

INTERNATIONAL LAW WEEKEND 2026
CIL-NUS PANEL

Peace as *[R]evolution*

Changing the Narrative of International Law

WHEN
Friday, 23 October 2026
4:30–5:45 pm**WHERE**
Fordham University School of Law
New York City**FORMAT**
75 min · In Person

At an inflection point in the world order — missiles hurling across the skies, multilateral institutions under existential strain, the rules-based order challenged by its own architects — this panel argues for something counterintuitive: recentring international law around the vocabulary of peace is in itself a revolutionary act.

FOUR DIMENSIONS OF THE [R]EVOLUTION**01****Manufacturing Peace**

Asian & Global South traditions that frame peace as moral, relational, and ethically integrated — not a binary legal state.

02**Building Peace Through Institutions**

ICJ, PCA, ILC as instruments of legitimacy-building, not merely dispute resolution.

03**The Political Economy of Peace**

How economic integration builds or undermines peaceful order.

04**Whose Peace?**

Feminist perspectives, non-state actors, and the emerging human right to peace — whose voices shape the order?

PANEL · IN RUNNING ORDER**Prof. José Alvarez**

Herbert & Rose Rubin Professor of International Law, NYU School of Law; Former President, ASIL

Amb. Rena Lee

Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore; Member, Permanent Court of Arbitration

Prof. Keun-Gwan Lee

Professor of International Law, Seoul National University; Member, International Law Commission

Dr. Penelope Ridings

Member, International Law Commission; Special Rapporteur on Due Diligence in International Law

Rashmi Raman

Research Fellow, Centre for International Law, NUS

Celine Lange

Research Fellow, Centre for International Law, NUS

THE ARGUMENT

International law today is alarmingly narrated almost entirely through the vocabulary of war, sanction, and institutional failure — a conflict-centric grammar that crowds out law's constitutive, peacebuilding function. This panel argues that recentring international law around peace, rather than conflict, exception, and failure, is itself a revolutionary act. Drawing on the Centre for International Law's Peace and International Law Project, it examines how international law constructs, sustains, and institutionalises peace across diverse legal traditions.

Bringing together scholars and practitioners from the Global South, Asia, Europe, and North America, the panel argues that alternative legal traditions offer richer, more contextually grounded accounts of peace as a dynamic, relational, and ethically integrated process, not merely the absence of war. This shift in vocabulary is more than descriptive: it carries concrete implications for how international lawyers, educators, and policymakers respond to the present crisis in multilateralism.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE · 75 MINUTES**0–5 MIN****Opening**

Alvarez frames the argument and introduces the panel.

5–39 MIN**Presentations**

Four 8-minute presentations: small states and multilateral process, Asian traditions of peace, the ILC and due diligence, and the CIL Peace & International Law Project on changing the narrative.

39–55 MIN**Discussant & Exchange**

The discussant synthesises the four propositions and puts questions to the panel (5 min), followed by cross-panel discussion.

55–75 MIN**Q&A & Close**

Open floor: what concrete steps can international lawyers take today to shift the centre of gravity toward peace?