



International Conference: Minority Rights, Self-Government and the Law, University of Liverpool
Foresight Centre, 15th-16th September, 2016.

The Liverpool Law School hosted and co-organised the event in partnership with the Minority Rights Working Group (MRWG) in Turkey and the University of Lund Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. The conference brought together a range of international experts from a variety of disciplines to discuss conceptual and practical issues relating to autonomy arrangements in Europe and beyond, as well as wider questions of minority protection and self-determination. Delegates included academics and practitioners from Britain, Turkey, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Austria, and The Netherlands.

The primary aim of the conference was to consider aspects of group protection in Turkey in light of human rights standards, international law categories, constitutional law models, and regional political dynamics. The event generated lively debates over the nature of the state and the role of human rights in relation to sovereign authority, and offered an opportunity to reflect on the institutional experience in conflict management and resolution provided by current and former experts and practitioners from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe. The final session put this conversation into a wider regional perspective by providing informative and perceptive analyses of the situation in the Middle East with particular reference to Syria.

The two-day programme ended with an open session led by the MRWG to consider the options available to the network and the Turkey programme which is run under the auspices of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Lund.

It was agreed that the network would reconvene in 2017 and start work on an edited collection to be published by Martinus Nijhoff Publishers in 2018. The volume is expected to be co-edited by members of the MRWG and is intended to assemble a selection of papers from the Liverpool conference with a number of additional papers to be drawn from the 2017 event.

This work will feature contributions from Liverpool Law School network members and scholars.