



RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW, PUNJAB
(Established under Punjab Act No. 12 of 2006)
(Accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC)

RGNUL/PRO/2021/29

Date: 19-10-2021

One Week Multidisciplinary Workshop
Interfaith and Challenges of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) during Covid 19
18th October – 23rd October 2021

The Centre for Advanced Study in International Humanitarian Law (CASH) in collaboration with department of Political Science RGNUL, Punjab is organising Multidisciplinary workshop on “Interfaith and Challenges of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) during Covid 19.” Prof. Manoj Kumar Sinha, Director, Indian Law Institute, New Delhi; Venerable Geshe Dorji Damdul, Director–Tibet House, New Delhi; Dr. A. K. Merchant General Secretary-Temple of Understanding India Foundation; Andrew James Bartles-Smith, ICRC’s Regional Adviser for Humanitarian Affairs in Asia; Fr. Felix Jones, A Catholic Priest serving the Archdiocese of Delhi; Rabbi Ezekiel Issac Malekar, Head of the Jewish Community in New Delhi and Secretary of the Judah Hyam Synagogue, New Delhi will deliberate on significant issues pertaining International Humanitarian Law.

On the first day of the workshop, Prof. Manoj Kumar Sinha spoke about the gap in Indian Scholarship on issues of interfaith, humanitarian principles and the need to decolonize IHL. He elaborated on the thirteen anti-war edicts of King Ashoka, idea of ‘Saam Daan Dandh Bhed’ in Kautilya’s Arthshastra, Geneva Convention and Rousseau’s social contract theory. Dr. Sinha explained four principles of Humanitarian Law by citing Rig Veda.

Venerable Geshe Dorji Damdul expanded on emotional crisis during Covid-19 pandemic on the second day of the workshop. “Covid taught us that there is no religion and we are all interconnected,” he said. He spoke about sense of brotherhood. Mr. Damdul focussed on importance of having discerning sense and prudence to act efficiently in adverse circumstances. “Compassion, human values and conviction to perform effectively should guide good actions. Every generation with good heart for humanity can bring universal ethics and build secular state,” he said. He also dwelled on Dalai Lama’s vision to revitalize education sytem to indoctrinate minds and not brains alone. “Humanitarian crisis,” he said, “could be solved by developing and nurturing good hearts.”