SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Baguio City, Philippines

SDG 10.6.6 | Support for Underrepresented Groups



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SLU Promotes Equal Access to Justice and Human Rights

SLU SCHOOL OF LAW PROVIDES FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND RIGHTS EDUCATION TO COMMUNITIES

Saint Louis University (SLU), through its School of Law and the Chief Justice Manuel V. Moran Community Legal Assistance Office (CJMM CLAO), advances access to justice by providing community-based legal assistance and promoting awareness of legal rights. Through its Clinical Legal Education Program, law students gain practical experience in addressing legal concerns while serving community members under faculty supervision.

The office's activities include legal consultations, client interviews, legal advice, and outreach programs. It also conducts forums and seminars covering important concerns such as women's and children's rights, Indigenous Peoples' rights, data privacy, and the Safe Spaces Act. These initiatives provide opportunities for community members to learn about relevant laws and understand how their rights apply to their everyday experiences.

SLU helps connect legal knowledge with the needs of individuals and communities. Its efforts support people who may face difficulties accessing legal information or assistance, while preparing future lawyers to approach their profession with social responsibility and a commitment to serving others by combining supervised legal practice with public legal education.



Published in the SLU Website: *https://www.slu.edu.ph/2026/07/23/slu-school-of-law-continues-its-commitment-to-help-make-a-better-world/*





Access to legal information and assistance helps individuals understand their rights and respond to concerns involving unfair treatment, discrimination, and other legal challenges. However, some people may encounter barriers when seeking legal guidance because of limited resources or a lack of awareness of existing laws and protections.

Community legal aid and rights education help address these challenges by bringing legal knowledge beyond formal institutions and making it more accessible to the public. Through consultations, educational activities, and community outreach, legal service initiatives can help individuals become better informed about their rights and available avenues for assistance.

These efforts also emphasize the role of education and professional service in promoting fairness. When legal knowledge is shared with communities, it can help reduce information barriers and support more inclusive access to justice.



SLU Advances Indigenous Rights and Inclusion in Technology Development

SLU HIGHLIGHTS THE ROLE OF AI IN PROTECTING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS



Indigenous Peoples are among the groups whose rights and cultural knowledge need recognition and protection. As technology continues to develop, it is important to ensure that digital systems respect Indigenous identities and allow Indigenous communities to participate in decisions that affect them.

On October 6, 2025, Saint Louis University (SLU) participated in the closing event of the Season of Creation 2025 at the CRC Hall in the Bishop's House Compound in Baguio City. The event included a forum titled "Indigenous Peoples and Artificial Intelligence: Defending Rights, Shaping Futures," facilitated by SLU Chief Information Technology Officer and Data Protection Officer Cecilia Mercado, PhD.

Published in the SLU Website:
https://www.slu.edu.ph/2025/10/24/slu-participates-in-season-of-creation-2025-highlighting-the-role-of-ai-in-protecting-ip-rights/

The discussion focused on how artificial intelligence can support Indigenous Peoples' rights while addressing concerns about the use of Indigenous knowledge and data. It highlighted the importance of protecting Indigenous data sovereignty and intellectual property, ensuring that Indigenous voices are represented in the development of AI systems, and allowing Indigenous communities to participate in technology governance. The forum also emphasized the need to consider the possible effects of AI on Indigenous cultures and traditions. Respecting community ownership of knowledge is important to prevent the misuse of cultural information and ensure that technological advancements do not disregard Indigenous rights. Including Indigenous perspectives in these discussions can help promote more responsible and inclusive approaches to AI development.





This initiative reflects SLU's support for underrepresented groups by emphasizing the need to protect Indigenous communities' rights and ensure their perspectives are considered in technological development. It also highlights the importance of using technology responsibly while respecting Indigenous identity, culture, and knowledge. SLU helps raise awareness of the relationship between emerging technologies and human rights. The activity also reinforces the value of giving Indigenous communities a voice in decisions that may affect their lives and cultural heritage. These efforts contribute to broader conversations on inclusion, equal participation, and the protection of Indigenous Peoples in an increasingly digital society.



The SLU SDG Report 2026