

Violence against Women: Interplay between International Humanitarian Law and Buddhism in Contemporary Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations

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This research focuses on the principles and customs practiced in Buddhism to fill certain gaps in the theoretical concept of women in armed conflict. In the contemporary conflict and post conflict societies, women play a key role. However, women are vulnerable to violence in both conflict and post conflict situations mostly due to the traditional roles and stereotypical attitudes on women. This research attempts to utilize the connection between Buddhist teachings and theoretical principles of International Humanitarian Law for the protection of women in armed conflicts. The main objective of this research is to examine whether there is an interplay between International Humanitarian Law and Buddhism, which could be utilized to improve the situations of violence against women in contemporary armed conflicts. The secondary objective of the research is to analyse the special vulnerability of women in conflict situations as recognized by both Buddhism and International Humanitarian Law. Research methodology adopted by the researcher is the legal research methodology; reviewing of secondary data and a comparative analysis between the relevant theories of Buddhist concepts and applicable International Humanitarian Law Principles on women in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Keywords: Women in armed conflict, Buddhism, Interplay, International Humanitarian Law