

Call for Presentations

The Hague Humanitarian Studies Centre (HSC) One-Day Conference 2026

“Humanitarian Justice & The State of the Humanitarian System”

2 October, 2026, 09:30-17:00, International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Hague

The Hague Humanitarian Studies Centre’s One-Day Conference 2026, in partnership with ALNAP, invites abstracts for presentations that critically analyse, reflect, or contribute to the theme “Humanitarian Justice & The State of the Humanitarian System”. As is well-documented, the global geopolitical milieu for humanitarian action in all forms is increasingly challenging. State funding for formal humanitarian action is at its lowest for decades, there is a growing disregard for International Humanitarian Law in various conflict contexts, and (poly-)crises derive from interlocking environmental hazards, socio-economic vulnerabilities, and ongoing hybrid and protracted conflicts across the world.

These pressures are not only operational challenges. They bring to light issues of legitimacy, effectiveness, and relevance, requiring deeper reflections around the sufficiency of current approaches and the need for alternatives. The need for alternatives specifically has been articulated in recent calls for *humanitarian justice*: a “lived need of crisis-affected people for fair, transparent, inclusive and respectful humanitarian responses that are rooted in principles of dignity, solidarity, care and shared responsibility for people, nature and the planet, and that respect International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights”. [You can read the full declaration on Humanitarian Justice here.](#)

How can humanitarianism, as an expression of humanity and solidarity, continue to alleviate suffering under these circumstances? To what extent do existing humanitarian structures reproduce or mitigate injustice? In what ways do non-traditional humanitarian actors, including networks of (affected) people, work to try and reduce disaster risk? And what role can [Humanitarian Justice](#) play as both a critique of and a pathway for transforming contemporary humanitarian action?

Let’s take stock together and look at the state of the humanitarian system.

We invite abstracts of 100-150 words for presentations of 10 minutes each. The presentation style can be varied and/or creative, and there is room for multiple formats across the day. We especially invite early-career scholars, practitioners, and those that take an approach to (humanitarian) crises that is creative, novel, or derived from practice.

Send your abstracts by 20 July 2026 (23:59 CET) to humanitarianstudiescentre@iss.nl

Please note that we have space for approximately 30 presenters/presentations, and so we may not be able to accommodate all proposals.

When submitting your abstract, please indicate which of the following themes it is part of:

- The State of the Humanitarian System
- Humanitarian Justice
- Conflict and IHL
- Environment, climate change, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- Critical humanitarian studies
- Migration and refugees

The 2026 HSC One-Day Conference is being held in partnership with ALNAP, and is part of a series of events intended to launch the 'State of the Humanitarian System' 2026 report in September. In the coming months, we will also publicise the keynote speaker, final panel discussion, and more information. We look forward to seeing you at the conference!