



## Consolidated Report of DME International Conference

IN COLLABORATION WITH



University  
for Peace



IN ASSOCIATION WITH

**Centre for Advanced Studies in International Humanitarian Law, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab, Centre for Research in Public Law, Policy and Jurisprudence, Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai, Centre of Research and Studies in Human Rights, Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur, Centre for Disability Studies, Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, and National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam. International partners such as Youth for Human Rights International (Nigeria), Activate Green (Kenya), and AL-AGHSAN Foundation (Iraq)**



## Public Health and Human Rights: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Equity, Justice, and Resilience

**Organized by:** DME Law School, Delhi Metropolitan Education, Noida

**Dates:** 2nd–3rd May 2025

**Location:** Delhi Metropolitan Education, Noida (Hybrid Format)

The *DME International Conference on Public Health and Human Rights, 2025* marked a milestone in academic engagement, uniting global scholars, legal experts, public health professionals, policymakers, and students to deliberate on the intersections of health, human rights, and justice. Held over two days in a hybrid format, the conference adopted a multidisciplinary approach under the central theme of “*Equity, Justice, and Resilience.*”

Organized by DME Law School in collaboration with the University for Peace, Costa Rica, the event was strengthened by robust partnerships with national and international academic institutions, civil society organizations, and professional bodies.

## Conference Support and Collaborations

The conference was made possible by the generous support of numerous academic, institutional, and outreach collaborators. The list of institutional collaborators included leading Indian National Law Universities— Centre for Advanced Studies in International Humanitarian Law, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab, Centre for Research in Public Law, Policy and Jurisprudence, Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai, Centre of Research and Studies in Human Rights, Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur, Centre for Disability Studies, Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, and National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam. International partners such as Youth for Human Rights International (Nigeria), Activate Green (Kenya), and AL-AGHSAN Foundation (Iraq) further broadened the global scope of the event

The event was powered by Vidhiśāstras Advocates & Solicitors and the academic and outreach supporters included Manupatra (Knowledge Partner), LawBhoomi and Katcheri.in (Media Partners), Conventus Law (International Media Partner), EcoEx Foundation (Sustainability Partner), and Indie Ray (Gifting Partner). These organizations played a key role in supporting the conference’s vision of legal innovation, social justice, and sustainable practice.

### **Online Inaugural Ceremony**

The conference commenced with a vibrant Online Inaugural Ceremony that brought together delegates and speakers from across the globe. The ceremony set the tone for the two-day academic discourse by reaffirming the idea that public health is not merely a service but a human right grounded in dignity, justice, and collective responsibility.

The ceremony featured a distinguished panel of speakers whose messages emphasized inclusivity, transdisciplinary collaboration, and the urgent need to strengthen legal frameworks to support equitable health outcomes.

*Prof. (Dr.) Ravikant Swami, Director of DME*, delivered the opening address, emphasizing the vital role that academic institutions must play in promoting justice, rights-based policymaking, and sustainable public health strategies. Hon’ble Justice Bhanwar Singh, Director General of DME and Former Judge of the Allahabad High Court, reflected on the constitutional underpinnings of health as a right and shared insights on the judiciary’s responsibility in safeguarding human dignity, especially for vulnerable populations.

*Prof. (Dr.) K.V.S. Sarma, Vice-Chancellor of NLUJA Assam*, addressed the audience with a call for policy inclusivity, highlighting the importance of decentralizing healthcare access and ensuring regional equity. *Prof. (Dr.) Amar Pal Singh, Vice-Chancellor of RMLNLU Lucknow*, emphasized the convergence of law, ethics, and public health, and advocated for embedding empathy and resilience within legal education. Bringing in a global perspective, *Prof. Pierfrancesco Rossi from the University of Teramo, Italy*, elaborated on international health law frameworks and the significance of global solidarity in tackling health inequalities.

The session concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Prof. (Dr.) Rajinder Kaur Randhawa, Head of DME Law School, who acknowledged the collective efforts of all partners, dignitaries, and participants.

## Offline Inaugural Ceremony

The second leg of the inaugural celebrations was held on campus at DME in a traditional, ceremonial setting. The Offline Inaugural Ceremony was graced by prominent guests, diplomats, and academic leaders. The event began with the symbolic lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the dignitaries, invoking the spirit of wisdom and knowledge. Guests were welcomed with eco-friendly planters, a gesture that underscored the event's commitment to environmental sustainability.

The Chief Guest for the ceremony was *Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities and Ex-Officio Member of the NHRC*. In his keynote address, he drew on decades of experience in law enforcement and minority rights advocacy to discuss the importance of inclusive governance, religious harmony, and the protection of civil liberties.

Guests of Honour included *Mr. Evgeny Antonov (Attaché, Russian Embassy), Mr. Maxime Saleur and Mr. Gregory Shmidt (French and Russian Embassies), and Prof. (Dr.) Rashmi Khorana Nagpal (SVKM's NMIMS, Chandigarh)*. Their addresses emphasized the need for intergovernmental cooperation and cultural diplomacy in strengthening public health and human rights mechanisms.

A highlight of the offline ceremony was the launch of the book *"Human Rights & Human Wrongs: Dilemmas and Diversity in Criminology."* The book was unveiled by the dignitaries, with remarks from Prof. (Dr.) Nagpal on its relevance to current debates in criminal law, sociology, and human rights discourse. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. (Dr.) Rajinder Kaur Randhawa, followed by the national anthem.

## Panel Discussion

Panelists from across the globe came together for a compelling panel discussion on *"Truth, Trust, and Power: Epistemic Justice in Global Health Crisis."* The session featured a diverse group of experts who brought rich and varied perspectives to the conversation. Prof. Harith Burhan Al-Din from Iraq, serving as the Senior Advisor for Sustainable Development and Public Health Policy at the University of Tekrist, contributed insights from the Middle Eastern region. Dr. Mihir Kanade, Full Professor and Head of the Department of International Law, as well as Director of the UPEACE Human Rights Centre at the University for Peace (established by the United Nations) in San José, Costa Rica, offered a legal and rights-based approach to the topic. Notably, he also chairs the UN-appointed drafting group for the Draft International Covenant on the Right to Development, underscoring his key role in shaping global development discourse.

Lisette Gonzalez, Coordinator of Monitoring, Research and Dissemination at The Venezuelan Program for Education and Action in Human Rights (Provea), shared important reflections on the human rights implications of health crises in Latin America. Jacob J. Shelley, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law and the School of Health Studies, Faculty of Health Sciences, provided an interdisciplinary view, highlighting the connections between law, ethics, and public health. From India, Dr. Ankit Chandra, Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Medicine at AIIMS-CAPFIMS, Delhi, presented perspectives on community

health and the Indian healthcare system's response to global crises. Thayu Wainaina from Bristol, Founder and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Activate Green, added an environmental dimension to the discussion, emphasizing the links between sustainability and health equity. Together, the panelists explored how epistemic justice—fairness in the way knowledge is constructed and shared—plays a critical role in shaping responses to global health emergencies, and how trust, truth, and power influence public health outcomes across different regions.

### **Technical Sessions (Online & Offline)**

At the heart of the conference were the extensive paper presentation sessions, which enabled robust academic exchange and interdisciplinary research dissemination. The technical sessions were conducted in both offline and online formats to maximize accessibility and engagement.

Offline Technical Sessions were held in three parallel conference rooms at DME, categorized as Technical Session 1 (TS1), Technical Session 2 (TS2), and Technical Session 3 (TS3). Each session was chaired by distinguished faculty members and domain experts. Researchers from across India presented papers on a variety of sub-themes such as public health law, reproductive rights, bioethics, pandemic governance, environmental health justice, indigenous healthcare systems, and more.

Online Technical Sessions ran concurrently via digital platforms, ensuring active participation from international presenters. Scholars from Uganda, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and the United Kingdom shared diverse global perspectives on healthcare rights and access. The virtual sessions were well-coordinated and featured interactive Q&A segments, providing constructive feedback to paper presenters.

Across both formats, over 200 papers were presented and 450+ participants actively engaged in the sessions, making it one of the most academically dynamic events hosted by DME Law School.

### **Hybrid Valedictory Ceremony**

The conference culminated in a Hybrid Valedictory Ceremony, bringing together participants from both virtual and physical spaces in a celebratory conclusion to the event. The ceremony opened with reflections on the central theme—underscoring that injustice in health is one of the gravest forms of inequality, echoing the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Prof. (Dr.) Ravikant Swami and Hon'ble Justice Bhanwar Singh welcomed the gathering and reflected on the conference's impact in terms of scholarly enrichment, student engagement, and institutional responsibility in public discourse. They encouraged continued collaboration to develop policy, advocacy, and legal tools that can drive equitable healthcare systems.

The guest address was delivered by *Mr. Ashish Deep Verma, Supreme Court Advocate and Managing Partner of Vidhiśāstras Advocates & Solicitors*. He shared his journey in the legal field, highlighting the importance of pro bono service, global legal collaborations, and ethical lawyering. His remarks inspired students to align their legal careers with social impact.

The Valedictory Address was delivered by *Prof. (Dr.) Alka Chawla, Professor-in-Charge of Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi*. A respected academic and policymaker, she spoke

on the evolution of intellectual property law in the context of public welfare and human rights, and emphasized the need for a jurisprudence that balances innovation with inclusion.

The ceremony included the announcement of awards for best paper presentations and the distribution of certificates to all participants. Guests and contributors were felicitated for their support. Prof. (Dr.) Rajinder Kaur Randhawa delivered the final vote of thanks, expressing deep appreciation for the effort and dedication shown by all stakeholders. The event concluded with a group photograph and high tea, marking the end of a successful academic gathering.

## Conclusion

The DME International Conference on Public Health and Human Rights, 2025, stood as a testament to the power of collaboration, scholarship, and compassion in shaping the legal and ethical contours of public health policy. Through three impactful ceremonies—online, offline, and hybrid—and multiple research sessions, the conference elevated the discourse on human rights in healthcare, embedded sustainability and inclusivity into its framework, and set a benchmark for hybrid academic engagement.

## Key Takeaways

- Over 450 participants and 200 paper presentations from India and abroad.
- Supported by a strong network of institutional collaborators and outreach partners.
- Thematically rich with a focus on justice, equity, interdisciplinarity, and sustainability.
- Included addresses from distinguished judges, legal scholars, diplomats, and practitioners.







zoom Workplace

Dr Mihir Kanade (UPEACE)	Dr. R. K. Randhawa	Amrapalli Sharma	Lisette González
Dr. Ankit Chandra	Jacob Shelley	DELHI METROPOLITAN EDUCATIO	DELHI METROPOLITAN EDUCATIO
Thayu Wainaina	Prof. (Dr.) Neha Bahl	DELHI METROPOLITAN EDUCATIO	Neha Sharma
Ahushua Chakravarty	Aashay Tripathi	QM VARSHNEY	Nanda Kumar
Gunjita Pant	Ayush Pandey	Srijan Sahay	Dr. Gargi Bhatt

**Panel Discussion\_ Truth, Trust, an...**

Due to the large number of participants in this meeting, system messages for those who joined or left have been disabled

Jacob Shelley 20:47

Thank you to everyone for participating and to my fellow panelists. Best wishes.

Dr Mihir Kanade (UPEACE) 20:47

Thanks to you and all others as well. Best wishes.

Lisette González 20:48

Thank you very much for the invitation and the discussion with all of you. Best wishes

You 20:51

Thank You everyone for taking out your precious time and joining this meaningful discussion.

Who can see your messages? Recording on

To: Meeting group chat

Message Panel Discussion\_ Truth, Trust, and Power: Epistemic Justice in Global Health

