

DR. RÉKA VARGA

2023-2027



Dr. Réka Varga, Associate Professor of Public International Law at Péter Pázmány Catholic University (Budapest) is a highly acclaimed expert of international law.

She is a former Legal Adviser of the ICRC, former Legal Adviser and Head of International Law Department of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Chief Legal Adviser on international law in the Ministry of Justice of Hungary. Dr. Varga is member of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission.

Dr. Réka Varga is an experienced and highly regarded academic and practitioner of international law. She has been invited as guest speaker to nearly 100 conferences and training events in Europe and overseas, including the American Bar Association's Section of International Law, Saint Louis University in Missouri, OSCE, REDRESS/FIDH, ICRC, National Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies, UN OCHA, UK Defense Academy, Hungarian and foreign ministries and armed forces. She has regularly published in various fields of international law and contributed to the launching of the Hungarian Yearbook of International Law and European Law as its first co-editor. Being an experienced trainer and lecturer for diverse audiences including government experts and armed forces, she has always sought to interpret international law having regard to its practical ramifications when applied. This aspiration led her to be Co-Director of the Vienna Course on international law for military legal advisers, a leading theoretical and practical training event that is well sought by legal advisers in Europe.

Her extensive practical experience in the field of international law shaped her to be a formidable negotiator, including negotiating with states and international organizations on issues of international humanitarian law (IHL), international criminal law, headquarters agreements, treaty law, immunities, defense agreements, human rights law and the revision of the Danube Commission's Belgrade Convention. Her knowledge of IHL and international criminal law is widely respected.

She is a talented, energetic person of high integrity, seeking to bring compromise to debates, with a personality of vitalizing force. Fluent in English and German with basic speaking and reading skills in French.



Dr. Varga has an **extensive knowledge of the theory and practice of international law as well as that of state practice in this field**. She follows the current trends, issues and challenges and the practical ramifications of codification and development of international law.

Dr. Réka Varga is one of the few woman candidates to the ILC. **It is crucial to improve the representation of men and women within the ILC to create a gender-balanced body of experts.**

There has been no Hungarian member in the ILC since 1976. The ILC should represent all legal cultures and promote diversity through the participation of members from all regions of the world.

Hungary would greatly appreciate your valuable support for Dr. Réka Varga

ACADEMIC CAREER

- Nearly two decades of teaching international law, international humanitarian law and international criminal law
- Numerous books and publications in international and national journals in English and Hungarian
- Member of the Editorial Board, Hungarian Yearbook of International Law and European Law (Eleven Publishing, The Hague)
- Almost 100 professional presentations given at national and international conferences as well as training events

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

- Public administration (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, Ministry of Justice, Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary)
- Humanitarian organizations (Hungarian Red Cross, International Committee of the Red Cross)
- Solid practitioner's perspective through participation in the UN Sixth (Legal) Committee, the expert committee of the Council of Europe (Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law, CAHDI), European Union working parties (working party on international law, COJUR, COJUR ICC), International Red Cross/Red Crescent Conferences, meetings of the initiative on Strengthening Compliance with International Humanitarian Law (organized by ICRC and the Swiss government)
- Work experience with international bodies through membership in the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, the International Institute of Humanitarian Law Sanremo and the Permanent Court of Arbitration
- Deep understanding of the practical aspects of international humanitarian law: over 20 years of experience through providing trainings to armed forces in Europe and beyond, field mission in the Middle East
- Experience in drafting bilateral and multilateral treaties and negotiating with governments and armed forces on implementation and application of international humanitarian law
- Former Chair of the Hungarian National Inter-Ministerial Commission on the implementation of International Humanitarian Law
- Former President of the Preparatory Committee on the modernization of the Belgrade Convention on the Regime of Navigation on the Danube

SELECTED FORMER POSITIONS

- Secretary General, Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary
- Legal Adviser, Head of International Law Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary
- Senior Legal Adviser, Hungarian Red Cross
- Legal Adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Regional Delegation for Central Europe

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- 2013** PhD (summa cum laude), Pázmány Catholic University, Budapest. Title of doctoral thesis: Challenges of domestic prosecution of war crimes with special attention to criminal justice guarantees
- 2007** Hungarian State Bar exam
- 1995 – 2001** Legal studies, M.A., Eötvös Loránd University of Sciences, Budapest, Faculty of Law

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Decision 53/1993 of the Hungarian Constitutional Court –international crimes without time-limits. In: 100 Principle Decisions of the Hungarian Constitutional Court 1990-2020 (Ed.), Centre for Social Sciences, Institute for Legal Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, 2021 (under publication)
- Conflict related sexual violence: reasons, applicable legal provisions and humanitarian response. In: The role of international law in the 21st Century (Ed.), ELTE Eötvös Publisher, Budapest, 2021 (under publication)
- The conflict in Nagorno Karabakh: qualification under international law and the Hungarian position. In: Pázmány Law Working Papers, Nr. 2020/11
- Certain factors influencing respect for international humanitarian law. In: Hungarian Yearbook of International Law and European Law 2019, Eleven International Publishing, The Hague, 2020
- Protection of the diplomatic courier under international law. In: Pázmány Law Working Papers, Nr. 2019/01.
- Procedures and mechanisms to ensure respect for IHL. In: Pocar (Ed.), The Additional Protocols 40 Years Later: New Conflicts, New Actors, New Perspectives, IIHL, Milan, FrancoAngeli, 2018
- Basic Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and humanitarian activities during the migration crisis (in Hungarian). In: Iustum, Aequum, Salutare, XII: 2, Budapest, 2016
- Biszku-case reloaded: international law obligations and lacuna in compliance with respect to communist crimes. In: Hungarian Yearbook of International Law and European Law 2015, Eleven Publishing, The Hague, 2016
- Challenges of domestic prosecution of war crimes with special attention to criminal justice guarantees. Pázmány Press, Budapest, 2014.
- Domestic implementation of the Rome Statute with special attention to Hungarian criminal justice system (in Hungarian). In: Kül-Világ, A nemzetközi kapcsolatok folyóirata, 2012/IV, Budapest
- Contemporary challenges of humanitarian law and the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross in national implementation (in Hungarian). In: Liber Amicorum Prandler Árpád, Budapest, 2010
- Rules and obligations in international humanitarian law concerning the International Committee of the Red Cross (in Hungarian). In: Law of Armed Conflicts, Zrínyi Publisher, Budapest, 2009
- The 1954 Hague Convention on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict and its Protocols (in Hungarian). In: Hungarian Monument Protection Journal, Journal of the National Office of Cultural Heritage, LII./2, 2008
- Implementing and enforcing international humanitarian law – the role of the International Criminal Court. In: Zborník z medzinárodnej konferencie – Collection of papers from international conference: Medzinárodný trestný súd na zaciatku 21. storocia (International Criminal Court at the beginning of 21st century), Slovak Society for International Law at Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, 2007
- The applicability of IHL during the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia: the war in Croatia (in Hungarian). In: 10 years after Dayton. Hungary in the turn of the century. Strategical researches at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences – Essays, 2006
- The new emblem of the Red Cross – the solution (in Hungarian). In: Kül-Világ, A nemzetközi kapcsolatok folyóirata, III.2006/3-4, Tamás Lattmann and Réka Varga, 2006

„My goal has always been to connect the theory and practice of international law. In the end, we must never forget that international law is not an abstract body, but a field of law with profound practical relevance, applied by states and other subjects, and eventually affecting our lives. Answering the need to combine well-based theoretical assessments with a practical understanding of international law, the International Law Commission is in a unique position to address issues that are of primary concern for the international community.“ Dr. Réka Varga