



HUMANITY IN CRISES: THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR WAR AND DISPLACEMENT

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THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR
WAR AND DISPLACEMENT



Editors

Ms. Huma Khan
Dr. Kavya Chandel

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PREFACE

War and displacement are among the most pressing humanitarian challenges of our time. Conflicts rage across continents, displacing millions, eroding legal norms, and testing the resilience of international humanitarian frameworks. At the heart of these crises lies a fundamental question: How can law protect human dignity in times of extreme violence and forced migration? This edited volume seeks to address this question by examining the legal, ethical, and practical dimensions of war and displacement through a multidisciplinary lens.

The chapters in this book explore the evolving landscape of international humanitarian law, the protection of vulnerable populations, and the emerging challenges posed by new battlefields both on Earth and beyond. From the historical foundations of the Geneva Conventions to the contemporary struggles of enforcing accountability against non-state armed groups, this collection critically assesses the successes and failures of legal mechanisms designed to mitigate human suffering.

“Law for Humanity: Navigating the Principles of International Humanitarian Law” sets the stage by revisiting the core principles of IHL and their application in modern conflicts. *“Gender-Based Violence in Conflict Zones: A Contemporary Analysis”* sheds light on the persistent scourge of sexual violence in war and the legal pathways to justice for survivors. *“Historical Development of the Geneva Conventions and Their Additional Protocols: A Humanitarian Legal Legacy”* traces the evolution of the legal instruments that remain the bedrock of wartime protections. Finally, *“Legal and Ethical Challenges of Human Migration to Outer Space”* ventures into uncharted territory, examining how displacement and conflict might extend beyond terrestrial borders in an era of space exploration.

This book is the product of collaboration among scholars, practitioners, and advocates who share a commitment to advancing the dialogue on humanitarian law and policy. It is intended for students, researchers, policymakers, and legal professionals who seek a deeper understanding of the intersection between law, war, and human displacement.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the contributors whose expertise and insights have shaped this volume, as well as to the countless individuals working on the frontlines of humanitarian crises who inspire us to pursue justice even in the darkest of times.

As the world grapples with ever-more complex conflicts and displacement scenarios, the need for robust legal frameworks has never been greater. It is our hope that this book will contribute to the ongoing discourse on how law can and must serve as a shield for humanity in times of crisis.

Editors

Ms. Huma Khan

Dr. Kavya Chandel

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Ms. Huma Khan is a dedicated academician and legal scholar with over six years of teaching experience in the field of law. She is currently serving as an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, Integral University, where she is also pursuing her Ph.D. Her research and academic interests span across contemporary legal issues, with a focus on criminology, International Law, constitutional law, and emerging dimensions of crime in the modern world. Huma Khan holds an LL.B. degree from Lucknow University and completed her LL.M. from Sri Ram Swaroop Memorial University, demonstrating a strong foundation in both the theoretical and practical aspects of law throughout her academic career; Ms. Khan has shown a deep commitment to legal research and scholarship. She has presented papers at numerous national and international conferences, contributing valuable insights into various areas of legal concern. Her scholarly contributions include several research articles and book chapters published in reputed journals and edited volumes, reflecting her engagement with contemporary legal discourse. Demonstrating her leadership and organizational capabilities, she has successfully organized and coordinated various academic events, aimed at enhancing legal awareness and student engagement. She is also the editor of the book titled "Changing Dimensions of Crimes in the 21st Century", which explores the evolving nature of criminal activity and the legal system's response to these changes. Before joining Integral University, she held teaching positions at Ambedkar Law College and Geeta Law College, where she was recognized for her engaging teaching style and her dedication to mentoring students. With her rich academic background, research orientation, and passion for teaching, Huma Khan continues to contribute meaningfully to legal education and scholarship in India.



Dr. Kavya Chandel is currently working as an Assistant Professor in Sharda University Greater Noida. She has previously worked as an Assistant Professor in Integral University Lucknow. She has previously worked with Amity and City Academy law college. She has an academic experience of 5 long years. She has pursued her Masters from Hidayatullah National Law University Raipur in Environmental Law and PGDIPR from Rammanohar Lohiya National Law University Lucknow. She is a silver medalist in Intellectual Property Rights She has pursued her PHD in Environmental Law. Dr. Kavya Chandel has judged various competitions Like Second Round table Conference, Moot court competition and Debate Competition. Dr. Chandel has been Interviewed by Lawctopus and TV India. She has presented Research papers at various National Conferences. She has Moderated International Conference and hosted various events Apart from that she holds a deep interests in Poetry and Marathon. She has contributed her poetries at Sahitya Aitak and Lucknow literature festival. She has participated in various Marathons across the city. She is an avid speaker who doesn't shy out in voicing her opinions. She has given Guest lectures on Intellectual Property Law, Environmental Law and Sports Laws In India & NDPS act across the country. She runs a podcast by the name of 'Legum Fatum' She has Presented her Research Papers at various International Conferences. She has published her Research Papers in Scopus and International journals

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CHAPTER 16

Safeguarding The Displaced: The Evolution and Challenges of Refugee Law and Protection Mandates

Reshma Hayat¹

Introduction

The global refugee crisis represents one of the most significant humanitarian challenges of the 21st century. As of 2025, over 100 million individuals are forcibly displaced worldwide, including refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons (IDPs)². Refugee law, a specialized branch of international law, seeks to provide legal protections for those compelled to flee their countries due to persecution, conflict, or other serious threats. Central to this framework is the principle of *non-refoulement*, which prohibits states from returning refugees to places where they face persecution or serious harm.³ This chapter examines the theme of refugee law and protection mandates through several sub-themes: the historical evolution of refugee law, key international and regional legal frameworks, the mandate and operations of the UNHCR, complementary protection mechanisms, contemporary challenges, and future directions for durable solutions.

Refugee law operates at the intersection of humanitarian principles, state sovereignty, and human rights. While the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol form the backbone of the global refugee regime, regional instruments and human rights law have expanded the scope of protection. However, the application of these frameworks varies widely, influenced by political, economic, and social dynamics. This chapter provides a comprehensive analysis of refugee law's development, its institutional underpinnings, and the pressing

¹ Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, Integral University, Lucknow

² UNHCR, *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2024* (Geneva: UNHCR, 2025), 3.

³ Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, July 28, 1951, 189 U.N.T.S. 137, art. 33.