

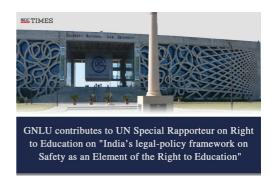
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GNLU contributes to UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Education on "India's legal-policy framework on Safety as an Element of the Right to Education"

GNLU submitted a written response on "India's legal-policy framework on Safety as an Element of the Right to Education" to Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, United Nations Human Rights Council, for upcoming report to be presented at the 59th session of the Human Rights Council in June 2025.

Published on January 2, 2025 - By Bhumika Indulia



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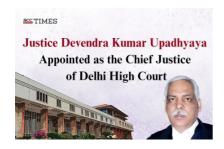
The GNLU Centre for Public and Private International Law (GCPIL) has submitted a written response to the Call for Contributions issued by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on

Right to Education inviting submissions on the topic of "Safety as an aspect of right to education and as a precondition to its full realization".

The Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education is an independent human rights expert appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council ('UNHRC'). On 19-11-2024, for upcoming report to be presented at the 59th session of the Human Rights Council in June 2025, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, Ms. Farida Shaheed, invited States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, national human rights institutions, academics, educators, business actors, as well as civil society organizations to share their views and experiences on 'safety as an element of the right to education and a precondition for its full realization'.

States, including India, have ratified the following conventions and have an international obligation to ensure schools provide secure, non-discriminatory learning environments that foster the right to education. This commitment stems from key international instruments, including Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and Article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Including its alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), which advocates for inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all, including safe and effective learning environments. The Special Rapporteur, through "Call for Contributions" (under the mandate of the Special Rapporteur), aims to evaluate the implementation of international standards, national policies, and community-led initiatives to ensure physical, digital, and emotional safety in educational settings.

The GNLU Centre for Public and Private International Law (GCPIL) submitted its contribution for 'India' providing an overview of India's constitutional and international obligations in respect of the right to education and enlisted specific statutory provisions, policies, guidelines, or cases that ensure that a holistic right to education is provided to students, including facets such as health, psychosocial and physical safety, and security of students. The response was undertaken by an in-depth study carried out by 8 law students — Masoom Sanyal, Anushka Bhatt, Souniya Dhuldhoya, Palak Siwach, Sithara B Fatima, Sia Shah, Prathamesh Bhagure and Vinayak Malhotra — to support the Special Rapporteur's efforts in addressing critical questions on ensuring safety in educational settings in India delved into vital legal frameworks such as IT Act, 2000, the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. It also provided information on existing government initiatives such as the PM-POSHAN Scheme, Manodarpan Portal, Sainik Schools Society Rules, National Disaster Management Guidelines, School Safety Policy, whole school safety approach, NCERT guidelines including those outlined in the National Building Code of India with emphasis on landmark Supreme Court judgment in Avinash Mehrotra v. Union of India 2009 (6) SCC 398, which laid down that the right to safe environment is inherent in the right to education. Their work focuses on analyzing key national legislations, government policies, schemes, guidelines, including



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