

CENTRE FOR LAW AND SOCIETY

3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL WORK, LAW, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

THEME 2024 - ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN SOUTH ASIA



MARCH 16 - 17, 2024



GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY



ABOUT GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY

Gujarat National Law University (“**GNLU**”) is a statutory University established under the Gujarat National Law University Act, 2003, by the Government of Gujarat. Recognised by the Bar Council of India (BCI) and the University Grants Commission (UGC), GNLU holds membership in the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI), and the International Association of Law Schools (IALS). Offering interdisciplinary legal courses across five faculties: B.A. LL.B., B.S.W. LL.B., B.COM. LL.B., B.SC. LL.B. and B.B.A. LL.B., GNLU also provides post-graduate programs such as LLM and doctoral programs in law and interdisciplinary fields. GNLU extends its academic offerings to include a PhD program in Social Work, uniquely designed for interdisciplinary study combining law and interdisciplinary perspectives.

ABOUT CENTRE FOR LAW AND SOCIETY

The GNLU Centre for Law and Society (“**GCLS/Centre**”), nearing completion of a decade since its inception, is the focal point for socio-legal research at GNLU. Dedicated to fostering interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research, training and extension activities in law and society, as well as legal institutions, the Centre promotes a comprehensive approach to addressing socio-legal issues. Embracing diverse perspectives, our mission is to identify contemporary issues of significance, distil academic expertise, and provide practitioners with relevant and applicable knowledge. We strive to enhance the accessibility of our work for professionals in government, business, and law, bridging the gap between academia and policy-making. We bring together researchers and thinkers through our programs and events, disseminating insights and analyses through briefings, reports, and multimedia presentations. Fuelled by creativity and curiosity, the Centre is committed to fulfilling its social, cultural, and economic obligations towards India and the global community.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Celebrating over 14 years of success in offering our unique B.S.W. LL.B. integrated program, we are pleased to announce our third edition of the ‘International Conference on Law, Social Work, and Human Rights’ scheduled for March 16 - 17, 2024 (“**Conference**”). This theme of this edition is “Access to Justice in South Asia.” Access to justice in South Asia is a nuanced interplay of legal infrastructure, societal norms, economic factors, and technological advancements. In the diverse and populous nations of the South Asian region, achieving equitable access to justice is a paramount yet challenging goal.

Considering these challenges, GCLS is convening this Conference. With this edition of the Conference, the Centre aims to focus on delving into the intricate dimensions of access to justice in South Asia. By facilitating critical discussions that bring together experts, scholars, and practitioners from diverse fields, the Conference seeks to redefine access to justice across the region. Key discussions would include empowering child-friendly legal processes, justice through alternative dispute resolution, advancing social justice via interdisciplinary programs in legal education, aligning legal reforms with SDG 16.3, and fostering innovative entrepreneurial solutions. The Conference endeavours to collaboratively craft actionable strategies and roadmaps, contributing to a fair, inclusive, and efficient socio-legal landscape.

Schedule of the Conference:

Last date for submission of paper	February 20, 2024
Intimation of acceptance	February 25, 2024
Last date for registration and payment	March 1, 2024
Last date for submission of presentation	March 5, 2024
Dates of conference	March 16 - 17, 2024

BROAD THEMES

The theme of this year's conference is '**Access to Justice in South Asia**'. The below list of themes is indicative. Papers on other sub-themes consistent with the central theme will also be considered.

I. Access to Justice Within the Indian and International Legal Systems in South Asia

- a. Access to Justice in Cases of Prisoners/Context of Criminal Justice
- b. International Human Rights Standards and their Implementation in South Asia
- c. Pro-People Orders and their Efficiency in Ensuring Access to Justice
- d. Right to Fair Trial
- e. Role of the Directive Principles of State Policy in Shaping the Judicial System
- f. Victim's Rights and Access to Justice

II. Access to Justice Challenges

- a. Access to Justice for Marginalised and Vulnerable Populations
- b. Access to Justice in Rural and Backward Areas
- c. Caste-Based Oppression and Access to Justice
- d. Intersectionality and Access to Justice
- e. Language in Judiciary and Access to Justice
- f. Livelihoods and Access to Justice

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III. Access to Justice and the Use of Innovative Tools and Technology

- a. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and Access to Justice
- b. Artificial Intelligence/ Technology and Access to Justice
- c. Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Promoting Innovations in Access to Justice
- d. Human-Centered (Policy) Design for Improved Access to Justice
- e. Innovative Solutions and Social Entrepreneurial Initiatives for Accessible Justice
- f. Role of NGOs, Civil Societies, and Institutional Collaborations or Interdisciplinary Programs in Legal Education.

IV. Access to Justice in Cases of Emergency in South Asia

- a. Access to Justice in Context of Humanitarian Crisis/Disasters
- b. Access to Legal Aid and Services in Humanitarian Crises: Challenges and Solutions
- c. Criminal and Civil Reforms to Improve Access to Justice
- d. Reforms in Policing System to Ensure Prompt and Fair Police Participation
- e. Access to Justice During Insurgency
- f. Access to Justice for Vulnerable Groups during Emergencies

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The full paper shall be submitted via this [form](#).

1. Original and unpublished research papers on the aforementioned themes are invited.
2. Co-authorship is allowed up to two authors per submission.
3. Abstract (350-500 words): It must clearly outline its research objectives, methodology, relevance to social work and law, significant results, implications, and key references.
4. The full paper should have a cover page containing the title of the paper, author's name(s), designation and organisation/institutional affiliation, email address, and contact number.
5. The Word file should be saved in the author's name (first author's name in case of joint authors). It should be followed for both the abstract and full paper submissions.
6. The full paper is to be submitted in a Word document according to the following specifications:
 - a. **Title:** Times New Roman, size-15, Bold, 2.0 line spacing, centre-aligned.
 - b. **Main Body:** Times New Roman, size-12, 1.15 line spacing, justified.
 - c. **Heading:** Times New Roman, size-14, Bold, 1.5 line spacing, justified.
 - d. **Sub-headings:** Times New Roman, size-13, Italicised, 1.15 line spacing centre-aligned.
 - e. **Footnotes:** Times New Roman, size-10, 1.0 line spacing, justified.
 - f. **Margins:** One inch (2.54 cm) on all four sides.
 - g. **References:** arranged alphabetically in APA citation style (6th edition).
7. All submissions should be within the range of 5000-6000 words (exclusive of abstract and footnotes) and subject to anonymous peer review and plagiarism check.

FEE STRUCTURE AND PAYMENT

	Registration Fee (exclusive of accommodation)
Students	INR 1,000 / USD 15 + GST @ 18%
Academicians and Other Professionals	INR 2,000 / USD 30 + GST @ 18%
Foreign Participants*	INR 4100 / USD 50 + GST @ 18%
Attendees (participants without paper)	INR 500 + GST @ 18%

* Foreign Participants may opt to present their papers virtually.

1. Co-authorship is allowed up to two authors. In case of Co-authorship, both the authors have to register and make the registration payment separately.
2. For participants requiring accommodation, an additional fee of INR 2000 (USD 25 for foreign nationals) will be charged (excl. taxes) per day. Please note that accommodation will be subject to availability.
3. Payment links will only be sent to authors of selected papers and observers/attendees.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Chief Patron

Prof. (Dr.) S. Shanthakumar, Director, GNLU

Conference Convener

Dr. Apoorva Patel, Head, GCLS & Assistant Professor of Social Work, GNLU

Centre Faculty and Organising Members

Dr. Saurabh Anand, Associate Professor of Sociology, GNLU

Dr. Ambati Nageswara Rao, Assistant Professor of Social Work, GNLU

Mr. Ayush Rastogi, Teaching and Research Associate (Law), GNLU

In case of any queries, feel free to write to us at socialworkconference@gnlu.ac.in or reach out through Mr. Ayush Rastogi, Research Assistant, GCLS at +91 90273 69136.