

**29TH WORLD CONGRESS
ON MEDICAL LAW (WCML)**

**5-8 AUGUST 2025
HILTON ISTANBUL BOSPHORUS
İSTANBUL, TÜRKİYE**

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Ankara-2025

Ankara Üniversitesi Yayınları No: 906
Ankara Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Yayın No: 478

ISBN: 978-605-136-918-1
e-ISBN: 978-605-136-919-8

Kitapta bulunan bölüm yazılarının tüm sorumluluğu yazarlarına aittir.

Baskı Yeri:
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The Banality of Evil and Vulnerability: Seeing the Newborn Case in Türkiye from an Arendt Perspective <i>Tansu Sayar Kanyış</i>	227
The Patient's Right to Consent Information and the Concept of "Unpreparedness Damage" <i>Victor Schollaert</i>	228
Artificial Intelligence in Medicine – Human Rights Protection as Risk Regulation and the Question of the Acceptable Risk <i>Claudia Seitz</i>	229
Why Should Comprehensive Ethical Values Be in Every Health Research, Emergency Plan, or Medical Product? <i>Şükran Sevimli</i>	230
Rethinking the Supported Decision-Making (SDM) in Children's Medical Determination in the Digital Era: A Relational Autonomy Theory <i>Huachen Shi, Jiabai Chen</i>	232
Road to Digitalisation: A Czech Case Study <i>Lucie Siroka</i>	233
War, Health Policies, and Patient Safety: Lessons from Ukraine's Healthcare Reform in Crisis <i>Zoryana Skaletska</i>	235
A Fragile Group in Ensuring the Continuity of Health Systems: Medical Students <i>Huseyin Erkut Sogut, Abdullah Yildiz</i>	237
Patient Safety and Trust in AI: Towards an AI Bill of Rights in Healthcare <i>Barry Solaiman</i>	238
Civil Liability for Medical AI: Towards a New Paradigm? <i>Martin Šolc</i>	239
Addressing Patients' Vulnerability Related to the Use of Artificial Intelligence – Legal Challenges <i>Ranko Sovilj</i>	240
Protecting Women's Health in Armed Conflicts: Challenges and Legal Frameworks <i>Anđelija Stevanović</i>	242

PROTECTING WOMEN'S HEALTH IN ARMED CONFLICTS: CHALLENGES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

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Women in armed conflict circumstances face unique and multifaceted challenges, with severe implications for their physical, psychological, and social well-being. The protection, health, and assistance needs of these women are urgent and complex, as they often experience widespread violence, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), displacement, and deprivation of basic rights and services. These challenges are compounded by the breakdown of social structures, loss of livelihoods, and increased exposure to health risks, such as maternal and reproductive health complications, malnutrition, and limited access to healthcare services. International humanitarian law recognizes the specific vulnerabilities of women in conflict, emphasizing the need for targeted protection and assistance, especially in healthcare. However, despite existing frameworks, women continue to face significant barriers in accessing justice, healthcare, and support. Furthermore, the stigma surrounding SGBV often prevents women from seeking help, leaving them isolated and without recourse for recovery. Effective responses to these needs require a comprehensive and gender-sensitive approach, integrating health services with protection and legal assistance. The provision of healthcare, including mental health services, reproductive care, and trauma support, is essential for restoring the dignity and autonomy of women. Equally important is the creation of safe spaces and legal frameworks that ensure accountability for crimes against women, provide reparations, and promote their active participation in peace-building and post-conflict recovery processes. The author will try to explain the varied needs of women's healthcare affected by armed conflict, analyze the effectiveness of current legal and humanitarian responses, and propose strategies for improving protection, health, and assistance. By addressing these issues, we can contribute to a more inclusive and equitable approach to humanitarian aid, ensuring that women's voices and rights are central to conflict resolution and post-conflict recovery.



TÜBİTAK



**TURKISH
AIRLINES**

Turkish Airlines is the official airline
of 29th World Congress for Medical Law

ISBN: 978-605-136-918-1

e-ISBN: 978-605-136-919-8



Ankara Üniversitesi Basımevi
<http://basimevi.ankara.edu.tr>

Para ile Satılamaz.