



הפקולטה למשפטים
FACULTY OF LAW
كلية الحقوق

האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM
الجامعة العبرية في القدس



ChYRP
התכנית לזכויות ילדים ונוער
Child and Youth Rights Program
برنامج حقوق الطفل والشبابية



מרכז מינרבה לזכויות האדם
The Minerva Center for Human Rights
مركز مينيرفا لحقوق الإنسان

Call for papers

Centering Children Here and Now

The Third Annual ChYRP International Conference on Children's Rights

14-15 December 2026, Jerusalem

Proposal submission deadline: **AUGUST 31st, 2026**

Children today grow up in the shadow of futures they did not make. Armed conflicts, the climate crisis, and rapid technological transformation, including the rise of artificial intelligence and its implications for work, knowledge, and social life, generate profound uncertainty about what kind of world tomorrow will bring. These concerns shape children's daily lives, their sense of safety, their aspirations, and their rights.

Yet in much of the discourse surrounding these global challenges, children appear primarily as the future's stake, as citizens-in-the-making who must be prepared, protected, and equipped for what is to come. This framing, however well-intentioned, risks eclipsing a foundational principle of children's rights: that children are rights-holders now, in the present, in the lives they are already living.

The Third Annual International Conference of the Child and Youth Rights Program (ChYRP) at the Minerva Center for Human Rights, Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Faculty of Law, takes this tension as its central concern. The conference will explore the relationship between the urgent task of preparing children for an unpredictable future and the equally urgent obligation to honor their rights, agency, and well-being in the here and now.

Questions to be explored include: What do children need today, not only as prospective citizens of an unknown future, but as full participants in the present world? How do we listen to children's own voices about their experiences of uncertainty and crisis? And how do law, policy, and practice respond, or fail to respond, to children's rights at this moment?

The conference is interdisciplinary, bringing together scholars from law, social work, sociology, psychology, public health, anthropology, education, criminology, and public policy. It engages these questions from diverse theoretical perspectives and through a wide range of methodological approaches.

The conference academic committee invites proposals dealing with one of the following topics:

Broad subject matters:

- Children as rights-holders in the present: participation, protection, and identity in conditions of instability
- The tension between future-oriented preparation and children's present-centered rights and experiences
- Children's mental health and well-being under conditions of radical uncertainty, with attention to intersecting social determinants and the challenges facing marginalized and minority groups
- Artificial intelligence and childhood: the impact of AI systems on children's privacy, autonomy, education, and well-being, and the legal and ethical safeguards required to protect their rights here and now
- Children's voices and meaningful participation in responses to global and local crises
- Theoretical frameworks for understanding childhood in unstable physical and virtual

realities

- Strategies, interventions, and legal frameworks for advancing children's rights amid global uncertainty.

The committee also welcomes proposals on other relevant and contemporary issues on children's rights.

Scholars are invited to submit proposals of the following types:

- 1) **Individual Paper Presentation:** Submissions should include an abstract of up to 350 words, title, keywords, academic CV, and contact information.
- 2) **Panel:** Submissions should include a panel title and general description of up to 350 words, the name of the panel chair/discussant, panel keywords, an abstract for each paper (350 words each, 3-4 papers), short bios, and the contact information of all participants.
- 3) **Author Meets Readers Roundtable:** Submissions should include the title, the name of the roundtable chair, an abstract describing the book(s) to be discussed (350 words), the names of 1-3 discussants, short bios, and the contact information of all participants, including the author.

Proposals should be submitted via email by **31 AUGUST 2026** to chyrrp@mail.huji.ac.il.

Applicants should expect notification of the committee's decision in September 2026.

Applicants traveling from outside Israel may contact ChYRP earlier to inquire about their participation.

Conference Academic Committee:

Prof. Tali Gal, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Faculty of Law and Institute of Criminology (Chair)

Prof. Sarah Abu-Kaf, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Conflict Management and Resolution Program

Prof. Olga Khazov-Gurvich, Visiting Researcher, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Faculty of Law

Prof. Barak Medina, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Faculty of Law

Prof. Corey Shadimah, University of Maryland Baltimore, School of Social Work

Prof. Yuval Shany, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Faculty of Law

For further information, please contact: chyrrp@mail.huji.ac.il