

***Human Rights and Diversity: Leading Cases and Core Dilemmas***

- *Master course offered by The Norwegian Centre for Human Rights*

**How do human rights balance the concern for minority and majority, individual and collective in a pluralistic society?**

In this multi-disciplinary course case-law is used as a point of departure to explore core legal and ethical dilemmas in balancing the legitimate interests of minorities and the majority, and dealing with conflicts between individual and collective rights from a human rights perspective.

It analyzes leading cases on the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples and the right to freedom of religion or belief. It also explores the legal limitations to these rights, constituted e.g. on the basis of the fundamental rights and freedoms of others, including the protection against discrimination on the basis of gender.

The main focus on the course is jurisprudence of international, regional and national courts and institutions, in particular from the UN Human Rights Committee and the European Court on Human Rights of the Council of Europe. The course also provides knowledge of relevant theoretical contributions from both legal scholars and philosophers to the underlying dilemmas that are revealed. In addition to lectures, students are also given the opportunity to prepare and present case studies inspired by the “moot court” methods.

The fundamental questions addressed by the leading cases of international human rights law on these issues, are related to ongoing legal controversies and public debates in various parts of the world, for instance:

- Should an indigenous woman be rejected the right to live on the territory given to her people if she marries a man outside the group? How and to what extent should the indigenous people be involved in development planning and decisions that affects their traditional way of life?
- Can public schools have compulsory religious education classes with a main focus on the majority tradition, and a crucifix on the wall of the classrooms? Should churches and other faith communities be allowed to reject women as religious leaders and in other core positions?

We hope to see you at the course at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, Cort Adlers gt. 30. Asbjørn Eide Seminar room. Welcome to the first class on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 10.15 am.