



Human Rights Studies Programme

School of International Studies

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Organizes

NHRC and ICWA Sponsored a Two Days

International Conference

On

One Earth, One Family, One Future: Navigating Human Rights

through the Lens of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

Date – 28th & 29th March 2024

Venue – Convention Centre, JNU

About the Conference.

The International Conference on “One Earth, One Family, One Future: Navigating Human Rights through the Lens of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” aims to explore the unique Indian approach to human rights, deeply rooted in its ancient philosophical traditions and modern constitutional ethos. This theme is particularly relevant in a global context where human rights are often viewed through a predominantly Western lens. The Conference intends to shed light on how India’s understanding of human rights, influenced by its rich cultural heritage and the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, offers a distinctive and inclusive perspective. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, a Sanskrit phrase from the Maha Upanishad, translates to “the world is one family.” This philosophy underpins India’s approach to human rights, emphasizing empathy, interconnectedness, and a collective responsibility toward the well-being of all. The Conference will explore how this ethos aligns with the core principles of human rights and is reflected in India’s diplomatic and humanitarian endeavours. Historically, Indian texts like the Rig Veda, Bhagavad Gita, Dharmashastras, and Kautilya’s Arthashastra demonstrate an early understanding of justice, equality, and dignity, paralleling the modern concept of human rights. King Asoka’s post-Kalinga reforms epitomize the Indian ethos of humanitarianism and equality. Post-independence, India’s Constitution further embodies these values, drawing from both global human rights discourse and indigenous concepts.

The focus will be on how India’s interpretation of Dharma (duty and righteousness) and Ahimsa (non-violence) contributes to a global understanding of human rights. The Conference also addresses contemporary global human rights challenges, such as conflicts, treatment of minorities, suppression of dissent, and issues facing vulnerable groups like the Rohingya and Uighurs. It underscores the need for an inclusive, empathetic approach, respecting diverse cultural contexts and promoting universal welfare. This Conference aims to highlight the importance of integrating indigenous perspectives, like those of India, into the global human rights discourse. This approach challenges us to think beyond borders and individualistic perspectives, advocating for a holistic understanding of human rights that balances individual liberties with societal responsibilities. The Conference is a call to recognize and incorporate diverse viewpoints, offering unique insights and solutions to contemporary human rights challenges.

Objectives of the Conference-

- To explore the historical roots of human rights in Indian philosophy and legal traditions.
- To understand the principles of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and their relevance to modern human rights.
- To examine India’s contributions to the global human rights movement.
- To encourage the inclusion of diverse, indigenous perspectives in international human rights dialogues.

Sub Themes-

- Historical Evolution of Human Rights in Indian Philosophical Texts
- Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: Exploring its Roots and Relevance in Modern Human Rights Discourse
- Comparative Study of Western and Indian Human Rights Philosophies
- The Role of Dharma and Ahimsa in Shaping Indian Human Rights Ideology
- The Indian Constitution and Human Rights
- Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam in International Diplomacy and Peacekeeping
- Human Rights Violations in Conflict Zones
- Indigenous Perspectives in Global Human Rights Discourse: The importance and impact of Indian viewpoints on the worldwide human rights conversation.
- Empathy and Interconnectedness: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam's Approach to Universal Welfare
- India's Unique Approach to Social Justice, Equality, and Inclusivity
- Challenges and Solutions in Implementing Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam in Contemporary Human Rights Issues
- Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and its Role in Addressing Global Humanitarian Crises
- Miscellaneous (related to the theme of Conference)

Registration Fee:

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| Faculty/Academic Staff | 1500 |
| Research Scholars | 1000 |
| Students | 500 |

(Note - For any communication Email to ihrspjnu@gmail.com)

Important dates:

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| Deadline for submission of abstract (300 words) | 14 th March, 2024 |
| Communication of acceptance: | 16 th March, 2024 |
| Communication of Payment Link | 16 th March, 2024 |
| Full Papers to be submitted by: | 25 th March, 2024 |
| Conference Schedule: | 28 th -29 th March, 2024 |

Guidelines for Submission for the abstract and full paper:

- An abstract should be of approximately 250-300 words including few key words and highlighting the statement of problem, major research question, its' objective and the major findings..
- Only shortlisted abstracts will be considered to develop a research paper of about 5000-7000 words (including references). The submission should be original and do not have more than 10% of similarity. Consider. SIS - JNU manual for referencing
https://www.jnu.ac.in/sites/default/files/SIS_Research_Manual.pdf
- The full version of the paper should be submitted in soft copy latest by 25th March 2024 to ihrspjnu@gmail.com

Note - A committee will review the abstracts and full papers and information regarding acceptance, modification, rejection, and presentation shall be communicated to the authors subsequently. The selected papers will be published through a reputed national publisher with ISSN no.

Conference Convenor

Prof. Shantesh Kumar Singh
Director, Human Rights Studies Programme
School of International Studies