



**Call for Papers**

**International Association of Penal Law (AIDP)  
11th AIDP Young Penalist Symposium  
In Kyoto**

**“Victim-Centered Criminal Justice”**

**14-15 September 2023**

**At Ritsumeikan University**

**Kinugasa Campus, Kitamachi 56-1 Tojiin Kita-ku, Kyoto City, Kyoto 603 8577 JAPAN**

**Abstract deadline: 31 March 2023**

A victim-centered approach urges institutional guarantee to minimize the re-traumatization of victims in criminal investigations and empowers victims as participants and beneficiaries in the criminal procedure. It brings new views to the criminal justice process and transformation to the affected community and the entire society. Such new approach in criminal law is becoming a new trend in investigation and reparation phases at both domestic and international legal discourse.

Victim-centered approach is especially important in relation to investigations on sexual crimes and where the victims are children. In December 2020, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees issued a policy on a victim-centered approach in its response to sexual misconduct. Criminal investigations and information gathering into war crimes allegedly being committed in Ukraine has created a new dimension in criminal investigations, where repeated interviews by multi-national investigators, journalists and human rights reporters from all over the world may overburden victims and thus undermine the credibility of testimony. Against this background, the International Criminal Court (ICC) and Eurojust published practical guidelines for documenting and

preserving information on international crimes in September 2022.

The victim-centered approach may bring dramatic changes in determining the forms of sanction and reparation. The concept of restorative justice has evolved into an innovative means to bring peace and forgiveness to the community harmed by crimes. Reconciliation programs are now incorporated in many countries' justice systems and comparative research on this field is ever-increasingly encouraged. Regional Human Rights mechanisms accelerate the promotion of norms and practice of States' duty to enhance right to remedy. At the international level, the Trial Chamber VI of the ICC declared in the 2021 Ntaganda reparation decision that a victim-centered approach should guide its reparations proceedings. Victims are now invited to community talks to discuss what they really want and what would work for future generations to overcome the past.

While the victim-centered approach appears to be an important value in various criminal process steps compared to the traditional crime-centered (or perpetrator-centered) approach, the impact that this concept may bring to fair trials needs to be treated with caution. Cherry-picking incriminating evidence and limiting investigations to avoid re-traumatization require appropriate safeguards to maintain effective investigation. The balance between the rights of the accused and the victims' rights requires an institutional guarantee of procedural justice for both parties.

The aim of this conference is to discuss the prospects and problems of this new approach of victim-centering in criminal law. It pays special attention to the global issues of the current era, such as the domestic violence cases increased under the lockdown, sexual trafficking escalated under the re-opening of state borders at the end of the pandemic, and the multi-national investigatory effort against war crimes that have been reported one after another following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The need for information sharing and evidence collection promotion and management through international cooperation is significantly increasing, and theoretical and practical problems need new ideas to bring fair and just criminal proceedings and their outcomes.

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We invite submissions discussing victim-centered approaches in (both domestic and international) criminal law. The purpose of this symposium is to shed light on the following points without affecting other related questions.

Part 1: Theoretical Issues: Criminal Justice Teleology, Retributive and Restorative Concepts of Justice, Confronting the Presumption of Innocence

Part 2: Investigative Phase: Preventing Re-traumatization (with a Special Focus on Sexual Abuse or Trafficking Victims), International Cooperation in War Crimes Investigations, Open-source Intelligence in Criminal Investigations (OSINT)

Part 3: Trial Phase: Effectiveness of Safeguards and Effective Use of Digital Technologies (Accepting Depositions, Remote Participation) During Court Hearings

Part 4: Victim Reparations: A Transformative Approach to Determining Redress, Reparations for Core Crime

These issues not only emphasize their relevance to international criminal law but can also be approached from a comparative and internationalist perspective.

### **Call for Papers**

Ph.D. candidates, postdoctoral researchers, early career researchers, and professionals are invited to submit abstracts (length: maximum 500 words) on these and related questions with your contact and affiliation information, and a short resume (maximum 1 page) on the same file. Abstracts must be in English, provided in Word (or PDF, if necessary) and submitted via email to [ypc@youngpenalists.com](mailto:ypc@youngpenalists.com) by 31 March 2023.

### **About YPC Symposium**

This symposium is the 11th symposium sponsored by the International Association of Penal Law (AIDP) and is organized by the AIDP Young Penalist Committee (YPC). The scientific committee of the symposium is composed of OCHI Megumi, Renata BARBOSA, Francisco FIGUEROA and BAI Luyuan. The main purpose of this symposium series is to form a community of young criminal law scholars from around the world and to produce research presentations.

The 11th International AIDP Young Penalist Symposium will be held in person in Kyoto, Japan, and may be livestreamed. Participation in the symposium is free. The speaker's travel expenses will be partly covered by the organizer. The proceedings will be published as a volume of [RIDP libri series](#).

### **Website – contact information**

For more information, please visit the following URL:

[www.youngpenalists.com](http://www.youngpenalists.com)

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AIDP Young Penalist Committee, <http://ypc.youngpenalists.org/>