

## **The Global Applicability of the European Convention on Human Rights' Article 10 and the Impact of Green Bonds**

*ISLP Newsletter, June 2021 Edition*



Share



Tweet



Forward

*ISLP's mission to advance just, accountable, and inclusive development is behind all of our engagements. Read on to learn about our work defending journalists and bloggers from government crackdowns on freedom of expression, supporting sustainable finance in the Amazon, and working toward greater climate action and women's empowerment in the fashion industry.*

**DONATE TO ISLP**

---

## **Countering the Global Crackdown on Freedom of Expression**



It is no exaggeration to state that we are experiencing a widespread crackdown on freedom of expression – *a pandemic within a pandemic*. Journalists, bloggers, human rights activists, and media outlets are bearing the brunt of these assaults. They're in need of effective legal countermeasures – and ISLP's Media Law Working Group has devised one that has been successfully deployed in six recent cases in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

ISLP has cited speech-protective case law from Article 10 of the prestigious European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) in courts *outside* Europe to win the freedom of six journalists and bloggers in Morocco, Algeria, Iraq, and Palestine. Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)'s similarity to Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which virtually all countries have signed, makes this legal countermeasure effective. In carrying out this defense, counsel or a third-party intervenor would argue that in signing on to the ICCPR, the government bound itself to protect freedom of expression. Thus, domestic courts must not

enforce imprisonment law that would violate ECHR Article 10 because such a violation would also run afoul of their obligations as signatories to the ICCPR.

Our goal is to deploy this countermeasure to defend more journalists and bloggers – and to train local lawyers to deploy it as well – in more foreign courts in Sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere, as the need arises and resources permit.



## Protecting the Amazon through Green Bonds

Green Bonds are an increasingly important financial tool in helping to mitigate the climate crisis. Last month, ISLP conducted a virtual panel on Green Bonds for an audience of civil society groups in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru. The audience consisted of several local community organizations that are grantees of the [Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation's](#) Amazon-Andes Initiative. Protecting their habitat in the Amazon from destructive development is crucial for the wellbeing of local communities – as well as for the rest of us.

The Green Bonds panel was designed to give a broad overview of this fundraising vehicle that could support more sustainable development practices in this sensitive ecosystem. It covered: (i) Green Bond fundamentals, such as key characteristics, how they are structured, and market trends in Latin America; (ii) the role of independent review and second-party opinions; (iii) challenges in the Green Bonds space; and (iv) a lively Q&A for participants who wanted to hone in on specifics related to their respective community-based organizations.

We are grateful for the time and talent our law firm and NGO volunteers contributed to this impactful event. Contributors included: Jason Ewart and Carlos Ardila of [Latham & Watkins](#); Cristovao Alves, Manager of Sustainable Investment at [Sitawi - Finance for Good](#), a Brazilian firm that specializes in sustainable finance; and Luciana Aquino, an angel investor as well as senior fellow and researcher at the [Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment \(CCSI\)](#).

## Partner Spotlight: Fashion Makes Change



**FASHION  
MAKES  
CHANGE.**

ISLP is proud to collaborate with [Fashion Makes Change](#), an organization that works with all facets of the fashion industry -- including non-profits, brands, and consumers -- on a global scale to both empower women and take climate action. Fashion Makes Change's model solicits customers to make small donations while

checking out both online and in stores, and then, with the help of [Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors](#), uses the donations to sponsor vetted and impactful women's empowerment programs. Through women empowerment, the organization also

supports community-inclusive development and funds capacity-building opportunities for women in the supply chain, making Fashion Makes Change a fitting ISLP client and partner.

ISLP mobilized *pro bono* legal support to assist Fashion Makes Change on a range of matters leading to its launch. Cara Smyth, Chair of Fashion Makes Change, shared that “we feel delighted and privileged to have the remarkable global counsel of ISLP guiding our effort to create change in the Fashion industry on an international scale. Alejandra [Cicero] and team were with us at the very beginning of this journey, and continue to help shape our work as Fashion Makes Change scales in its mission.” ISLP continues to provide *pro bono* legal support to Fashion Makes Change on the multitude of mission-driven initiatives that it undertakes.



## ISLP Staff Updates

We're thrilled to welcome Eniye Ogbebor as ISLP's Senior Legal Program Officer! Eniye will be working with ISLP's Sustainable Development program to develop and implement ISLP's capacity-building projects for government partners in the natural resources, tax, trade, and investment areas. Eniye, a Nigerian-trained lawyer, previously worked in the Zambian Ministry of Finance's PPP unit. She has taken over for Talya Lockman-Fine, who completed her year-long Bernstein Fellowship with ISLP.

We're also excited to announce that we've been joined by two interns and one fellow for this summer: Stephanie Rice as the International Media Law Fellow, Erin Hill as the Community Inclusive Development Intern, and Kayla Leong as the Communications and Operations Intern.

See new consultant, intern, and fellow bios [here](#).

## Join ISLP for A4ID's Inaugural Annual Conference!

ISLP Executive Director Sara Lulo will be participating in A4ID's inaugural Annual Conference on “Pro Bono for the Rule of Law” on 25-26 June 2021. The theme for this year is Towards a more just post-pandemic world, and Sara will be on a panel titled “Coordinating pro bono: Strategic insights from across the world.”

By bringing together leading actors from the legal and development sectors, the conference seeks to foster a dialogue on the future of pro bono and the rule of law in the context of the Sustainable Development Goal agenda. More details on the full list of panels and workshops can be found on [A4ID's conference schedule](#) and [webpage](#). If you would like to attend, you can register for free through the following [Eventbrite](#) link: <https://bit.ly/3fyuzcK>.

We hope to see you there!

---

## Ways to Get Involved

---



---

## ***About ISLP***

*The International Senior Lawyers Project (ISLP) is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit and non-governmental organization founded in 2000. Our mission is to provide pro bono legal assistance to governments, civil society organizations, and social enterprises in the Global South on matters that advance just, accountable, and inclusive economic development.*



Facebook

LinkedIn

Website

*Copyright © ISLP 2021, All rights reserved.*

For general questions about ISLP, send an email to: [info@islp.org](mailto:info@islp.org)

For questions about donating, contact Melissa Eustace: [meustace@islp.org](mailto:meustace@islp.org)

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.