The Rights of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples

Module Coordinator: Professor Siobhán Mullally

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Credits: 5 credits (12 hours)

Aim:
To equip students with the knowledge and analytical skills to analyse and evaluate legal arguments relating to the status of minority groups and indigenous peoples in international law and to reflect on the legal, political, and philosophical challenges that arise in practice.

Learning Objectives:
On completion of this module, students will be equipped to:

- Describe and identify the legal frameworks relating to minorities and indigenous peoples in international law
- Analyse and assess the conceptual challenges and current international law and policy debates relating to the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples
- Analyse and critically evaluate the challenges arising in adjudicating on the rights of minority groups and indigenous peoples in international law, in relation to land claims and territorial disputes, environmental rights, ownership and control of natural resources, religious law exemptions, education and family law.
Evaluate and critique current international and regional human rights law frameworks regulating the claims of minority groups and indigenous peoples

Teaching methods:

Teaching is by means of seminar discussion and advanced readings, and case-studies. Case-studies and readings will be assigned in advance and available on Blackboard. Students will be expected to contribute to class discussions, including through assigned presentations.

Guest speakers: The course programme will include engagement with guest speakers working in legal and policy practice relating to minority rights and indigenous peoples.

Assessment:

The course will be examined by way of a research paper of not more than 4,000 words (including footnotes, excluding bibliography). Students will have the opportunity to work on a research project of their choice, subject to approval.

Background reading:


Castellino J and Cavanaugh K (2013) *Minority Rights in the Middle East* (OUP)


Castellino J *Global Minority Rights* [ed.] (Dartmouth: Ashgate, 2012)


Modood T *Multiculturalism* (Cambridge: Polity Press 2013)

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Course Outline  (Guest speakers will be confirmed at a later date).

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1  **Introduction - Minority Rights in International Law**: History, Concepts, Philosophical foundations
2 Minority Rights in the UN and Regional Human Rights systems

3 The Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Law: Historical debates, conceptual challenges, case-studies

4 Multiculturalism, gender equality, minority rights – conflicts and challenges