability, access to literary works and copyright (Dinu C.), unequal access to medical treatment (Hageanu), the regime of casual workers (Kolar Vasudeva), the civil liability of service providers (Iachim and Mădulărescu), inclusive justice (Spîrchez), and personality rights in the context of conflict of laws (Savu C.N.).

Collectively, these Proceedings constitute a dense and substantial dissemination output of an international symposium aimed at fostering shared research and the exchange of ideas in order to identify effective solutions and best practices for promoting human dignity that may be replicated across different legal systems, while also informing legislative development and policymaking grounded in principles of non-discrimination and inclusivity.

To this end, the Conference was open to the academic community, including students, doctoral candidates, and researchers, as well as legal practitioners, non-academic stakeholders, the general public, and young participants. It brought together more than fifty speakers from eleven countries.

This demanding collective endeavour would not have been possible without the support of the members of the Editorial Staff, the Scientific Board, and the Organising Committee (in particular, Silviu-Dorin Şchiopu, Francesco Focillo, and Stefano Busillo) to whom we extend our sincere thanks.

February 05, 2026



**Co-funded by
the European Union**