



Women's Crusade for Equality

- Shreya Patni (IV B.A.LL.B.)

Discrimination against women is defined as any distinction, exclusion, or restriction, made on the basis of sex, with the purpose or effect of impairing the enjoyment by women of political, economic, social, cultural, or civil human rights on equal footing with men.

Women's rights are now finally being recognized as human rights. However, its pragmatic integration is still far from reality. This journey on the international stage has not been easy but the challenge still lies ahead with the effective implementation of legislation.

Since the 20th century, there have been numerous but scattered movements across the world, mostly driven by upper class European and American women specifically striving for civil and political rights such as the right to vote, participation in the political framework, and access to the judicial system, among others. Bodies such as the International Congress of Women (ICW) and Socialist Women's International (SWI) aimed to achieve more

representation for women but the lack of international organizations with members across the globe at the time acted as a barrier.

After the formation of the UN, the gaps were bridged when specialized bodies were formed which acted as a platform for women worldwide. The Conferences on Women, including the ones in Mexico, Copenhagen, Nairobi, Beijing and New York inspired various movements while the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) proved to be the most crucial for addressing women's issues. It has inspired the progress of domestic violence laws in countries like South Africa, Korea, Nepal, Turkey, laws criminalizing femicide in Panama, violence against women in Burkina Faso, anti-trafficking laws in Moldova and Ukraine, and gender-responsive budgeting laws in Sri Lanka among others.

Furthermore, the CEDAW Committee is set in place, composed of experts who inspect and look over the laws put in place by state parties and are answerable to it. Similarly, regional treaties have played their part in their

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The EU Delegation in Rwanda announced an aid package valued at €22 million to the Rwandan government to evacuate at-risk refugees and asylum seekers from Libya. In effect, the package ensures the refugees have "access to safe shelter, healthcare including psychosocial support, training in different skills." For more information, see [here](#).

The US welcomed 222 released political prisoners from Nicaragua. The US Department of State heralded their arrival as a "constructive step towards addressing human rights abuses" in Nicaragua. The prisoners were kept in the Modelo and La Esperanza prisons, and some were in prison for as long as two years. For more information, see [here](#) and [here](#).

The Ukrainian President's Chief of Staff announced that 116 Ukrainian prisoners of war and 63 Russian soldiers have been released and returned home. For more information, see [here](#).



respective regions. The [Maputo Protocol](#) has addressed the violence issues faced by women in their family, at work and any other such places and calls for elimination of female genital mutilation in Africa. The [Belém do Pará Convention](#) incorporates a wide spectrum of women's rights including human rights and fundamental freedoms.

However, to this day, women's rights' violations are excused as cultural or religious practices by most countries. There is an urgent need to amalgamate mainstream human rights and specialized women's rights to achieve the aims that have been laid down in various conventions.

The Peruvian Political Crisis

- Rudransh Singh (III B.A.LL.B.)

The crisis in Peru is the result of the power struggle between Pedro Castillo and Congress. He came into power in [2021](#), after promising to bring political stability and remove inequality. Two years later, he was unable to solve these problems and found himself tangled in a web of allegations of rampant corruption and administrative incompetence. This

led to [demonstrations](#) across the country. Dina Boluarte, was sworn in as president on the same day Pedro was removed from office.

Most [studies](#) link the unrest to past injustice, discrimination against native people, and the country's unsustainable centralism. They draw attention to the fact that decision-makers routinely fail to take into account remote regions when making choices that may affect them and frequently have openly prejudiced views about indigenous people. Castillo was expected to address this systemic problem given his own humble [status](#) as a Campesino, or someone of Andean descent who tends the soil.

It seems improbable that Boluarte will serve out the balance of Castillo's term, given no Peruvian president has completed their term since [2016](#). However, this issue does not have a clear answer. Despite [calls](#) for new elections, the Congress of Peru [voted](#) on Saturday to reject a plan for elections in December 2023. The left-wing [demand](#) that these elections be accompanied by a constituent assembly to rewrite the country's constitution, a

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Russia denied US allegations that it violated the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START). Amid new US calls for Russia to allow nuclear inspectors in the country, the Russian foreign ministry alleges that "US activities" violated the treaty's prescribed inspection procedures. In 2022, Russia halted arms inspections under New START, claiming that US sanctions made it too difficult to comply with that provision of the treaty. For more information, see [here](#).

The International Joint Investigation Team (JIT) formed in 2014 by the Netherlands, Australia, Ukraine, Malaysia and Belgium, found that the Buk TELAR missile that collided with flight MH17 was provided by the Russian Federation during armed conflict between Russian separatists and the Ukrainian army. For more information, see [here](#).

Türkiye President reaffirmed that his nation does not support Sweden's application to join NATO after several public burnings of the Quran in Stockholm. For more information, see [here](#).



holdover from the Fujimori era, which contributed to the current crisis by allowing the president to dissolve Congress and rule by decree.

The reality that continuing inequality and discrimination are the main drivers of the upheaval in Peru cannot be denied. But above all, we are witnessing a democracy currently being eaten alive by corruption. Any transformation, however, that does not include a comprehensive and successful anti-corruption campaign will not produce the long-term solution the country needs.

Iranian Protests

- Devansh Bhatt (III B.A.LL.B.)

In 2022, Iran was rocked by a wave of protests that swept across the country and garnered international attention. The protests were initially sparked by the government's decision to reduce subsidies on basic goods, including food and fuel, causing prices to soar. However, they quickly evolved into broader demonstrations against the country's political and economic system and the widespread corruption, poverty, and lack of individual freedoms.

The protests started in Tehran and quickly spread to other cities. They were largely peaceful in nature, with people taking to the streets to voice their frustration and demand change. However, the demonstrations were met with a heavy-handed response from the security forces, who used tear gas, water cannons, and live ammunition to disperse the crowds. The violence resulted in hundreds of casualties, including several deaths, and thousands of arrests. The Iranian government initially tried to downplay the protests and claimed that they were being instigated by foreign elements, but as the demonstrations continued, their response became increasingly authoritarian.

The international community was divided in its response to the protests, with some countries expressing support for the demonstrators, while others were more cautious in their criticism. The United States and its allies were the most vocal supporters of the protesters, with many officials calling for an end to the violence and the release of political prisoners. As the protests continued, the Iranian government

News at a Glance

The UNDP reported that unemployment plays a key role in pushing people to join extremist groups in the Southern Sahara. The report indicates a 92 percent increase in the number of volunteer recruits pushed to such groups due to lack of jobs. For more information, see [here](#).

The UN Human Rights Chief called on Mali to reverse its expulsion of Guillaume Ngefa-Atondoko Andali, head of the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Mali's government declared Andali persona non grata, though he was already outside Mali. For more information, see [here](#).

The Chinese balloon that floated over US airspace before being shot down by a US military jet raised questions of international law on both the US and Chinese sides. The US claims that the balloon was a spy balloon and alleged a violation of sovereignty, while China maintains that it was a civilian scientific research balloon that had strayed off course. For more information, see [here](#).



began to offer concessions in an attempt to defuse the situation. The authorities promised to investigate reports of police brutality and human rights abuses, and the government announced plans to increase social spending and create jobs. However, these measures failed to quell the anger of the protesters, who were demanding more fundamental changes to the political and economic system.

The economic crisis in Iran deepened by the return of U.S. sanctions, which have severely impacted the country's oil exports and access to the global financial system. This has led to inflation and a shortage of basic goods, fuelling public discontent. The government's handling of the situation, including restrictions on access to information and a crackdown on protests, has further inflamed the situation.

The 2023 presidential election has heightened tensions within the country and between Iran and the international community. Additionally, Iran's nuclear program has once again become a major concern. It has been gradually increasing its

enrichment of uranium, raising concerns about its potential to develop nuclear weapons, leading to increased pressure from the international community to return to negotiations and limit the country's nuclear capabilities.

While the protests have died down, they left a lasting impact on the country and the people, and are a reminder of the deep-seated frustrations and desires for change that exist within Iranian society. They serve as a testament to the courage and determination of the Iranian people in their pursuit for freedom and justice.

Natural Disasters: Human Lives and International Politics

- Tanmay Umbarkar (IV B.A.LL.B.)

Earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, volcanic eruptions, and forest fires are the curse of nature. An earthquake struck Turkey and Syria on 6th February 2023 at midnight. It claimed the lives of more than 30,000 people.

Under such circumstances, all affected people suffer immensely. Rescue operations help save lives, but other problems such as medical emergencies, food supply

Upcoming Activities

The Law & Practice of International Courts and Tribunals: 2023 Rosalyn Higgins Prize

The Rosalyn Higgins Prize is an annual prize which awards EUR 1,000 of Brill book vouchers and a one-year LPICT subscription to the author of the best article on the law and practice of the International Court of Justice, either focusing solely on the ICJ or with the ICJ as one of the dispute settlement mechanisms under consideration. For more information, see [here](#).

Call for Papers: Forests at the Crossroads of International Law

The University of Copenhagen (Centre for International Law and Governance) has issued a call for papers for a workshop on the theme "Forests at the crossroads of international law." The deadline for abstract submission is 31st March, 2023. For more information, see [here](#).



shortages, and sanitation requirements emerge. A single nation falls short; this is where collective support and aid from friendly nations plays the deciding role in disaster management.

For this, States have collectively developed International Disaster Response Law (IDRL). IDRL is not a comprehensive framework, but it has gone through multiple revisions to provide aid during emergency and non-emergency situations. Conventions like Kyoto Convention (1999) and Istanbul Convention (1990) aid this by calling for exemption of certain equipment and consignments from custom duties and processes.

The UNGA passed Resolution 46/182, calling for strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance for victims of natural disasters. It imposes a primary duty upon the affected State for initiation, organization, coordination, and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory. The UN also recognized, through the Sendai Framework, the duty to substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems,

disaster risk information, and assessments by 2030.

In response to the earthquake, various nations including the United States of America, China, India, Japan, and Britain sent rescue personnel, tonnes of food supplies, and other essential medication. These actions reaffirm one's faith in humanity and assures us that the international community can keep away their political interests and rivalries when required.

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Upcoming Activities

Call for Papers: The De-legalization of International Law – Social Science Perspectives

The ESIL Interest Group on Social Sciences and International Law will hold a pre-conference workshop. The deadline for abstracts is 10th April 2023. For more information, see [here](#).

Call for Abstracts: International Journal of Refugee Law – Special Issue on Gender

The International Journal of Refugee Law invites abstracts of 300 words – for articles up to 8,000 words (including footnotes), focusing on the legal aspects of gender in refugee protection. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 31st March, 2023. For more information, see [here](#).

SCIEL Seminar: Digital Rights and the Outer Limits of International Human Rights Law

The Sheffield Centre for International and European Law (SCIEL) will host an online seminar on 24th February, 2023. For more information, see [here](#).