

***BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN THEORY AND PRACTICE: BREAKING DOWN THE INDISPENSABLE ROLE OF NGOS IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW***

**NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW BY CASH, RGNUL**

**EVENT REPORT**

On 24<sup>th</sup> August 2024, the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab collaborated with the Centre for Advanced Study in International Humanitarian Law to organise the first National Capacity Building Workshop on International Human Rights Law. The resource person for the workshop was Madeeha Majid, an international lawyer and human rights advocate who holds significant experience in international law. She is a cum-laude graduate of the Advanced Masters (LL.M.) in Public International law programme (2019-20) from Leiden University. Prior to this, she completed a 5-years integrated law degree (B.A. LL.B. Economics Majors) with a distinction from the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab, India.

The lecture was conducted under the able guidance of the Vice Chancellor, Professor (Dr.) Jai Shankar Singh, Registrar, Professor (Dr.) Anand Pawar and the faculty coordinators Dr Sukhwinder Kaur Virk Assistant Professor of Law, Dr Sangeeta Taak Assistant Professor of Law and Dr Saurabh Sharma Assistant Professor of Legal Research.

The virtual workshop deconstructed the practical application of theoretical principles, highlighting the significant role played by international non-governmental organizations in advancing the implementation of the law. It delved into the working methods of International non-governmental organizations (INGOs). It was attended by 130+ participants, ranging across students, research scholars, professors and legal practitioners.

The first session into the basic structure of INGOs, the issues addressed by them, networks of pro bono lawyers and Magic Circle firms, and funding opportunities. Madeeha Majid explained the process of formulating cases and connecting affected individuals with law firms, followed by the systemic racism that plagues the responses to conflicts. She touched upon the digital tools used to find legal assistance and the global North-South divide. She shared her insights on challenges, opportunities and lessons for a career in this domain.

The second session emphasised the importance and structure of pro bono mechanisms that look for clients that require help and act as channels to provide legal assistance and access to justice. She touched upon global legal community pledges where law firms devote a stipulated number of pro bono hours in adherence to their CSR policy. She also utilized 2 comprehensive case studies to demonstrate how the mechanisms facilitate swift solutions for aggrieved individuals that involved the application of refugee law, family law and women's rights. She spoke of the challenges addressed by many organizations and the organization of pro bono legal conferences that involve stakeholders mapping the ideal tools and resources with well-established parties to work together and increase dialogue on refugee management issues. She also enumerated upon projects that seek to decolonize legal aid by uprooting the white saviour complex and replacing it with grassroots approaches that foster respect for the cultures and beliefs of affected communities.

The last segment of the workshop was a Q&A session that involved active participation of attendees to pose questions about the subject matter and professional opportunities in the domain of international law.

The student coordinator, Aditi Sadhu thanked the resource person for their wonderful insights and expressed gratitude towards the faculty and the attendees for making the workshop a huge success.