

Oslo, 26 January 2015

Welcome to the 2015 *Human Rights and Diversity: Leading Cases and Core Dilemmas!*

The cultural and religious diversity that is part of everyday life in a globalized world is providing the context for this multi-disciplinary course. In the course you will discuss, reflect upon and learn more about how religious, cultural and ethnic diversity is addressed in the jurisprudence of international, regional and national courts and institutions. The main focus is case-law in the fields of freedom of religion and belief, the rights of persons belonging to minorities and the rights of indigenous peoples. In the analysis of this case-law you will learn about the core content of these important human rights (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights arts. 1, 18 and 27, complemented by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights arts. 1 and 15 and the ILO 169 Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples). The case analysis should highlight some of the core dilemmas that States face in fulfilling the requirements of international human rights law, while taking various cultural traditions into consideration. We should focus the following dilemmas:

- Legal and ethical dilemmas in dealing with conflict between individual and collective rights
- Legal and ethical dilemmas in dealing with conflict between the legitimate interests of minorities and the majority

This year we will also present for discussion on-going and/or recent research which highlights the on-going challenges and controversies in the realization of human rights in the field of freedom of religion or belief, minority and indigenous peoples' rights:

1. Europe and freedom of religion or belief: Based on the high-level RELIGARE report commissioned by the European Union.
2. ASEAN and freedom of religion or belief: Based on a report on freedom of religion or belief in the ten ASEAN states, *Keeping the Faith: A Study of Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion in ASEAN* by the Human Rights Resource Center (NGO) published in Jakarta 12 January 2015. The situation in Indonesia will be a particular focus through the work of the Indonesia Programme at the NCHR.
3. China and the rights of minorities/indigenous peoples: Based on on-going research under the China Autonomy Programme (CAP) at the NCHR and the standards for rights-based development.
4. The environment and the rights of indigenous peoples: Based on the work of the Rainforest Foundation Norway in international and national contexts and normative developments in case-law and human rights instruments.

In the first session you start by reading some documents and one case, which will be posted on the web. Later everything will be provided through FRONTER, and some extra materials may be handed out in class. We hope to see you tomorrow at 10.15 at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, Cort Adlers gt. 30. Asbjørn Eide seminar room.

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