GNLU CENTRE FOR DISABILITY STUDIES (GCDS) PRESENTS

THE INAUGURAL GNLU

Essay Writing Competition on Disability Studies, 2026

Empowering Change: Integrating Law and Social Work for Disability Rights and Inclusion



INTRODUCTION

Disability is a critical social issue that intersects with various aspects of life, including legal rights, social justice, healthcare, education, and employment. While significant strides have been made in advocating for and securing the rights of individuals with disabilities, numerous barriers still remain in terms of legal implementation, social inclusion, and the overall empowerment of people with disabilities.

The integration of Law and Social Work provides a unique opportunity to create meaningful, lasting change. Law can establish frameworks and enforce rights, while social work brings the practical, empathetic approach needed to ensure those rights are accessible and realized in everyday life. This combined approach can ensure the creation of a just and inclusive society where people with disabilities are fully integrated and empowered to participate in all areas of life.

To foster discourse on this vital intersection, the GNLU Centre for Disability Studies (GCDS) invites submissions for its 1st Call for Essays. This competition invites students, scholars, and professionals to explore how law and social work can collaborate to promote disability rights and societal inclusion. Participants will have the opportunity to reflect critically on both the legal frameworks and the practical implications of social work practices that ensure the protection, empowerment, and inclusion of individuals with disabilities.

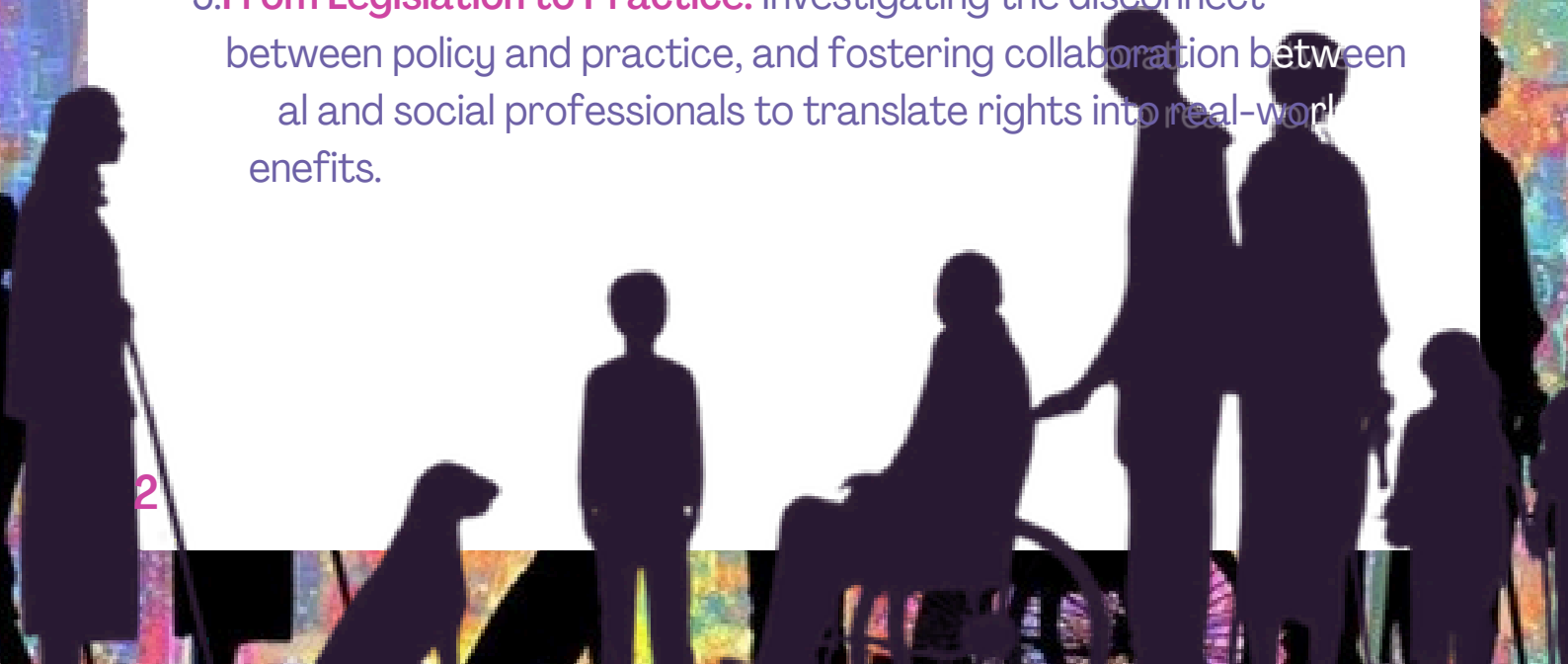


THEME

***Theme:** Empowering Change:Integrating Law and Social Work for Disability Rights and Inclusion*

This theme invites participants to critically explore how legal protections and social work interventions can together empower individuals with disabilities and facilitate their inclusion in society. The competition encourages participants to address, but is not limited to, the following sub-themes:

1. **Legal Frameworks for Disability Rights:** Analyzing the effectiveness, implementation gaps, and potential improvements in national laws and international conventions (e.g., UNCRPD).
2. **Social Work in Advocacy & Empowerment:** Examining the role of social workers in bridging the gap between theoretical legal provisions and community level engagement and support provision.
3. **Challenges in Integrating Law & Social Work:** Addressing barriers to interdisciplinary collaboration and exploring how both fields can jointly combat discrimination, stigma, and inaccessible services.
4. **Building Inclusive Societies:** Developing strategies that combine legal reforms and social work interventions to eliminate systemic discrimination and promote equal opportunities.
5. **From Legislation to Practice:** Investigating the disconnect between policy and practice, and fostering collaboration between al and social professionals to translate rights into real-worl enefits.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- **WordLimit:** 3500to 5000words
- **Formatting:**
  - **Font:** Times New Roman, Size 12
  - **Line Spacing:** 1.5
  - **Margin:** 1-inch on all sides
- **Footnotes:** OSCOLA
- **Deadline for Submission:** **15th November, 2026**
- **Plagiarism limit:** 10% (Turnitin will be used)
- **Tables and Diagrams:** Usage of these is permitted but they must
- be relevant, correctly labelled and referenced.
  Mode of Submission: Essays must be submitted electronically via
- email to [gcds@gnlu.ac.in] with the subject line: **"Essay Submission: Empowering Change"**. Submit two copies. One with names of the authors and one without.

- **File Format:** Submitin.**doc/.docx** format.

REGISTRATION FEE

The registrationfeeis:

- **Single-Author submission:** Rs 250/-
- **Co-authored submission:** Rs 400/-
- Co-authorship is limited to a maximum of two authors.

Registration Link
https://rzp.io/rzp/DomRWps

JUDGING CRITERIA

Essays will be evaluatedbased on the following criteria:

- **Relevance to Theme:** The extent to which the essay addresses the theme of integrating law and social work for disability rights and societal inclusion.
- **Research and Analysis:** Depth of research and critical analysis of disability rights, law, and social work perspectives.
- **Innovative Solutions:** Originality in proposing solutions to the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities and integrating law and social work approaches.
- **Clarity and Coherence:** Clear expression of ideas, logical flow, and coherence in presenting arguments.
- **Practical Application:** Applicability of the essay's recommendations in real-world scenarios, particularly in policy development and social work practice.
- **Plagiarism:** The essay must be original and free of any form of plagiarism. Proper citations and references must be included to acknowledge sources.
- **Use of AI:** Essays that incorporate artificial intelligence tools should ensure that the work remains original and reflects the participant's own ideas. AI-generated content must be clearly disclosed, and human insight should be evident in the final submission.



IMPORTANT DATES

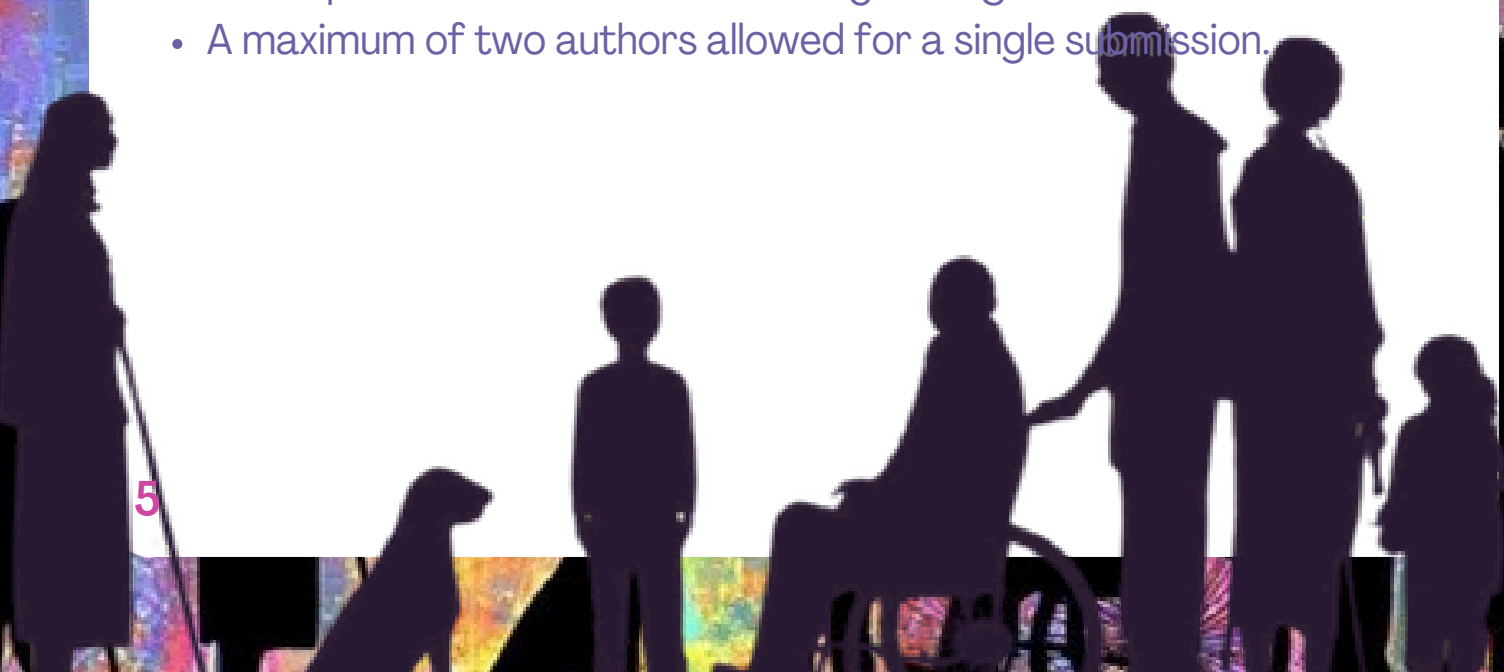
- **Last Date for Registration&Payment:** 10th November, 2026
- **Last Date for Submission:** 15th November, 2026
- **Date of Results:** 03rd December2026,2026
- **Starting date of GCDSinternship:** 07th December2026

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- **1st Prize:** Certificate + Cash Prize Rs 7,000/- and Online Internship (December Month)
- **2nd Prize:** Certificate + Cash Prize Rs 5000/- and Online Internship (December Month)
- **3rd Prize:** Certificate + Cash Prize Rs 2500/- and Online Internship (December Month)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- The competition is open to students andprofessionalsin the fields of Law, Social Work, Disability Studies, Human Rights, and other related disciplines.
- Essays must be the original work of the participant and should not have been previously published.
- Participants must submit their essays in English.
- A maximum of two authors allowed for a single submission.



GNLU Centre for Disability Studies

CONTACT INFORMATION

For information or inquiries regarding the competition, please contact us at:

- **Email:** gcds@gnlu.ac.in
- **Website:** www.gnlu.ac.in

We look forward to your insightful contributions as we strive to create a more just, inclusive, and empowering society for individuals with disabilities.

