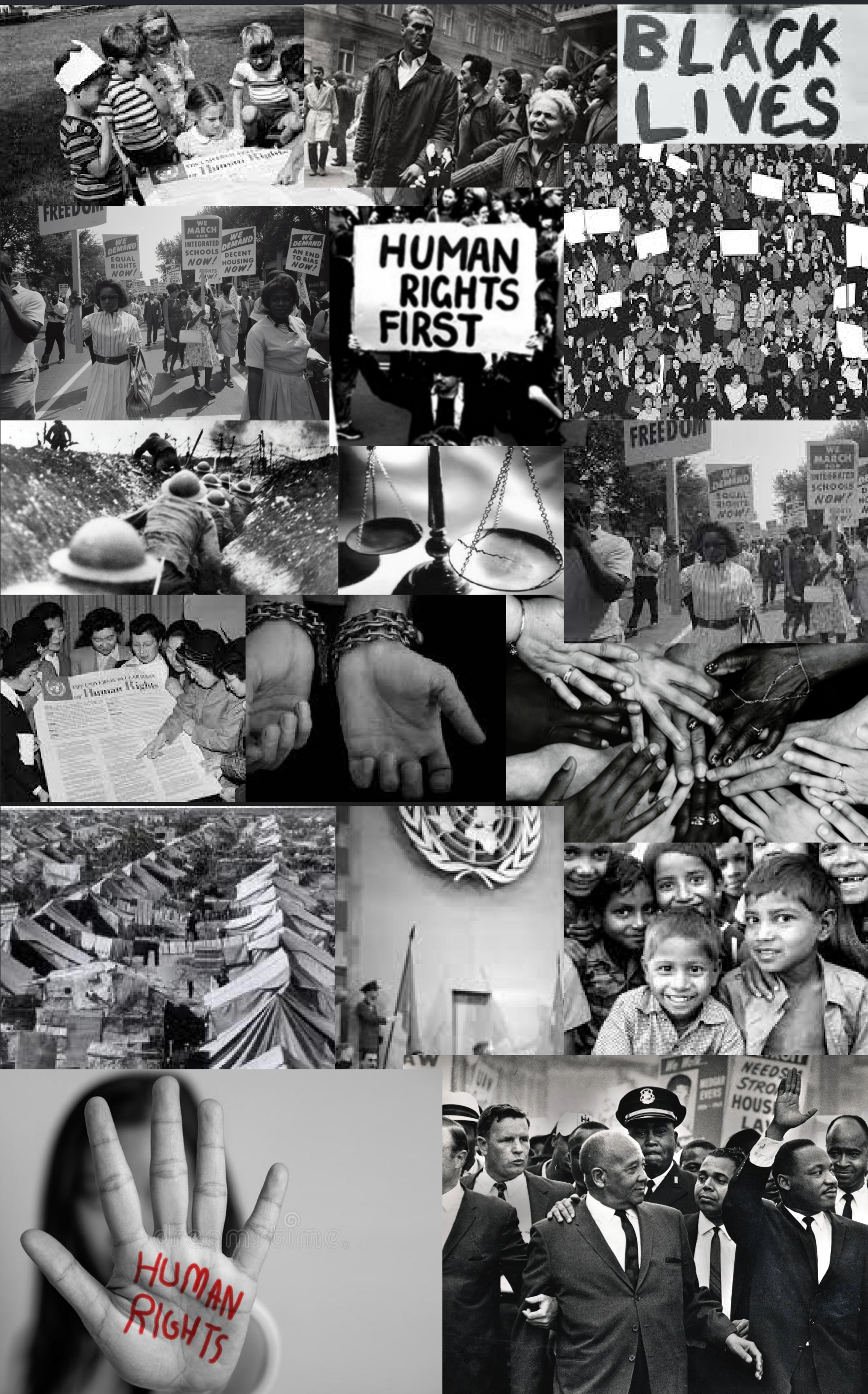




LEX SCRIPTA

ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS



Editor's Note

WELCOME! The Human Rights Committee, School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) is delighted to present you the first digital issue of '***Lex Scripta***'. The committee blog which was started by our alumna.

The Human Rights Committee SLCU is a student-led organisation which acts as a nurturing ground to provide students a platform for legal discourse regarding pressing issues affecting human rights and aid them to come up with possible solutions to the same, thereby enhancing their knowledge and interest in the field.

For our first digital issue, we chose the Theme- '**Origin and Evolution of Human Rights**' to introduce our readers to the history and struggle behind the current Human Rights regime. This newsletter showcases our objective to educate, inform and equip the readers with foundational knowledge of Human Rights. The Committee with the newsletter aims to create awareness about human rights violations and the legal discourses around it.

The Committee extends its heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Jaydevan S Nair, Dean and Dr Sapna. S, Head of Department, School of Law for their constant guidance and support. The committee is also grateful to the faculty co-ordinators Dr. Fincy Pallishery and Dr. Shampa S. Dev. Finally we thank the Faculty co-ordinators of the Human Rights Committee, School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) - Shilpi Roy Chowdhury, Dr. Gopi Ranganath V and Mr. Sanjay Shenoi P, for their unyielding guidance through the drafting of this newsletter.

We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter every month!

TIMELINE OF THE ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS



BABYLON KING HAMMURABI

1760 BCE:

In Babylon King Hammurabi draws up the 'Code of Hammurabi', an early legal document that promises to 'make justice reign in the Kingdom and promote the good of the people'

GAUTAMA BUDDHA

528 BCE - 486 BCE:

In India, Gautama Buddha advocates morality, reverence for life, non-violence and right conduct

ROMAN EMPIRE

27 BCE - 476 CE:

Roman Empire develops the concepts of natural law and the rights of citizens

KING JOHN OF ENGLAND

1215:

King John of England was compelled by the members of the English aristocracy to sign the Magna Carta which imposed restrictions and legal limits on his powers

JOHN LOCKE

1689:

John Locke elucidates the notion of natural rights and defines them as the "rights to life, liberty and property". The Bill of Rights was introduced in England which essentially focused on putting an end to the King's arbitrary powers

THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

1762:

The Social Contract or Principles of Political Rights authored by Jean-Jacques Rousseau was published and it predominantly advocated the importance of the society's general will



US INDEPENDENCE

1776:

The Congress approved the United States Declaration of Independence, authored by Thomas Jefferson. It called for American independence from Britain on the idea that "all men are created equal" and bestowed with unalienable rights, such as the right to life and liberty



FRENCH REVOLUTION

1789:

During the initial phases of the French Revolution, the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen was approved. This declaration declared the downfall of Monarchy and upheld the basic rights such right to life, liberty, property and security.



US BILL OF RIGHTS

1791:

The US Bill of Rights was amended in order to broaden the arena of citizens' rights by incorporating freedom of speech, press and right to fair trial.



THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT

1833:

The British Parliament abolishes slavery through the Slavery Abolition Act.

GENEVA CONVENTION

1864:

The European Powers adopted the First Section of the Geneva Convention which was further expanded to incorporate prisoners war victim rights.



HAGUE CONVENTION

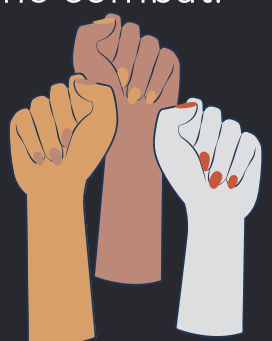
1899 & 1907:

The Hague Convention, which placed fundamental reliance upon the Geneva Convention, defined laws and customs of war on land, established processes for using constructive negotiation and arbitration to resolve international disputes, prohibited the use of weapons of mass killing, and gave regulations for marine combat.

THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES

1919:

The treaty of Versailles was the most important peace treaty that brought World War I to an end. It laid down the terms for global peace on the basis of democratic diplomacy, national sovereignty, and self-determination. League of Nations, a peacekeeping international organisation was constituted but it failed to prevent the occurrence of World War II



THE DANDI MARCH/SALT MARCH

1930:

The Dandi March/Salt March, a peaceful protest against the British salt tax in colonial India was led by Gandhiji. The Salt March attracts international attention to India's independence cause, the brutality of colonialism, and non-violence as a dominant political instrument.



ATLANTIC CHARTER

1941:

Atlantic Charter which signified post war peace was signed by the US and Great Britain.



THE ALLIED POWERS

1942:

The Allied Powers signed the Declaration of the United Nations, pledging to create a peacekeeping organisation called the United Nations on the basis of the Atlantic Charter.

THE FIRST OF THREE WARFARE TALKS

1943:

The first of three warfare talks between Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union was held in Tehran. The decision by the three powers to create an organisation of "United Nations" after the war was the most significant breakthrough for human rights from this conference



CHARTER OF UNITED NATIONS

1944:

The Charter of United Nations was drafted and negotiated in Dumbarton Oaks Conference.



51 SIGNATORIES.

1945:

The United Nations Conference on International Organization approved the United Nations Charter, which was ratified initially by 51 signatories. According to the UN Charter, one of its primary goals is to promote "respect for human rights and basic freedoms for all, without regard to race, gender, language, or religion".



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

1946:

United Nations established the Human Rights Commission and Eleanor Roosevelt was elected by the General Assembly as its chairperson.



UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1948:

On 10th December 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was proposed by the Human Rights Commission.



THE REFUGEE CONVENTION

1951:

The Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (The Refugee Convention) is adopted and opened for signature. It defines who a refugee is and what the rights and legal obligations of states are in relation to them.



CERD

1965:

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) is adopted and opened for signature. It is introduced to eliminate racial discrimination and promote equal understanding among all races.

ICCPR AND ICESCR

1966:

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) are adopted and opened for signature



ICCPR CAME INTO EFFECT

1976:

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights were adopted and came into effect and it mainly focused on protecting the civil and political rights of individuals.

CEDAW

1979:

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is adopted and opened for approval with signature. It is introduced to prevent discrimination against women and promote their rights



CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE

1984:

The Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment is adopted and opened for signature.



CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

1989:

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is adopted and opened for signature



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

2006 - 2007:

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is adopted (2006) and opened for signature (2007)



RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

2007:

The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the United Nations in 2007



HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

2011:

The United Nation adopts the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training.

UDHR TURNS 70

2018:

The UDHR, which turned 70 in 2018, continues to be the foundation of all international human rights law



PRESENT DAY

2021:

Human Rights continue to evolve and safeguard human dignity all across the globe.

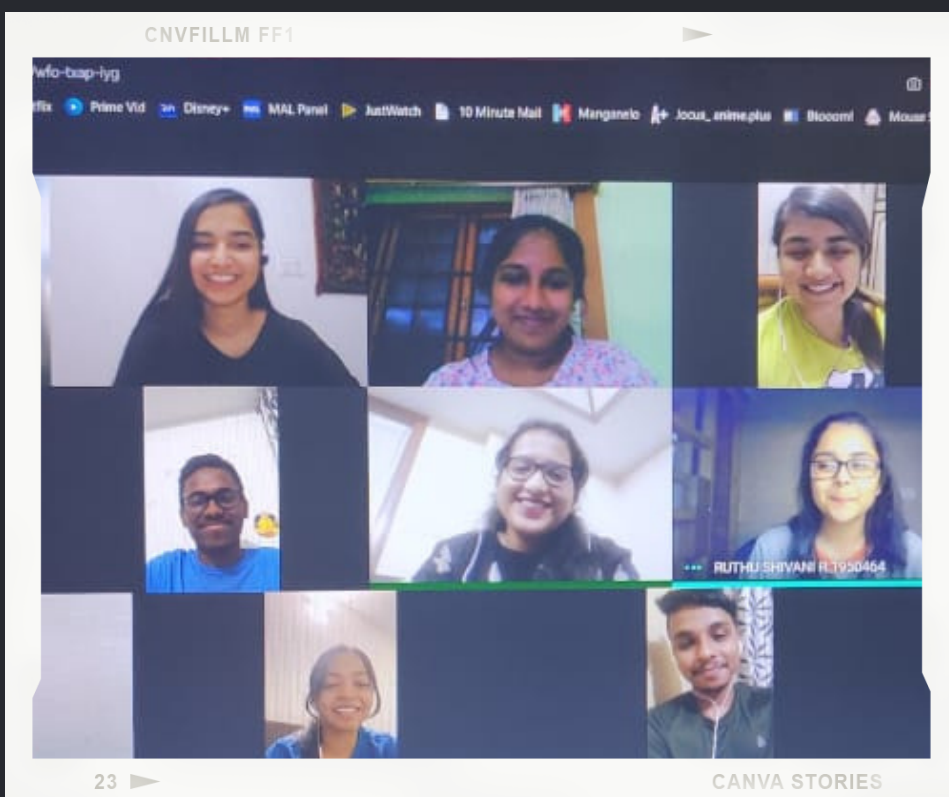


REMINISCENCE



The Human Rights Committee organised a 'Know your Rights' stall in the CHRIST Central campus as part of the Human Rights Week celebrations in 2019.

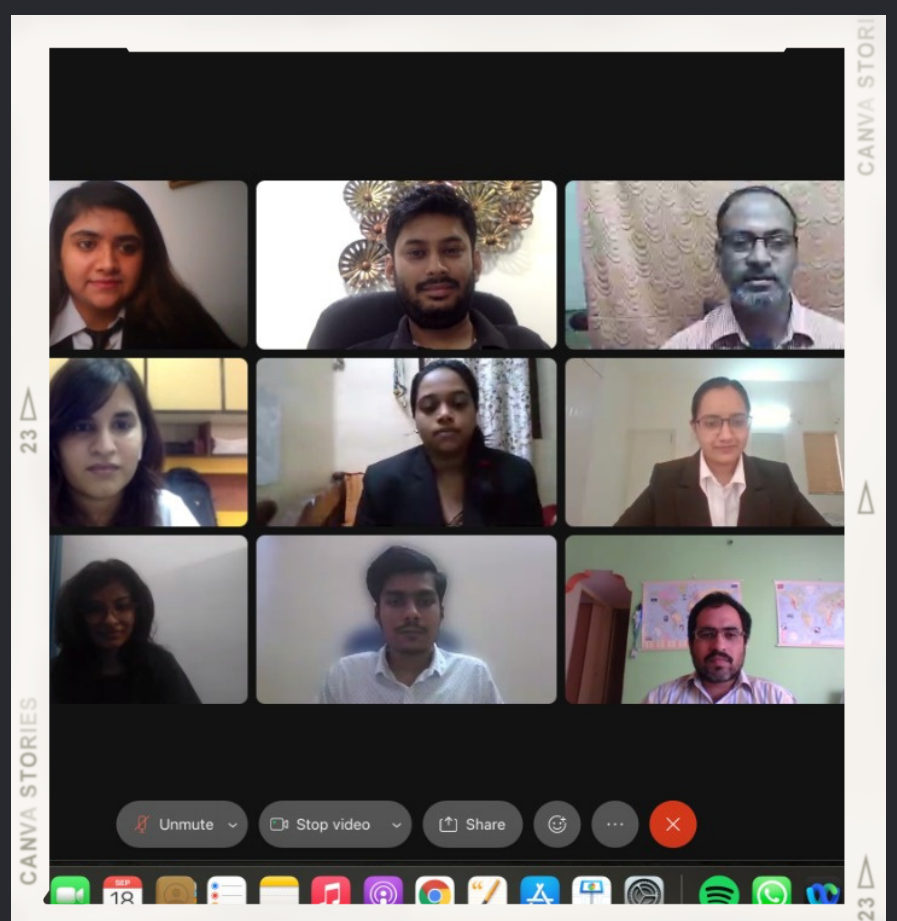
The Human Rights Committee ended the Human Rights Week 2019 with its Flagship 'Guest Lecture' which was graced by the presence of luminaries in the field.



Making the shift to a digital era caused due to the global pandemic was indeed a challenging task but the committee stuck with its vision of imparting legal awareness and sensitization about Human Rights issues enabling it to flourish against all odds.

In frame: Organising Committee of Human Rights Week 2020-2021.

The Human Rights Committee organised an introductory session for the young law students to familiarise them with the field of human rights and introduce them to the Committee by holding a Primer in September 2021.



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