

# CALL FOR POSTER ABSTRACTS

## Conference on Strategic Litigation and Public Health

**Organisers:** Law and Public Health Section, European Public Health Association (EUPHA-LAW)  
Law & Non-Communicable Diseases Research Unit, University of Liverpool  
O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown Law  
Groningen Centre for Health Law, University of Groningen  
Faculty of Public Health, UK  
MCI Management Center Innsbruck

**Dates:** 15-16 June 2023

**Venue:** School of Law and Social Justice, University of Liverpool, Chatham Street, L69 7ZR  
Liverpool, United Kingdom (in-person) and online

**Call deadline:** 15 April 2023

The Law and Public Health Section of the [European Public Health Association \(EUPHA-LAW\)](#) and the [Law & Non-Communicable Diseases \(NDC\) Research Unit at the University of Liverpool](#), in partnership with the above-listed organisers, are organising a hybrid conference that will explore **how strategic litigation can contribute to the promotion of better health for all**.

Through litigation, individuals and groups can challenge the actions and inactions of public and private bodies, whilst testing the meaning of laws and their proper implementation. When strategically chosen to have an impact beyond the individual case, litigation can have far greater reach. Strategic litigation can determine the outcome of future cases, influence governmental practices, change public discourse, and hold public and private actors to account. For example, strategic litigation combined with social mobilisation has resulted in marked reductions in the price of medications in the Global South and led to amendments of international intellectual property law. Thus, strategic litigation can support long-lasting legal and policy reforms and is a powerful tool to improve health for all. Nonetheless, it has been underused by the public health community so far.

This conference will reflect specifically (though not exclusively) on the potential of strategic litigation to (1) address the health impacts of the climate crisis & chronic diseases associated with air pollution and other forms of environmental degradation, and (2) deteriorating food environments and the prevention of diet-related diseases.

The conference will adopt an interdisciplinary viewpoint, with participants from multiple disciplines and backgrounds. It will explore how to ensure that public health practitioners and lawyers are well equipped to work with each other to support effective litigation strategies, and the role and importance of related social mobilisation in achieving eventual reforms.

The **first** day of the conference will focus on overarching themes and deal with the following questions:

- What is the **role** of strategic litigation in promoting better human health, planetary health and a One Health approach?
- How does strategic litigation **relate** to other advocacy mechanisms?
- What has been and could be the specific contribution of **human rights** strategic litigation?
- How useful are the **right to a healthy environment** and the rights of future generations?

- How can human rights principles be **more systematically** invoked in strategic litigation to promote better health?
- How can the public health community **mobilise itself** more effectively to litigate strategically to change environments and promote planetary and human health?
- What are the **limits** (procedural and otherwise) of strategic litigation?
- How can interdisciplinary teams of public health and legal practitioners **best work together** to increase the impact of strategic litigation?
- What is the **evidence** that must be gathered and presented in court to increase the chances of a successful outcome, and how should such evidence be framed?

The **second** day of the conference will focus on two specific thematic areas:

- strategic litigation relating to the health impacts of the **climate crisis** & chronic diseases associated with air pollution and other forms of environmental degradation; and
- strategic litigation relating to **food environments** and the prevention of diet-related diseases.

In particular, we are seeking to explore how the rapidly developing case law on environmental protection may generate ideas for strategic litigation on healthy diets and other related fields.

We invite **abstracts for poster presentations** from researchers and practitioners who are working on a theme relating to this conference. Posters can be presented either in-person or online.

If you are interested in making a poster presentation at this conference, please submit an abstract (no more than 400 words) and a biography (no more than 200 words) by **15<sup>th</sup> of April 2023** to Professor Amandine Garde, Director of the Law & NCD Research Unit and President of EUPHA-LAW at: [agarde@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:agarde@liverpool.ac.uk).

We are particularly keen to support early career researchers and practitioners from across the globe. This includes researchers who are planning to undertake doctoral studies, researchers who are working towards the completion of a doctoral thesis and researchers who are within three years after the completion of their doctoral thesis. The conference budget includes a number of **bursaries for early career researchers** that will cover accommodation costs and/or part of the travel costs. If you do not have funding to support in-person attendance, please state this in your email. If the abstract is accepted, the exact amount of support available will be discussed on an individual basis following the announcements. Decisions will be communicated by 10<sup>th</sup> May.