

**HUMR5502 – Written assignment – autumn 2017**

Choose one of the three questions below:

1.

Explain ways in which the nation-state as a modern mode of political organisation deals with ethnic diversity. Discuss in particular the strategic dilemmas that arise as seen from the following three perspectives: 1. From the governmental perspective; 2. From the perspectives of the citizens, both individually and on a group basis, including minorities; 3. From the perspective of human rights protection. Choose two or more countries to illustrate the discussion.

2.

While the right of self-determination of peoples in the context of decolonisation is widely accepted, outside that context the exercise of this fundamental right is quite contentious. Thus, secession from a parent State remains a rather contentious manner of exercising the right to self-determination. Some more support exists for the doctrine of remedial secession, at least in academic writing. How can international law regulate the right to self-determination of peoples in a manner that is not disruptive of a State's territorial integrity and international relations among States? Discuss the differences concerning the exercise of the right to self-determination in the case of Kosovo, Crimea, and Catalonia. For Kosovo and Crimea you can also make use of the cases brought before the International Court of Justice, respectively *Accordance with International Law of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence in Respect of Kosovo* (Request for Advisory Opinion) and *Application of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* (Ukraine v. Russian Federation).

3.

You are to investigate and write a report about a set of massacres committed during a period of internal unrest--generally communicated in the international community as 'ethnic' in nature. The report shall concentrate on discussing how to understand the massacres--are they human rights violations justifying international intervention--and conclude with a set of recommendations for building peace. What is needed to classify the violence as 'genocide'? How can reports about human rights violations be used to construct peace? You may choose the cases of Myanmar and Syria or one or two other cases to analyse and discuss these issues.

