

Indigenous and Minority Rights

814M3



Module Convenor:
Dr Elizabeth Craig (LPS)

[Aymara ceremony, Earthducation Project, accessed via
http://lt.umn.edu/earthducation/expedition4/indigenous-cultures/](http://lt.umn.edu/earthducation/expedition4/indigenous-cultures/)

Which rights?



Substantive rights covered include:

- right to religion
- right to language
- right to culture
- right to effective participation/autonomy
- equality and non-discrimination rights
- right to land, environment & other collective rights

Image By Muslim_woman_in_Yemen.jpg: Steve Evans, imported by FlickrLickr derivative work: Bertrand GRONDIN (Muslim_woman_in_Yemen.jpg) [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons

What does it mean to look at such rights from the perspective of international human rights law?

Relevant human rights treaties include: the International Human Rights Covenants, the European Convention on Human Rights, the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights.

More specialist instruments include: Council of Europe's Languages Charter and Framework Convention on Minorities, the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



Key Questions

- What rights (and groups) are protected and how?
- What is the role of regional and international courts, such as the European Convention on Human Rights?
- How can minorities and indigenous peoples use these frameworks to assert their rights?
- What is the role of civil society and rights activists?
- What rights should be protected and promoted within the international human rights system (covering both legal and political institutional mechanisms)?
- What is the role of national law and relevant actors at the national level?

FAQs

- **What type of student will be taking this course?**

This module is open to students from a range of disciplinary backgrounds. Although the main focus will be on relevant rights frameworks, critiques of these frameworks will be considered from an interdisciplinary perspective.

- **What about assessment?**

Assessment for the module will take the form of an essay on a topic of your choice, which demonstrates critical awareness of a contemporary minority and indigenous rights issue and extensive engagement with relevant literature (100%).

Teaching

- Note that this is a 15 credit module with seminars (2 hours each) taking place Weeks 1-5 of the Spring Term

Any Further Questions?

- Please feel free to email me with any queries that you have, or to arrange an appointment if you want to discuss further.

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