



National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam

Course:

BL107-A - Human Rights and Gender Violence in India

Human Rights and Gender Violence in India

This course delves into the complex intersection of human rights and gender violence in India. Designed for a diverse audience, it equips you with a critical understanding of the legal and social frameworks surrounding this issue.

Course Objectives:

- Analyze the concept of gender violence and its various forms in the Indian context.
- Explore the human rights framework protecting women and girls from violence.
- Examine key legislation and policies addressing gender violence in India.
- Critically evaluate the effectiveness of legal and social mechanisms in combating gender violence.
- Develop strategies for promoting gender equality and preventing violence against women and girls.

Course Structure:

The course will explore the following key areas:

Module 1: Understanding Gender Violence

- **Defining Gender Violence:** Exploring various forms of violence against women and girls, including physical, sexual, emotional, and economic abuse.
- **The Gender Context:** Examining the root causes of gender violence, including patriarchal norms, social inequalities, and discriminatory practices.
- **Impact of Gender Violence:** Analyzing the physical, psychological, and social consequences of violence on survivors, families, and communities.

Module 2: Human Rights and Gender Violence

- **Human Rights Framework:** Understanding the core human rights principles violated by gender violence, such as the right to life, security of person, freedom from torture, and non-discrimination.

- **International Instruments:** Exploring key international human rights treaties promoting women's rights and addressing violence against women, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- **National Human Rights Framework:** Analyzing relevant provisions of the Indian Constitution and national human rights laws that protect women's rights and address gender violence.

Module 3: Legal and Policy Responses

- **Legislation:** Examining key Indian legislation addressing gender violence, including the Domestic Violence Act, 2005, the Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2013, and the POCSO Act, 2012.
- **Policies and Programs:** Critically evaluating government policies and programs aimed at preventing and responding to gender violence.
- **The Role of Law Enforcement and Judiciary:** Assessing the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary in addressing cases of gender violence.

Module 4: Challenges and the Way Forward

- **Access to Justice:** Identifying challenges faced by survivors in accessing justice, including social stigma, lack of awareness about legal rights, and inadequate support systems.
- **The Role of Civil Society and NGOs:** Examining the role of civil society organizations and NGOs in advocating for legislation, providing support services to survivors, and raising awareness about gender violence.
- **Social Change and Prevention Strategies:** Exploring strategies for promoting gender equality, transforming social norms, and preventing gender violence at the societal level.

Module 5: Case Studies and Contemporary Issues

- **Analyzing Landmark Cases:** Critically evaluating significant court judgments on gender violence and their impact on legal principles.
- **Emerging Issues:** Discussing emerging forms of gender violence, such as cyber violence and trafficking, and the need for legal and social responses.
- **The Future of Addressing Gender Violence:** Exploring promising practices and innovative approaches to preventing and responding to gender violence in India.

Additional Resources:

- A comprehensive reading list will be provided, including relevant legislation, case studies, scholarly articles, reports by governmental and non-governmental organizations, and documentaries.
- Guest lectures from experts in the field of law, social work, psychology, and gender studies may be invited.
- Field visits to organizations working with survivors of gender violence or women's rights groups may be organized for practical exposure.

This course content offers a framework for a comprehensive exploration of human rights and gender violence in India. By integrating legal analysis with social and human rights perspectives, the course aims to empower you to critically engage with this critical issue and contribute to efforts to create a society free from gender violence.