Sabarimala Case: Legal, Religious & Gender Perspectives

23 – 27 November 2026
Amsterdam (Netherlands)



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Why This Course

The Sabarimala Temple Entry case stands as one of the most significant legal and constitutional debates in contemporary India, bringing into focus the relationship between religious freedom, equality, tradition, and individual rights. It raised critical questions about the extent to which constitutional protections can shape religious practices, and how courts approach conflicts between long-standing customs and fundamental rights.

This comprehensive 1-week course delves into the landmark Sabarimala Temple Entry case, examining its legal, religious, and social implications. Participants will gain a thorough understanding of the constitutional issues, gender equality concerns, and the intersection of law and religion in contemporary India.

What You'll Learn and Practice

By joining this program, you will:

- Analyze the legal arguments and constitutional principles involved in the Sabarimala case.
- Evaluate the impact of the judgment on religious practices and gender equality.
- Understand the historical and cultural context of the Sabarimala temple traditions.
- Explore the broader implications for similar cases involving religious customs and individual rights.
- Develop critical thinking skills in addressing complex legal and social issues.

The Program Flow

Day 1: Introduction and Legal Framework

- Overview of the Sabarimala case and its significance.
- Constitutional provisions relevant to the case Articles 14, 15, 25, 26.
- History of temple entry movements in India.
- Kerala Hindu Places of Public Worship Act, 1965.

Day 2: Arguments and Judgments

- Petitioners' arguments for women's entry.
- Respondents' arguments for maintaining the ban.
- Majority judgment analysis.
- Dissenting opinion by Justice Indu Malhotra.



Day 3: Religious and Cultural Perspectives

- Lord Ayyappa tradition and Sabarimala customs.
- Concept of essential religious practices.
- Role of religious denominations in managing affairs.
- Balancing tradition and constitutional morality.

Day 4: Gender Equality and Rights

- Women's right to worship and religious freedom.
- Menstruation taboos and their legal status.
- Intersectionality of gender, religion, and law.
- Comparative analysis with other religious gender restrictions.

Day 5: Aftermath and Future Implications

- Public reactions and protests following the judgment.
- Implementation challenges and subsequent developments.
- Review petitions and referral to larger bench.
- Potential impact on similar cases and religious practices.

Individual Impact

- Strengthen your ability to critically analyze complex constitutional cases involving religious practices.
- Enhance your understanding of the relationship between fundamental rights and religious customs.
- Improve your skills in legal reasoning and argument construction.
- Build deeper insight into contemporary debates on gender equality and religious freedom in India.

Work Impact

- Support stronger legal analysis of cases involving constitutional rights and religious practices.
- Improve the ability to assess the wider social and legal implications of landmark judgments.
- Strengthen professional discussions around equality, freedom of religion, and constitutional interpretation.
- Enhance case-based learning and policy analysis in legal, academic, and institutional settings.

Training Methodology

This program integrates constitutional analysis, legal interpretation, and practical discussion to ensure meaningful academic and professional impact. Learning methods include:

- Case-based analysis of the Sabarimala judgment and related legal materials.
- Guided discussions on constitutional principles and competing rights.
- Comparative review of religious freedom and gender equality issues.
- Interactive sessions on legal reasoning and argument development.



• Practical frameworks for examining complex legal and social questions.

Beyond the Course

Upon completion, participants will be better equipped to examine landmark constitutional disputes with greater depth, balance, and analytical clarity. They will return ready to:

• Analyze constitutional cases involving religion and individual rights more effectively.
• Evaluate the legal and social implications of judicial decisions with greater confidence.
• Construct stronger arguments around equality, religious freedom, and constitutional values.
• Engage more thoughtfully in debates surrounding law, gender, and religious practices in India.

