



# **WOMEN AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

## **Course Code: 873M3**

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# Women's Rights Activists in Cairo



# What do we mean by women's rights?

- “What Are Women's International Human Rights?”  
Hilary Charlesworth in R Cook (ed.) *Human Rights of Women*
- Two possible conceptions -
- Narrow - only instruments or clauses that deal specifically with women – elaborations on non-discrimination
- Wide - how “ women can be taken seriously across the entire spectrum of human rights” (at p59)
- This module examines women’s rights in their widest sense.

# Women march in support of rights in Afghanistan



# Structure of the Module

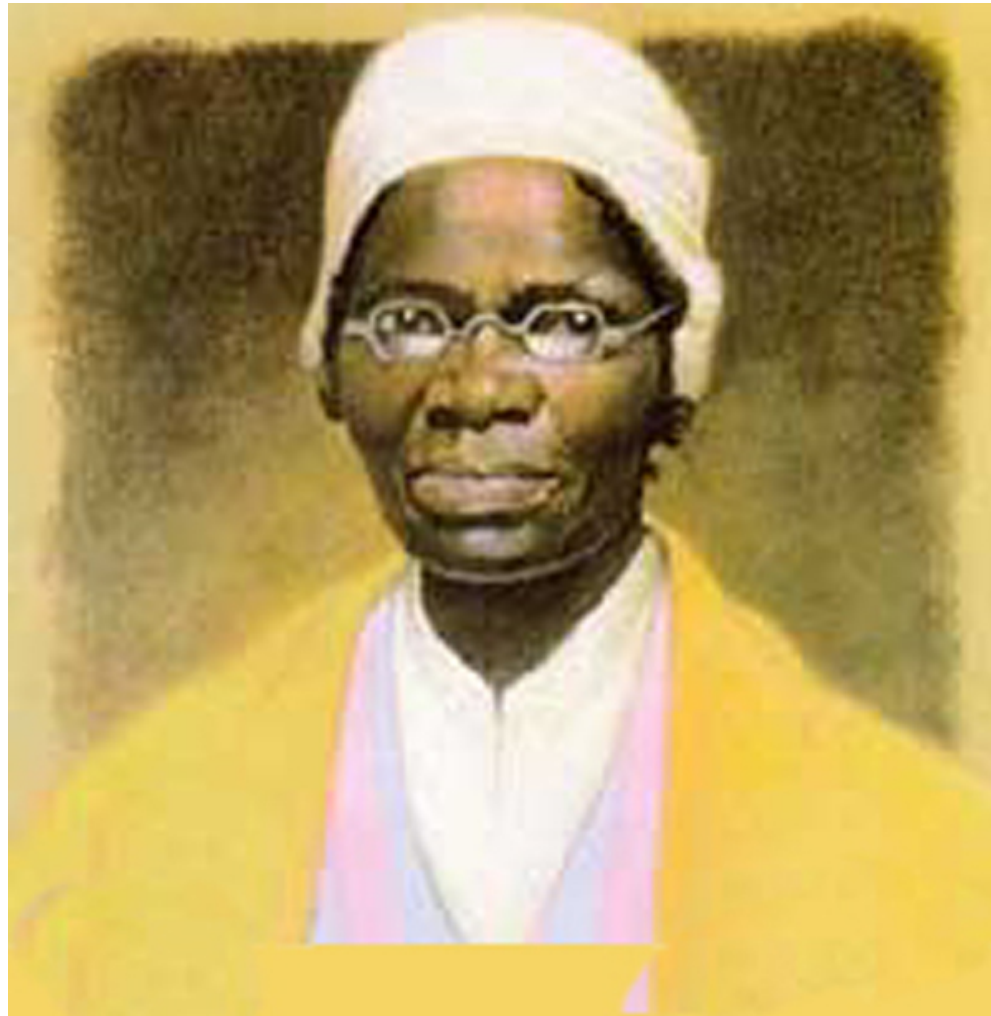
- The first half of the module consists of core topics providing a theoretical framework for the study of women's human rights. It draws on feminist legal theory, human rights theory, anthropological and historical materials and documentation and critique of international and national rights instruments. In this half, amongst other things, we consider: different theoretical perspectives on the origins of women's rights, including critiques of westernised and linear views of rights development; feminist critiques of rights and debate over the use of rights strategies for the empowerment of women; the international implementation of women's rights, including CEDAW, the Belém do Pará Protocol and the Istanbul Convention.
- In each of the weekly topics in the second half of the course we will focus on the conception, implementation and breach of a specific type of right or a specific rights instrument. Students are welcome to focus their presentations on aspects of a topic that particularly interest them.

Left to right clockwise - pro-choice women protesting in Ireland, tribal women in India protesting at the level of maternal deaths , women protesting about disappearances in Kashmir.



# What do you need to do in advance of the course?

- This course is interdisciplinary and takes students from LLM Programmes, and MA Gender and MA Human rights amongst others.
- You do not need to have studied human rights previously – our first session gives a basic introduction. We can also recommend advance reading in this area.



**Sojourner Truth**



# Participation is Crucial!

- We are both passionate about our subject and we are looking for students who are keen to engage in informed debate.
- The purpose of seminars is to engage in a discussion of the material to advance your understanding of it , and to discuss any difficult or interesting ideas, arguments, opinions or additional material.
- In addition during the module all students will be required to give presentations and to act as discussant for the presentations of others. Presentations should be around **15 minutes**. We can give you some guidance on giving presentations.

# Assessment and Assessment Support

- Two different elements :
- 1000 – 1,500 reflective research statement due towards the end of the spring term.
- 5,000 Term Paper due in Assessment Period 2.
- At the start of the module we provide you with a dedicated ‘advanced research’ library session on finding resources related to the module.
  
- We will give you a dedicated seminar on preparation for the Reflective Research Statement and the Term Paper. Please see us at the start of the course if you have any specific concerns with your writing or research.



De cada 10  
personas ag  
hor

Mujeres sin violencia  
Justicia  
Libertad  
Digno trabajo

Mujeres sin violencia  
Justicia  
Libertad  
Digno trabajo

# Two Way Evaluation

- We both have regular office hours and you can see us to get feedback or to give us feedback on the module. We are happy to give written feedback on presentations if you fill in a presentation assessment form and give it to the tutor before the presentation. Feedback will be given on the Reflective Statement before you need to complete the term paper.
- You will be given an opportunity to evaluate the course both informally throughout the module and formally on- line at the end of the module. Feedback from students is so important to the development of the module.

- We look forward to seeing you soon!