Refugees in Europe - Finding Protection under the EU Charter

Speaker: Dr Maria-Teresa Gil-Bazo
Chair: Matthew Zagor

Under the Lisbon Treaty, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union took on the status of a treaty within the Union’s legal order. As a result, the right to be granted asylum has become an enforceable individual right in EU law. Dr Gil-Bazo will be drawing upon her own involvement in the drafting process of the Charter leading to its proclamation by the EU in 2000, as well as key cases currently before the European Court of Justice and European Court of Human Rights to discuss the scope of application of the Charter in the context of current trends in European States, especially the practice of Mediterranean States in migration control, including Spain, Morocco, Italy, and Libya – the ‘gateways’ into Europe. Their conduct, especially the lawfulness of interception at sea operations, has important lessons for Australia.

Dr María-Teresa Gil-Bazo is a Lecturer in Law at Newcastle Law School (UK), a Research Associate at the Refugee Studies Centre (Oxford University), and a member of the Spanish Bar Association. Previously, she was University Research Lecturer in International Refugee and Human Rights Law at the Refugee Studies Centre (Oxford University) and Director of its Summer School in Forced Migration (2009 & 2010). She has worked at Amnesty International and the European Council of Refugees and Exiles, as well as acting as consultant for the Council of Europe, the UNHCR, the European Commission, and numerous projects funded by the European Union in Central and Eastern Europe. Currently, Dr Gil-Bazo is advising UNHCR in its amicus curiae to the Court of Justice of the European Union in NS v Secretary of State for the Home Department. She has also advised the AIRE Centre in its third-party intervention in the case of Hirsi v. Italy before the European Court of Human Rights.

Venue: ANU Centre for European Studies, Thursday 20 January 2011
Commencing at 1:00pm
RSVP to Europe@anu.edu.au by Wednesday 19 January 2011