

# LA967-20 Women's Human Rights and Global Justice

**21/22**

**Department**

School of Law

**Level**

Taught Postgraduate Level

**Module leader**

Shaheen Ali

**Credit value**

20

**Module duration**

8 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

---

## Description

### Introductory description

This module has a close connection with Theories of Gender Justice, Gender, and Law and the Global Economy, and forms part of the specialist cluster on Gender. It is also available as part of the Comparative Human Rights cluster.

The module combines a critical engagement of human rights instruments and institutions for the protection of women's human rights and mechanisms with thematic case studies examining women's rights in local, regional and global contexts. It provides a framework for feminising international law theory and contemporary human rights discourse and highlights an alternative language of human capability and entitlements. Specific topics include case studies on women's human rights to religion and equality and health rights. In particular, the module addresses the rightlessness of women implicated in civil strife and post conflict situations. The module aims to contribute to the overall ethos of the LLM in International Development, Law and Human Rights (IDLHR).

[Module web page](#)

### Module aims

By the end of the module students should be able to:

Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the origin, scope and evolution of women's human rights in international law. More specifically, they would acquire a comprehensive understanding of the major human rights treaties and other instruments emanating from the United Nations relating to women and mechanisms for protection of human rights within these treaties;

Critically engage with and evaluate the emerging jurisprudence of women's human rights in a local/global context;

Have acquired the ability to critically analyse, examine and understand legal, economic, political and social materials on human rights. They should be able to evaluate the potential for and limitations of legal regulation of particular aspects of gender relations. Work effectively in groups, taking account of expressed opinions and dealing with them effectively, work with sensitivity, recognising different perspectives.

## **Outline syllabus**

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Session 1: Non-discrimination and Equality: Evolution of Women's human rights in International human rights law.

Session 2: The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women 1979 (CEDAW): From Drafting to Reservations and Beyond.

Session 3: The Optional Protocol to CEDAW (1999) and emerging jurisprudence. A Critical exploration of General Recommendations and Individual Complaints.

Session 4: Strategies for Gender Justice I. Institutional Contexts and Mechanisms for Advancement of women: Women's Movements and NGOs as strategies for gender justice.

Session 5: Strategies for gender Justice II. Institutional Contexts and Mechanisms for Advancement of women: Women's National Commissions and Women Ministries.

Session 6: Regional Women's Human Rights Regimes I

Session 7: Regional Human Rights Regimes II

Session 8: Case Study: Non-Discrimination and Women's Right to Health

## **Learning outcomes**

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Critically engage with and evaluate the emerging jurisprudence of women's human rights in a local/global context
- Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the origin, scope and evolution of women's human rights in international law. More specifically, they would acquire a comprehensive understanding of the major human rights treaties and other instruments

emanating from the United Nations relating to women and mechanisms for protection of human rights within these treaties.

- Demonstrate an ability to work effectively in groups taking account of expressed opinions and dealing with them effectively, work with sensitivity, recognising different perspectives.
- Demonstrate an advanced ability to deliver effective oral presentation skills
- The ability to critically analyse, examine and understand legal, economic, political and social materials on human rights. To evaluate the potential for and limitations of legal regulation of particular aspects of gender relations.
- Demonstrate high quality research, interpretation and drafting skills in relation to texts on women's human rights at the national, regional and international levels.

### **Indicative reading list**

Byrnes, A. and Bath, E. (2008) "Violence against women, the obligation of due diligence, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women – recent developments" 8(3) Human Rights Law Review pp. 517 – 533.

Rudolf, B. and Eriksson, A. (2007) "Women's rights under international human rights treaties: issues of rape, domestic slavery, abortion, and domestic violence" 5(3) International Journal of Constitutional Law pp. 507-525.

Charlesworth, H. Chinkin, C. & Wright, S (1991) "Feminist Approaches to International Law" 85 American Journal of International Law 613-645.

Hellum, A. Ali, S. S. Stewart, J. & Tsanga, A. (eds.) Human Rights, Plural Legalities and Gendered Realities. Paths are made by Walking (2007) Harare: Weaver Books, pp. 496.

Ali, S. S. Conceptualising Islamic law, CEDAW and Women's Human Rights in Plural Legal Settings:

A Comparative Analysis of application of CEDAW in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan (2006) UNIFEM Regional Office: Delhi pp.245.

J. Rehman, International Human Rights Law A practical Approach (2012) Pearson Education

Meckled-Garcia, S. and Cali, B. (eds.) (2006) The Legalization of Human Rights Multidisciplinary perspectives on human rights and human rights law, London: Routledge.

Weston, B. H. and Marks, S. P. (eds.) The Future of International Human Rights, New York: Transnational Publishers Inc.

Ali, S.S. (2000) Gender and Human Rights in Islam and International Law. Equal before Allah, Unequal before Man? Hague: Kluwer Law International. Afshar, H. (ed.,) (1998) Women and Empowerment. Illustrations from the Third World London: Macmillan.

S. M. Rai (ed.,) (2003) Mainstreaming gender, democratizing the state? Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women Manchester: Manchester University Press.

### **Subject specific skills**

Subject knowledge and understanding

Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding

of the origin, scope and evolution of women's human rights in international law. More specifically, they would acquire a comprehensive understanding of the major human rights treaties and other instruments emanating from the United Nations relating to women and mechanisms for protection of human rights within these treaties.

#### Cognitive Skills

Critically engage with and evaluate the emerging jurisprudence of women's human rights in a local/global context

The ability to critically analyse, examine and understand legal, economic, political and social materials on human rights. To evaluate the potential for and limitations of legal regulation of particular aspects of gender relations.

#### Subject-Specific/Professional Skills

Demonstrate high quality research, interpretation and drafting skills in relation to texts on women's human rights at the national, regional and international levels.

### **Transferable skills**

#### Key Skills

Demonstrate an ability to work effectively in groups taking account of expressed opinions and dealing with them effectively, work with sensitivity, recognising different perspectives.

Demonstrate an advanced ability to deliver effective oral presentation skills

---

## **Study**

### **Study time**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Required</b>
Tutorials	8 sessions of 1 hour (4%)
Online learning (independent)	8 sessions of 1 hour (4%)
Private study	184 hours (92%)
Total	200 hours

### **Private study description**

No private study requirements defined for this module.

## Other activity description

Consultation

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

---

## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time
Assessed Essay A 4,000 word essay.	100%	

### Feedback on assessment

Formal written feedback via Tabula and informal discussions.

---

## Availability

### Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of TLAS-M1M2 LLM International Development Law and Human Rights
- Year 1 of TIMA-L981 Postgraduate Social Science Research
- Year 1 of TLAA-M3PJ Postgraduate Taught Advanced Legal Studies

This module is Option list C for:

- TPOS-M9PE Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with NTU Singapore)
  - Year 1 of M91F Globalisation and Development (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91L International Development (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91B International Political Economy (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91D International Politics and Europe (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91G International Security (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91K Political and Legal Theory (Double Degree - NTU)

- Year 1 of M91J United States Foreign Policy (Double Degree - NTU)
- Year 2 of M91L International Development (Double Degree - NTU)
- Year 2 of M91B International Political Economy (Double Degree - NTU)
- Year 2 of M91C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - NTU)
- TPOS-M9PP Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with Universität Konstanz, Germany)
  - Year 1 of M92L International Development (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 1 of M92B International Political Economy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 1 of M92C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 1 of M92D International Politics and Europe (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 1 of M92E International Relations (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 1 of M92G International Security (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 1 of M92K Political and Legal Theory (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 1 of M92H Public Policy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92B International Political Economy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92D International Politics and Europe (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92E International Relations (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92G International Security (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92K Political and Legal Theory (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92H Public Policy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PT MA in International Development
- Year 2 of TPOS-M1P8 Postgraduate Taught International Politics and East Asia
- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PS Postgraduate Taught Political and Legal Theory
- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PQ Postgraduate Taught United States Foreign Policy

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 1 of TWSA-M9P7 Postgraduate Taught Gender and International Development