



**Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab**  
(Established Under Punjab Act No. 12 of 2006)

(ACCREDITED With 'A' Grade by NAAC)



**MULTIDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP  
ON**

**INTERFAITH AND CHALLENGES OF  
INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL)  
DURING COVID-19**

18TH - 23RD OCTOBER 2021

Organized by

**CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDY IN INTERNATIONAL  
HUMANITARIAN LAW (CASH)**

and

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, RGNUL**

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# | ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS |

## CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDY IN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (CASH)

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Centre for Advanced Study in International Humanitarian Law (CASH) is an esteemed research centre of Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, which is dedicated to research in the field of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). It aims to ensure that future leaders and opinionmakers understand the practical relevance of the subject of IHL and have a thorough knowledge of its basic principles. Whenever there are serious and large-scale violations of IHL, the law itself tends to get the blame. Such violations should, of course, rouse the international community to action, however, it is important to find out exactly where the problem lies rather than rushing headlong into changing the rules, especially as this is nowadays an extremely arduous, costly and unpredictable process. Therefore, the first and foremost function is to sensitize teachers, researchers, and students about the provisions of the IHL so that they may choose IHL as a field in their future research endeavours.

## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, RGNUL

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The Department of Political Science of Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab has been actively engaged in teaching and research on matters of international relations including human rights and culture. The faculty of the department have made some notable contribution by means of publications and report submissions at National as well as International level.

## RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW

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Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law is a public law school and a National Law University located in Patiala, Punjab, India. It was established in 2006 by the Punjab Government as a university dedicated to the field of Legal Education. The University is accredited with an “A” grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in 2015. The Ministry of Human Resource Development Government of India ranked RGNUL the first amongst the cleanest Higher Educational Institutions, Swachh Campus (2019) in the category of Government Residential Universities In 2019, the NIRF has ranked RGNUL at 10th position among law schools in India. It is also a member of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

# | ABOUT THE EVENT |

These are not ordinary times we are living in right now. The pandemic has affected everyone in this world and there have been a number of challenges that people are facing because of this pandemic. India like the other countries has faced the 2nd wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and ended up having major concerns over the rising number of deaths, With many health facilities, frontline health care and death care workers becoming overwhelmed, it may lead to undermining the process of proper handling of bodies of persons confirmed or believed to have died due to COVID-19.

IHL faces a lot of challenges when it comes to interfaith. IHL is based on humanitarian principles that are ultimately rooted in the world's religious traditions, and the role of religious leaders and institutions in promoting common humanitarian principles is therefore crucial. In times of war and crisis, religious networks play a vital role in carrying out and facilitating humanitarian action, and it is imperative that humanitarian actors strengthen their religious and cultural literacy in order to effectively engage and cooperate with them, developing the mutual trust required to sustain humanitarian action. The Indian Constitution under Article 25 envisages the right to freely profess, practise, and propagate religion. Moreover, this right extends freedom to practice any religion to all persons in India. Henceforth, it is without a doubt that since India being a densely populated country, there will be different faiths that have different challenges pertaining to them if looked at from an IHL point of view.

In a country like India which has a population of 1.2 billion people and the people having a right to follow the same or different faiths, each faith having its own set of rituals and rites according to their holy books and traditions, also face issues when looked at from an Humanitarian perspective. With India being home to nine major religions, this dialogue intends to dig deep into the inter-faith beliefs and the contemporary challenges faced in Covid-19 before and after the pandemic and identify key concerns in relation to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic which will make it possible to chalk out a plan for the execution of International Humanitarian Law.

This discussion is an endeavour to explore possibilities that will help develop good practice to cope with the present scenario and to learn from each other best practices that should be adopted to tide over this grim crisis

# | OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT |

- Spread awareness and knowledge about the rituals and rites from different faiths.
- Stress on the existing obligation under national and international laws for interfaith disputes.
- Challenges faced by different faiths in International humanitarian law (IHL)
- Contemporary issues of Interfaiths in International humanitarian law (IHL).
- Lead a more educated approach to interfaith governance.

# | ABOUT THE SPEAKERS |



**PROF. (DR.) MANOJ KUMAR SINHA**  
DIRECTOR OF THE INDIAN LAW INSTITUTE  
NEW DELHI



**DR. A.K MERCHANT**  
GENERAL SECRETARY, TEMPLE OF  
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**VENERABLE GESHE DORJI DAMDUL**  
DIRECTOR, TIBET HOUSE  
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**FR. FELIX JONES**  
CATHOLIC PRIEST SERVING THE  
ARCHDIOCESE OF DELHI



**RABBI EZEKIEL ISAAC MALEKAR**  
HEAD OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY  
NEW DELHI



**ANDREW BARTLES-SMITH**  
REGIONAL MANAGER FOR HUMANITARIAN  
AFFAIRS AT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF  
THE RED CROSS (ICRC)

## | PATRONS |



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**PROF. (DR.) G. S. BAJPAI**  
VICE CHANCELLOR  
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# **|ORGANIZING TEAM|**

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