



BOSTON
COLLEGE



CHRIST
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
BANGALORE - INDIA



SCHOOL OF LAW
CHRIST (Deemed to be University)
Bangalore, Central Campus

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FORCED MIGRATION AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

In collaboration with
BOSTON COLLEGE
MASSACHUSETTS, USA

March 4 , 2025

Christ University, Nodal Office Trivandrum

CONCEPT NOTE

The School of Law, Christ University will host a symposium on “Forced Migration and Climate Justice” on March 6, 2025, providing a platform for global discourse on the critical nexus between climate change and forced migration. Climate change has emerged as a significant driver of displacement, compelling people to move due to both sudden environmental events like floods and hurricanes, and slow-onset changes such as rising sea levels and desertification. This type of migration is distinct from economic migration due to its involuntary nature, urgency, and lack of clear destinations, often leaving affected populations vulnerable and marginalized.

Displaced individuals face a range of challenges, including increased exposure to climate risks, socio-economic instability, and limited adaptive capacity. Slow-onset climate changes, while gradual, exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, undermining livelihoods and forcing migration as a last resort. These dynamics highlight the inadequacies of current legal frameworks, which often fail to address the unique needs of climate migrants, leaving them without adequate protections or recognition.

This event aims to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and inspire actionable solutions through awareness, advocacy, and policy reform, reflecting Christ University’s commitment to addressing global challenges. By engaging diverse perspectives, the symposium seeks to contribute to sustainable and equitable approaches to climate-induced displacement.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

BOSTON COLLEGE

Boston College, located in the serene town of Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, USA, is a prestigious Jesuit, Catholic university celebrated for its unwavering commitment to academic excellence, social justice, and the promotion of human dignity. Established in 1863, the university has upheld its Jesuit ethos of *cura personalis* - care for the whole person through its emphasis on holistic education. This unique approach integrates intellectual, ethical, and personal development, equipping students to lead with compassion, resilience, and purpose in a rapidly changing world.

As a leading research institution, Boston College is renowned for its expertise in social sciences, humanities, and global studies. It has consistently advanced scholarly and practical solutions to critical issues such as forced migration, displacement, climate justice, and human rights. Through its interdisciplinary approach, Boston College fosters collaboration across fields, uniting scholars, practitioners, and students to generate innovative solutions for pressing global challenges.

A hallmark of Boston College's mission is its dedication to community engagement and global partnerships. By nurturing cross-border academic collaborations, the university facilitates dialogue and action on complex global issues, creating platforms for meaningful discourse and policy innovation. This is exemplified in its focus on bridging the gap between academic inquiry and actionable change in areas like climate-induced migration and social equity. Boston College's enduring legacy is one of empowering individuals and communities to build a more equitable and sustainable future. Its focus on academic rigor, ethical leadership, and meaningful engagement ensures its continued relevance as a global institution addressing the most critical issues of our time.

PROGRAM ON GLOBAL ETHICS AND SOCIAL TRUST (GEST)

Boston College's Program on Global Ethics and Social Trust (GEST) is an international initiative that brings together faculty across disciplinary and institutional boundaries to address the ethical dimensions of pressing global challenges and their implications for academic, political, and religious communities. The GEST Program's faculty working groups, including The Working Group on Climate Change and Migration, are sponsoring this symposium, which is partially funded by GEST. The Program on Global Ethics and Social Trust is a pilot project launched with the support of Porticus to enhance the multidisciplinary approach to global issues in Catholic universities worldwide. It is an initiative of the Provost's Office in partnership with the Office of Global Engagement and the Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society.

In the pilot phase, two working groups of scholars from predominantly Catholic research universities on five continents will investigate the role of global ethics and social trust in the problems of—and our responses to—climate-driven migration and democratic education. The goal of these working groups is not to "solve" these deep-seated problems but rather to create better ways of addressing them across academic and professional boundaries. By learning to look at issues that threaten our world from multiple perspectives, we open our own areas of inquiry to a new and forgiving critique of how we so often proceed.

Program Goals

- To exemplify effective ways of addressing urgent global issues across academic and professional boundaries in our work as teachers, scholars, and engaged citizens
- To ensure that diverse global insights and ethical perspectives are brought to bear as we do that work, rebuilding social trust in the process
- To foster multi-disciplinary collaboration and formative education among Catholic research universities around the world

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

CHRIST UNIVERSITY

CHRIST (Deemed to be University) was born out of the educational vision of St Kuriakose Elias Chavara, an educationalist and social reformer of the nineteenth century in South India. He founded the first Catholic indigenous congregation, Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (CMI), in 1831 which administers CHRIST (Deemed to be University). CHRIST (Deemed to be University) was established as 'Christ College' in 1969. It undertook path-breaking initiatives in Indian higher education with the introduction of innovative and modern curricula, insistence on academic discipline, imparting of Holistic Education and adoption of global higher education practices with the support of creative and dedicated staff."

The University Grants Commission (UGC) of India conferred Autonomy to Christ College in 2004 and identified it as an Institution with Potential for Excellence in 2006. In 2008 under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Government of India, declared the institution a Deemed to be University, in the name and style of Christ University. One of the first institutions in India to be accredited in 1998 by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Government of India, and subsequently in 2004, 2016, 2022 CHRIST (Deemed to be University) is currently accredited with 'A+' Grade. The University is ranked among top 100 universities in India at 60 in the NIRF India Ranking 2024 of Ministry of Education, Government of India.

The multi-disciplinary University which focuses on teaching, research and service offers Bachelor, Master and Doctoral programmes in humanities, social sciences, sciences, commerce, management, engineering, architecture, education, and law to about 30000+ students. The University offers its programmes at four campus locations in Bangalore in Karnataka, at Lavasa in Pune in Maharashtra, and Ghaziabad in Delhi NCR.

The campus is a living example of harmonious multiculturalism with students from all the states and union territories and around 60 different countries. CHRIST (Deemed to be University) publishes six peer-reviewed research journals and has published more than 300 books in Kannada and English. A promoter of sports, music and literary activities, it is a nurturing ground for creative excellence.

ABOUT DEPARTMENT

SCHOOL OF LAW, CHRIST UNIVERSITY

Situated within the sprawling and picturesque campus of Christ University, Bangalore, the School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) (SLCU) is a premier institute providing world-class legal education to students from across India and around the globe. Renowned for its academic rigor and focus on holistic development, SLCU has established itself as a beacon of excellence in legal studies, fostering an environment where students can thrive both intellectually and personally.

SLCU boasts state-of-the-art infrastructure designed to support a comprehensive and enriching academic experience. The institute features modern audio-visual classrooms, ensuring interactive and engaging learning. Its extensive library is a hub for scholarly exploration, housing a vast collection of legal publications, journals, and digital resources to cater to the diverse needs of students and researchers. The information center, equipped with round-the-clock Internet connectivity, facilitates seamless access to global knowledge networks.

In addition to academic facilities, SLCU provides conference halls, a mini auditorium, and collaborative spaces that encourage dialogue, innovation, and the exchange of ideas. The meticulously designed campus fosters a conducive learning atmosphere, enabling students to delve deeply into the study of law while exploring their full potential.

With a commitment to academic excellence and ethical leadership, SLCU continues to shape future leaders in law who are prepared to address complex legal and social challenges, both nationally and internationally. This dedication makes the School of Law a preferred destination for aspiring legal professionals seeking to excel in an ever-evolving global landscape.

Management



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CHRIST (Deemed to be University)



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