GONZAGA UNIVERSITY HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE:
Freedom of Expression as a Human Right
June 2-3, 2019
Florence, Italy

Gonzaga University’s 2019 Human Rights Conference in Florence, Italy will explore the history, values, tensions, and future of free expression. Hosted at Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Italia, Gonzaga’s annual conference will unpack these questions across three panels and two keynote speeches addressing academic freedom, religious and cultural expression, technology and democracy, and hate speech and harmful expression. Through these inquiries, Gonzaga expects this program to sharpen the focus on how freedom of expression best can serve as a foundation for human rights around the world.

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW:

June 2, 2019
Center for Civil and Human Rights Keynote Reception:

Dr. Teresa Sullivan, President Emerita, University of Virginia (2010-2018):
Academic Freedom

June 3, 2019
Panel 1: Religious and Cultural Expression

Religion and culture are intimately intertwined with human expression. Yet historically, the expressive components of religion and culture have been both over- and under-valued, reinforcing religious and cultural hegemonies. This panel will explore how societies should cultivate and protect religious and cultural expression without unfairly privileging or burdening specific religions or cultures. With experts from the United States, Croatia, and Italy, this panel will consider these questions in the context of an increasingly mobile and interconnected world.
Gonzaga Law in Florence Keynote Luncheon:

Hon. Raul Cano Pangalangan, Judge, The International Criminal Court
*The Jurisprudence of International Human Rights Tribunals*

**Panel 2: Technology and Democracy**

Free expression is foundational to a healthy democracy premised on the rule of law. This panel will examine the impact of fast-evolving expressive technologies on local and global democracy. Working in a roundtable format, a legal journalist will lead a discussion between interdisciplinary experts from Italy, the United States, Spain, and Australia who will interrogate subjects including libel, internet platforms, technological disruption, and corporate practices.

**Panel 3: Hate Speech and Harmful Expression**

The law has always recognized limits to the protection of speech. Speech also has been deployed historically to undermine human rights. “Hate speech” has become a central feature to contemporary debates about harmful expressions that may exceed the boundaries of speech that the law properly should protect. With panelists from South Africa, the United States, and Italy, this panel will consider whether and how the law should police boundary lines separating protected speech from harmful expression, all consistent with human rights.
DETAILED CONFERENCE AGENDA:

June 2, 2019
Opening Keynote Reception: 6:00-8:00pm
Caffè del Verona, Firenze

June 3, 2019
Full-Day Conference Program
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Italia

1) Registration and Welcoming Remarks (8:30-9:30am)

2) Panel 1 (9:30-11:30am): Religious and Cultural Expression
   - Chair: Douglas Laycock, Robert E. Scott Professor of Law and Professor of Religious Studies, University of Virginia, and Alice McKean Young Regents Chair in Law Emeritus, University of Texas School of Law
   - Dr. Maja Munivrana Vajda, Associate Professor of Law, University of Zagreb (Croatia) Faculty of Law: The Right to Mock, Ridicule, and Criticize Religion: Exploring the Limits of Free Speech in a Democratic and Just Society
   - Dr. Roberto Sirvent, Professor of Political and Social Ethics, Hope International University: Imagining New Worlds: Religion, Revolution, and Abolitionist Dreams
   - Laura De Pasqual, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano: Freedom of Religion in Multicultural Europe: The Achbita and Bougnaoui Cases

Keynote Luncheon: 11:45-1:15pm

3) Panel 2 (1:30-3:15pm): Technology and Democracy
   - Chair: Rebecca Pilar Buckwalter-Poza, Deputy Managing Editor, Daily Kos Education Fund, Named Plaintiff, Knight First Amendment Institute v. Trump
   - Dr. Albert Ruda, Dean, University of Girona (Spain) School of Law: Freedom of Expression Under Siege: A Human Rights Perspective on Spanish Libel Law
   - Olympia Duhart, Associate Dean for Faculty and Student Development, Professor of Law, Nova Southeastern Broad College of Law, and Dr. Steven Friedland, Professor of Law, Elon University School of Law: Sword and Shield: The Disruptive Impact of Technology on Human Rights
   - Dr. Ilaria Forestieri, Università di Firenze School of Law: Sustainability Reporting in SMEs as Instruments of Direct Democracy
4) Panel 3 (3:30-5:30pm): Hate Speech and Harmful Expression

- **Chair:** Douglas Laycock, Robert E. Scott Professor of Law and Professor of Religious Studies, University of Virginia, and Alice McKean Young Regents Chair in Law Emeritus, University of Texas School of Law
- **Dr. Avitus Agbor,** Research Professor, School of Postgraduate Programmes, North-West University (South Africa) Faculty of Law: *Reflecting on the Liability of Negationists in South Africa*
- **Sahar Aziz,** Professor of Law and Chancellor’s Social Justice Scholar, Director, Center for Security, Race, and Rights, Rutgers University Law School: *The Marketplace of Hate: Protecting Muslims from Islamophobia*
- **Dr. Federica Casarosa,** Research Fellow—Center for Judicial Cooperation, European University Institute: *The European Regulatory Approach Toward Hate Speech Online: The Balance Between Efficient and Effective Protection*
- **Dr. Stefano Maffei,** Lecturer in Law, Università di Parma—Law Department: *Extradition for Offensive Speech against the Sovereign*

**Reception & Dinner: 6:30-9:00pm**
*L’Ortone, Firenze*