**Human Rights for Women - 2021**

**Free sessions on Zoom**

**Presentations from a legal expert on human rights for women**

**Two series, running weekly, at two different times of day, so people from around the world can take part. It is a series that hangs together, but people can just do some sessions, if that suits. You can ask questions and we have discussions at the end.**

**They will not be recorded. After each session, I send people the PowerPoint slides.**

**Dates for the two series:**

**Tuesday evenings, 7.30pm (CET), sessions beginning 12th January**

**Thursday mornings, 9.30am (CET), sessions beginning 21st January**

**All these sessions will try to incorporate the latest developments related to the COVID -19 crisis. Twelve are included here, new sessions on topics are being developed.**

**Session one – The UN system and basic Human Rights rules for women**

What are women’s fundamental human rights, who developed them? What is the principle of universal human rights?

What is the UN, what are its important texts and how does the UN try to ensure human rights are observed around the world? What are the problems with and limitations on this system?

Why is there push back against the idea of universal human rights and women’s rights and how is this functioning? Which groups are doing it?

**Session two - Human Rights for women outside the UN system**

What are the major non-UN human rights organisations around the world?

Which parts of the world do they cover?

How do they operate, what political activities are happening and how do courts get involved?

How can individuals get involved and have an impact on the problem?

**Session three – Part one - Fighting violence against women**

What are the major new organisations, legal principles and initiatives on fighting violence against women?

UN activities and Council of Europe activities and the crucial new Istanbul Convention.

How does it work, what are governments tasked to do and what bodies enforce it*?*

Will it be adopted round the world?

**Session four – Part two - Fighting violence against women**

How and to what extent do these human rights get enforced?

The role of the courts and recent cases extending women’s rights over violence, round the world.

The push back against the Istanbul Convention. Where is this coming from? Which countries refuse to ratify it?

**Session five – Part one - Sexual and Reproductive rights and demographics**

What are the basic global demographic facts and trends?

What are sexual health and reproductive rights, a concept developed by the UN? Which bodies are involved in this at the international level?

Which governments are trying to control women’s fertility? What methods have governments used?

**Session six – Pert two -Sexual and Reproductive rights and demographics**

Why do some governments want to keep on encouraging women to have more or fewer children?

How does this relate to racism?

Is any of this government activity useful to women, does it help improve their situation in society?

How do women protect themselves from abuse of their rights by governments wanting to control/patrol/reduce/increase their fertility?

**Session seven – Abortion and Human Rights**

How is this treated in international law? Are governments allowed to make it illegal?

What are the global statistics? Which countries are liberalising abortion, which ones are making it illegal? What else are governments around the world doing about abortion and making it safe and accessible?

What new rights are being developed to protect women against risks to their lives and torture, inhumane and degrading treatment?

What rights do medical staff have? Dealing with ‘conscience’ rights.

**Session eight – Part one - Rights for children**

How were children’s rights developed at the UN?

The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the rights.

What is the opposition to children having rights?

**Session nine – Part two - Rights for children**

What is the special situation for human rights for girl children round the world?

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

**Session ten – Human Rights at work**

What are the international texts and what new ones are being developed?

What rights do women have?

Equal pay.

Sexual harassment at work.

**Session eleven – Human Rights for migrants**

What rights to migrants have?

What are the UN rules and what are the regional rules?

How are women covered by these rules? How can the present poor situation for women be improved?

**Session twelve – Environmental rights**

What rights do we all have to a safe environment?

What are the UN texts?

Are there any regional texts?

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