

Course manual  
Joint Master's Programme in  
International Humanitarian Action

University of  
Warsaw

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# Research design

Semester 1

**Module  
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In collaboration with NGO Federa

**Credits awarded:** 8 ECTS, equivalent to 200 work hours (1 ECTS = 25 hours)**Period:** First semester, block 1.**Venue & hours:** 7.12 and 14.12 , 8:00-14.45, 010 in Szara Willa.**1. Introduction**

Humanitarian crisis affects women in different ways in comparison with men, in both positive and negative ways. In addition to presenting dangers and barriers to meeting basic needs crises and disasters affects social and political structures across public and private spheres, by challenging for instance gender norms and power relation between women and men Therefore humanitarian interventions have to be planned and implemented with inclusion of gender perspective. In practical sense this means not only the necessity of addressing various sex specific needs, but also to use crisis related social tensions as the opportunity for promotion of women's rights and empowerment, in order to trigger or support positive social change.

In order to make this change possible the women should be aware of the existing international legal and organisational infrastructure aimed at protecting women's human rights and the gain the necessary knowledge, and skills to use the existing international mechanism and tools for their benefit. The role of the persons working in humanitarian actions is to have capacity to share this knowledge with the people in need and to provide them with concrete assistance. This course will specifically sensitize people involved in humanitarian actions for the gender related issues ( such as sex discrimination, violence against women, reproductive and sexual rights and health) and will provide them with information about means and ways, which might be used in promotion and defence of the relevant women's human rights .

**2. Learning outcomes****Knowledge**

The first objective of the course will be to provide the students with sufficient knowledge to identify specific impacts of conflict and disasters on women and to discuss the ways in which the gender specific needs should be addressed by different actors of humanitarian action, including: donors, governments, UN agencies, peace keepers and last but not least, civil society organisations.

It will give them a review of different procedures dealing with women's human rights violations and their working methods . Provide them the information on admissibility requirements in

case of each of them.

It will make them aware of conceptual framework and of existing legal instruments which may be used in protection and defence of women's rights to equality and non-discrimination as well the international standards in elimination of the gender discrimination and prevention and combating violence against women and in protection of women's reproductive and sexual rights and health.

### **Skills**

Give the students ability to develop an appropriate methodological setup for conducting the study on discrimination of women and gender based violence

Provide the relevant training to develop their ability to submit properly information to different human rights bodies, in particular

to prepare submissions and shadow reports on the situation of women to the Human Rights Council, to the treaty bodies, and claims or amicus curiae briefs to judicial bodies.

### **3. Course material**

Legal documents:

1. United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Adopted by General Assembly

resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979

2. Council of Europe Convention on prevention and combating violence against women and domestic violence, adopted in Istanbul, 11/05/2011 CETS No.210

Other Course materials :

1. Cusack S., Pusey L., CEDAW and the Rights to Non-discrimination and Equality, Melbourne Journal of International Law, Vol. 14, 2013

2. Elvira Dominguez-Redondo, History of the Special Procedures: A 'Learning-by-doing' Approach to Human Rights Implementation (with) United Nations Special Procedures, ed. R. Freedman, T. Murth, A Nolan. Nottingham Studies on Human Rights, V. 6, 2017.

### **4. Teaching and learning methodology**

Power point presentations, followed by discussion

Workshops

### **5. Programme and training activities**

1. Laws, policies and international agreements to advance and protect women's rights in situations of conflicts and humanitarian situations

2. Main actors, agencies and mechanisms in promoting gender equality and combating sex discrimination

3. Conceptual framework ( understanding of gender equality, discrimination, gender based violence etc.)

4. Protection from gender based violence ( international standards)

5. Prosecuting and punishing for gender based violence

6. Promotion of women's leadership and participation in efforts to manage conflict, in peace building, mediation and gender sensitive relief and recovery, overcoming the results of disaster

7. Mainstreaming gender in analyses of causes and impacts of crisis , practical needs of victims and in designing programmes to meet different needs of women and men .
8. Practical ways to integrate gender equality into humanitarian responses and to protect women's rights.

## **6. Workload**

Obligatory participation in classes on 7.12 and 14.12, 8:00-14.45 - 16 H

Recommended readings – max. 40 H

Non-compulsory participation in Geneva trip – 100 H

Writing a report - max. 40 H

## **7. Assessment criteria**

The mere participation in classes guarantees a grade: 3

Writing a group paper can upgrade your note up to 5!

