

## **HUMR5502 - Dealing with Diversity: Human Rights Approaches to Ethnic Conflict**

Choose one -1- of the following three questions:

### **1 Ethnicity and Politics**

Few if any contemporary states are without social and political conflicts typically imagined as 'ethnic' in character. Moreover, such conflicts are frequently long-lasting, deep, violent and quite difficult to solve. Why is this so? Select at least two cases of entrenched ethnic conflict and make use of different disciplinary perspectives for analysing the conflicts in question and for explaining the power of ethnicity as a political and social force. How do the different perspectives stand in relation to each other, and how can they be (or not be) useful in a peace process?

### **2 Human rights and Political Stability**

The transition from open conflict towards democratic stability in a divided and conflict-ridden society poses numerous human rights challenges. Discuss different aspects of devolution of political power as mechanisms of human rights protection in such processes. Choose one or two countries with relevant experiences in order to illustrate opportunities and challenges as seen from a human rights perspective.

### **3 Indigenous Peoples and the State**

Various definitions of 'indigenous peoples' have been put forward and most of them include references to the relationship between the state (on whose lands the group in question lives) as well as to self-identity. With a particular view to the legal definitions given in ILO Convention 169/1989 and UNDRIP, and in the light of debates about group formation and citizenship presented throughout the course, choose at least two actual countries and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of such definitions in terms of how they can be said to accommodate the social and cultural diversity of the state in question.

