

GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS
Semester 2
Irish Centre for Human Rights
School of Law
Academic Year 2025-2026

Course Outline

Objective	The course aims at providing students with knowledge of the relationship between gender and human rights. It explores origins, development and challenges of integrating gender into human rights law discourse and practice: from inclusion of women to attention to LGBTI issues. The course introduces students to relevant international bodies and instruments. It also introduces students to the critical analysis of law through the study of feminist approaches, queer theory and decolonial thought.		
Times	Day Friday	Time 10am-1pm	Venue Seminar Room, ICHR
Lecturer	Ekaterina Yahyaoui Krivenko - ekaterina.yahyaoui@universityofgalway.ie		
Overall Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon the completion of the course students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Find relevant applicable provisions of international instruments; ▪ Determine the most appropriate provision to use in a particular case; ▪ Identify gaps and shortcomings of existing international instruments; • Propose possible ways for improvement; • Convincingly present arguments in favour of the selected solution; • Demonstrate awareness of and sensitivity to larger social and political implications of their choices with respect to gender and human rights. 		
Methodology	Each subject is introduced through a lecture presentation. The students' understanding of the subject is further developed through participatory discussions based on required readings. Students are expected to complete readings in preparation for each class based on reflective questions posted on blackboard. Active participation in		

	<p>discussions is essential for the successful acquisition of knowledge and analytical skills.</p> <p>Students will be required to agree their essay topic with the lecturer by week 8 the latest.</p>
Programme(s)	LL.M. programmes, full-time and part-time.
Course Material	<p>Required weekly readings form the basis for the course. These readings are either accessible on the internet or at the university library. In exceptional cases they are posted on blackboard. The main reference book is Ekaterina Yahyaoui Krivenko, <i>Gender and Human Rights: Expanding Concepts</i> (Edward Elgar Publishing 2020). The book is available in the library in an electronic format. If you wish to purchase it for personal use, you can refer e.g. to the editor's webpage: https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/usd/catalog/product/view/?ignore_category/1/id/16817/s/gender-and-human-rights-9781800372849/</p>
Essential Texts	Relevant international instruments, case-law and articles in international journals as indicated for each course on blackboard
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final essay (100%, 5000 words maximum, including footnotes, excluding table of contents and bibliography)

Topics covered:

Week 1 16 January 2026:	Gender and its meanings
Week 2 23 January 2026:	Feminist critiques of international law and human rights
Week 3 30 January 2026	International system for protection of women's rights
Week 4 6 February 2026	Queer theories and international human rights law
Week 5 13 February 2026	Principle of equality and prohibition of discrimination
Week 6 20 February 2026	Right to be free from violence
Week 7 27 February 2026	Culture, gender and human rights
Week 8 6 March 2026	Family, human rights and anti-gender mobilisations

A detailed reading list for each week will be posted on Canvas at least one week before the start of the module.

Any deviations from the above schedule which might be inevitable will be communicated as much in advance as possible through Canvas. All communication regarding this module will also be done through Canvas so please check your university email regularly.