

Title: **Migration and Religion in International Law: The Protection of Religious Minorities in European Host Societies**

Locations: **Department of Political and Social Sciences – SPS and Forlì Campus, University of Bologna**

**Project description:**

The project is part of the research “Migration and Religion in International – MiReIL: Research-based Proposals for Inclusive, Resilient, and Multicultural Societies”, which was successfully proposed by the Universities of Trieste, Bologna, Roma – La Sapienza and LUISS Guido Carli for the Call PRIN 2022 and funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MIUR). MiReIL aims to investigate the problems underlying both religion and migration through an international law perspective. Today, as in the past, many groups are oppressed owing – in full or in part – to their religion and are thus forced to migrate. In the current globalised world, religion has therefore come back as a crucial identification element.

At the University of Bologna, MiReIL addresses specifically the problems concerning host European societies stemming from the interaction between migration and religion. The researcher to be selected will support the University of Bologna’s research unit to carry out the MiReIL’s WP5 “Religious freedom in migrants’ countries of destination: non-discrimination and social integration in Europe”. This WP aims to look at the implications for human rights, as protected by the ECHR, and for anti-discrimination law, as adopted within the EU, of the relationship between religion and non-discrimination and social integration of migrants, including asylum seekers. In fact, in the attempt to strike a balance between States’ sovereignty to regulate religious matters in light of their specific socio-cultural traditions and individual rights, either in terms of freedom of religion or protection against discrimination, these European frameworks still experience difficulties to provide uncontested solutions. New global emergencies, like the Covid-19 outbreak, have brought to the fore new aspects of such a complex balance, for example the refusal of vaccination for religious reasons opposed by migrants. Other debated issues, like those connected with religious radicalisation and religiously motivated terrorism, are resurging again owing to the evolution of the geopolitical landscape. In this respect, the research will explore on the one hand the restrictions imposed to migrants, including asylum seekers at arrival and in reception centres, in the enjoyment of their freedom of religion, and the impact that such restrictions have in regulating their participation in host societies. On the other hand, the intersection of freedom of religion with the migratory background of newly established people in Europe will be analysed through the lens of “intersectional discrimination”. The results will be fundamental for advancing new solutions from an international and EU law perspective to new and old social problems that create obstacles to the basic conditions of “le vivre ensemble”.

**Activity plan:**

The researcher to be selected will support the local research unit during the entire life of the project and will be specifically involved in the following activities provided by the MiReIL proposal:

- a) Review of the relevant legal literature (months 0-6) and periodic review of the European case-law on migration (0-18)
- b) Organization of the training seminars addressed to legal and non-legal interested parties (0-6)
- c) Organization of the academic workshop for scholarly purposes (6-12)
- d) Co-writing of expected outputs (7-18)
- e) Public engagement and administration activities (0-18)

**Expected outputs:** Two co-authored contributions for academic journals with a well-known international reputation and/or included by ANVUR in the list of A-publications.