



**RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF
LAW**



NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW



**BRIDGING THE GAP
BETWEEN
THEORY AND PRACTICE**

**Breaking down the indispensable role of NGOs in
International Human Rights Law**



This picture, displayed on the cover page is of The Peace Window, a stained-glass window in the United Nations Headquarters building in New York. Painted by Marc Chagall, a French artist, it was donated as a memorial to Dag Hammarskjöld and 15 others who died in a plane crash while on a peace mission in the Congo in 1961.

Dag Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary-General of the United Nations from 10 April 1953 until his death on 18 September 1961. He introduced the concept of peacekeeping and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He also defined the role of an international civil servant based on his personal devotion to the Charter of the United Nations and to public service.

In the panel Chagall sought to express the simplicity and beauty of the ideals of peace and brotherhood for which the United Nations was founded. Symbols of peace and love can be found throughout the panel. In the centre is the figure of a young child being kissed on the cheek by an angelic face which emerges from a mass of flowers; the right-hand side suggests mankind's yearning for peace, its prophets and its victims, and symbols of law. On the left are depicted motherhood and people struggling for peace.

ABOUT RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW, PUNJAB



The Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), Punjab, was established by the State Legislature of Punjab by passing the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab Act, 2006 (Punjab Act No. 12 of 2006). The Act incorporated a University of Law of national stature in Punjab, to fulfil the need for a Centre of Excellence in legal education in the modern era of globalization and liberalization. Recently the University has earned a coveted status of being one of the top-ranking law teaching institutions in the Country. Over 1000 students acquire state of art legal education in a well-furnished and fully developed residential campus which boasts of all necessary infrastructural and manpower facilities for the all-round growth of the students. RGNUL is currently emphasizing on research, training, and consultancy in various areas of contemporary interest. It envisages to be a research-intensive university in the times to come.

ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDY IN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The Centre for Advanced Study in International Humanitarian Law (CASH) is an esteemed research centre at the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab. It is dedicated to specialized research in the field of International Humanitarian Law and works extensively to achieve its objective of bridging the gap between theory and practice. It was established due to the primary efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Regional Delegation, New Delhi with the sole aim of promoting teaching and research in the area of IHL. It aims to promote comparative research and discussion, focused on analyzing current policy approaches on various areas of IHL. The Centre follows a multi-disciplinary approach for identifying problems in the field of international humanitarian law and endeavors to engage in dialogue to facilitate changes in it. The Centre has organized various workshops and seminars to disseminate information and discourse on the latest developments in this field.

The Centre continues to make efforts to broaden our research scope to affiliated areas of International Criminal Law, International Human Rights Law and Refugee Law to stimulate and develop research, establishing the RGNUL International Humanitarian Law and Conflict Studies blog which aims to make important contributions to scholarly literature on cutting-edge topics and nascent developments. It further streamlines the process of learning through academic courses, programs, and publications. Therefore, it helps ensure that future leaders and policy-makers understand the practical relevance of the subject of IHL and have a thorough knowledge of its basic principles and frameworks. It aims to ensure that future leaders and opinion-makers understand the practical relevance of the subject of IHL and have a thorough knowledge of its basic principles. Therefore, the first and foremost function is to sensitize teachers, researchers and students about the provisions of this branch of law so that they may choose it as the focus of their future research endeavours.

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society actors play a vital role in advocating for and facilitating human rights—both in the national and international context. NGOs also aid the working of international organizations (such as the UN and its affiliated bodies) to make legal remedies accessible to victims/affected communities. In this pursuit, pro-bono has played a significant role in advancing the implementation of the law and in protecting and supporting the marginalized and disadvantaged segments of society.

In the Global South, pro bono litigation and its knowledge are scarce, despite the growing need for free legal aid. Regarding this, the current national workshop aims to discuss whether such models could be applicable in our social, political, and legal contexts while offering a quick overview of how such pro bono practices are already carried out globally. Towards this purpose, the workshop will employ case studies to acquaint its audience with the workings of civil society organizations that operationalize the law in challenging situations through pro bono.

The objective is to close the knowledge gap between theory and practice by providing access to the crucial expertise and experiences of global legal practitioners. In addition to exchanging thoughts on pro bono as a legal tool to promote justice, the workshop will emphasize action-based approaches and collaborative partnerships centered around public interest lawyering. It will also shed light on challenges that refugee-led organizations encounter in South-East Asia and the Asia-Pacific area, as well as the nature of their strategies and processes.

ABOUT THE RESOURCE PERSON



Madeeha Majid is a human rights advocate, having most recently served as a Project Officer [Forced Displacement] at PILNet—a non-governmental organization that pursues its mission to make the law work for all through its extensive network of pro bono lawyers and public interest lawyering. She brings a wealth of experience in international law, having worked in various intern and consultancy positions at reputed international organizations such as the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT), International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) for Syria, United Nations Development Programme, Kofi Annan Foundation, and Global Rights Compliance.

She is a cum-laude graduate of the Advanced Masters (LL.M.) in Public International Law Programme (2019-20) from Leiden University with a specialization in Peace, Justice, and Development. She also worked as a student researcher and junior supervisor on the “Digitally Derived Evidence (DDE) in International Criminal Law” project at Kalshoven-Gieskes Forum on International Humanitarian Law.

She earned a distinction in her five-year integrated law degree (B.A. LL.B. Economics Majors) from the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), located in Punjab, India. She participated in the RGNUL research centres devoted to humanitarian law and human rights, and she also contributed to a number of editorial and research projects.

GOALS OF THE WORKSHOP

- Understanding the working methods of International non-governmental organizations (INGOs);
- Exposure to their role as facilitators in human rights, especially relating to refugee rights, legal remedies, and barriers;
- Deconstructing the application of the concepts and norms of international human rights law to securing human rights in the practical context;
- Learning about the role of law students and legal clinics in facilitating pro bono support to affected communities.

OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP

- Recognizing the ever-increasing role of lawyers in human rights litigation;
- Deconstructing the practical application of the concepts and norms of international human rights law to refugee issues;
- Understanding the working and the role played by NGOs in securing human rights;
- Cultivating an aptitude for participation of law students in pro bono legal clinics

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Platform: Cisco WebEx

Link for Registration [payment link is attached in the form]

Registration Fee: 100 INR [exclusive of GST]

Last date of registration and payment: 20th August 2024

Important Note

This workshop is free for the students and faculty of RGNUL. Certificate of participation shall be provided to all the attendees.

SCHEDULE

Date: 24th August, Saturday

TIME	EVENTS
2:00-2:15 pm	Commencement of Workshop and Welcome Address
2:15-3:00 pm	Session 1
3:00-3:30pm	Break
3:30-4:15pm	Session 2
4:15-4:30pm	Break
4:30-5:00pm	Q&A Session and Closing Ceremony

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE WORKSHOP

- Only limited slots are available for the workshop.
- Payment receipt needs to be attached in the Google Form in order to complete the registration.
- The closure of the Registration and Payment Links would imply that the slots stand filled.
- Updates and reading material shall be sent over the registered email-IDs of the attendees.
- It shall be mandatory for every attendee to fill the Feedback Form in order to receive the certificate.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The workshop is open to students of law, international relations, social work and social sciences. Students who possess a significant interest in international law, humanitarian policy, peace and conflict, global security and development studies are welcome to attend. It is highly recommended for those who are inclined towards pro bono and justice causes, advocacy for social impact and aspiring human rights lawyers.

This workshop is also open to legal practitioners involved in human rights litigation, professionals building a career in human rights studies, social work and policy professionals working with thinktanks and civil society organizations. We also invite academicians to join us.

CONTACT INFORMATION



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