

UNDERSTANDING HUMAN RIGHTS

St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Jointly with SICHREM

SICHREM is an **NGO** working for protection and promotion of Human Rights. The organization was started in 1995 and gained experiences in the areas of Human Rights Education and Human Rights Training, Human Rights Monitoring and free legal aid for Human Rights Violations.

Education for human rights includes empowering persons to enjoy and exercise their rights and to respect and uphold the rights of others. It is critical that human rights education receive greater attention and be incorporated more broadly in the curriculum.

Name of the Department: Computer Science

Programme Directors: 1. Prof. Selwyn Paul J
e mail:selwynpaul438@gmail.com
2. Mr. Emmanuel David (SICHREM)

Duration of the Course: 60 hours Credits: 2

Course fee INR: 3500/-

Objectives of the Course

- **To cover the basics of Human Rights and relating theory to actual circumstances and issues within our society.**
- **To provide experiential learning and exposure to transform the understanding of perspectives, beliefs and outcomes in the society.**
- **Interaction with individuals and leaders from various non-profit organizations and movements, persons who have strived to bring about justice and equity in society.**

Syllabus

- 1. Introduction to Human Rights 5 hours**
 - Principles of Human Rights
 - History of Development of Human Rights
 - Human Rights in India and World
 - Classification of Rights
 - Individual vs. Group Rights
 - Affirmative Action
- 2. Major Human Rights Treaties – International Human Rights Law 10 hours**
 - International Bill of Rights
 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights – UDHR

- International Covenant on civil Political Rights - ICCPR
- International Covenant on Economics Social and Cultural Rights – ICESCR
- Convention on the Rights of the Child - CRC
- International Covenant on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women - CEDAW
- Convention against Torture and Cruel, In human or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination – ICERD

3. Other Human Rights Treaties and Standards 5 Hours

- United National Convention on the protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers And members of their family
- Indigenous Peoples Rights
- Human Rights and Refugees
- International Labor Organization and labor Standards – ILO
- International Humanitarian Law

4. Human Rights Bodies 10 Hours

- United Nations
- United national high commissioner for Human Rights
- UN Sub commission on prevention of Discrimination and Protection of minorities
- Commission on the status of women
- International criminal court (ICC)
- International court of Justices (ICJ)
- United nationals Mechanisms and Non-Government Organization (NGO) Participation

Regional Commission

- European Commission, American and the African Commission

National Mechanisms

- Constitutional Provision – Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles (Writs etc.,)
- Protection of Human Rights Act 1993 & National & State Commission
- Other National & State Commission - Women, SC/STs, Differently-abled, Minorities, Children and Backward Classes
- Human Rights Mechanisms

5. Thematic Discourse and Study 10 Hours

Child Rights and Issues

- Convention on the Rights of the child - CRC
- UNICEF
- ILO Conventions
- Constitutional Provisions
- National Laws – CLPRA, JJ Act, Child Marriage, CSA, RTE, etc

Women's Rights and Issues

- Sex, Gender and Patriarchy
- International Covenant on of all forms of discrimination against women – CEDAW
- Beijing Conference
- Dowry, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assaults/abuse
- Sexual Harassment in the workplace
- Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994,
- Infanticide
- Acid Attacks
- Personal Laws and special marriage Act
- Minority Women

Dalit Rights

- Historical analysis of caste and Untouchability
- Movements against caste
- International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination
- The schedule case, Schedule Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities Act), 1989
- Protection of Civil Rights Act
- Reservation/ Affirmative Action
- Dalit in other Religions (Buddhist, Christian, Muslims)

Rights of Tribal and Indigenous People

- Cultural Rights (International Law)
- Displacement And Development
- Constitutional Provisions and Adivasi Self Rule

Rights of Minorities

- Minorities based on ethnicity, Community, Language, Religion or otherwise
- Declaration n the rights of Linguistic and Ethnic Minorities
- Constitutional Provisions for Protection Of Minorities

Rights of Sexual Minorities

- Introduction and Concept
- Various Aspects and Impacts
- Discussions on Section 377 of the IPC

The Rights of Persons with Disability

- Concepts On Rights of Persons with Disability
- Various Laws Dealing with Persons with Disability
- International Convention on the Rights of the Physically Disables – ICERD

Environmental Rights

6. Human rights Issues Locally and Globally

10 Hours

- Globalization and Human Rights
- Privatization of Water
- Rights to Food and Water
- Torture and other Inhuman Degrading Treatment
- Human Rights and the Media
- Repressive Laws
- Capital Punishment
- Communalization and Human Rights
- Custodial Violence Torture and Death
- Prison, Police and Judicial Reforms
- Human Rights in the Context of Militancy and Terrorism
- Urban Poor and Slum Dwellers
- Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers
- Intellectual Property and Human Rights
 - *Bhopal *Rights of workmen *Sweatshops Unfair Labour Practices
- Arms Race, Nuclearisation, small arms and Land mines
- Tourism Trafficking
- Right To Information

7. Strategies for Protecting and Promoting Human Rights

5 Hours

- Human Rights Education and Peace Education
- Monitoring of Human Rights
- Skills in fact Finding and Preparing Reports
- Legal Counseling and Aid
- Campaigning Advocacy and Lobbying
 - *Letter Writing *Press Release *Press conference
- Documentation
- Laws Relating to arrest, Detention and use of force and firearms
- News and Media Monitoring
- Participation In Solidarity rallies and public meetings
- Fund Raising for Human Rights

8. NGO and other Organisation – National, International and Regional

5 Hours

- Amnesty International
- Human Rights Watch
- Forum Asia
- OMCT
- FIDH
- Asian Human Rights Commission
- People's Union for Civil Liberties – PUCL
- Peoples Watch – Tamil Nadu – PWTN
- SICHREM
- Government Departments – National and State Level

- Various Commission Nations Human Rights Commission – NHRC, State Human Rights Commission – SHRC, Police Department Etc...
- Working for Human Rights – Career Option

Methodology:

- **Class room sharing-** In the form of lectures and presentations
- **Group Discussions-** Initiate and facilitated by a resource person who are adept with the subject.
- **Case Studies-** (relevant to the topic) Based on themes, Issues or Incidents.
- **Presentations Submission and Assignment Evaluation-** Regular short assignments and paper submission based on the content of the classrooms sessions.
- **Film Screening-** film screening and appreciation along with interactive discussions on various human rights issues.
- **Book Reviews-** review and analysis of books addressing social concerns, human rights and justice issues.
- **Field Visits:** On field experiences by visiting the NGO's, NPO's, SHRC, Meeting Human Rights Officials, Fact findings and participating in activities based on the Human Rights Violations.