

IHSA Conference at NSU Calls for Urgent Action on Gaza Humanitarian Crisis, Stresses Adherence to International Law

Dhaka, 12 November 2023: The 7th International Conference of the International Humanitarian Studies Association (IHSA) on 'Humanitarianism in Changing Climates' recently concluded at North South University (NSU) with notable success. The event, a collaboration between IHSA and the Center for Peace Studies (CPS) of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) at NSU, witnessed the participation of approximately 150 attendees, including 90 international delegates, over its three-day duration from 5th to 7th November 2023.

The conference brought together a distinguished assembly of experts, scholars, and practitioners to delve into the dynamic nexus of humanitarianism, peace, and conflict in the context of global challenges. It was marked by insightful discussions and exchange of ideas on these pressing issues, highlighting the conference's role as a significant platform for dialogue and knowledge sharing in the field of humanitarian studies.

A key feature of the conference was a roundtable discussion focusing on the ongoing violence and humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The IHSA and CPS of SIPG, NSU, issued a joint statement during this roundtable, expressing solidarity with the affected in Palestine and Israel and condemning acts of violence against civilians. The statement emphasized the critical violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) by the Israeli state and military, particularly referencing the 1949 Geneva Convention.



The conference's statement also underscored the importance of adhering to UNSC Resolution 2417, which condemns starvation as a weapon of war and notes that blocking humanitarian aid constitutes a breach of IHL. The statement called for immediate access to aid and protection for civilians, stressing the responsibilities of Israel as an occupying power in the Palestinian Territories under IHL.

Beyond the focus on the Gaza situation, the conference explored the complex interplay between humanitarianism, climate change, and other global challenges across six key themes. The hybrid format of the event facilitated both in-person and online participation, ensuring a diverse range of perspectives and broad engagement.



The conference concluded with a call for Humanitarian Studies scholars to use their knowledge and influence to advocate for truth and counter any attempts to silence academic freedom and freedom of expression. The statement also condemned the use of discriminatory language and narratives that promote dehumanization and polarization, emphasizing the need for respect, dignity, and inclusive dialogue in addressing global humanitarian challenges.