We are pleased to share a **Call for Papers** for the upcoming international conference, **"A New Direction in Intellectual Property Treaty-Making? Winning Against the Odds for Human Rights, Equity, and Indigenous Peoples,"** hosted by the **School of Law, University of Leeds** on **8–9 May 2025.** The event is part-funded by the **Society of Legal Scholars** and will take place at the **University of Leeds.**

**Conference Theme**

**This conference will critically examine two major post-TRIPS treaties negotiated under WIPO:**

* Marrakesh Treaty (2013)
* 2024 WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property Rights, Genetic Resources, and Associated Traditional Knowledge.

**These treaties mark a shift towards more inclusive global IP frameworks, benefiting Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and other marginalised groups. The conference will explore the political, legal, and social dynamics that enabled their adoption and the broader implications for IP treaty-making.**

**Key Questions to be Addressed**

**🔹** How were these treaties successfully negotiated despite resistance from economically powerful interests?  
🔹 Do they signal a broader shift toward equitable IP standards, or are they exceptions?  
🔹 What role can academics play in influencing international IP norms?  
🔹 How has the Marrakesh Treaty shaped disability rights, and what lessons can be drawn for future treaties?  
🔹 What realistic expectations exist for the 2024 WIPO Treaty in ensuring fair and equitable relations between Indigenous peoples, businesses, and governments?

**Submission Guidelines**

We invite abstracts for **panel papers** addressing the conference themes from diverse disciplinary perspectives, including **law, social sciences, economics, and cultural studies.** Contributions from **early-career researchers and postgraduate students** are particularly encouraged.

* **Expression of Interest Deadline:** Friday, **7 February 2025**
* **Abstract Submission (max 250 words):** Friday, **28 February 2025**
* **Biography (100 words) required**
* **Presentation format:** 20-minute talk + 10-minute Q&A
* **Submission Email:** [g.m.dutfield@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:g.m.dutfield@leeds.ac.uk)

**Publication & Funding**

An **edited collection** of selected papers from the conference is planned for publication. A limited number of **UK-based travel and accommodation costs** will be covered for selected applicants.

For any further information, please get in touch with Prof. Graham Dutfield at [**g.m.dutfield@leeds.ac.uk**](mailto:g.m.dutfield@leeds.ac.uk).