

Transitional Justice

DEFINITION AND SCOPE OF WORK

The United Nations Organization has defined Transitional Justice as “the full range of processes and mechanisms associated with a society’s attempts to come to terms with a legacy of large-scale past abuses, to ensure accountability, serve justice, and achieve reconciliation”.

Transitional Justice is a multidisciplinary field of theory and practice which addresses the past in a constructive and future-oriented manner. So, it is a backward and forward-looking field. Transitional Justice consists of four main pillars:

- Justice
- Truth-seeking
- Reparations
- Institutional Reforms

Under the above-mentioned pillars, transitional justice aims to realize for victims the right to justice, the right to truth, the right to reparations, and guarantees of non-repetition. It also promotes a holistic approach, where the mechanisms under these four pillars should reinforce each other in achieving its goals.

Transitional Justice is traditionally focused on dealing with human rights abuses in post-conflict and post-authoritarian contexts. But recently, its mechanisms are also being used in states with a developed democracy and sustainable peace to deal with the far past human rights abuses.



Career Opportunities

Because of the multi-disciplinary approach of the program, the graduated students will have wider carrier opportunities. The graduated students of such a program, will:

- be an important source of expertise for current and future state initiatives on dealing with the past;
- have the proper qualification to be engaged in international organizations that are working in post-conflict and post-authoritarian countries;
- have the chance to be engaged in many non-governmental organizations that are working in the field of transitional justice and other related fields in Kosovo and the region;
- have the opportunity to develop a carrier as adviser on transitional justice for different groups of interests, such as state institutions, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, etc.;
- be able to have a carrier in academia as professors of transitional justice field in universities or other high education institutions.



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The need and opportunities of studying such a field





Importance of studying transitional justice

Armed conflicts and authoritarian regimes, unfortunately, continue to be part of us as humankind. By studying transitional justice, we can:

Deal properly with the human rights violations that have occurred in the two above-mentioned contexts, respectively in post-conflict and post-authoritarian societies;

Answer to the victim's needs, knowing that transitional justice mechanisms maintain a victim-centric approach;

Contribute to democratizing the state institutions that are on the transition from authoritarian to democratic ones;

Contribute to establishing a stable peace in and between post-conflict societies;

Contribute to establishing the means that guarantee non-recurrence.



The necessity to study transitional justice in Kosovo and the region

The dissolution of the former Yugoslavia during the 90s was accompanied by great human losses and material damages.

The 1998-1999 war in Kosovo was characterized by serious violations of human rights, which resulted in a large number of victims of various categories.

Victims' demands and needs continue to remain outside the focus of the relevant state institutions.

Different ethnic groups continue to be called on victimization, continue to have opposing opinions regarding the events of 1998-1999, and continue to be divided among themselves.

Therefore, Kosovo needs human resources that, through their expertise, would contribute to meeting the needs and demands of the victims, contribute to the achievement of a lasting peace and facilitate reconciliation between different ethnic groups.



Current availabilities of studying transitional justice in Kosovo

Being a post-conflict country, Kosovo's higher education institutions still lack offering opportunities of teaching the new generations about conflict resolution, peace-building, transitional justice, and other related fields of studies.

Young generations are mostly learning through extra-curricular activities in the above-mentioned fields. Such activities include workshops, summer schools, lecture series and are mostly organized by NGO-s, academic centres, and international organizations.

The initiative of the Faculty of Law of the University of Prishtina on establishing a master program focused on Transitional Justice

The faculty of Law of the University of Prishtina through its academic centers: The Human Rights Center and The Transitional Justice Resource Center for a long period has offered extra-curricular activities in the field of transitional justice.

Extra-curricular activities in the field of transitional justice and peacebuilding have aroused great interest among the students of the law faculty and not only. Also, by participating in these activities, students have been introduced to a new field of study and continue its advancement in study programs abroad in the absence of such programs in Kosovo.

Seeing the interest and the need for the study of transitional justice, the Faculty of Law is working intensively on the establishment of a master's program which will focus on the study of this field.

The characteristics of the master's program "Human Rights, International Criminal Law and Transitional Justice":

It will be focused on human rights, international criminal law and transitional justice and will offer a multi-disciplinary approach;

Because of the multi-disciplinary approach of the program, the graduated students will gain a solid expertise in different fields of study;

The program will be held in the English language where students from Kosovo, the region, and beyond will have the opportunity to study it;

It will be eligible for application for graduated students of other social studies except for jurists,

The students of such a program will have the opportunity to be engaged in different national and international institutions with whom the Faculty of Law of the University of Prishtina has established memorandums of cooperation.