

Gender and Environmental Law. Challenges and opportunities for promoting the role of gender in environmental justice

V Tarragona International Environmental Law Colloquium (TIEC)
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Panel 4. Poster pitch session

The role of the human right to water in realising gender equality.

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The presentation aims to examine the role that the full realisation of the human right to water, connected with the protection of water resources, plays in order to promote gender equality, in particular reaching the result of empowerment of women's rights.

The first and necessary element of this analysis will be the definition of the inextricable link between the protection of water resources and the realisation of the human right to water, in order to highlight how environmental law and human rights law must go hand in hand to reach their full implementation. This is particularly evident in those human rights that have a clear link with the environment and natural resources, which is precisely the one existing between the right to water and the protection of water resources.

Secondly, the presentation will examine how the human right to water represents an instrument for promoting gender equality, as a universal right which implementation must necessarily be indiscriminate, and which consequently represents an important tool for the empowerment of society and of its weaker and/or disadvantaged members, in particular while facing adversities such as the ones deriving from climate change.

Having defined these general aspects, the presentation will focus, in its final part, on specific aspects relating to women, and how the human right to water, if fully and correctly implemented, undoubtedly represents an instrument for promoting women's rights, especially of young women. This also examining in detail, and also mentioning emblematic cases, which rights are directly influenced, from those relating to inclusion in civil society to those relating to social rights, above all education and work, in order to demonstrate how the correct implementation of the human right to water, and the related policies to protect water resources, play a significant role in promoting gender equality.