

Litteraturhuset, 7 – 8 December 2012

Group Autonomy and Its Critics: Human Rights Perspectives



For registration, please send an e-mail to kiki.anastasia@nchr.uio.no by 30 November 2012. Please indicate day(s) of participation and contact details.

We sincerely thank our funding partners, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Center for Studies of Holocaust and Religious Minorities, PluRel (Religion in Pluralist Societies), Gáldu (Resource Centre for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples), and the Institute of Women's Law (University of Oslo) for making this conference possible.

Day 1: Friday, 7 December 2012

OPENING:

09:00 – 09:10

Welcome
Nils A. Butenschøn

09:10 – 09:15

Greetings from the Rector of the University of oslo
Ole Petter Ottersen

09:15 – 09:30

Introductory remarks
Maria Lundberg and Ingvill Thorson Plesner

09:30 – 10:00

Keynote Lecture
Ayelet Shachar

10:00 – 10:30

Plenary Discussion

**SESSION 1:
Nation-Building and Recognition of Peoples' Rights:
Core Dilemmas of Ethnic Autonomy Politics**

Case Study 1:

Are Nation-Building Policies Thwarting Implementation of Peoples' Rights?

Moderator: *Else Grete Broderstad*

10:30 – 11:30

Implementing "Regional National Autonomy Law" for Peoples' Rights in China?
ZHOU Yong

Case of Sejdić and Finci v. Bosnia and Herzegovina
John Packer

The Sami Parliament and Beyond: Options and Constraints for Sami Nation-Building
Laila Susanne Vars

Robert Barnett

11:30 – 12:30

Plenary Discussion

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch Break

Case Study 2
To What Extent Are Indigenous Peoples' and Ethnic Minorities' Rights to Effective Participation Respected in Decision-Making on the Use of Natural Resources?

Moderator: *Kirsti Strøm Bull*

13:30 – 14:15

On Indigenous Peoples and the Right to Participate in Decision-Making,
with a Focus on Extractive Industries
Chief Wilton Littlechild

Are There Indigenous Peoples in Indonesia? Circumventing Established
Human Rights Concepts for the Sake of National Unity?
Knut D. Asplund

Recent Development in the Sámi People's Rights to Natural Resources in Norway
Ole Henrik Magga

14:15 – 15:15

Plenary Discussion

15:15 – 15:30

Coffee Break

Session 2 (Part I):
Are Group Autonomy Rights Bad for Women and Sexual Minorities?
Dilemmas and Conflicts

Case Study 3:
Women's Equal Usage of or Rights to Property vs. Group Autonomy Rights

Moderator: *Antti Korkeakivi*

15:30 – 16:15

The Case of Indians in Canadian and United States Reservation Territories
Dalee Sambo Dorough

Indigenous Women in Latin America: Autonomy Rights and Gender Justice
Rachel Sieder

Gender, Human Rights and Legal Pluralism: Perspectives from Pakistan and the British Diaspora
Ali Shaheen

16:15 – 17:15

Plenary Discussion

19:00 - 22:00

Dinner (by invitation only)

Day 2: Saturday, 8 December 2012

**SESSION 2 (Part II):
Are Group Autonomy Rights Bad for Women and Sexual Minorities?
Dilemmas and Conflicts**

**Case Study 4:
Self-Determination of Faith Communities and Non-Discrimination in Employment**

Moderator: *Ingvill Thorson Plesner*

09:00 – 09:45

The 2010 Amendment to Norway's Non-Discrimination Law
Vibeke Blaker Strand

Religious Autonomy in the United States and Beyond:
Towards a General Theory of Religious Autonomy
Cole Durham

Theory of Religious Autonomy
Jocelyn MacIure

09:45 – 10:45

Plenary Discussion

10:45 – 11:00

Coffee Break

**Case Study 5:
Self-Determination of Faith Communities:
Compatible with Women's Equal Rights in Marriage and Divorce?**

Moderator: *Oddbjørn Leirvik*

11:00 – 11:45

Case Studies on Britain and France
John R. Bowen

Fatwas on Marriage and Divorce: French Style
Lena Larsen

Comments
Anne Hellum

11:45 – 12:45

Plenary Discussion

12:45 – 14:00

Lunch Break

SESSION 3:
Manifestation of Group Commitments and Practices in the Public Sphere

Case Study 6:
**May Religious Tenets of Faith Communities be Deployed in Democratic Politics?
On the Contested Legitimacy of Political Arguments not Based on "Civic Reason"**

Moderator: *Cora Alexa Døving*

14:00 – 14:45

Regulation of religious argument in democratic politics and An-Na'im's Islam and the Secular State:
Negotiating the Future of Shari'a: A Critique on shared grounds
Tore Lindholm

Civic reason and civic reasoning: Legitimate regulation in a secular democracy?
Helge Høibraaten

Explaining and defending the idea of "civic reason and civic reasoning":
Why state regulation of political discourse is required in multi-religious societies
Abdullahi An-Na'im

14:45 – 15:45

Plenary Discussion

15:45 – 16:00

Coffee Break

Case Study 7:
**To What Extent are Indigenous Peoples', Minorities', and Children's Rights
Respected in School Education on Language and Culture?**

Moderator: *Maria Lundberg*

16:00 – 16:45

Integration of Diverse Societies: Language and Education in Macedonia
Ilze Brands Kehris

Challenges to bilingual education for ethnic minorities in China
Koen Wellens

A Case Study on Education of Sami Culture in Norwegian Schools
Hadi Lile

16:45 – 17:45

Plenary Discussion

17:45 – 18:00

Closing Remark
Asbjørn Eide

19:00 – 22:00

Dinner (by invitation only)

LIST OF SPEAKERS

Nils A. Butenschøn, Director, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR), Faculty of Law, University of Oslo.

Ole Petter Ottersen, Rector, University of Oslo.

Maria Lundberg, Associate Professor, NCHR.

Ingvill Thorson Plesner, Post-Doctoral Researcher, NCHR.

Ayelet Shachar, Professor, University of Toronto, Canada.

Else Grete Broderstad, Researcher, Centre for Sami Studies, University of Trømsø.

ZHOU Yong, Associate Professor, Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Chinese Academy of Social Science; Programme Director, China Autonomy Programme, NCHR.

John Packer, Director of the Human Rights Centre, University of Essex; Senior Advisor, Initiative on Conflict Prevention through Quiet Diplomacy; former Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (2000-2004); Senior Legal Advisor, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (1995-2000).

Laila Susanne Vars, Vice-President of the Sami Parliament of Norway.

Robert Barnett, Director, Modern Tibet Studies Program, Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University.

Kirsti Strøm Bull, Professor, Department of Private Law, University of Oslo.

Chief Wilton Littlechild, Member of UN Expert Mechanism on Indigenous Rights; former Member of Parliament (1988-1993); former member of UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2002-2007).

Knut D. Asplund, Director of the Indonesia Programme, NCHR.

Ole Henrik Magga, Professor, Sami University College, Guovdageaidnu/Kautokeino, Norway; former President of the Sami Parliament, Norway (1989-1997); former Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2002-2004).

Antti Korkeakivi, Chief of the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Dalee Sambo Dorough, Assistant Professor, University of Alaska Anchorage; Member, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Rachel Sieder, Senior Research Professor, Center for Research and Postgraduate Study in Social Anthropology (CIESAS), Mexico City; Associate Professor, Chr. Michelsen Institute, Bergen.

Shaheen Sardar Ali, Professor of Law and Vice-Chair of the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, School of Law, University of Warwick.

Vibeke Blaker Strand, Post-Doctoral Researcher, Faculty of Law, University of Oslo.

Cole Durham, Professor of Law and Director of ICLRS, Brigham Young University.

Jocelyn MacIure, Associate Professor, Faculty of Philosophy, Université Laval.

Oddbjørn Leirvik, Professor, Interreligious Study, Faculty of Theology, University of Oslo.

John R. Bowen, Professor of Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis.

Lena Larsen, Programme Director of the Oslo Coalition in Freedom of Religion and Belief, NCHR.

Anne Hellum, Professor, Faculty of Law, Department of Women's Law, University of Oslo.

Cora Alexa Døving, Senior Researcher, Centre for Studies of Holocaust and Religious Minorities.

Abdullahi An-Na'im, Professor of Law, Emory University (Atlanta).

Tore Lindholm, Professor Emeritus, NCHR.

Helge Høibraaten, Professor, University of Trondheim.

Ilze Brands Kehris, Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

Koen Wellens, Senior Researcher, NCHR.

Hadi Lile, Researcher, Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law, University of Oslo.

Asbjørn Eide, Professor Emeritus, NCHR.