“Women’s Law and Human Rights”, spring term 2019
Overview and recommended reading

**Updated 17 December 2018**

**Time and place:**
All lectures will take place in Domus Academica, auditorium 6.
With the exception of week 1, all lectures take place at 10.15-12.00.
Note that week 8 is reading week, so there is no lecture Thursday 21 February.

**More information:**
Information about the course, lecture and exams is available on the webpage for JUS 5910:
[https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/jus/jus/JUS5910/](https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/jus/jus/JUS5910/)
More detailed information, handouts etc will be available on canvas, the digital learning platform for this course: [https://canvas.uio.no/](https://canvas.uio.no/)

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**1. Course introduction: Women’s human rights and overall principles of gender equality, non-discrimination and freedom in CEDAW and other international and regional conventions**

Lecturer: Prof. Ingunn Ikdahl
Time: 24 January at **9.15-11.00** *(note the time!)*

**Literature:**
- Cusack, Simone (2013) "The CEDAW as a legal framework for transnational discourses on gender stereotyping”. In A. Hellum and H. S. Aasen (eds), *Women’s Human Rights*. Cambridge University Press, p. 124-158 (34) [https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781139540841](https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781139540841)

**Relevant documents from UN treaty bodies:**
- CEDAW Committee, General Recommendation No. 28, “The core obligations of States parties under article 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women”
- CEDAW Committee, General Recommendation No. 25, “Article 4.1 – Temporary special measures”
- CESCR Committee, General Comment No. 20, “Non-discrimination in economic, social and cultural rights (art. 2, para 2)”
- Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 28, “Equality of rights between men and women, Article 3”

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**2. Gender discrimination: One-dimensional and multi-dimensional. Direct, indirect, and structural discrimination.**

Lecturer: Prof. Ingunn Ikdahl
Time: 31 January

**Literature:**


Relevant documents from UN treaty bodies:
- CEDAW Committee, General Recommendation No. 28, “The core obligations of States parties under article 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women”
- CEDAW Committee, General Recommendation No. 25, “Article 4.1 – Temporary special measures”
- CESCR Committee, General Comment No. 20, “Non-discrimination in economic, social and cultural rights (art. 2, para 2)”
- Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 28, “Equality of rights between men and women, Article 3”

3. Protection against discrimination: The human rights machinery, state reporting procedures and individual complaint procedures

Lecturer: Prof. Ingunn Ikdahl
Time: 7 February

Literature:

Relevant documents from UN treaty bodies:
- Will be provided in canvas

4. Engendering social and economic rights: Women’s rights to land and water

Lecturer: Prof. Ingunn Ikdahl
Time: 14 February

Literature:

**Relevant documents from UN treaty bodies:**
- CEDAW General Recommendation No. 34, “The rights of rural women”
- CEDAW General Recommendation No. 29, “Article 16 - Economic consequences of marriage, family relations and their dissolution”
- CESCER Committee General Comment No. 15, “The right to water (articles 11 and 12)”

**5. Protection against violence as a gender equality issue: rights to integrity, dignity and equality**
Lecturer: Prof. Anne Hellum
Time: 28 February

**Literature:**

**Relevant documents from UN treaty bodies:**
- CEDAW General Recommendation No. 19, “Violence against women”
- CEDAW General Recommendation No. 35, “Gender-based violence against women”
- CEDAW General Recommendation No. 31/ Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No. 18 (joint document), “Harmful practices”

**6. Religion, culture, equality, and freedom**
Lecturer: Prof. Vibeke Blaker Strand
Time: 7 March

**Literature:**
7. Reproductive rights: the right to self-determination and equality
Lecturer: Prof. Anne Hellum
Time: 14 March

Literature:

Relevant documents from UN treaty bodies:
- CEDAW Committee General Recommendation No. 24, “Women and Health, article 12”

8. Translating international law into local norms and practices: Human rights and legal pluralism
Lecturer: Prof. Ingunn Ikdahl
Time: 21 March

Literature:

Relevant documents from UN treaty bodies:
- CEDAW General Recommendation No. 33, “Women’s access to justice”

9. The implementation of CEDAW in European, Asian, Latin American and African countries: Group presentations
Lecturer: Prof. Ingunn Ikdahl
Time: 28 March

10. Work and equality: Pregnancy, part time work, positive discrimination
Literature:
- Susanne Burri and Helga Aune (2014) "Sex Discrimination in Relation to Part-Time and Fixed Term Work", in *European Gender Equality Law Review*, No. 1 (2014) p.11-21,

Relevant documents from UN treaty bodies:
- CEDAW General Recommendation No. 25, “Article 4,1. Temporary Special Measures”
- CESCR Committee General Comment No. 20, “Non-Discrimination in Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (art 2, para 2)”
- See also canvas, where European case law concerning work and equality will be provided

11. Summing up & mock exam

Literature:
- There is no special reading requirement required for this lecture.
- Partly, we will go through the mock exam. Writing/submitting a mock exam is voluntary, but highly recommended! Theme and dates will be announced later.
- Partly, we will take a look at some of the broader themes cutting across this course, i.a. the CEDAW’s contribution to international law, its strengths and weaknesses.

Finding the recommended reading:

For the literature, web links are provided. Note that access may require that you are logged on through a university connection, either at campus or using remote access:
[https://www.ub.uio.no/english/using/remote-access.html](https://www.ub.uio.no/english/using/remote-access.html)

Relevant legal materials from the UN treaty bodies can be accessed from a range of different websites. I recommend these:
- The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW):
- The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR):
  [https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CESCR/Pages/CESCRindex.aspx](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CESCR/Pages/CESCRindex.aspx)
- The Human Rights Committee (civil and political rights, CCPR):
  [https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CCPR/Pages/CCPRIndex.aspx](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CCPR/Pages/CCPRIndex.aspx)
- For individual complaints (all treaty bodies): [http://juris.ohchr.org/](http://juris.ohchr.org/)