

CONFERENCE REPORT

XV INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER JUSTICE

Organised by Knowledge Steez Edu Hub LLP in collaboration with CASH, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), University of Malaga, Spain, and Nelson Mandela University, South Africa

12th September 2026 (online) | 4th October 2026 (at Indian Law Institute)

Venue for the in-person program: Indian Law Institute (ILI), New Delhi

INTRODUCTION

The XV International Conference on Human Rights and Gender Justice brought together two scheduled programs: an online academic program on 12th September 2026 and an in-person conference at the Indian Law Institute (ILI), New Delhi, on 4 October 2026, organised by Knowledge Steez Edu Hub LLP in collaboration with CASH, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), the University of Malaga, Spain, and Nelson Mandela University, South Africa, the conference continued a longstanding commitment to legal education, research and dialogue on human rights marking its 15th consecutive year.

Across the two dates, the schedules covered a wide range of issues: gender equality, violence against women and children, trafficking, workplace rights, access to justice, LGBTQIA+ and transgender rights, disability rights, reproductive autonomy, migration, detention, digital violence, artificial intelligence, privacy, labour rights and environmental justice. Taken together, the sessions reflected how human-rights questions cross borders and disciplines, and how legal protections must be assessed not only on paper but also in their practical application.

The online program marked day 1 of the conference and began with an Inaugural session scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Dr. Reema Bhattacharya, Conference Co-Convenor and Associate Professor at

Jagannath University, delivered the welcome address. The schedule then listed addresses by Dr. Edna Raquel Hogemann, UNESCO Chair in Bioethics; Prof. Richard L. Roe of Georgetown University Law Center; Dr. Sukhwinder Virk of Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab; Dr. Irina Pluzhnik, Deputy Director for International Relations at the School of Law and Governance; and Prof. (Dr.) Elena Gladun of the University of Tyumen, Russian Federation. Dr. Niteesh Kumar Upadhyay, Founder of Knowledge Steez Edu Hub, delivered the vote of thanks.

Following the inaugural session, parallel paper presentations (147 in number) were conducted in multiple rooms (total of 11 in number) on zoom, with resource persons and session experts from different institutions and jurisdictions. The papers addressed refugee protection and non-refoulement, child soldiers and children affected by incarceration, reproductive rights, gender-based violence, sexual violence in armed conflict, child sexual exploitation, women's healthcare in prison, climate-induced displacement, menstrual health, workplace harassment, trafficking and organised crime. Other presentations considered legal aid, digital discrimination, AI-generated deepfakes, LGBTQIA+

rights, transgender identity, disability rights, custodial violence, migrant workers, reproductive autonomy and the protection of children's rights.

The breadth of the 12th September program gave the conference a comparative and international character. The online format also enabled participation beyond New Delhi and provided space for researchers and students to contribute to the wider discussion.

IN-PERSON CONFERENCE — 4th OCTOBER 2026

The **in-person program marked day 2** and took place at **the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi**. The schedule included desk registration at 8.40 AM before the inaugural session beginning at 9.50 AM, Dr. Navtika Singh Nautiyal, Conference Convenor and Faculty Advisor, Knowledge Steez Edu Hub, welcomed the participants.

The dignitaries listed for the inaugural session included Prof. (Dr.) Bharti Kumar, Professor at National Law University Delhi; Dr. Raghvendra Shrinet, Legal Advisor to the Commissioner of Police, Delhi; Shri Ramesh Chandra Srivastava, Special Judicial Magistrate, High Court of Delhi; Prof. (Dr.) V. K. Ahuja, Director of the Indian Law Institute; His Excellency Armando Pedro Muíuane Júnior, High Commissioner of the Republic of Mozambique to the Republic of India; and Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Kumar Sinha, Vice Chancellor of Dharmashastra National Law University as the chief guest.

6TH LEGAL AID AWARDS AND BOOK LAUNCH

The inaugural also included and marked the 6th consecutive year of the Legal Aid Awards given by Knowledge Steez, underscoring the continuing importance of legal aid and access to justice. A total of 12 universities were awarded by the dignitaries. A **book-launch segment** followed the award ceremony; featured 1 book work associated with the 14th International Conference on Human Rights and Gender Justice and a 2nd book titled "Labour Laws and Human Rights." The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Niteesh Kumar Upadhyay, Founder of Knowledge Steez Edu Hub.

KNOWLEDGE STEEZ ACHIEVEMENT AND EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The fifteenth edition was also an opportunity created by Dr. Ankita Upadhyay (Partner, Knowledge Steez) to acknowledge the people in organization whose sustained efforts helped shape the Knowledge Steez journey. **The Knowledge Steez Achievement Awards** were presented in recognition of long-standing association and consistent hard work to Dr. Navtika Singh Nautiyal and Mahak Rathee for their association with Knowledge Steez over the past 15 years, and to Adv. Srishti Agarwal for constant hard work.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS AND PAPER PRESENTATIONS

The 4 October schedule arranged paper presentations across parallel rooms, with session chairs, moderators and resource persons guiding the academic discussions. 3 sessions and 3 parallel sessions consisting of 87 presentations were organized post the inaugural session. Resource persons and

session chairs included a variation between academicians, NGO members including Chairperson CWC Delhi and Law firm partners and advocates.

KEY EMERGING THEMES

- Gender justice and equality: workplace harassment, reproductive autonomy, inheritance, political representation and gender-based violence.
- Children's rights and protection: child sexual exploitation, online grooming, juvenile justice, education and children affected by imprisonment or displacement.
- Access to justice: legal aid, workplace remedies, protection of witnesses, custodial concerns and institutional accountability.
- Inclusion and non-discrimination: LGBTQIA+ and transgender rights, disability rights, older persons and marginalised communities.
- Technology and human rights: AI-enabled harms, deepfakes, cyber violence, online harassment, privacy and digital surveillance.
- International and comparative perspectives: refugee protection, non-refoulement, armed conflict, national security, migration and state responsibility.
- Livelihood and environmental justice: labour rights, gig work, e-waste, climate-related displacement and the right to livelihood.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND PERSONAL REFLECTION

The successful coordination of a program spanning two dates, online sessions and an in-person gathering depended on the collective work of the organising and convenor teams, collaborating institutions, invited dignitaries, session chairs, moderators, resource persons, paper presenters, researchers, students and participants. Knowledge Steez Edu Hub LLP records its sincere appreciation for their contribution to the conference.

Special appreciation is due to the department of CASH, RGNUL, Patiala for their constant and meaningful association throughout the conference and the **selfless efforts of the advisory committee** inclusive of Dr. Sangeeta Taak (Assistant Professor, senior grade, RGNUL) and Dr. Sukhwinder Virk (Assistant Professor, RGNUL)

The organising team also acknowledges Dr. Ankita Upadhyay for her leadership and vision throughout the conference and Dr. Navtika Singh Nautiyal, Dr. Reema Bhattacharya, Mahak Rathee and Adv. Srishti Agarwal for their coordination and work with the convenor team and the entire organizing committee of students since the month of July. Their efforts formed part of the practical work required to bring the scheduled conference together.

CONCLUSION

The XV International Conference on Human Rights and Gender Justice brought together a wide range of academic and professional perspectives through its online conference on 12th September 2026 and the in-person session scheduled for 4th October 2026. The inaugural, legal aid awards, book

launch, award acknowledgements and parallel paper sessions reflected the conference's continuing focus on equality, dignity, access to justice and institutional responsibility.