

## Handout

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### Instructions for Session 3: hypothetical legal hearing (80 mins total)

#### Background

President of the Islamic Republic of Qumar has appointed a new Ambassador to the United Nations in New York.

The Ambassador has four wives, who are all legally recognised in Qumari law. The United Nations, however, will only recognise one wife for the purposes of deciding spousal benefits and the United States will only issue one residence visa, to the first wife.

The Ambassador decides to take his case to the UN Committee on Human Rights. He argues that his human rights have been breached by the United Nations and the US, and that both the UN and the US should recognise all his wives. His legal team also seeks to use the new concepts of sexual rights to persuade the committee even though their legal standing is dubious.

- Appoint a moderator and timekeeper.
- The other participants should form into four teams:
  - Legal team representing the Ambassador
  - Legal team representing the UN
  - Legal team representing the US
  - UN Committee on Human Rights
- The first three teams prepare their arguments, at the same time as the fourth team reviews the WHO definition of sexual rights and Yogyakarta Declaration.  
*(Teams should be encouraged to use the WHO definition of sexual rights and the Yogyakarta Principles and come to a decision about which elements they will use to argue their case, if any.)* (15 mins)
- The three legal teams present their case to the UN Committee. (7 mins x team)
- Each team prepares a response to the other arguments. (5 mins)
- One member of each team presents the responses. (3 mins each)
- The Committee adjourns, considers its response, declares which arguments were most and least persuasive, and **why**. (10 mins)
- Review. What emotions did this exercise elicit in participants? Did they find themselves having to confront any of their personal opinions and attitudes? (10 mins)