

A Human Rights Resource Packet

A Guide to Governments' Human Rights Commitments and Obligations

Providing a Human Rights Framework
to Empower the Work of NGOs,
Community Workers, and all those Committed to:

- Aged persons
- Children and Youth
- Differently Abled Persons
- Discrimination
- Environment
- Education
- Food
- Health
- Housing
- Human Rights Education
- Indigenous Peoples
- Livelihood and Land
- Participation in Decision-Making
- Peace
- Poverty
- Refugees
- Religion
- Sustainable Development
- Women
- Work

People's Decade for Human Rights Education

Introducing a Human Rights Holistic Framework to Nourish and Reinforce Efforts for Human Development

The human rights of every woman, man, youth and child to live in dignity and state of well being lies at the heart of the realization of human rights. Lack of housing , food, education, work and healthcare result in systemic and sweeping denial of economic, social, cultural rights and of political and civil rights as well. Learn to use human rights as a powerful toll for achieving social and economic justice! The human rights of all women, men youth and children can be realized when people know their human rights and claim them!

All human rights are inextricably linked –are indivisible, interconnected and interdependent. Human rights obligations and commitments are set out in Treaties, Declarations and plans of Action, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the International Convention on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and on Civil and Political Rights; The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); The Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Governments have made commitments to ensuring “progressive realization” of economic, social and cultural rights at the world conferences in Vienna, Beijing, Istanbul, Rio, and Copenhagen.

These materials present a holistic view of governments’ commitment and obligations to ensuring the human rights of all people. Investigate which are the Treaties that your government had ratified. Take actions to hold your government, institutions and individuals accountable to promote and protect human rights through laws , policies and appropriate resources to overcome human rights violations. Know the commitments they have made in the international arena by which they must abide.

The packet is intended to enable individuals , organizations and communities in their struggles against injustice and for peace and the well being in a human right context.

Human rights are the banks of the river where life can flow freely.

“ Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person...Everyone... is entitled to realization.. of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity... everyone has the rights to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself* and of his* family, including food , clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services... Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which... rights and freedoms.. can be fully realized...”*

--Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Articles 3, 22, and 28

*All human rights are universal** , indivisible ... Interdependent and interrelated “*

--Vienna Declaration

*Add “her” --to fully include women in our human rights vision

** “Universal” means: --they belong to all!

**NO ONE HUMAN RIGHT CAN VIOLATE ANOTHER HUMAN RIGHTS
CONFLICTING RIGHTS MUST BE SOLVED IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS WAY**

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

PEOPLE'S DECADE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION, (PDHRE) PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION IN THE FOLLOWING GUIDING PRINCIPALS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIETY:

1. CONTEMPORARY ENUNCIATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS ECHO PEOPLES STRUGGLES. A VARIETY OF HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENTS FLOURISH WORLDWIDE AND THE MORAL HEROISM OF VICTIMS SHOWS FUTURE PATHS AND STRUGGLE.
2. THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, ASSOCIATIONS AND NATIONS TO EDUCATION IN HUMAN RIGHTS IS AN INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE HUMAN RIGHTS
3. HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AIMS TO ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL RECOGNITION OF AND COMMITMENT TO THE DIGNITY AND WORTH OF EACH HUMAN PERSON. IT SHOULD BE A COLLECTIVE ENDEAVOR OF ALL INDIVIDUALS AND AGENCIES; IT SHOULD BE PARTICIPATORY, HOLDING OUT AN EXEMPLARY PRACTICE OF THE VIRTUE IT PROSELYTIZES FOR OTHERS.
4. THE EVILS THAT HAVE PLAGUED HUMANKIND FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL PERSISTS, AMONG WHICH ARE INJUSTICE, EXPLOITATION, PATRIARCHY, IMPOVERISHMENT, TYRANNY. CIVIL STRIFE, GENOCIDE, CATASTROPHIC STATE FAILURES AND CALAMITOUS ABUSES OF POWER. THEIR PERSISTENCE PRODUCES HUMILIATION AND DESPAIR BUT IT ALSO SPURS ACTION FOR CHANGE, WHICH HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION CAN HELP DEFINE.
5. HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION HAS TO REINFORCE THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO PEACE, WHICH INCLUDES THE RIGHTS TO DENUCLEARIZED EARTH, IMMUNITY FROM ALL WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND THE ARMAMENT PROCESS, AND THE RIGHTS OF ALL TO BENEFIT FROM PEACEFUL USES OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.
6. GENOCIDAL PRACTICES ARE THE MOST MASSIVE FORMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND EVERY HUMAN BEING SHOULD BE EMPOWERED BY HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION TO DELEGITIMATE, EXPOSE AND UNDERMINE THE VERY POSSIBILITY OF THE EMERGENCE OF SUCH PRACTICES EVERYWHERE.
7. WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE NOW RECOGNIZED AS HUMAN RIGHTS. HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION MUST ACCELERATE FULL ACCOMPLISHMENT OF A WORLD BASED ON RESPECT FOR THE DIGNITY OF ALL WOMEN AND EMPOWER STRUGGLE AGAINST ALL FORMS OF PATRIARCHY EVERYWHERE.
8. DIGNITY OF LABOUR IS AN INELUCTABLE ASPECT OF HUMAN INTERDEPENDENCE AND SOCIAL COOPERATION AND JUST DEVELOPMENT. HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION MUST AIM TO PROMOTE CONDITIONS WHICH FOSTER RESPECT FOR THE INHERENT DIGNITY OF HUMAN LABOUR AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WORKERS.
9. THE MISSION AND MANDATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION EXTENDS TO THE CREATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF A HUMAN RIGHTS WHERE THE BASIC MATERIAL AND NON-MATERIAL NEEDS OF ALL HUMAN BEINGS ARE MET AND WHERE ALL VICTIMS OF HISTORIC DISCRIMINATION, INCLUDING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, EXCLUDED PEOPLES AND ETHNIC MINORITIES, STANDS REDRESSED.
10. THE DECADE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION IS A DECADE OF PEOPLE DURING WHICH EVEN STRONGER SOLIDARITIES IN STRUGGLE CAN EMERGE AND THEIR COLLECTIVE CONSCIENCE CAN BE TRANSFORMED BY THE MESSAGE OF DIGNITY AND EQUAL WORTH OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL PERSON. DEDICATION TO THE NATION-STATES AND THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION IS THE FIRST STEP. BUT EACH INDIVIDUAL HUMAN BEING HAS A STAKE IN HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION BECAUSE IT MARKS A UNIQUE PURSUIT OF OUR COMMON FUTURE.

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Aged Persons

Governments' Obligations to Ensuring the Human Rights of Aged Persons:

"Everyone is entitled to all ... rights and freedoms ... without distinction of any kind.... Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization ... of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity.... Everyone has the right a standard of living adequate for ... health and well-being..., including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of ... sickness, disability, widowhood, old age...."

--Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Articles 2, 22, and 25

"... States Parties ... undertake to guarantee that ... rights ... will be exercised without discrimination of any kind.... States Parties ... recognize the right to work.... Equal opportunity for everyone to be promoted ... subject to no considerations other than those of seniority and competence.... States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone to social security, including social insurance...; ... the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living..., including adequate food, clothing and housing...; ...the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger...; ... the right of everyone to the ... highest attainable standard of physical and mental health...."

--International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Articles 2, 7, 9, 11, and 12

"Each State Party ... undertakes to respect and to ensure to all individuals ... rights ... without distinction of any kind.... No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.... In particular, no one shall be subjected without his free consent to medical ... experimentation.... All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.... No one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy, family, home...."

--International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 2, 7, 10, and 17

"States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular: the right to work...; the right to the same employment opportunities...; ... the right to promotion, job security and all benefits and conditions of service...; the right to social security, particularly in cases of retirement,... sickness, invalidity and old age.... States Parties shall ... eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, access to health care services.... States Parties shall ... eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure ... in particular ... the right ... to benefit directly from social security programmes...; to enjoy adequate living conditions...."

--Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Articles 11, 12, and 14

Commitments governments made to ensuring the realization of the Human Rights of Aged Persons:

"The General Assembly.... urges the support of national initiatives on ageing ... so that: Appropriate national policies and programmes for the elderly are considered as part of overall development strategies;... Governmental and non-governmental organizations collaborate in the development of primary health care, health promotion and self-help programmes for the elderly; Older persons are viewed as contributors to their societies and not as a burden;... Policies and programmes are developed which respond to the special characteristics, needs and abilities of older women;... Families are supported in providing care...." --

UN GA Proclamation on Ageing, para. 2

The Rights of Aged People Are Human Rights!

Aged Persons

"Objectives.... To develop systems of health care as well as systems of economic and social security in old age ... paying special attention to the needs of women; To develop a social support system ... with a view to enhancing the ability of families to take care of elderly people within the family.... Governments should seek to enhance the self-reliance of elderly people to facilitate their continued participation in society. In consultation with elderly people, Governments should ensure that the necessary conditions are developed to enable elderly people to lead self-determined, healthy and productive lives and to make full use of the skills and abilities they have acquired in their lives for the benefit of society.... Governments, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations and the private sector, should strengthen formal and informal support systems and safety nets for elderly people and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against elderly people in all countries, paying special attention to the needs of elderly women."

--Cairo Programme of Action, paras. 6.17, 6.19, 20 and 6.

"We heads of State and Government ... will create ... action to: ... Improve the possibility of older persons achieving a better life.... Develop and implement policies to ensure that all people have adequate economic and social protection during ... widowhood, disability and old age."

--Copenhagen Declaration, para. 26 and Commitment 2

"The eradication of poverty requires universal access to economic opportunities that will promote sustainable livelihood and basic social services, as well as special efforts to facilitate access to opportunities and services for the disadvantaged.... There is ... an urgent need for: ... Policies ensuring that all people have adequate economic and social protection during ... disability and old age.... Particular efforts should be made to protect older persons, including those with disabilities, by: ... Improving the situation of older persons, in particular in cases where they lack adequate family support.... Ensuring that older persons are able to meet their basic human needs through access to social services and social security, that those in need are assisted, and that older persons are protected from abuse and violence and are treated as a resource and not a burden.... Strengthening measures ... to ensure that retired workers do not fall into poverty...."

--Copenhagen Programme of Action, paras. 24, 25, and 40

"With the increase in life expectancy and the growing number of older women, their health concerns require particular attention.... Diseases of ageing and the interrelationships of ageing and disability among women ... need particular attention.... Actions to be taken: ... Develop information, programmes and services to assist women to understand and adapt to changes associated with ageing and to address and treat the health needs of older women.... Discrimination in ... hiring and remuneration, promotion ... continue to restrict employment, economic, professional and other opportunities ... for women.... Actions to be taken: ... Adopt and implement laws against discrimination based on sex in the labour market, especially considering older women workers, hiring and promotion, the extension of employment benefits and social security, and working conditions...."

--Beijing Platform for Action, paras. 101, 106, and 165

"Older persons are entitled to lead fulfilling and productive lives and should have opportunities for full participation in their communities and society, and in all decision-making regarding their well-being, especially their shelter needs. Their many contributions to the political, social and economic processes of human settlements should be recognized and valued. Special attention should be given to meeting their evolving housing and mobility needs in order to enable them to continue to lead rewarding lives in their communities.... We ... commit ourselves to ...: Promoting shelter and supporting basic services and facilities for education and health for ... older persons...."

--Habitat Agenda, paras. 17 and 40

The Rights of Aged People Are Human Rights!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Governments' Commitments to Children and Youth:

".... Each country should combat human rights abuses against young people, particularly young women and girls, and should consider providing all youth with legal protection, skills, opportunities and the support necessary for them to fulfil their personal, economic and social ... potentials.... Children ... are highly vulnerable to the effects of environmental degradation. The ... interests of children need to be taken fully into account ... in order to safeguard the future sustainability of any actions taken to improve the environment...." **-- Agenda 21, paras. 25.8, and 25.12**

"National and international mechanisms ... should be strengthened for the ... protection of children, in particular, the girl-child, abandoned children, street children, economically and sexually exploited children, ... children victims of diseases..., refugee and displaced children, children in detention, children in armed conflict, as well as children victims of famine and drought and other emergencies. International cooperation ... should be promoted to support the implementation of the Convention [on the Rights of the Child] and the rights of the child should be a priority in the United Nations system-wide action on human rights. The World Conference on Human Rights ... stresses that the child ... should grow up in a family environment which ... merits broader protection.... The World Conference ... calls on States to integrate the Convention ... into their national action plans.... Particular priority should be placed on reducing infant and maternal mortality rates, reducing malnutrition and illiteracy rates and providing access to safe drinking-water and to basic education.... Exploitation and abuse of children should be actively combated, including by addressing their root causes. Effective measures are required against female infanticide, harmful child labour, sale of children and organs, child prostitution, child pornography, as well as other forms of sexual abuse."

-- Vienna Declaration, paras. 21, 47 and 48

"We will ... ensure that children ... enjoy their rights and promote the exercise of those rights by making education, adequate nutrition and health care accessible to them....; Take appropriate and affirmative steps to enable all children and adolescents to attend and complete school and to close the gender gap in primary, secondary, vocational and higher education...."

-- Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, Commitment 6 (c),(d)

"We are determined to ... ensure the human rights of ... the girl child as an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms....; ... ensure the full enjoyment by ... the girl child of all human rights ... and take effective action against violations of these rights...."

-- Beijing Declaration, paras. 9 and 23

"Actions to be taken: ... Set specific target dates for eliminating all forms of child labour that are contrary to accepted international standards and ensure the full enforcement of relevant existing laws and ... enact the legislation necessary to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child and International Labour Organization standards, ensuring the protection of working children, ... street children, through the provision of appropriate health, education and other social services.... Address the acute problems of children ... by supporting efforts ... aimed at ... the prevention and eradication of female infanticide, harmful child labour, the sale of children and their organs, child prostitution, child pornography and other forms of sexual abuse...."

-- Beijing Platform for Action, paras. 175(m) and 230(m)

Children's Rights are Human Rights!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Human Rights Obligations to Children and Youth:

"Everyone has the right a standard of living adequate for ... health and well-being.... Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children ... shall enjoy the same social protection.... Everyone has the right to education...." – **Univ. Dec., Arts. 25 and 26**

"States Parties shall respect and ensure ... rights ... to each child ... without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.... States Parties shall ensure ... the survival and development of the child.... States Parties recognize the right of the child to the ... highest attainable standard of health....; States Parties shall ... ensure the provision of ... health care to all children.... States Parties shall take all effective ... measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children.... States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.... States Parties ... shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support..., particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing.... States Parties recognize the right of the child to education.... ; ... to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.... States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.... "

– **Convention on the Rights of the Child, Arts. 2, 6, 24, 27, 28, 32, and 34**

"The States parties ... recognize that ... special measures of protection and assistance should be taken on behalf of all children and young persons without any discrimination for reasons of parentage or other conditions. Children ... should be protected from economic and social exploitation. Their employment in work harmful to their morals or health or dangerous to life or likely to hamper their normal development should be punishable by law.... States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living.... to the ... highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.... The steps to be taken ... shall include those necessary for ... the reduction of the stillbirth-rate and of infant mortality, and for the healthy development of the child...." – **Int'l Cov. on Economic, Social, Cultural Rights, Arts. 10, 11, 12, and 13**

"... The family is the natural ... group unit of society and is entitled to protection.... Every child shall have, without any discrimination as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, national or social origin, property or birth, the right to such measures of protection as are required by his status as a minor, on the part of his family, society and the State. Every child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have a name. Every child has the right to acquire a nationality."

– **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Arts. 23, and 24**

"States Parties condemn discrimination against women in all its forms, agree ... to take all appropriate measures ... to modify or abolish existing laws, ... customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women.... States Parties shall ... eliminate discrimination against women ... in the field of education...."

– **CEDAW, Arts. 2 and 10**

Children's Rights are Human Rights!

Differently-Abled Persons

Governments' Obligations to Ensuring the Human Rights of Differently-Abled Persons:

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.... Everyone is entitled to all ... rights and freedoms ... without distinction of any kind.... All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination ... and against any incitement to ... discrimination.... Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for ... health and well-being .. Including ... the right to security in the event of ... disability...." --

UDHR, Articles 1, 2, 7, and 25

"The States Parties ... undertake to guarantee that ... rights ... will be exercised without discrimination of any kind.... The States Parties recognize the right to work.... The right of everyone to ... equal remuneration for work of equal value.... the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living.... to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.... to education.... [Education] shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society.... Primary education shall be ... available to all; Secondary education ... shall be made generally available and accessible to all...; Higher education shall be made equally accessible to all... States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone ... to take part in cultural life; to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress...." --**Covenant on Economic, Social, & Cultural Rights, 2,6,7,11,12, 13, 15**

"Each State Party ... undertakes to ... ensure ... rights ... without distinction of any kind...; to ensure that any person whose rights or freedoms ... are violated shall have an effective remedy.... No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.... no one shall be subjected without his free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.... All persons shall be equal before the courts.... Everyone shall have the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.... No one shall be subjected to ... unlawful interference with his privacy, family, home.... The right of men and women ... to marry and to found a family shall be recognized.... Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity ... to take part in the conduct of public affairs...; to vote...; to have access, on ... terms of equality, to public service.... All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law.... [The] law shall prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground...."

-- Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 2, 7, 14, 16, 17, 23, and 26

"Each Member shall ... formulate, implement ... a national policy on vocational rehabilitation and employment of disabled persons.... The ... policy shall aim at ensuring that appropriate vocational rehabilitation measures are made available to all categories of disabled persons, and at promoting employment opportunities for disabled persons in the open labour market.... The ... policy shall be based on the principle of equal opportunity between disabled workers and workers generally. Equality of opportunity and treatment for disabled men and women workers shall be respected.... The competent authorities shall take measures with a view to providing ... vocational guidance, vocational training, placement, employment and other related services to enable disabled persons to secure, retain and advance in employment.... Measures shall be taken to promote the establishment and development of vocational rehabilitation and employment services for disabled persons in rural areas and remote communities." -- **ILO Convention, # 159, Art. 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8**

The rights of Differently-Abled Persons are human rights

Differently-Abled Persons

"States Parties shall respect and ensure ... rights ... to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind.... States Parties shall take all appropriate ... measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse..., maltreatment or exploitation.... States Parties recognize that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance, and facilitate the child's active participation in the community. States Parties recognize the right of the disabled child to special care and shall encourage and ensure the extension ... to the eligible child and those responsible for his or her care, of assistance ... which is appropriate to the child's condition.... Assistance ... shall be designed to ensure that the disabled child has effective access to and receives education, training, health care services, rehabilitation services, preparation for employment and recreation opportunities in a manner conducive to the child's achieving the fullest possible social integration and individual development...."

--Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 2, 19, and 23

Governments' Commitments to Ensuring the Human Rights of Differently-Abled Persons

"Disabled persons shall enjoy ... rights ... without any exception whatsoever and without distinction or discrimination.... Disabled persons have the inherent right to respect for their human dignity. Disabled persons, whatever the origin, nature and seriousness of their handicaps and disabilities, have the same fundamental rights as their fellow-citizens..., which implies first and foremost the right to enjoy a decent life, as normal and full as possible.... Disabled persons have the same civil and political rights as other human beings.... Disabled persons are entitled to the measures designed to enable them to become as self-reliant as possible.... Disabled persons have the right to medical, psychological and functional treatment, including prosthetic and orthotic appliances, to medical and social rehabilitation, education, vocational training and rehabilitation, aid, counselling, placement services and other services which will enable them to develop their capabilities and skills to the maximum and will hasten the processes of their social integration or reintegration.... Disabled persons have the right to economic and social security and to a decent level of living. They have the right, according to their capabilities, to secure and retain employment or to engage in a useful, productive and remunerative occupation.... Disabled persons are entitled to have their special needs taken into consideration at all stages of economic and social planning.... Disabled persons have the right to live with their families ... and to participate in all social, creative or recreational activities. No disabled person shall be subjected ... to differential treatment other than that required by his or her condition or by the improvement which he or she may derive therefrom. If the stay of a disabled person in a specialized establishment is indispensable, the environment and living conditions therein shall be as close as possible to those of the normal life of a person of his or her age.... Disabled persons shall be protected against all exploitation, all regulations and all treatment of a discriminatory, abusive or degrading nature."

--Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons, Articles 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10

The rights of Differently-Abled Persons are human rights

Differently-Abled Persons

"More than 500 million people in the world are disabled as a consequence of mental, physical or sensory impairment. They are entitled to the same rights as all other human beings and to equal opportunities.... Governments must ... ensure that [disabled] people ... have an opportunity to achieve a standard of living equal to that of their fellow citizens.... A strategy of prevention is essential for reducing the incidence of impairment and disability.... Measures should be taken for the earliest possible detection of ... symptoms ... of impairment, to be followed immediately by ... curative or remedial action, which can prevent disability or ... lead to significant reductions in the severity of disability.... For early detection it is important to ensure adequate education ... of families and technical assistance to them by medical social services.... The principle of equal rights for the disabled and non-disabled implies that the needs of each and every individual are of equal importance, that these needs must be made the basis for the planning of societies, and that all resources must be employed in such a way as to ensure, for every individual, equal opportunity for participation...."

--World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons, paras. 2, 3, 13, 14, and 25

"Special attention needs to be paid to ensuring non-discrimination, and the equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by disabled persons, including their active participation in all aspects of society.... The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal and thus unreservedly include persons with disabilities. Every person is born equal and has the same rights to life and welfare, education and work, living independently and active participation in all aspects of society. Any direct discrimination or other negative discriminatory treatment of a disabled person is therefore a violation of his or her rights.... The place of disabled persons is everywhere. Persons with disabilities should be guaranteed equal opportunity through the elimination of all socially determined barriers, by they physical, financial, social or psychological, which exclude or restrict full participation in society."

--Vienna Declaration, Part I, para. 22, and Part II, paras. 63 and 64

"Objectives ...: To ensure the realization of the rights of all persons with disabilities, and their participation in all aspects of social, economic and cultural life; To create, improve and develop necessary conditions that will ensure equal opportunities for persons with disabilities and the valuing of their capabilities in the process of economic and social development; To ensure the dignity and promote the self-reliance of persons with disabilities.... Actions: ... Governments at all levels should promote mechanisms ensuring the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities and reinforce their capabilities of integration."

--Cairo Programme of Action, paras. 6.29 and 6.32

"We heads of State and Government ... will create ... action to: ... Ensure that disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and groups are included in social development, and that society acknowledges and responds to the consequences of disability by securing the legal rights of the individual and by making the physical and social environment accessible.... We will ... Ensure equal education opportunities at all levels for children, youth and adults with disabilities.... Strive to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to rehabilitation and other independent living services and assistive technology to enable them to maximize their well-being, independence and full participation in society."--**Copenhagen Declaration, para. 26(I), Commitments 2(d), 6(f), (n)**

The rights of Differently-Abled Persons are human rights

Differently-Abled Persons

"Broadening the range of employment opportunities for persons with disabilities requires: ... Ensuring that laws and regulations do not discriminate against persons with disabilities.... Making appropriate adjustments in the workplace to accommodate persons with disabilities.... Developing alternative forms of employment, such as supported employment, for persons with disabilities who need these services.... Governments, in collaboration with organizations of people with disabilities and the private sector, should work towards the equalization of opportunities so that people with disabilities can contribute to and benefit from full participation in society. Policies concerning people with disabilities should focus on their abilities rather than their disabilities and should ensure their dignity as citizens...."

--Copenhagen Programme of Action, paras. 62(a), (c), (d), and 75(k)

"Actions to be taken: ... Design and implement ... gender-sensitive health programmes ... that address the needs of women throughout their lives and take into account ... the special needs of ... women with disabilities.... Ensure that girls and women of all ages with any form of disability receive supportive services...."

--Beijing Platform for Action, paras. 106 (c) and (o)

"As human beings are at the centre of our concern for sustainable development, they are the basis for our actions in implementing the Habitat Agenda.... We shall intensify our efforts to eradicate ... discrimination, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and to provide for basic needs.... We shall promote full accessibility for people with disabilities ... in policies, programmes and projects for shelter and sustainable human settlements development...."

--Istanbul Declaration, para. 7

"... Persons with disabilities have not always had the opportunity to participate fully and equally in human settlements development and management, including decision-making, often owing to social, economic, attitudinal and physical barriers, and discrimination. Such barriers should be removed and the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities should be fully integrated into shelter and sustainable human settlement plans and policies to create access for all.... We ... commit ourselves to ...: Promoting shelter and supporting basic services and facilities for education and health for ... persons with disabilities... and people belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.... We ... commit ourselves to ... Promoting equal access and full participation of persons with disabilities in all spheres of human settlements and providing adequate policies and legal protection against discrimination on grounds of disabilities...."

--Habitat Agenda, paras. 16, 40(l), and 43(v)

The rights of Differently-Abled Persons are human rights

Discrimination

Governments Obligations to Non-Discrimination

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.... Everyone is entitled to ... rights ... without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.... All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.... Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work...."

--Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Articles 1, 2, 7, and 23

"States Parties...undertake to guarantee that ... rights ... will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.... States Parties ... undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights.... The States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone to ... Fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value without distinction of any kind.... Equal opportunity for everyone to be promoted.... Education ... shall be made equally accessible to all."

--International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Articles 2, 3, 7, and 13

"Each State Party ... undertakes to ... ensure ... rights ... without distinction of any kind...; to ensure that any person whose rights or freedoms ... are violated shall have an effective remedy...; ... to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights.... All persons shall be equal before the courts.... States Parties ... shall take appropriate steps to ensure equality of rights ... of spouses as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.... Every child shall have, without any discrimination as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, national or social origin, property or birth, the right to such measures of protection as are required by his status as a minor.... All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law.... [The] law shall prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground.... In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, or to use their own language."

--International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 2, 3, 14, 23, 24, 26 and 27

"States Parties condemn discrimination against women in all its forms, agree to pursue by all appropriate means ... a policy of eliminating discrimination against women and ... undertake: to embody the principle of the equality of men and women in their ... constitutions ... and to ensure ... the practical realization of this principle; To adopt ... legislative and other measures ... prohibiting all discrimination against women; To establish legal protection of the rights of women on an equal basis with men and to ensure ... the effective protection of women against any act of discrimination; To refrain from engaging in any act or practice of discrimination against women and to ensure that public authorities ... shall act in conformity with this obligation; To take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or enterprise; To take all appropriate measures ... to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women.... States Parties shall ... take all appropriate measures to ... ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right: To vote ...; To participate in the formulation of government policy...; States

FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION IS A HUMAN RIGHT!

Discrimination

Parties shall ... ensure to [women] equal rights with men in the field of education ... the same conditions for career and vocational guidance, for access to studies...; access to the same curricula, the same examinations, teaching staff with qualifications of the same standard and school premises and equipment of the same quality; the elimination of any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women at all levels and in all forms of education...; the same opportunities for access to programs of continuing education.... States Parties shall ... ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular ... the right to work ...; the right to the same employment opportunities...; the right to promotion, job security and ... the right to ... vocational training...; the right to equal remuneration ..., equal treatment in ... work of equal value.... In order to prevent discrimination against women on the grounds of ... maternity..., States Parties shall ... prohibit ... dismissal on the grounds of pregnancy or of maternity leave ...; States Parties shall ... ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, access to health care services.... States Parties shall ... ensure ... the same rights ... to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit.... States Parties shall ... eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, ... the right: ... to have access to adequate health care facilities...; to obtain all types of training and education;... to have access to agricultural credit and loans,... appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform.... States Parties shall accord to women equality with men before the law.... States Parties shall ... eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations...." **--Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Art. 2,7,10,11,12,13, 14, 15, 16**

"States Parties condemn racial discrimination and undertake to pursue ... a policy of eliminating racial discrimination in all its forms.... Each State Party undertakes to engage in no act ... of racial discrimination....; Each State Party shall take effective measures to review governmental, national and local policies, and to amend, rescind or nullify any laws and regulations which have the effect of creating or perpetuating racial discrimination...; Each State Party shall prohibit and bring to an end ... racial discrimination by any persons, group or organization.... States Parties undertake to prohibit and to eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms and to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law, notably in the enjoyment of ... political rights ... civil rights ... economic, social and cultural rights.... States Parties shall assure ... effective protection and remedies ... against any acts of racial discrimination...."

--Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Articles 2, 5, and 6

"States Parties shall respect and ensure ... rights ... without discrimination of any kind irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child's parents, legal guardians, or family members.... States Parties recognize the right of the child to education, and ... they shall ... make primary education compulsory and available free to all; ... make [secondary education] available and accessible to every child...; make higher education accessible to all.... In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such a minority ... shall not be denied the right ... to enjoy his or her own culture, to ... practise his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language."

Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 2, 28, and 30

FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION IS A HUMAN RIGHT!

Discrimination

Governments' Commitments to Ensuring the Human Right to Freedom from Discrimination

"Respect for human rights ... without distinction of any kind is a fundamental rule of international human rights law. The speedy and comprehensive elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination ... and related intolerance is a priority task for the international community.... The full and equal participation of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life ... and the eradication of all forms of discrimination on grounds of sex are priority objectives of the international community.... The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms the obligation of States to ensure that persons belonging to minorities may exercise fully and effectively all human rights ... without any discrimination.... The persons belonging to minorities have the right to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion and to use their own language ... freely and without ... any form of discrimination.... Special attention needs to be paid to ensuring non-discrimination, and the equal enjoyment of all human rights ... by disabled persons, including their active participation in all aspects of society...."

--Vienna Declaration, Part I, paras. 15, 18, 19, and 22

"We commit ourselves to promoting social integration by fostering societies that are stable, safe and just and that are based on ... non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for diversity, equality of opportunity, ... and participation of all people.... To this end ... we will ... Formulate or strengthen policies and strategies geared to the elimination of discrimination in all its forms and the achievement of social integration based on equality and respect for human dignity.... Promote access for all to education, information, technology ... as essential means for enhancing ... participation in civil, political, economic, social and cultural life.... We will...ensure gender balance in decision-making.... Promote...equal access of women to ... education and training, and remove all obstacles to their access to credit and other productive resources...; Ensure ... universal access to the widest range of health-care services.... Remove the remaining restrictions on women's right to own land, inherit property ... and ensure women's equal right to work...."

--Copenhagen Declaration, Commitments 4 and 5

"Eliminating discrimination and promoting tolerance and mutual respect for ... diversity ... requires ... Enacting and implementing appropriate laws ... to combat racism, racial discrimination, religious intolerance in all its various forms, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination in all walks of life in societies.... Taking specific measures ... to remove long-standing legal and social barriers to employment, education, productive resources and public services; assist women in becoming aware of and realizing their rights; and ensure the elimination of intra-family discrimination for the girl child, especially in regard to health, nutrition and education.... Governments should promote equality and social justice by: Ensuring that all people are equal before the law; Carrying out a regular review of public policy, including health and education policies, and public spending from a social and gender equality and equity perspective...; Expanding and improving access to basic services with the aim of ensuring universal coverage...; Promoting full access to preventive and curative health care to improve the quality of life, especially by the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, in particular women and children...."

--Copenhagen Programme of Action, paras. 73 and 74

FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION IS A HUMAN RIGHT!

Discrimination

"We are determined to ... take all necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and the girl-child and remove all obstacles to gender equality and the advancement and empowerment of women.... We are determined to ... intensify efforts to ensure equal enjoyment of all human rights ... for all ... girls who face multiple barriers to their empowerment and advancement because of such factors as their race, age, language, ethnicity, culture, religion, or disability, or because they are indigenous people...." **--Beijing Declaration, paras. 24 and 32**

"Equitable human settlements are those in which all people, without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, have equal access to housing, infrastructure, health services, adequate food and water, education.... We ... commit ourselves to ... Eradicating and ensuring legal protection from discrimination in access to shelter and basic services, without distinction of any kind..." **--Habitat Agenda, paras. 27 and 40**

"States shall protect the existence and the national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity of minorities within their respective territories.... Persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities ... have the right to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, and to use their own language ... freely and without interference or any form of discrimination.... Persons belonging to minorities may exercise their rights ... individually as well as in community with other members of their group, without any discrimination...." **--Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious or Linguistic Minorities, Articles 1, 2, 3, and 4**

"No one shall be subject to discrimination by any State, institution, group of persons, or person on the grounds of religion or other belief.... All States shall take effective measures to prevent and eliminate discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief in the recognition, exercise and enjoyment of human rights ... in all fields of civil, economic, political, social and cultural life...." **--Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, Articles 2 and 4**

FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION IS A HUMAN RIGHT!

Environment

Governments' Obligations to Ensuring the Human Right to a Safe and Healthy Environment:

"Everyone, as a member of society, ... is entitled to realization ... of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity.... Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for ... health and well-being.... Everyone has the right ... to share in scientific advancement and its benefits...."

--Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Articles 22, 25, and 27

"All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development. All peoples may ... freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources.... In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.... The States Parties ... recognize the right to work.... to ... just and favourable conditions of work which ensure ... safe and healthy working conditions....; The States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family ... to the continuous improvement of living conditions.... States Parties ... shall ... improve methods of [food] production ... by ... reforming agrarian systems ... to achieve the most efficient development and utilization of natural resources.... The States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.... The steps to be taken ... to achieve ...this right shall include ... improvement of all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene.... The States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone to education...; to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications...."

--International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Articles 1, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, and 15

"States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular: the right to work...; the right to protection of health and to safety in working conditions, including the safeguarding of the function of reproduction.... States Parties shall ... provide special protection to women during pregnancy in ... work proved to be harmful to them.... States Parties shall ... ensure ... that [women in rural areas] participate in and benefit from rural development and ... ensure ... the right: ... to participate in ... development planning at all levels; to have access to adequate health care facilities...; to obtain all types of training and education, formal and non-formal...; ... to have access to... appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform...; to enjoy adequate living conditions...."

--Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Articles 11 and 14

"States Parties condemn racial discrimination and undertake to pursue ... a policy of eliminating racial discrimination in all its forms... Each State Party undertakes to engage in no act ... of racial discrimination...; ... shall prohibit and bring to an end ... racial discrimination by any persons, group or organization.... States Parties ... guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction..., to equality ... in the enjoyment of ... economic, social and cultural rights...." ***--Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Art. 2 and 5***

"States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health...; shall ... combat disease and malnutrition ... through the provision of adequate and nutritious foods and clean drinking water, taking into consideration the dangers ... of environmental pollution.... States Parties recognize ... the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child=s physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.... " ***--Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 24 and 27***

A Healthy and Safe Environment are A Human Right!

Environment

"Indigenous peoples] shall have the right to decide their own priorities for the process of development as it affects their lives, beliefs, institutions and spiritual well-being and the lands they occupy or otherwise use, and to exercise control ... over their own economic, social and cultural development.... Governments shall take measures ... to protect and preserve the environment of the territories they inhabit."

--ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169), Article 7

Governments' Commitments to Ensuring the Human Right to a Safe and Healthy Environment:

"Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.... In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it...."

--Rio Declaration, Principles 1 and 4

"We are confronted with...a worsening of poverty, hunger, ill health and illiteracy, and the continuing deterioration of the ecosystems.... However, integration of environment and development concerns and greater attention to them will lead to the fulfillment of basic needs, improved living standards for all, better protected and managed ecosystems and a safer, more prosperous future.... Objective: ... By the year 2000 ... incorporate ... environmental ... safeguards as part of ... development...; Establish ... programmes for providing environmental injury, hazard surveillance and the basis for abatement in all countries...; Establish ... programmes for tackling pollution at the source and at the disposal site...; Control ... use of pesticides...; Establish industrial hygiene programmes in ... major industries for... surveillance of workers' exposure to health hazards...."

--Agenda 21, Chapter 1, para. 1 and Chapter 6, para. 40

"We are deeply convinced that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, which is the framework for our efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all people. Equitable social development that recognizes empowering the poor, particularly women living in poverty, to utilize environmental resources sustainably is a necessary foundation for sustainable development."

--Beijing Declaration, para. 36

"Actions to be taken: ... Ensure opportunities for women ... to participate in environmental decision-making at all levels.... Facilitate and increase women's access to information and education, including in the areas of science, technology and economics, thus enhancing their knowledge, skills and opportunities for participation in environmental decisions.... Take appropriate measures to reduce risks to women from identified environmental hazards at home, at work and in other environments.... Integrate women, ... their perspectives and knowledge ... in decision-making regarding sustainable resource management and the development of policies ... for sustainable development.... Evaluate policies ... in terms of environmental impact and women's equal access to and use of natural resources...."

--Beijing Platform for Action, paras. 253 and 256

We commit ourselves to the goal of sustainable human settlements...that will make efficient use of resources within the carrying capacity of ecosystems... providing all people ... with equal opportunities for a healthy, safe and productive life in harmony with nature.... promoting changes in unsustainable production and consumption patterns... sustainable, reduce environmental stress, promote ... efficient providing a healthy ... environment ... and reducing the ecological footprint of human settlements...."

--Habitat Agenda, paras. 29, 42 and 43

A Healthy and Safe Environment are A Human Right!

Education

Governments' Obligations to Ensuring the Human Right to Education

"Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.... Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among ... racial or religious groups...."

--26Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article

"The States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone to education.... Education shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society, promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among ... racial, ethnic or religious groups.... Primary education shall be compulsory and available free to all... Secondary education ... including technical and vocational secondary education, shall be made generally available and accessible to all.... Higher education shall be made equally accessible to all...."

--International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 13

"States Parties shall ... eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure to them equal rights with men in the field of education ... to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women ... the same conditions for career and vocational guidance, for access to studies ... in educational establishments of all categories...; this equality shall be ensured in preschool, general, technical, professional and higher technical education, as well as in all types of vocational training. Access to the same curricula, ... teaching staff...; The elimination of any stereotyped concept of the roles of man and women at all levels and in all forms of education...; the same opportunities to benefit from scholarships...; The same opportunities for access to programmes of continuing education, including adult and functional literacy programmes.... Access to specific educational information to help to ensure the health and well-being of families, including information and advice on family planning.... States Parties shall ... eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas ... and ... ensure to such women the right ... to obtain all types of training and education, formal and non-formal, including that relating to functional literacy...."

--Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Articles 10 and 14

"States Parties undertake to prohibit and to eliminate racial discrimination ... and to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law ... in the enjoyment of ... the right to education and training...."

--Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Article 5

"States Parties recognize the right of the child to education, and ... shall ... make primary education compulsory and available free to all; ... make [secondary education] available and accessible to every child...; make higher education accessible to all...; make educational and vocational information and guidance available and accessible to all children...; take measures to encourage regular attendance at schools and the reduction of drop-out rates.... States Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to: ... the development of the child=s personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential; the development of respect for human rights...; the development of respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values...."

--Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 28 and 29

Education is a Human Right!

Education

"The States Parties ... undertake ... to ... discontinue any ... practices which involve discrimination in education....; to formulate, develop and apply a national policy which ... will promote equality of opportunity and of treatment in ... education and in particular:...To make primary education free and compulsory; make secondary education in its different forms available and accessible to all; make higher education equally accessible to all on the basis of individual capacity; assure compliance by all with the obligation to attend school prescribed by law...; To encourage and intensify ... the education of persons who have not received any primary education or who have not completed the entire primary education.... It is essential to recognize the right of members of national minorities to carry on their own educational activities, including the maintenance of schools and ... the use or the teaching of their own language...."

--Convention against Discrimination in Education, Articles 3, 4, and 5

Governments' Commitments to Ensuring the Human Right to Education:

"Education ... should be recognized as a process by which human beings and societies can reach their fullest potential. Education is critical for promoting sustainable development and improving the capacity of the people to address environment and development issues.... Governments should take active steps to ... eliminate illiteracy ... and to expand the enrolment of women ... in educational institutions, to promote the goal of universal access to primary and secondary education...."

--Agenda 21, Ch. 36/3, Ch. 3/ 2; Ch. 24/ 3

"We commit ourselves to ... the goals of universal and equitable access to quality education ... to rectify inequalities relating to social conditions... without distinction... race, national origin, gender, age disability.... We ... strengthen ... strategies for the eradication of illiteracy and universalization of ... early childhood education, primary education and education for the illiterate...; Emphasize lifelong learning... improve the quality of education... of all ages are provided with useful knowledge, reasoning ability, skills, and the ethical and social values required to develop their full capacities in health and dignity and to participate fully in the social, economic and political process of development...."

--Copenhagen Declaration, Commitment 6

"Education is a human right and an essential tool for achieving the goals of equality, development and peace.... Actions to be taken: ... Advance the goal of equal access to education by taking measures to eliminate discrimination in education at all levels on the basis of gender, race, language, religion, national origin, age or disability, or any other form of discrimination By the year 2000, provide universal access to basic education and ensure completion of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary school-age children; close the gender gap in primary and secondary school education by the year 2005; provide universal primary education in all countries before the year 2015.... Reduce the female illiteracy rate to at least half its 1990 level.... [Ensure] that women have equal access to career development, training.... Improve ... quality of education and ... equal ... access ... to ensure that women of all ages can acquire the knowledge, capacities, ... needed to develop and to participate fully ... in the process of ... development...."

--Beijing FA, paras. 69, 80, 81, and 82

"... Education is a fundamental right for all people, women and men, of all ages, throughout the world.... Every person -- child, youth and adult -- shall be able to benefit from educational opportunities designed to meet their basic learning needs.... to be able to survive,...to live and work in dignity.... to improve the quality of their lives, to make informed decisions...."

-- World Declaration on Education for All, Preamble and Article 1

Education is a Human Right!

FOOD

Governments' Commitments to Ensuring Adequate Food:

"... All countries need to assess ... the impacts of [economic] policies on food and agriculture sector performance, food security, ... as a means of identifying ... offsetting measures. The major thrust of food security ... is to ... increase ... agricultural production in a sustainable way and to achieve a substantial improvement in people's entitlement to adequate food.... The objectives are ... By 1995,...integrate... sustainable development with policy analysis for ... food and agriculture sector and...macroeconomic policy analysis...and implementation; ... develop ... policy ... to enhance sustainable food ... security within ... sustainable development, not later than 1998...." **– Agenda 21, paras. 14.6 and 14.8**

"Lack of food and the inequitable distribution of food for girls and women in the household,...have a negative effect on their health. Good health is essential to leading a productive and fulfilling life, and the right of all women to control aspects of their health ... is basic to their empowerment.... Actions to be taken:... Ensure...food security...and implement ... a reduction worldwide of ... malnutrition among children under...five by one half of 1990 levels by...2000,... and a reduction in iron deficiency...in...women by one third of the 1990 levels by the year 2000....." **– Beijing Platform for Action, paras. 92 and 106**

"Considering intolerable that more than 800 million people throughout the developing world and millions in more affluent societies do not have enough food to meet their basic needs; that millions more experience prolonged hunger during part of the year or suffer birth defects, growth retardation, mental deficiency, lethargy, blindness or death because they do not have the diversity of food necessary to meet their total needs; ... convinced that world resources, human skills and technological potential do permit the achievement within one generation of sustainable food security if determined and concerted efforts are undertaken; we confirm our individual and common commitment to take considered action to ensure that all people have at all times secure access to the food they need for an active and healthy life with human dignity...." **– Rome Declaration of the World Food Summit**

"Human health and quality of life are at the centre of the effort to develop sustainable human settlements. We therefore commit ourselves to ... the highest attainable standard of ... health.... Sustainable human settlements depend on the interactive development of policies and concrete actions to provide access to food and nutrition.... "Governments ... should ... formulate and implement human settlements development policies that ensure equal access to and maintenance of basic services, including those related to the provision of food security..., giving priority to the needs and rights of women and children, who often bear the greatest burden of poverty...." **– Habitat Agenda, paras. 36 and 116**

Adequate Food is a Human Right!

FOOD

Human Rights Obligations to Ensuring Adequate Food:

“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food”

-- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Art. 25

“...The States Parties...recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living ..., including adequate food,...and to the continuous improvement of living conditions.... The States Parties ..., recognizing the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, shall take ... measures ...: To improve methods of production...and distribution of food by making full use of technical and scientific knowledge...and by developing or reforming agrarian systems; to ensure an equitable distribution of world food supplies in relation to need.”

***-- International Covenant on Economic,
Social and Cultural Rights, Art. 11***

“States Parties shall pursue full implementation of [the child’s right to the highest attainable standard of health] and ... shall take appropriate measures ... to combat disease and malnutrition...through the provision of adequate nutritious foods.... States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.... States Parties... shall ... in case of need provide material assistance and support ..., particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing....”

-- Convention on the Rights of the Child, Arts. 24 and 27

“Every man, woman and child has the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition in order to develop their physical and mental faculties.”

***-- Universal Declaration on the Eradication
of Hunger and Malnutrition, Art. 1***

Adequate Food is a Human Right!

HEALTH

Governments' Commitments to Health:

"Health and development are intimately interconnected. Both insufficient development leading to poverty and inappropriate development ... can result in severe environmental health problems.... The primary health needs of the world's population ... are integral to the achievement of ... sustainable development and primary environmental care.... [M]ajor goals...: By 1995, ... ensure universal access to safe drinking water and ... sanitary measures of excreta disposal...; By the year 2000, [reduce] the number of deaths from childhood diarrhoea ... by 50 to 70 per cent...."

-- Agenda 21, paras. 6.1 and 6.12

"We commit ourselves to ... attaining ... universal and equitable access to ... the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and ... access of all to primary health care...."

-- Copenhagen Declaration, Commitment 6

"Women have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The enjoyment of this right is vital to their life and well-being and their ability to participate in all areas of public and private life. Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease.... Women's health involves their emotional, social and physical well-being and is determined by the social, political and economic context of their lives.... Actions to be taken:... Reaffirm the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, protect and promote the attainment of this right ... and incorporate it in national legislation... Review existing legislation ... and policies ... to reflect a commitment to women's health.... [E]nsure universal access to ... health services...; reduce maternal mortality by...50 percent of the 1990 levels by the year 2000 and a further one half by the year 2015;...make reproductive health care accessible ... to all ... no later than ... 2015...; by ... 2000, the reduction of mortality rates of infants and children under five ... by one third of the 1990 level...; by the year 2015 an infant mortality rate below 35 per 1,000 live births...."

-- Beijing Platform for Action, paras. 89 and 106

"We ... commit ourselves to ... the goals of universal and equal access to ... the highest attainable standard of physical, mental and environmental health, and the equal access of all to primary health care, making particular efforts to rectify inequalities relating to social and economic conditions, including housing, without distinction as to race, national origin, gender, age, or disability...."

-- Habitat Agenda, Chapter 2, para. 36

Health is a Human Right!

HEALTH

Human Rights Obligations to Health:

“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family.... Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance....”

-- *Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Art. 25*

“The States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone to ... just and favourable conditions of work which ensure ... safe and healthy working conditions....; the right to ... an adequate standard of living ...; the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health....”

-- *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Arts. 7, 11, and 12*

“States Parties shall ... ensure to [women] ... access to ... educational information to help to ensure the health and well-being of families, including information and advice on family planning.... States Parties shall ... eliminate discrimination against women in ... health care ... to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, access to health care services, including those related to family planning....; ensure ... appropriate services in connection with pregnancy.... States Parties shall ... ensure ... that [women in rural areas] ... have access to adequate health care facilities, including information counselling and services in family planning.....”

-- *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Arts. 10, 12, and 14*

“States Parties undertake to prohibit and to eliminate racial discrimination ... and to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, to equality ... in the enjoyment of the ... right to public health, medical care, social security and social services....”

-- *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Art. 5*

“States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health....”

-- *Convention on the Rights of the Child, Art. 24*

Health is a Human Right!

HOUSING

Governments' Commitments Related to Housing:

"Access to safe and healthy shelter is essential to a person's physical, psychological, social and economic well-being and should be a fundamental part of national and international action.... An integrated approach to the provision of environmentally sound infrastructure in human settlements, in particular for...urban and rural poor, is an investment in sustainable development that can improve the quality of life, increase productivity, improve health and reduce the burden of investments in curative medicine and poverty alleviation.... As a first step towards the goal of providing adequate shelter for all, all countries should take immediate measures to provide shelter to their homeless poor.... All countries should ... facilitate access of urban and rural poor to shelter by adopting and utilizing housing and finance schemes and new innovative mechanisms adapted to their circumstances...."

-- Agenda 21, paras. 7.6 and 7.9

"We reaffirm our commitment to the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing We shall seek ... protection from discrimination and equal access to affordable, adequate housing for all persons and their families...."

-- Istanbul Declaration, paras. 8 and 15

"... a large segment of the world's population lacks shelter and sanitation, particularly in developing countries. We recognize that access to safe and healthy shelter and basic services is essential to a person's physical, psychological, social and economic well-being and should be a fundamental part of our urgent actions for the more than one billion people without decent living conditions. Our objective is to achieve adequate shelter for all, especially the deprived urban and rural poor, through an enabling approach to the development and improvement of shelter that is environmentally sound.... We reaffirm our commitment to the full ... realization of the right to adequate housing.... We recognize an obligation by Governments to enable people to obtain shelter and to protect and improve dwellings and neighbourhoods. We commit ourselves to: ... adequate shelter that is healthy, safe, secure, accessible and affordable and that includes basic services...."

-- Habitat Agenda, paras. 3 and 39

Human Rights Obligations Related to Housing:

"Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including ... housing...."

-- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Art. 25

Adequate Housing is a Human Right!

HOUSING

"The States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate ... housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions...."

-- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Art. 11

"States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas ... to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, ... the right ... to enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications."

-- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Art. 14

"States Parties undertake to prohibit and to eliminate racial discrimination ... and to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law, ... in the enjoyment of ... the right to housing...."

-- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Art. 5

"No child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home,... States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.... States Parties ... shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support ..., particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing."

-- Convention on the Rights of the Child, Arts. 16 and 27

"The human right to adequate housing, ... derived from the right to an adequate standard of living, is of central importance for the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights.... [I]ndividuals, as well as families, are entitled to adequate housing regardless of age, economic status, group or other affiliation or status.... [T]he right to housing ... should be seen as the right to live ... in security, peace and dignity...."

-- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment No. 4, paras. 1, 6 and 7

Adequate Housing is a Human Right!

The Human Right to Freedom from Forced Evictions

Government's Obligations:

"All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.... Everyone has the right to an effective remedy.... Everyone has the right to freedom of ... association.... Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for ... health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and the right to security

-- Universal Declaration, Art. 5

"The States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living..., including adequate ... housing, and to ... continuous improvement of living conditions...."

--ICESCR, Art. II

"All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law..."

-- ICCPR, Art. 26

"States Parties shall eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas to ensure ... the right ... to enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing..."

-- CEDAW Art. 14

"States Parties undertake to prohibit and to eliminate racial discrimination ... and to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law, ... in the enjoyment of ... the right to housing ..."

CERD, Art. 5

"States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.... States Parties ... shall ... assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance.... particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing."

-- CRC, Art. 27

The provisions outlining the human right of everyone to adequate housing and freedom from forced evictions are more than social goals -- they are *obligations* included in international human rights agreements including:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights -- *Articles 2, 7, 8, 12, 13, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26*
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights *2, 3, 6, 11, 12, 13,*
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights—*articles 2, 3, 14, 17, 22, 26*
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
Articles 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination --*Article 5*
- Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees --*Articles 3, 21, 26*
- Convention on the Rights of the Child -- *Articles 2, 16, 24, 27, 28, 29*

Forced Evictions Are Human Rights Violations!

The Human Right to Freedom from Forced Evictions

Governments Commitments

"We ... commit ourselves to:... Protecting all people from and providing legal protection and redress for forced evictions.... taking human rights into consideration; when evictions are unavoidable, ensuring ... that alternative suitable solutions are provided..."

-- Habitat Agenda, para. 40

"... the practice of forced eviction involves the involuntary removal of persons, families and groups from their homes and communities, resulting in increased levels of homelessness and in inadequate housing and living conditions.... [The Commission on Human Rights] Affirms that the practice ... constitutes a gross violation of human rights, in particular the right to adequate housing; Urges Governments to undertake immediate measures ... aimed at eliminating ... forced evictions;... Urges Governments to confer legal security of tenure to all persons currently threatened with forced eviction and to adopt all necessary measures giving full protection against forced evictions.... Recommends that all Governments provide immediate restitution, compensation and/or appropriate and sufficient alternative accommodation or land ... to persons and communities which have been forcibly evicted..." -- ***UN Commission on Human Rights, Resolution 1993/17***

"...forced evictions are ... incompatible with the requirements of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights...." -- ***UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, General Comment No. 4,(199 1)***

"The practice of forced eviction ... [results] in the destruction of the lives and identities of people throughout the world, as well as increasing homelessness.... Discrimination based on race, ethnic origin, nationality, gender and social, economic and other status is ... the ... I motive behind many forced evictions.... Misguided development policies can result in mass forced evictions.... The practice of forced evictions constitutes a gross violation of human rights, in particular the right to adequate housing...." ***UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Resolution 1991/12***

The practice of forced eviction -- the involuntary removal of persons, families and groups from their homes and communities - exacerbates global problems of inadequate housing and homelessness. *Forced evictions are human rights violations!* Reinforcing the right to housing and freedom from forced evictions are universal human rights standards defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants and other international human rights treaties and Declarations -*powerful tools that must be put to use in realizing the human fight to freedom from forced evictions!*

Forced Evictions Are Human Rights Violations!

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Governments' Commitments to Indigenous Peoples

"Indigenous peoples have the right to the full and effective enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.... Indigenous individuals and peoples are free and equal to all other individuals and peoples in dignity and rights, and have the right to be free from any kind of adverse discrimination.... Indigenous peoples have the ... right not to be subjected to ethnocide and cultural genocide, including prevention of and redress for ... any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories Indigenous peoples have the right to ... be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development.... Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain ... their distinctive spiritual and material relationship with the lands have the right to ... full recognition of their laws, traditions and customs, land-tenure systems.... Indigenous peoples have the right to the restitution of the lands and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used which have been confiscated, occupied, used or damaged.... Indigenous peoples have the right to determine ... priorities... for the development or use of their lands ... and other resources...."

*- Draft Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Arts. 1, 2, 7, 10, 21, 25, 26, 27, and 30*

"Indigenous people have a vital role in environmental management and development States should enable their participation in the achievement of sustainable development.... Indigenous people shall enjoy the full measure of human rights ... without ... discrimination.... National and international efforts to implement ... sustainable development should recognize, accommodate ... and strengthen the role of indigenous people....
- Rio Declaration, Princ' /e 22 lp

"The World Conference on Human Rights recognizes the inherent dignity and the unique contribution of indigenous people to the development and plurality of society and strongly reaffirms the commitment of the international community to their economic, social and cultural well-being.... States should ensure the full ... participation of indigenous people in all aspects of society.... States should ... take concerted steps to ensure respect for all human rights ... of indigenous people, on the basis of equality and nondiscrimination, and recognize the value and diversity of their distinct identities, cultures and social organization..."
-- Vienna Declaration, Part 1, para. 20, and Part II, para. 31

Human Rights Obligations to Indigenous Peoples

"Indigenous and tribal peoples shall enjoy ... human rights ... without ... discrimination.... Governments shall ... Establish means by which [indigenous] peoples can freely participate ... at all levels of decision-making in ... institutions and ... bodies responsible for policies ... which concern them.... The peoples ... shall have the right to decide their own priorities for ... development ... and to exercise control ... over their ... development.... [Governments shall respect the special importance ... of their relationship with the lands The rights of

Indigenous Rights are Human Rights!

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

ownership and possession ... over the lands which they traditionally occupy shall be recognized.... Measures shall be taken ... to safeguard the right of the peoples concerned to use lands ... to which they have traditionally had access for their subsistence and traditional activities.... The rights of the peoples concerned to the natural resources pertaining to their lands shall be specially safeguarded The peoples concerned shall not be removed from the lands which they occupy

- *ILO Indigenous Peoples Conv., (No. 169), Arts. 3, 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, and 16*

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights Everyone is entitled to ... rights ... without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour language, religion....national or social origin,... or other status.... All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination... Everyone has the right to work..."

- *Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Arts. 1, 2, 7, and 23*

"States Parties undertake to guarantee that ... rights ... will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, ... language, religion,... national or social origin,... or other status.... The States Parties ... recognize the right to work, which includes the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses

-- *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Arts. 2 and 6*

"Each State Party ... undertakes to ... ensure ... rights ... without distinction of any kind.... The law shall prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, or to use their own language."

-- *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Arts. 2,14, 24, 26 and 27*

"The Contracting Parties confirm that genocide ... is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and to punish

- *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Art. I*

"States Parties shall respect and ensure ... rights ... to each child ... without discrimination of any kind irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, ... language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, ... or other status. States Parties shall ... ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination States Parties agree that ... education of the child shall be directed to ... the development of respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values.... In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such a minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practice his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language."

- - *Convention on the Rights of the Child, Arts. 2, 29, and 30*

Indigenous Rights are Human Rights!

LIVELIHOOD AND LAND

Governments' Commitments to Livelihood and Land for Indigenous Peoples

"We...commit ourselves to...Providing...security of tenure and equal access to land to all people Protecting ... the legal traditional rights of indigenous people to land and other resources, as well as strengthening of land management...."

-- *Habitat Agenda, para. 40*

"Equitable human settlements are those in which all people, without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, have equal access to housing, infrastructure.... Such human settlements provide equal opportunity for a productive and freely chosen livelihood; equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance, the ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources...."

-- *Habitat Agenda, para. 27*

"We ... commit ourselves to ... develop policies to support...sustainable management of land resources, by not later than 1996;...To create mechanisms to facilitate the...participation of all concerned...in decision-making on land use...by...1996.... Particular attention should be given to protecting the property rights of women.... In full partnership with indigenous people and their communities, Governments ... should aim at ... Recognition that the lands of indigenous people and their communities should be protected from activities that are environmentally unsound or that the indigenous people concerned consider to be socially and culturally inappropriate...."

-- *Agenda 21, para. 10.5, 12.28, and 26.3*

"Governments should...enable [indigenous peoples] to have tenure and manage their lands, protect...the natural resources and ecosystems on which indigenous communities depend.... "

-- *Cairo Programme of Action, para. 6.27*

"Actions to be taken by Governments:... Enable women to obtain...access to land.... Undertake legislative ... reforms to give women ... equal access to economic resources, including the right to... ownership of land and ... property...."

-- *Beijing Platform for Action, para. 58*

Human Rights Obligations Relating to Livelihood and Land

"Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment,... to protection against unemployment...."

-- *Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Art. 23*

"The States Parties ... recognize the right to work,... the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses...."

-- *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Art. 6*

"States Parties shall ensure [to women and men] ... the same rights...to bank loans, mortgages;... shall...eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas...to ensure...the right...to access to agricultural credit and loans,...and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform...."

-- *Conv. on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Arts. 11, 13, 14*

Livelihood and Land are Human Rights!

LIVELIHOOD AND LAND

"States Parties undertake to prohibit and to eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms and to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law, ... in the enjoyment of the rights ... to work, to free choice of employment...."

-- *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Art. 5*

"... Governments shall respect the special importance for the cultures and spiritual values of the peoples concerned of their relationship with the lands or territories ... which they occupy or otherwise use, and in particular the collective aspects of this relationship.... The rights of ownership and possession of the peoples concerned over the lands which they traditionally occupy shall be recognised.... Measures shall be taken ... to safeguard the right of the peoples concerned to use lands ... to which they have traditionally had access for their subsistence and traditional activities.... The rights of the peoples concerned to the natural resources pertaining to their lands shall be specially safeguarded. These rights include the right of these peoples to participate in the use, management and conservation of these resources.... Governments shall take steps ...to guarantee effective protection of their rights of ownership and possession.... The peoples concerned shall not be removed from the lands which they occupy....Procedures established by the peoples concerned for the transmission of land rights among members of these peoples shall be respected...."

-- *ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169), Arts. 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17*

"National agrarian programmes shall secure to [indigenous] peoples ... treatment equivalent to that accorded to other sectors of the population with regard to: (a) The provision of more land for these peoples when they have not the area necessary for providing the essentials of a normal existence, or for any possible increase in their numbers; (b) The provision of the means required to promote the development of the lands which these peoples already possess."

-- *ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169), Art. 19*

"Indigenous peoples have the collective and individual right not to be subjected to ethnocide and cultural genocide, including prevention of and redress for ... Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources.... Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories.... Indigenous peoples have the right to ... be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.... Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain ... their distinctive spiritual and material relationship with the lands ... and other resources which they have traditionally owned ... occupied or used, and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations.... Indigenous peoples have the right to ... full recognition of their laws, traditions and customs, land-tenure systems and institutions for the development and management of resources, and the right to effective measures by States to prevent any interference with, alienation of or encroachment upon these rights.... Indigenous peoples have the right to the restitution of the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used ... which have been confiscated, occupied, used or damaged.... Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands, territories and other resources, including the right to require that States obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands ... and other resources...."

-- *Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,*
Arts. 7, 10, 21, 25, 26, 27, and 30

Livelihood and Land are Human Rights!

PARTICIPATION

Governments' Commitments to Ensuring Full and Equal Participation in Decision-Making:

"Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens.... Each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment ... and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes.... Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development."

-- Rio Declaration, Principles 10 and 20

"We commit ourselves to promoting social integration by fostering societies that are stable, safe and just and that are based on the promotion and protection of all human rights, as well as on non-discrimination ... and participation of all people.... We commit ourselves to equality..., and to ... enhancing the participation ... of women.... We will ... ensure gender balance in decision-making...."

-- Copenhagen Declaration, Commitments 4 and 5

"Women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, including participation in the decision-making process and access to power, are fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace."

-- Beijing Declaration, para. 13

"We commit ourselves to ... enabling all ... actors in the public, private and community sectors to play an effective role - at the national, state/provincial, metropolitan and local levels - in human settlements and shelter development.... We ... commit ourselves to Institutionalizing a participatory approach to sustainable human settlements development..., based on a continuing dialogue among all actors involved in urban development...."

-- Habitat Agenda, para. 44

Human Rights Obligations to Ensuring Full and Equal Participation in Decision-Making:

"Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country.... Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country...."

-- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Art. 21

Participation is a Human Right!

PARTICIPATION

“Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity ... to take part in the conduct of public affairs; to have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his country.”

– *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Art. 25*

“The States Parties...recognize the right of everyone to education.... They ... agree that education shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society....”

– *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Art. 13*

“States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and ... shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right ... to participate in the formulation of government policy and ... to hold public office.... States Parties shall ... ensure to ... women [in rural areas] the right ... to participate in ... development planning at all levels....”

– *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Arts. 7, 8 and 14*

“States Parties undertake to ... guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law, notably in the enjoyment of ... political rights,... the rights to take part in the Government as well as in the conduct of public affairs at any level and to have access to public service....”

– *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Art. 5*

“... Governments shall:...Establish means by which [indigenous] peoples can freely participate ... at all levels of decision-making in elective institutions and administrative and other bodies responsible for policies and programmes which concern them.... The peoples concerned shall have the right to decide their own priorities for the process of development as it affects their lives, beliefs, institutions and spiritual well-being and the lands they occupy or otherwise use, and to exercise control, to the extent possible, over their own economic, social and cultural development. In addition, they shall participate in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of plans and programmes for national and regional development which may affect them directly.”

– *ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169), Arts. 6 and 7*

Participation is a Human Right!

PEACE

Human Rights Obligations to Ensuring Peace

"We the Peoples of the United Nations, Determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,... to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights ..., to ... live together in peace ... and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security,... to ensure ... that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest ... have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims.... The Purposes of the United Nations are ... To maintain international peace and security,... to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means ... settlement of international disputes...."

– UN Charter, Preamble and Art. 1

"Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person....No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.... Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services.... Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which ... rights and freedoms ... can be fully realized."

– Universal Declaration, Arts. 3, 4, 5, 25 and 28

"Every human being has the inherent right to life.... No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.... Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person.... Any propaganda for war shall be prohibited by law. Any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law."

– International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Arts. 6, 7, 9, and 20

"The States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family.... to ... physical and mental health ... to education...."

– Int'l Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Arts. 11, 12 and 13

"The Contracting Parties confirm that genocide ... is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and to punish. Genocide means ... acts committed with intent to destroy ... a national, ethnical, racial or religious group...."

– Conv. on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Arts. I and II

"States Parties recognize that every child has the inherent right to life.... States Parties shall take all appropriate ... measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence.... States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health.... to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.... to education.... No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.... States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child victim of ... torture or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment ... or armed conflicts...."

– Convention on the Rights of the Child, Arts. 6, 19, 24, 27, 28, 37 and 39

Peace is a Human Right!

PEACE

Government Commitments to Peace

"The maintenance of peace and security at the global, regional and local levels, together with the prevention of policies of aggression and ethnic cleansing and the resolution of armed conflict, is crucial for the protection of the human rights of women and girl-children, as well as for the elimination of all forms of violence against them and of their use as a weapon of war.... In a world of continuing instability and violence, the implementation of cooperative approaches to peace and security is urgently needed...."

– Beijing Platform for Action, paras. 12 and 134

"Local, national, regional and global peace is attainable and is inextricably linked with the advancement of women, who are a fundamental force for leadership, conflict resolution and the promotion of lasting peace at all levels.... We are determined to ... take positive steps to ensure peace for the advancement of women and, recognizing the leading role that women have played in the peace movement, work actively towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, and support negotiations on the conclusion, without delay, of a universal and multilaterally and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty which contributes to nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects...."

– Beijing Declaration, paras. 18 and 28

"We share the conviction that social development and social justice are indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security within and among our nations. In turn, social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security or in the absence of respect for all human rights.... We will ... promote international peace and security and make and support all efforts to settle international disputes by peaceful means...."

— Copenhagen Declaration, para. 5 and Commitment 1(h)

"Civil, ethnic and religious strife, violations of human rights, alien and colonial domination, foreign occupation, economic imbalances, poverty, ... terrorism in all its forms, and corruption are destructive to human settlements and should ... be denounced and discouraged by all States, which should cooperate to achieve the elimination of such practices and all ... measures impeding social and economic development.... We will reinforce peace by promoting tolerance, non-violence and respect for diversity and by settling disputes by peaceful means.... We will promote international peace and security and make and support all efforts to settle international disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations."

– Habitat Agenda, para. 25

"Warfare is inherently destructive of sustainable development. States shall therefore respect international law providing protection for the environment in times of armed conflict.... Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible."

– Rio Declaration, Principles 24 and 25

Peace is a Human Right!

Participation at the Peace Table **is the Human Right of Women.**

Human Rights are Essential to PEACE,--the Realization of Human Rights

"Women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, including participation in the decision-making process and access to power, are fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace.... Local, national, regional and global peace is attainable and is inextricably linked with the advancement of women, who are a fundamental force for leadership, conflict resolution and the promotion of lasting peace at all levels.....

-Beijing Declaration, paras. 13, 18

"We share the conviction that social development and social justice are indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security within and among our nations. In turn, social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security or in the absence of respect for all human rights.....

-- Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, para. 5

Agreements:

"Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.... No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.... Every-one is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized."

Universal Declaration, Arts.

3, 4, 5, 28

"Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relationships between men and women which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women and ... is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men."

Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, para. 47

"States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and... shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right ... to participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof."

CEDA W Art. 7

"The States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living ... including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions.... to the highest attainable ... physical and mental health

ICESCR, Arts. 11, 12, 13

Full and equal participation of women at the peace table is essential to assuring that the life-affirming principles of human rights are central to every discussion of peace and security.

Poverty

Governments' Obligations to Ensuring the Human Right to Freedom from Poverty

"Everyone ... is entitled to the realization ... of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity Everyone has the right to work Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services.... Everyone has the right to education...."

--Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Articles 22, 23, 25, 26

"States Parties ... recognize the right to work.... to the enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work which ensure ... fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value without distinction of any kind.... a decent living for themselves and their families.... the right of everyone to social security, including social insurance.... the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions.... the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger.... to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.... to education...."

--International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Articles 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13

"States Parties shall ... ensure to women equal rights with men in ... education,... the right to work.... access to health care.... bank loans ... credit.... States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure ... that they participate in and benefit from rural development and ... shall ensure to such women the right ... to have access to adequate health care facilities...; to benefit ... from social security programmes; ... to enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications."

--Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Articles 10, 11, 12, 13, 14

"States Parties undertake to prohibit and to eliminate racial discrimination ... and to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law, ... in the enjoyment of ... the right to economic, social and cultural rights, in particular ... the right to work ... to just and favourable remuneration ... to housing ... to public health, medical care, social security and social services ... to education and training"

--Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Article 5

"States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.... States Parties ... shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support..., particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing."

--Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 27

Poverty is A Human Rights violation!

Poverty

Governments' Commitments to Ensuring the Human Right to Freedom from Poverty:

"All States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development...."

--Rio Declaration, Principle 5

"A specific anti-poverty strategy is ... one of the basic conditions for ensuring sustainable development. An effective strategy for tackling the problems of poverty, development and environment simultaneously should begin by focusing on resources, production and people and should cover demographic issues, enhanced health care and education, the rights of women, the role of youth and of indigenous people and local communities and a democratic participation process...."

--Agenda 21, Chapter 3, para. 2

"We commit ourselves to... eradicating poverty.... We will ... Formulate ... policies ... geared to ... eradicating absolute poverty by a target date ... specified by each country...; address the root causes of poverty ... food security, education, ... livelihood,... health ..., shelter...."

--Copenhagen Declaration, Commitment 2

"More than one billion people in the world today, the great majority of whom are women, live in unacceptable conditions of poverty.... Women's poverty is directly related to the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy, lack of access to economic resources ... lack of access to education and support services and their minimal participation in the decision-making process...."

--Beijing Platform for Action, paras. 47 and 51

"We are determined to ... eradicate the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women by addressing the structural causes of poverty through changes in economic structures, ensuring equal access for all women ... as vital development agents, to productive resources, opportunities and public services...."

--Beijing Platform for Action, para. 26

"We ... are committed to a political, economic, environmental, ethical and spiritual vision of human settlements based on the principles of equality, ... human dignity, respect and cooperation.... Violations of human rights, ... economic imbalances, poverty ... are destructive to human settlements and should ... be denounced and discouraged by all States.... Promoting equitable, socially viable and stable human settlements is inextricably linked to eradicating poverty.... Poverty has various manifestations, including homelessness and inadequate housing.... People living in poverty must be empowered through freely chosen participation in all aspects of political, economic and social life.... Key elements of a poverty eradication strategy include policies geared to reducing inequalities, increasing opportunities, improving and providing ... access to resources, employment and income...."

--Habitat Agenda, paras. 25 and 115

Poverty is A Human Rights violation!

REFUGEES

Government Commitments to Refugees

"The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms that everyone, without distinction of any kind, is entitled to the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution, as well as the right to return to one's own country.... The World Conference ... recognizes that ... a comprehensive approach by the international community is needed ... and ... should include the development of strategies to address the root causes and effects of movements of refugees and other displaced persons, the strengthening of emergency preparedness and response mechanisms, the provision of effective protection and assistance..., as well as the achievement of durable solutions

- *Vienna Declaration, Part 1, para. 23*

"Objectives ... : To reduce pressures leading to refugee movements and displacement by combating their root causes at all levels.... To ensure effective protection of and assistance to refugee populations, with particular attention to the needs and physical security of refugee women and refugee children; To provide adequate health, education and social services for refugees and displaced persons.... Governments are urged to address the root causes of movements of refugees and displaced persons by taking appropriate measures, particularly with respect to conflict resolution; the promotion of peace and reconciliation; respect for human rights.... Governments and all other entities should respect and safeguard the right of people to remain in safety in their homes and should refrain from policies or practices that force people to flee

-- *Cairo Programme of Action, paras. 10.22 and 10.23*

"We ... commit ourselves to ... : Promoting shelter and supporting basic services and facilities for education and health for the homeless, displaced persons,... and people belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including temporary shelter and basic services for refugees.... We ... commit ourselves to: ... Providing continued international support to refugees in order to meet their needs and to assist in assuring them a just, durable solution in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and international law."

- *Habitat Agenda, paras. 40(i) and 41*

Human Rights Obligations Relating to Refugees

No one shall be subject to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.... Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country...Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution everyone has the right to a nationality..."

- *Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Arts. 9,13, 14 and 15*

The Contracting States shall apply the provisions of this Convention to refugees without discrimination as to race, religion or country of origin.... The ... States shall accord to

Refugees' Rights are Human Rights!

REFUGEES

refugees within their territories treatment at least as favourable as that accorded to their nationals with respect to freedom to practise their religion.... As regards housing, the ... States ... shall accord to refugees ... treatment not less favourable than that accorded to aliens generally in the same circumstances The ... States shall accord to refugees the same treatment as is accorded to nationals with respect to education... the same treatment with respect to public relief and assistance.... the same treatment... in respect of ... remuneration, hours of work.... minimum age of work, ... social security... Each ...State shall accord to refugees ... the right to choose their place of residence... and to move freely within its territory subject to ... regulations applicable to aliens generally.... No ... State shall expel or return ("refouler") a refugee ... to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.... The ... States shall ... facilitate the assimilation and naturalisation of refugees

**-- Conv. Relating to the Status of Refugees
Articles 3, 4, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 33 and 34**

"No State Party shall expel, return ("refouler") or extradite a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture."

- Convention Against Torture, Article 3

"Each State Party ... undertakes to respect and to ensure to all individuals within its territory ... rights ... without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.... Everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall ... have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence. Everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his own.... No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country. An alien lawfully in the territory of a State Party ... may be expelled ... only ... in accordance with law and shall ... be allowed to submit the reasons against his expulsion and to have his case reviewed by ... the competent authority.... All persons shall be equal before the courts and tribunals.... All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law..."

-- Int'l Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 2, 12, 13, 14, and 26

"The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right to a name, ... a nationality.... States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure that a child who is seeking refugee status or who is considered a refugee ... shall receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance in the enjoyment of ... rights

States Parties shall provide ... cooperation in ... efforts ... to protect and assist such a child and to trace the parents or other members of the family of any refugee child ... for reunification with his or her family. In cases where no parents or other members of the family can be found, the child shall be accorded the same protection as any other child ... deprived of his or her family environment...."

Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 7 and 22

Refugees' Rights are Human Rights!

RELIGION

Governments' Commitments to Ensuring Freedom of Religion

"everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have a religion or whatever belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching. No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have a religion or belief of his choice No one shall be subject to discrimination ... on the grounds or religion or other belief All States shall take effective measures to prevent and eliminate discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief in the recognition, exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all fields of civil, economic, political, social and cultural life....

" -- *Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, Arts. 1 and 2*

"Eliminating discrimination and promoting tolerance and mutual respect for ... diversity ... requires ... Enacting and implementing appropriate laws ... to combat ... religious intolerance in all its ... forms ... and all forms of discrimination in all walks of life in societies."

-- *Copenhagen Programme of Action. para. 73(a)*

"Religion, spirituality and belief play a central role in the lives of millions of women and men, in the way they live and in the aspirations they have for the future, The right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion is inalienable and must be universally enjoyed. This right includes the freedom to have or to adopt the religion or belief of their choice either individually or in community with others ... and to manifest their religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching. In order to realize equality, development and peace, there is a need to respect these rights, and freedoms fully. Religion, thought, conscience and belief may, and can, contribute to fulfilling women's and men's moral, ethical and spiritual needs and to realizing their full potential in society.."

- *Beijing Platform for Action, para. 24*

Human Rights Obligations to Ensuring Freedom of Religion

"Everyone is entitled to ... rights... without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.... Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance

- *Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Articles 2 and 18*

Freedom of Religion is a Human Right!

RELIGION

"States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone to education ... ; undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and ... legal guardians to choose for their children schools, other than those established by the public authorities, which conform to ... minimum educational standards ... and to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions

- *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 13*

"Each State Party ... undertakes to respect and to ensure ... rights ... without distinction of any kind, such as race, ... religion, political or other opinion, ... or other status.... Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching. No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice. Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations ... necessary to protect public safety ... or the fundamental rights ... of others. The States Parties ... undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and ... legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.... Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression.... The right of peaceful assembly shall be recognized.... Everyone shall have the right to freedom of association with others

- *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Arts. 1, 18, 19, 21, and 22*

"States Parties shall respect and ensure ... rights ... without discrimination of any kind irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child's-parents, legal guardians, or family members.... States Parties shall respect the right of the child in freedom of thought, conscience and religion. States Parties shall respect the right and duties of the parents and ... legal guardians to provide direction to the child in the exercise of his or her right in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child. Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are ... necessary to protect public safety ... or the fundamental rights ... of others.... In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such a minority ... shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practice his or her own religion

- *Convention on the Rights of the Child, Arts. 2, 14, and 30*

Freedom of Religion is a Human Right!

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Human Rights Obligations to Ensuring Sustainable Development:

"Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for ... health and well-being.... Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which ... rights and freedoms ... can be fully realized." **– Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Arts. 25 and 28**

"The States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone to ... safe ... working conditions.... to an adequate standard of living ... and the continuous improvement of living conditions.... to the enjoyment of ... health.... The steps to be taken ... shall include ... improvement of all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene...."

– Int'l Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Arts. 7, 11 and 12

"... States Parties shall ... ensure ... that [women in rural areas] participate in and benefit from rural development and ... ensure ... the right: ... to participate in ... development planning;... to obtain ... education;...access to agricultural credit and loans,... equal treatment in land and agrarian reform...; ... adequate living conditions...."

– CEDAW, Arts. 11 and 14

"States Parties recognize the right of the child to ... health...; shall ... combat disease and malnutrition...through the provision of...clean... water, taking into consideration the dangers ... of environmental pollution...." **– Convention on the Rights of the Child, Art. 24**

Indigenous peoples "... shall have the right to decide their own priorities for the process of development as it affects their lives, beliefs, institutions and spiritual well-being and the lands they occupy or otherwise use, and to exercise control ... over their own economic, social and cultural development.... They shall participate in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of plans and programmes for national and regional development which may affect them directly.... The improvement of the conditions of life and work and levels of health and education ... shall be a matter of priority in plans for the overall economic development.... Governments shall take measures ... to protect and preserve the environment...." **– ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169), Art. 7**

"The right to development is an inalienable human right every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to,...enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights...can be fully realized.... The human person is the central subject of development and should be the active participant and beneficiary of the right to development.... States should undertake ... all necessary measures for the realization of the right to development and shall ensure ... equality of opportunity for all in their access to basic resources, education, health services, food, housing, employment and the fair distribution of income...."

– Declaration on the Right to Development, Arts. 1, 2, and 8

Sustainable Development is a Human Right!

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Governments' Commitments to Ensuring Sustainable Development:

"Human beings are at the centre of concern for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.... In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it...."

– Rio Declaration, Principles 1 and 4

"We are confronted with ... a worsening of poverty, hunger, ill health and illiteracy, and the continuing deterioration of the ecosystems.... However, integration of environment and development concerns and greater attention to them will lead to the fulfilment of basic needs, improved living standards for all, better protected and managed ecosystems and a safer, more prosperous future.... Objective ...: By the year 2000, ... incorporate environmental ... safeguards as part of development...; Establish ... programmes for providing environmental injury, hazard surveillance and the basis for abatement in all countries;... Establish ... programmes for tackling pollution at the source and at the disposal site...; Control ... use of pesticides ...; Establish industrial hygiene programmes in ... major industries for ... surveillance of workers' exposure to health hazards...."

– Agenda 21, paras. 1.1 and 6.40

"We are deeply convinced that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, which is the framework for our efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all people...."

– Beijing Declaration, para. 36

"Ensure opportunities for women ... to participate in environmental decision-making.... Reduce risks to women from ... environmental hazards.... Evaluate policies ... in terms of environmental impact...."

– Beijing Platform for Action, paras. 253 and 256

"Sustainable development is essential for human settlements development, and gives full consideration to the needs and necessities of achieving economic growth, social development and environmental protection.... We...commit ourselves to :... Creating an enabling international and domestic environment for economic development, social development and environmental protection, as interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, that will attract investments, generate employment, contribute to the eradication of poverty and provide revenues for sustainable human settlements development.... Promoting changes in unsustainable production and consumption patterns..., providing a healthy ... environment...."

– Habitat Agenda, paras. 29 and 43

Sustainable Development is a Human Right!

WOMEN

Governments' Commitments to Women:

"We commit ourselves to...equality..., and to ...enhancing the participation...of women.... We will...ensure gender balance in decision-making.... Promote...equal access of women to ... education ... and remove all obstacles to...access to... productive resources...; Ensure ... universal access to...health-care.... Ensure that women are enabled to participate fully in paid work ...through ...education,...child care...."

-- Copenhagen Declaration, Commitment 5

"Restructure ... public expenditures to promote women's economic opportunities and ... basic social, educational and health needs of women....; Undertake ... reforms to give women ...equal access to economic resources, including... inheritance and...ownership of land..., credit.... Enact... legislation to guarantee... rights of women and men to equal pay for equal work...."

-- Beijing Platform for Action, paras. 58, 61, 165 and 166

"We commit ourselves to the goal of gender equality in human settlements development. We ... commit ourselves to ... Integrating gender perspectives in human settlements related legislation, policies, programmes and projects through the application of gender-sensitive analysis;... Integrating a gender perspective in the design and implementation of environmentally sound and sustainable resource management mechanisms, production techniques and infrastructure development in rural and urban areas...."

-- Habitat Agenda, Chapter 3, para. 46

Human Rights Obligations to Women:

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.... Everyone is entitled to all ... rights and freedoms ... without distinction of any kind, such as ... sex ... or other status....All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.... Everyone ... has the right to work, ... to equal pay for equal work.... Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country.... Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country...."

-- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Arts. 1, 2, 7, 21 and 23

Women's Rights are Human Rights!

WOMEN

"Each State Party ... undertakes to ... ensure ... rights ... without distinction of any kind, such as ... sex ... or other status...; All persons shall be equal before the courts.... All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law.... The law shall prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground...."

**-- *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*
Arts. 2, 3, 14, and 26**

"The States Parties...undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to...all...rights...; Recognize the right of everyone to ... work ... and to ... equal remuneration for work of equal value without distinction of any kind, ... women being guaranteed conditions of work not inferior to those enjoyed by men, with equal pay for equal work;... safe and healthy working conditions; ... equal opportunity for everyone to be promoted...."

**-- *International Covenant on Economic, Social
and Cultural Rights, Arts. 3, 6, and 7***

"States Parties shall ... ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular ... the right to work ...; the right to the same employment opportunities...; the right to promotion, job security and ... the right to receive vocational training...; the right to equal remuneration ... and to equal treatment in respect of work of equal value...; In order to prevent discrimination against women on the grounds of ... maternity and to ensure their effective right to work, States Parties shall ... prohibit ... dismissal on the grounds of pregnancy or of maternity leave ...; to encourage ... the establishment and development of ... child-care facilities;... provide special protection to women during pregnancy in types of work proved to be harmful to them.... States Parties shall ... ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular ... the right to bank loans, mortgages ... other forms of financial credit.... States Parties shall ... eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas ... and ... shall ensure to such women the right ... to participate in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels; ... to obtain all types of training and education;... to have access to agricultural credit and loans,... appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform...."

**-- *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms
of Discrimination Against Women, Arts. 11, 13 and 14***

"States Parties shall respect and ensure ... rights... without discrimination of any kind irrespective of the child's ... sex ... or other status...."

-- *Convention on the Rights of the Child, Art. 2*

Women's Rights are Human Rights!

Women's Economic Rights Are Human Rights

Governments' Obligations and Commitments

"Everyone has the right to work, ... to just and favourable conditions of work to equal pay for equal work.... Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring ... an existence worthy of human dignity.... Everyone has the right to ... join trade unions."

UDHR, Art. 23

"The States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work which ensure ... fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value without distinction of any kind, ... women being guaranteed conditions of work not inferior to those enjoyed by men, with equal pay for equal work; ... safe and healthy working conditions; ... equal opportunity for everyone to be promoted."

ICESCR, Art. 7

"States Parties shall ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular ... the right to work ... ; the right to the same employment opportunities...; the right to promotion, job security and ... the right to ... vocational training ... ; the right to equal remuneration ... and to equal treatment in respect of work of equal value ... the right to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit..."

CEDAW, Arts. 11(1), 13

"in order to prevent discrimination against women on the grounds of ... maternity and to ensure their effective right to work, States Parties shall ... prohibit ... dismissal on the grounds of pregnancy or of maternity leave ... ; to encourage ... the establishment and development of ... child-care facilities; provide special protection to women during pregnancy in types of work proved to be harmful to them."

CEDAW Art. 11(2)

"...States Parties shall eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas ... and ... shall ensure to such women the right to participate in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels; ... to obtain all types of training and education;... to have access to agricultural credit and loans.... appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform .."

CEDAW Art. 14

"We are determined to: ... promote women's economic independence, including employment, by ... ensuring equal access for all women, ... to productive resources, opportunities and public services;... ensure women's equal access to economic resources, including land, credit, science and technology, vocational training, information, communication and markets, as a means to further the advancement and ... empowerment of women and girls...."

-- Beijing Declaration, paras. 26 and 35

Women's Rights are Human Rights!

Women's Economic Rights **Are Human Rights**

Women's human right to equal opportunity in the economy includes far-reaching guarantees such as:

- The human right to equal access to employment, and to equal pay for equal work
- The human right to full and equal participation in economic decision-making at all levels
- The human right to adequate working conditions, sustainable wages, and the right to take part in trade unions
- The human right to equal access to productive resources, including land, credit, and technology
- The human right to freedom from discrimination in all aspects of work, including in hiring and promotion
- The human right to freedom from sexual harassment in the workplace
- The human right to equal access to education and vocational training
- The human right to equal rights within the family, including shared responsibilities for children's upbringing
- The human right to proper consideration of women's reproductive rights and sexuality, including job security during and after pregnancy, flexible working conditions, and access to child care
- The human right to equal protection for the girl-child from economic exploitation and from any work that may be hazardous to her well-being and development
- The human right to own property
- The human right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress
- The human right to participate at all levels in shaping decisions and policies affecting one's community
- The human right of the child to develop in an environment appropriate for physical and mental development

These human rights provisions are more than social goals -- they are *obligations* included in a wide range of international human rights documents including:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)- Articles 2, 16, 17, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Articles 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)- Articles 2, 3, 22, 23, 25
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Articles 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)- Article 5
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) -- Articles 2, 27, 32

185 Countries are party to one or more of these treaties, indicating the universal recognition of women's reproductive and sexual rights!

Women's Rights are Human Rights!

Women's Reproductive Rights are Human Rights.

Governments' Obligations

"States Parties shall take all appropriate measures ... to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men **and** women, ... to achieve... the elimination of prejudices and customary ... practices which are based on the idea of ... inferiority or ... superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women; to ensure that family education includes a proper understanding of maternity as a social function and the recognition of the common responsibility of men and women in the upbringing and development of their children.... States Parties shall ... suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women."

-- CEDAW, Arts. 5 and 6

"States Parties shall ... ensure to [women] ... access to specific educational information to help to ensure the health and well-being of families, including information and advice on family planning States Parties shall take appropriate measures ... to introduce maternity leave with pay or comparable social benefits without loss of former employment, seniority or social allowances States Parties shall ... eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care in order to ensure ... access; to health care services, including those related to family planning ; ensure ... appropriate services in connection with pregnancy ... granting free services where necessary, as well as adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation.... States Parties shall ... ensure ... that [women in rural areas] ... have access to adequate health care facilities, including information counseling and services in family planning ."

-- CEDAW, Arts. 10, 11, 12 and 14

"The States Parties ... recognize that ... special protection should be accorded to mothers during a reasonable period before and after childbirth.... The States Parties ... recognize the right ... to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health."

-- ICESCR, Arts. 10, 12

The human rights provisions guaranteeing women's reproductive and sexual rights are more than social goals -- the, are obligations, included in international human rights documents including:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)--*especially* Art. 2,4, 16, 25, 26
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
-- *especially* Articles 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 14
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
-- *especially* Articles 2, 3, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) -
--*especially* Article 5

167 countries have ratified CEDAW

Women's Rights are Human Rights!

Full and Equal Participation in Decision-Making is a Woman's Human Right.

Governments' Obligations and Commitments:

"Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country.... Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country
UDHR,, Art. 21

"States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and ... shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right ... to participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government...."
CEDAW, Art. 7

"States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure to women on equal terms with men ... the opportunity to represent their Governments at the international level and to participate in the work of international organizations."
CEDAW, Art. 8

"States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas ... and ... shall ensure to such women the right ... to participate in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels
CEDAW, Art. 14

"Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity to take part in the conduct of public affairs to have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his country."
ICCPR, Art. 25

"Women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, including participation in the decision-making process and access to power, are fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace
-- Beijing Declaration, para 13

"The human rights of women and of the girl-child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights."
-- the world's unanimous declaration in Vienna that women's rights are human rights.

The human rights to participate on equal terms with men in shaping and implementing decisions and policies affecting themselves, their families, communities, and societies, on the local, national and international level are clear and far reaching. They are enshrined in the most basic international human rights agreements, inextricably linked to other fundamental human rights, including the human right to:

- Equality between men and women and to full and equal partnership in the family and society
- Freedom of expression and opinion
- An adequate standard of living
- Education and access to information

The goal of all twelve strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action is the realization of human rights for women which are already recognized by the international community.

***A Woman's Rights To Participate In The Decisions
That Determine Her Life Is A Human Right!***

WORK

Government Commitments Related to Work:

"We commit ourselves to promoting ... full employment as a ... priority ... and to enabling all men and women to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods.... We will...put...creation of employment, ... reduction of unemployment and ... promotion of ... adequately remunerated employment at the centre of strategies and policies of Governments, with full respect for workers' rights...."

-- Copenhagen Declaration, Commitment 3

"We are determined to: ... [ensure] equal access for all women ... to productive resources, opportunities...; ensure women's equal access to ... land, credit, ... vocational training, information, ... as a means to further the advancement ... of women and girls...."

-- Beijing Platform for Action, paras. 26 and 35

"The eradication of poverty is essential for sustainable human settlements. The principle of poverty eradication is based on ... meeting the basic needs of all people ... as well as the ... enabling all women and men to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen ... employment and work...."

-- Habitat Agenda, Chapter 2, para. 28

"... labour is not a commodity; freedom of expression and of association are essential to sustained progress; poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere;... All human beings, irrespective of race, creed or sex, have the right to pursue both their material well-being and their spiritual development in conditions of freedom and dignity, of economic security and equal opportunity...."

-- ILO Declaration of Philadelphia

Human Rights Obligations Related to Work:

"Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection. Everyone has the right to form and join trade unions...."

-- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Art. 1, 2, and 7

"Everyone shall have the right to freedom of association ... including the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests...."

-- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Art. 22

"The States Parties ... recognize the right to work.... The steps to be taken ... shall include technical and vocational ... training The States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone to ... favourable conditions of work, ... fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value ...; a decent living ...; safe and healthy working conditions; equal opportunity for everyone to be promoted ...; reasonable limitation of working hours; the right ... to ... join ... trade union...; the right to strike.... Special protection should be accorded to mothers ... before and after childbirth. During such period working mothers should be accorded paid leave or leave with adequate social security benefits.... Children and young persons should be protected from economic ... exploitation. Their employment in work harmful to ... morals or health or dangerous ... or likely to hamper ... development should be punishable by law...."

-- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Arts. 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10

Workers' Rights are Human Rights!

WORK

"States Parties shall ... ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, ... the right to work ...; the right to the same employment opportunities;... to promotion, job security and ... training; ... to equal remuneration ... and to equal treatment in respect of work of equal value;... the right to protection of health and to safety in working conditions, including the safeguarding of ... reproduction.... States Parties shall ... prohibit ... dismissal on the grounds of pregnancy or ... maternity leave and discrimination ... on the basis of marital status;... introduce maternity leave with pay or with comparable social benefits without loss of former employment" **-- CEDAW, Art. 11**

"States Parties undertake to prohibit and ... eliminate racial discrimination ... and to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, to equality ... in the enjoyment of ... the right to freedom of ... association ...; the rights to work, to free choice of employment, to just ... conditions of work, to protection against unemployment, to equal pay for equal work, to just and favourable remuneration; the right to ... join trade unions..." **-- CERD, Art. 5**

"States Parties recognize the rights of the child ... to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or ... development.... States Parties shall ... provide for a minimum age ... for admissions to employment,... provide for appropriate regulation of the hours and conditions of employment.... States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation...." **-- Convention on the Rights of the Child, Arts. 32 and 34**

"Each Member shall ... ensure the application to all workers of the principle of equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value."
-- ILO Equal Remuneration Convention, Art. 2

"Each Member ... undertakes to declare and pursue a ... policy ... to promote ... equality of opportunity and treatment in respect of employment and occupation, with a view to eliminating any discrimination.... Each Member ... undertakes ... to promote ... educational programmes as may ... secure the acceptance and observance of the policy...."
-- ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, Arts. 2, 3

"Each Member... undertakes to ... ensure the effective abolition of child labour and to raise progressively the minimum age for admission to employment ... to a level consistent with the fullest physical and mental development of young persons....The minimum age ... shall not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling and ... shall not be less than 15 years.... The minimum age for admission to any ... work which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to jeopardize the health, safety or morals of young persons shall not be less than 18 years...."
- ILO Minimum Age Convention, Arts. 1, 2, 3

"Workers and employers, without distinction..., shall have the right to establish and ... to join organizations of their own choosing.... Each Member...undertakes to take all necessary... measures to ensure that workers and employers may exercise freely the right to organize."
-- ILO Freedom of Assoc. and Protection of the Right to Organize Conv., Arts. 2, 11

"With a view to stimulating economic growth and development, raising levels of living, ... and overcoming unemployment and under-employment, each Member shall ... promote full, productive ... employment.... The ... policy shall aim at ensuring that: ... There is work for all who are available for and seeking work; ...There is freedom of choice of employment and the fullest possible opportunity for each worker to qualify for ... a job ... irrespective of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin...." **-- ILO Employment Policy Convention, Art. 1**

Workers' Rights are Human Rights!

Unofficial Summaries of Essential Human Rights Treaties

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

International Covenants on Human Rights:

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), summary by UNICEF

Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

Slavery Convention

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (UDHR)

The adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 "was the first occasion on which the organized community of nations ... made a Declaration of human rights and fundamental freedoms...."

"Conceived as 'a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations,' the Universal Declaration ... has become just that: a yardstick by which to measure the degree of respect for, and compliance with, international human rights standards...."

"In the Proclamation of Teheran, adopted by the International Conference on Human Rights ... in 1968, the Conference agreed that 'the Universal Declaration states a common understanding of the peoples of the world concerning the inalienable and inviolable rights of all members of the human family and constitutes an obligation for the members of the international community.'"

The Declaration consists of 30 articles setting forth the civil and political, and economic, social and cultural rights to which all persons are entitled, without discrimination.

Economic, social and cultural rights are set out in Articles 22-27, and are rights to which everyone is entitled "as a member of society." "[Article 22] characterizes these rights as indispensable for human dignity and the free development of personality, and indicates that they are to be realized 'through national effort and international cooperation.' At the same time, it points out the limitations of realization, the extent of which depends on the resources of each State."

*--excerpts from The International Bill of Rights,
Fact Sheet #2, UN Centre for Human Rights*

Unofficial Summary

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal.

Article 2

Everyone is entitled to the same rights without discrimination of any kind.

Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security.

Article 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.

Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or cruel or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6

Everyone has the right to be recognized everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7

Everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection of the law.

Article 8

Everyone has the right to justice.

Article 9

No one shall be arrested, detained, or exiled arbitrarily.

Article 10

Everyone has the right to a fair trial.

Article 11

Everyone has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Article 12

Everyone has the right to privacy.

Article 13

Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and to leave and return to one's country.

Article 14

Everyone has the right to seek asylum from persecution.

Article 15

Everyone has the right to a nationality.

Article 16

All adults have the right to marry and found a family. Women and men have equal rights to marry, within marriage, and at its dissolution.

Article 17

Everyone has the right to own property.

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Article 20

Everyone has the right to peaceful assembly and association.

Article 21

Everyone has the right to take part in government of one's country.

Article 22

Everyone has the right to social security and to the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for dignity.

Article 23

Everyone has the right to work, to just conditions of work, to protection against unemployment, to equal pay for equal work, to sufficient pay to ensure a dignified existence for one's self and one's family, and the right to join a trade union.

Article 24

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure.

Article 25

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for health and well-being, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services.

Article 26

Everyone has the right to education.

Article 27

Everyone has the right to participate freely in the cultural life of the community.

Article 28

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which these rights can be realized fully.

Article 29

Everyone has duties to the community.

Article 30

No person, group or government has the right to destroy any of these rights.

No one human right can violate another human rights. All conflicting rights must be solved the human rights way.

INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

Along with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) make up the International Bill of Human Rights. In accordance with the Universal Declaration, the Covenants "recognize that ... the ideal of free human beings enjoying civil and political freedom and freedom from fear and want can be achieved only if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his civil and political rights, as well as his economic, social and cultural rights."

"... The International Bill of Human Rights represents a milestone in the history of human rights, a veritable Magna Carta marking mankind's arrival at a vitally important phase: the conscious acquisition of human dignity and worth."

*--Excerpts from The International Bill of Rights,
Fact Sheet #2, UN Centre for Human Rights*

Unofficial Summary

Article 1

All peoples have the right of self-determination, including the right to determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Article 2

Each State Party undertakes to take steps to the maximum of its available resources to achieve progressively the full realization of the rights in this treaty. Everyone is entitled to the same rights without discrimination of any kind.

Article 3

The States undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all rights in this treaty.

Article 4

Limitations may be placed on these rights only if compatible with the nature of these rights and solely for the purpose of promoting the general welfare in a democratic society.

Article 5

No person, group or government has the right to destroy any of these rights.

Article 6

No person, group or government has the right to destroy any of these rights.

Article 7

Everyone has the right to just conditions of work; fair wages ensuring a decent living for himself and his family; equal pay for equal work; safe and healthy working conditions; equal opportunity for everyone to be promoted; rest and leisure.

Article 8

Everyone has the right to form and join trade unions, the right to strike.

Article 9

Everyone has the right to social security, including social insurance.

Article 10

Protection and assistance should be accorded to the family. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of both spouses. Special protection should be provided to mothers. Special measures should be taken on behalf of children, without discrimination. Children and youth should be protected from economic exploitation. Their employment in dangerous or harmful work should be prohibited. There should be age limits below which child labor should be prohibited.

Article 11

Everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing. Everyone has the right to be free from hunger.

Article 12

Everyone has the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

Article 13

Everyone has the right to education. Primary education should be compulsory and free to all.

Article 14

Those States where compulsory, free primary education is not available to all should work out a plan to provide such education.

Article 15

Everyone has the right to take part in cultural life; enjoy the benefits of scientific progress.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

Unofficial Summary

Article 1

All peoples have the right of self-determination, including the right to determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Article 2

Each State must respect and ensure to all people within its territory and jurisdiction all rights in this treaty without discrimination of any kind.

Article 3

The States undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all rights in this treaty.

Article 4

Derogation from State obligations is to be strictly limited.

Article 5

Derogation from State obligations is to be strictly limited.

Article 6

Everyone has the right to life.

Article 7

No one shall be subjected to torture or cruel or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 8

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.

Article 9

Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be arrested or detained arbitrarily.

Article 10

Everyone deprived of liberty shall be treated with respect.

Article 11

No one shall be imprisoned merely for failing to pay a debt.

Article 12

Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and to leave and enter his own country.

Article 13

An alien lawfully in the territory of a State Party may be expelled only in accordance with law.

Article 14

Everyone is equal before the law. Everyone has the right to a fair trial. Everyone has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty. No one may be compelled to testify against himself.

Article 15

No one shall be held guilty of a criminal offense when the act did not constitute a criminal offense at the time it was committed.

Article 16

Everyone has the right to be recognized everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 17

Everyone has the right to privacy.

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Article 20

Propaganda for war shall be prohibited. Hate speech that constitutes incitement to discrimination or violence shall be prohibited.

Article 21

Everyone has the right to peaceful assembly.

Article 22

Everyone has the right to freedom of association, including the right to join a trade union.

Article 23

All adults have the right to marry and found a family. Women and men have equal rights to marry, within marriage, and at its dissolution.

Article 24

Every child shall have protection as required by his status as a minor, without discrimination of any kind. Every child has the right to a nationality.

Article 25

Every citizen has the right to take part in public affairs and to vote.

Article 26

Everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection of the law, without discrimination of any kind.

Article 27

Ethnic, religious, or linguistic minorities shall not be denied the right to enjoy their own culture.

THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

"The human rights of women and of the girl-child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. The full and equal participation of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life, at the national, regional and international levels, and the eradication of all forms of discrimination on grounds of sex are priority objectives of the international community."

--Excerpt from the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, part I, para. 18

"Equality is the cornerstone of every democratic society which aspires to social justice and human rights. In virtually all societies and spheres of activity women are subject to inequalities in law and in fact. This situation is both caused and exacerbated by the existence of discrimination in the family, in the community and in the workplace. While causes and consequences may vary from country to country, discrimination against women is widespread. It is perpetuated by the survival of stereotypes and of traditional cultural and religious practices and beliefs detrimental to women..."

"The concept of equality means much more than treating all persons in the same way.... True equality can only emerge from efforts directed towards addressing and correcting ... situational imbalances. It is this broader view of equality which has become the underlying principle and the final goal in the struggle for recognition and acceptance of the human rights of women...."

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women ... sets out, in legally binding form, internationally accepted principles on the rights of women which are applicable to all women.... The basic legal norm of the Convention is the prohibition of all forms of discrimination against women. This norm cannot be satisfied merely by the enactment of gender-neutral laws. In addition to demanding that women be accorded equal rights with men, the Convention goes further by prescribing the measures to be taken to ensure that women everywhere are able to enjoy the rights to which they are entitled." "The Convention was adopted by the General Assembly in 1979 to reinforce the provisions of existing international instruments ... designed to combat the continuing discrimination against women. It identifies many specific areas where there has been notorious discrimination against women, for example in regard to political rights, marriage and the family, and employment. In these and other areas the Convention spells out specific goals and measures that are to be taken to facilitate the creation of a global society in which women enjoy full equality with men and thus full realization of their guaranteed human rights."

*--excerpts from Discrimination Against women: The Convention and the Committee,
Fact Sheet #22, UN Centre for Human Rights*

Unofficial Summary

Article 1

Definition of discrimination against women: any distinction, exclusion, or restriction, made on the basis of sex, with the purpose or effect of impairing the enjoyment by women of political, economic, social, cultural, or civil human rights on equal footing with men.

Article 2

States Parties condemn discrimination against women and undertake to pursue a policy of eliminating it in all its forms. States Parties undertake to: include the principles of equality of men and women in national constitutions; adopt legislation prohibiting all discrimination against women; ensure legal protection and effective remedy against discrimination; refrain from any act of discrimination against women and ensure that no public authorities or institutions engage in discrimination; take measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or enterprise; take measures to modify or abolish existing laws, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women.

Article 3

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, especially in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them enjoyment of human rights on equal footing with men.

Article 4

Affirmative action measures shall not be considered discrimination. Special measures protecting pregnancy shall not be considered discriminatory.

Article 5

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures: to modify social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women which are based on ideas of inferiority or superiority or on stereotyped roles for men and women; to ensure that family education includes the recognition of the common responsibility of men and women in raising children.

Article 6

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to suppress traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution.

Article 7

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in political and public life and shall ensure equal rights to vote and be eligible for election; to participate in forming government policy and to hold public office; to participate in NGOs.

Article 8

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure a woman's equal right to represent her government at the international level and participate in the work of international organizations.

Article 9

States Parties shall grant women equal rights to a nationality. Neither marriage nor change of nationality by the husband during marriage shall automatically change the nationality of the wife. Women shall have equal rights with men with respect to their children's nationality.

Article 10

States Parties shall ensure to women equal rights in the field of education. States Parties shall ensure the same conditions for career guidance, access to studies, the same teaching staff and equipment. Stereotyped roles of men and women are to be eliminated in all forms of education. States Parties shall ensure that women have the same opportunities to benefit from scholarships and the same access to continuing education. States Parties shall ensure the reduction of female drop-out rates and shall ensure that women have access to educational information to help ensure health and well-being of families, including information on family planning.

Article 11

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in employment and shall ensure, on the basis of equality of men and women, the same rights to work, to the same employment opportunities, to free choice of employment, to promotion, benefits, vocational training, equal remuneration, equal treatment in respect of work of equal value, the right to social security, unemployment, protection of health. States Parties shall prohibit dismissal on the grounds of pregnancy and discrimination in dismissals on the basis of marital status. States Parties shall take measures to introduce maternity leave with pay or social benefits.

Article 12

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care and shall ensure women equal access to health care services and appropriate services in connection with pregnancy.

Article 13

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in other areas of economic and social life and shall ensure the same rights to family benefits, to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of credit.

Article 14

States Parties shall take into account the special problems of rural women and the significant roles they play in the economic survival of their families and shall ensure to them all rights in this convention. States Parties shall ensure equal rights of men and women to participate in and benefit from rural development, and shall ensure to rural women the rights to: participate in development planning; have access to adequate health care facilities and family planning; benefit from social security programs; receive training and education; have access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing, and appropriate technology; receive equal treatment in land reform; and have adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications.

Article 15

Women shall have equality with men before the law. Women and men shall have the same rights regarding movement of persons and freedom to choose residence.

Article 16

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations and shall ensure equal rights to enter marriage, to choose a spouse, to enter marriage only with full consent, the same rights and responsibilities within marriage and in divorce, the same rights and responsibilities as parents, the same rights to decide on the number and spacing of children, the same rights with regard to ownership of property. A minimum age shall be set for marriage.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION ON ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (CERD)

The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) is a legal instrument building upon the 1963 Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

The Declaration makes four principal points:

Any doctrine of racial differentiation or superiority is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous and has no justification in theory or practice;

Racial discrimination -- and more so, government policies based on racial superiority or hatred -- violate fundamental human rights, endanger friendly relations among peoples, co-operation among nations, and international peace and security; •Racial discrimination harms not only those who are its objects but also those who practise it;

A world society free of racial segregation and discrimination, factors which create hatred and division, is a fundamental aim of the United Nations.

Under the Convention, States parties are pledged:

To engage in no act or practice of racial discrimination against individuals, groups of persons or institutions, and to ensure that public authorities and institutions do likewise;

Not to sponsor, defend or support racial discrimination by persons or organizations;

To review government, national and local policies and to amend or repeal laws and regulations which create or perpetuate racial discrimination;

To prohibit and put a stop to racial discrimination by persons, groups and organizations; and

To encourage integrationist or multiracial organizations and movements and other means of eliminating barriers between races, as well as to discourage anything which tends to strengthen racial division."

--Excerpts from The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,
Fact Sheet #12, UN Centre for Human Rights

Unofficial Summary

Article 1

Definition of racial discrimination: any distinction, exclusion, restriction, or preference based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin with the purpose or effect of impairing the enjoyment on equal footing of human rights. Affirmative action policies or measures are not to be deemed racial discrimination.

Article 2

States Parties condemn racial discrimination and undertake to pursue a policy of eliminating it in all its forms. States Parties shall engage in no act of racial discrimination and shall act to ensure that no public authorities and institutions engage in discrimination. States Parties pledge not to sponsor, defend or support racial discrimination by any persons or organizations. States Parties shall review government, national and local policies and amend or repeal laws and regulations which create or perpetuate racial discrimination. States Parties shall prohibit and bring to an end racial discrimination by any persons, group or organization. States Parties shall take affirmative action measures as needed to ensure the development and protection of individuals belonging to certain racial groups for the purpose of guaranteeing them the full and equal enjoyment of human rights.

Article 3

States Parties condemn apartheid and undertake to prevent, prohibit and eradicate all such practices in their territories.

Article 4

States Parties condemn all propaganda and all organizations based on ideas of racial superiority. States Parties undertake to act to eradicate all incitement to discrimination and shall prohibit dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority and acts of violence or incitement to violence against any race.

Article 5

States Parties undertake to prohibit and to eliminate racial discrimination and to guarantee to everyone without distinction equality before the law, especially in the enjoyment of the rights to justice; security of person; political rights, including the right to vote and to stand for election, to take part in government and public affairs, and to have equal access to public service; the right to freedom of movement and residence; the right to leave any country, including one's own, and to return to one's country; the right to nationality; the right to marriage and choice of spouse; the right to own property; the right to inherit; the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the right to peaceful assembly and association; economic, social and cultural rights, in particular: the rights to work, to free choice of employment, to equal pay for equal work, to just and favourable remuneration; the right to form and join trade unions; the right to housing; the right to public health, medical care, social security and social services; the right to education and training; the right to equal participation in cultural activities; the right of access to any place or service intended for use by the general public.

Article 6

States Parties shall assure to everyone within their jurisdiction effective protection and remedies against acts of racial discrimination.

Article 7

States Parties undertake to adopt measures in education, teaching, etc. to combat prejudices which lead to racial discrimination.

THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (CRC)

"The Convention on the Rights of the Child ... is the most complete statement of children's rights ever made and is the first to give these rights the force of international law....

The Convention ... has the same meaning for peoples in all parts of the world. This was made possible in long negotiations, where representatives of countries with different social and economic systems and various cultural, ethical and religious approaches to life worked with non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies to fashion a set of common values and aims, valid everywhere....

Encompassing the whole range of human rights -- civil, political, economic, social and cultural -- the Convention recognizes that the enjoyment of one right cannot be separated from the enjoyment of others. It demonstrates that the freedom a child needs to develop his or her intellectual, moral and spiritual capacities calls ... for a healthy and safe environment, access to medical care, and minimum standards of food, clothing and shelter....

Each new generation offers humanity another chance. If we provide for the survival and development of children everywhere, protect them from harm and exploitation and enable them to participate in decisions directly affecting their lives, we will surely build the foundation of the just society we all want and that children deserve."

*--excerpts from The Rights of the Child
Fact Sheet #10, UN Centre for Human Rights*

Unofficial Summary by UNICEF

Article 1

Definition of a child

A child is recognized as a person under 18, unless national laws recognize the age of majority earlier.

Article 2

Non-discrimination

All rights apply to all children without exception. It is the State's obligation to protect children from any form of discrimination and to take positive action to promote their rights.

Article 3

Best interests of the child . All actions concerning the child shall take full account of his or her best interests. The State shall provide the child with adequate care when parents, or others charged with that responsibility, fail to do so.

Article 4

Implementation of rights

The State must do all it can to implement the rights contained in the Convention.

Article 5

Parental guidance and the child's evolving capacities

The State must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents and the extended family to provide guidance for the child which is appropriate to her or his evolving capacities.

Article 6

Survival and development

Every child has the inherent right to life, and the State has an obligation to ensure the child's survival and development.

Article 7

Name and nationality

The child has the right to a name at birth. The child also has the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, to know his or her parents and be cared for by them.

Article 8

Preservation of identity

The State has an obligation to protect, and if necessary, re-establish basic aspects of the child's identity. This includes name, nationality and family ties.

Article 9

Separation from parents

The child has a right to live with his or her parents unless this is deemed to be incompatible with the child's best interests. The child also has the right to maintain contact with both parents if separated from one or both.

Article 10

Family reunification

Children and their parents have the right to leave any country and to enter their own for purposes of reunion or the maintenance of the child-parent relationship.

Article 11

Illicit transfer and non-return

The State has an obligation to prevent and remedy the kidnapping or retention of children abroad by a parent or third party.

Article 12

The child's opinion

The child has the right to express his or her opinion freely and to have that opinion taken into account in any matter or procedure affecting the child.

Article 13

Freedom of expression

The child has the right to express his or her views, obtain information, make ideas or information known regardless of frontiers.

Article 14

Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

The State shall respect the child's right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, subject to appropriate parental guidance.

Article 15

Freedom of association

Children have a right to meet with others, and to join or form associations.

Article 16

Protection of privacy

Children have the right to protection from interference with privacy, family, home and correspondence, and from libel or slander.

Article 17

Access to appropriate information

The State shall ensure the accessibility to children of information and material from a diversity of sources, and it shall encourage the mass media to disseminate information which is of social and cultural benefit to the child, and take steps to protect him or her from harmful materials.

Article 18

Parental responsibilities

Parents have joint primary responsibility for raising the child, and the State shall support them in this. The State shall provide appropriate assistance to parents in child-raising.

Article 19

Protection from abuse and neglect

The State shall protect the child from all forms of maltreatment by parents or others responsible for the care of the child and establish appropriate social programmes for the prevention of abuse and the treatment of victims.

Article 20

Protection of a child without family

The State is obliged to provide special protection for a child deprived of the family environment and to ensure that appropriate alternative family care or institutional placement is available in such cases. Efforts to meet this obligation shall pay due regard to the child's cultural background.

Article 21

Adoption

In countries where adoption is recognized and/or allowed, it shall only be carried out in the best interests of the child, and then only with the authorization of competent authorities, and safeguards for the child.

Article 22

Refugee children

Special protection shall be granted to a refugee child or to a child seeking refugee status. It is the State's obligation to co-operate with competent organizations which provide such protection and assistance.

Article 23

Disabled children

A disabled child has the right to special care, education and training to help him or her enjoy a full and decent life in dignity and achieve the greatest degree of self-reliance and social integration possible.

Article 24

Health and health services

The child has a right to the highest standard of health and medical care attainable. States shall place special emphasis on the provision of primary and preventive health care, public health education and the reduction of infant mortality. They shall encourage international cooperation in this regard and strive to see that no child is deprived of access to effective health services.

Article 25

Periodic review of placement

A child who is placed by the State for reasons of care, protection or treatment is entitled to have that placement evaluated regularly.

Article 26

Social security

The child has the right to benefit from social security including social insurance.

Article 27

Standard of living

Every child has the right to a standard of living adequate for his or her physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. Parents have the primary responsibility to ensure that the child has an adequate standard of living. The State's duty is to ensure that this responsibility can be fulfilled, and is. State responsibility can include material assistance to parents and their children.

Article 28

Education

The child has a right to education, and the State's duty is to ensure that primary education is free and compulsory, to encourage different forms of secondary education accessible to every child and to make higher education available to all on the basis of capacity. School discipline shall be consistent with the child's rights and dignity. The State shall engage in international co-operation to implement this right.

Article 29

Aims of education

Education shall aim at developing the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to the fullest extent. Education shall prepare the child for an active adult life in a free society and foster respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, and for the cultural background and values of others.

Article 30

Children of minorities or indigenous populations

Children of minority communities and indigenous populations have the right to enjoy their own culture and to practice their own religion and language.

Article 31

Leisure, recreation and cultural activities

The child has the right to leisure, play and participation in cultural and artistic activities.

Article 32

Child labour

The child has the right to be protected from work that threatens his or her health, education or development. The State shall set minimum ages for employment and regulate working conditions.

Article 33

Drug abuse

Children have the right to protection from the use of narcotic and psychotropic drugs, and from being involved in their production or distribution.

Article 34

Sexual exploitation

The State shall protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse, including prostitution and involvement in pornography.

Article 35

Sale, trafficking and abduction

It is the State's obligation to make every effort to prevent the sale, trafficking and abduction of children.

Article 36

Other forms of exploitation

The child has the right to protection from all forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child's welfare not covered in articles 32, 33, 34 and 35.

Article 37

Torture and deprivation of liberty

No child shall be subjected to torture, cruel treatment or punishment, unlawful arrest or deprivation of liberty. Both capital punishment and life imprisonment without the possibility of release are prohibited for offences committed by persons below 18 years. Any child deprived of liberty shall be separated from adults unless it is considered in the child's best interests not to do so. A child who is detained shall have legal and other assistance as well as contact with the family.

Article 38

Armed conflicts

States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that children under 15 years of age have no direct part in hostilities. No child below 15 shall be recruited into the armed forces. States shall also ensure the protection and care of children who are affected by armed conflict as described in relevant international

Article 39

Rehabilitative care

The State has an obligation to ensure that child victims of armed conflicts, torture, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation receive appropriate treatment for their recovery and social reintegration.

Article 40

Administration of juvenile justice

A child in conflict with the law has the right to treatment which promotes the child's sense of dignity and worth, takes the child's age into account and aims at his or her reintegration into society. The child is entitled to basic guarantees as well as legal or other assistance for his or her defence. Judicial proceedings and institutional placements shall be avoided wherever possible.

Article 41

Respect for higher standards

Wherever standards set in applicable national and international law relevant to the rights of the child that are higher than those in this Convention, the higher standard shall always apply.

CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OF PUNISHMENT

"Torture is a particularly serious violation of human rights and, as such, is strictly condemned by international law and, in particular, by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 5, which states that 'No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment'.

To ensure adequate protection for all persons against such abuses, the United Nations has sought for many years to develop universally applicable standards. The Convention against Torture ..., which was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 December 1984, and many other relevant conventions, declarations and resolutions adopted by the international community, clearly state that there may be no exception to the prohibition against torture....

The Convention against Torture ... not only specifies that the States Parties will outlaw torture in their national legislation, but also notes explicitly that no order from a superior or exceptional circumstance may be invoked as a justification of torture...."

*Excerpts from Methods of Combating Torture,
Fact Sheet #4, UN Centre for Human Rights*

Unofficial Summary

Article 1

Definition of torture: any act by which severe pain or suffering, physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for purposes such as obtaining information or a confession from him or another person, punishing, intimidating or coercing him or another person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind. For the purposes of this convention, such pain and suffering must be inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the acquiescence of a public official or someone acting in an official capacity. It does not include pain and suffering arising from lawful sanctions.

Article 2

Each State Party shall take effective legislative and other measures to prevent acts of torture. No circumstances of any kind, including war, may be invoked to justify torture. An order from a superior officer may not be invoked to justify torture.

Article 3

No State Party shall expel, return ("refouler") or extradite a person to another State where there are substantial grounds to believe he would be subjected to torture.

Article 4

Each State Party shall ensure that all acts of torture, attempts to commit torture, and complicity or participation in torture are offences punishable by law.

Article 5

Each State Party shall establish its jurisdiction over offenses relating to torture when they are committed in any territory under its jurisdiction, or on board a ship or aircraft registered in that State; when the alleged offender is a national of that State; and when the victim is a national of that State, if appropriate. Each State Party shall also establish its jurisdiction in cases where the alleged offender is in territory under its jurisdiction and it does not extradite him.

Article 6

Any State Party in whose territory a person alleged to have committed, attempted or participated in torture is present, shall take him into custody.

Article 7

The State Party, if it does not extradite the alleged offender, will submit the case to competent authorities for prosecution. The person shall be guaranteed fair treatment at all stages of the proceedings.

Article 8

Torture, attempted torture, or participation in torture shall be deemed extraditable offences in any extradition treaty existing between States Parties. This Convention may be considered a legal basis for extradition if no extradition treaty exists.

Article 9

States Parties shall provide each other with the greatest degree of judicial assistance possible in connection with cases of alleged torture and supply all of the evidence at their disposal.

Article 10

Each State Party shall ensure that education and information regarding the prohibition against torture are fully included in the training of civil and military law enforcement personnel, medical personnel, public officials, and others involved in custody, interrogation, or treatment of any individual subjected to arrest, detention, or imprisonment.

Article 11

Each State Party shall review interrogation rules, instructions, methods and practices, as well as arrangements for the custody and treatment of persons subjected to any form of arrest, detention or imprisonment, with a view to preventing any cases of torture.

Article 12

Each State Party shall ensure that its authorities proceed with a prompt and impartial investigation wherever there is ground to believe that an act of torture has been committed in territory under its jurisdiction.

Article 13

Each State Party shall ensure that any individual who alleges he has been subjected to torture in any territory under its jurisdiction has the right to complain to, and to have his case promptly examined by, competent authorities.

Article 14

Each State Party shall ensure in its legal system that the victim of torture obtains redress and has an enforceable right to fair and adequate compensation. In the event of the death of the victim as a result of torture, his dependents shall be entitled to compensation.

Article 15

Each State Party shall ensure that any statement made as a result of torture shall not be used as evidence in any proceedings.

Article 16

Each State Party shall undertake to prevent other acts of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment which do not amount to torture as defined in Article 1, when such acts are committed by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or someone acting in official capacity.

CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE

Unofficial Summary

Article 1

Genocide, whether committed in time of peace or war, is a crime under international law. States Parties undertake to prevent and punish acts of genocide.

Article 2

Definition of genocide: any of the following acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group:

- killing members of the groups;
- causing serious harm, bodily or mental, to members of the group;
- deliberately inflicting conditions calculated to bring about the group's destruction;
- imposing measures to prevent births within the group;
- forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Article 3

Genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, incitement to commit genocide, attempts to commit genocide, and complicity in genocide are all punishable acts.

Article 4

All those committing genocide or the acts listed in Article 3 shall be punished, whether they be constitutionally responsible rulers, public officials, or private individuals.

Article 5

States Parties undertake to enact legislation necessary to give effect to this Convention and to provide effective penalties for persons guilty of genocide or the other acts outlined in Article 3.

Article 6

Persons charged with genocide or other acts listed in Article 3 shall be tried by a court in the State where the act was committed or by an international penal tribunal whose jurisdiction has been accepted by the States Parties involved.

Article 7

Genocide shall not be considered a political crime for the purpose of extradition. States Parties pledge to grant extradition for cases involving genocide.

Article 8

Any State Party may call on the United Nations to take action for the prevention and suppression of acts of genocide or the other acts listed in Article 3.

SLAVERY CONVENTION AND THE SUPPLEMENTARY CONVENTION ON THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY, THE SLAVE TRADE , AND THE INSTITUTIONS AND PRACTICES TO SLAVERY

"The word 'slavery' today covers a variety of human rights violations. In addition to traditional slavery and the slave trade, these abuses include the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, the exploitation of child labour, the sexual mutilation of female children, the use of children in armed conflicts, debt bondage, the traffic in persons and in the sale of human organs, the exploitation of prostitution, and certain practices under apartheid and colonial regimes."

"Slavery-like practices may be clandestine. This makes it difficult to have a clear picture of the scale of contemporary slavery, let alone to uncover, punish or eliminate it. The problem is compounded by the fact that the victims of slavery-like abuses are generally from the poorest and most vulnerable social groups. Fear and the need to survive do not encourage them to speak out."

"International concern with slavery and its suppression is the theme of many treaties, declarations and conventions of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The first of three modern conventions directly related to the issue is the Slavery Convention of 1926.... States which have ratified the Convention ... undertake to prevent and suppress the slave trade and to bring about the abolition of slavery in all its forms."

"The 1926 Convention's definition of slavery was broadened to include the practices and institutions of debt bondage, servile forms of marriage, and the exploitation of children and adolescents in the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, adopted ... in 1956."

Other means of protection

"Protection against abuses of human rights which fall within the broad definition of slavery is a feature of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child."

*--excerpts from Contemporary Forms of Slavery,
Fact Sheet #14, Un Centre for Human Rights*

SLAVERY CONVENTION

Unofficial Summary

Article 1

Definition of Slavery: status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers of the right of ownership are exercised.

Article 2

States Parties agree, in the territories under their sovereignty or jurisdiction, to prevent and suppress the slave trade and to bring about as soon as possible the complete abolition of slavery in all its forms.

Article 3

States Parties shall adopt measures to prevent and suppress the transport of slaves.

Article 4

States Parties shall assist one another in ending slavery.

Article 5

States Parties recognize that using compulsory or forced labor may have grave consequences. They shall take all necessary steps to prevent compulsory or forced labor from developing into conditions of slavery in the territories under their jurisdiction. It is agreed that compulsory or forced labor may be used for public purposes only. In places where it is used for other purposes, States Parties shall put an end to the practice as soon as possible. If forced or compulsory labor exists, it shall be exceptional, shall receive adequate remuneration, and shall not remove laborers from their usual place of residence.

Article 6

States shall have or adopt laws imposing severe penalties for slavery and slave-like practices.

SUPPLEMENTARY CONVENTION ON THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY, THE SLAVE TRADE, AND INSTITUTIONS AND PRACTICES SIMILAR TO SLAVERY

Unofficial Summary

Article 1

States Parties agree to take all measures to bring about the complete abolition of the following practices:

- Debt bondage: where a debtor pledges his personal services or those of a person under his control as security for a debt, if the reasonable value of those services is not applied towards payment of the debt, or if the length and nature of those services are not limited and defined;
- Serfdom: where a tenant is bound to live and labor on land belonging to another person and is not free to change his status;
- Any practice where a woman, without the right to refuse, is promised or given in marriage in exchange for payment to her parents, guardian, family, or any group or person; or where the husband of a woman or his family or clan has the right to transfer her to another person; or where a woman can be inherited by another person after the death of her husband;
- Any practice where a child or young person under 18 is delivered by his parent(s) or guardian to another person for exploitation of the child or of his labor.

Article 2

States Parties agree to set a suitable minimum age of marriage and to encourage the registration of marriages.

Article 3

Conveying or attempting to convey slaves from one country to another shall be a criminal offense under the laws of all States Parties, subject to severe penalty. States Parties shall take all effective measures to prevent the conveying of slaves by ships and aircraft authorized to fly their flag, and shall ensure that their ports, airfields, and coasts are not used for conveyance of slaves.

Article 4

Any slave who takes refuge on board any vessel of a State Party shall be free.

Article 5

Where the abolition of slavery or slave-like practices is not complete, mutilating, branding or otherwise marking a slave for any reason shall be a criminal offense punishable by law.

Article 6

Enslaving another person or inducing someone to give himself or a dependent into slavery, or attempting these acts, shall be a criminal offense punishable by law.

*Eight Things You Can Do
to Promote Human Rights!*

- Get to know your human rights. Look up the universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights agreements at your local library, or search the Internet for the documents.
- Use the human rights framework and language-to describe, defend or define your social justice issues. Remember, we can all be “ambassadors” for each others' issues!
- Become a Human Rights Educator and monitor. Reach -out and share learning with others working for economic, cultural, social, civil and political rights.
- Put human rights language to work for social justice. The issues affecting you and your community are human rights issues. Help hold your national, regional, and local governments accountable to human rights norms and standards.
- Be heard! Always put human rights on the agenda at conferences, in literature and at meetings. Human rights is not a single issue, but all our issues combined: indivisible and interconnected
- Find creative ways to communicate social justice issues in your community as human rights issues, such as media strategies, open hearings, telling stories, etc. Focus on the ways the global human rights movement is relevant to people in -your community.
- Join efforts to have your country's government ratify international human rights treaties.
- Join a local, national, or international social justice and human rights organizations that have made a commitment to the holistic vision of human rights.

Get involved!

Learn to integrate the human rights frame work in your struggle for justice.

--it is a sound ground to stand on!

COUNTRY MONITORING CHART FOR

HAS YOUR GOVERNMENT...

Critical Areas of Concern	Critical Commitments and Obligations	Ratified Relevant Human Rights Treaties?			Enacted Into Domestic Law?			Made New Commitments?			Designated Person or Office Responsible?			Allocated Resources?			Established Annual Benchmark?			Undertaken Policy Actions?			Reached the Stated Goal?		
		Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?	Y	N	?
Development																									
Education																									
Environment																									
Eradication of Poverty																									
Food																									
Health																									
Housing																									
Indigenous Peoples																									
Land																									
Women																									
Work																									

Please share any information on effective strategies or problems in implementation (attach additional pages if necessary):

This form has been filled out by the following organization:

Please send copy of completed chart to:

Organization Name:
Contact Person:
Address:

People's Decade of Human Rights Education (PDHRE)
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Tel. 212/749-3156 • Fax 212/666-6325 • E-mail pdhre@igc.org
Website: <http://www.pdhre.org>

This form has been adapted from "Postview '95" #6, April 1996, International Women's Tribune Centre.

The People's Decade of Human Rights Education presents:

Developing Sustainable Human Rights Communities:

Knowing, Claiming and Securing Our Right to be Human

A pledge:

***we will accept nothing less than human rights
we will know them and claim them
for all women, men youth a children
from those who speak human rights
but deny them to their own people.***

MOVING POWER TO HUMAN RIGHTS:

A historic initiative in which a whole community examines traditional beliefs, collective memory and aspirations as related to the Universal Declaration of human rights... --Guided by the commitment made and obligations undertaken by their governments - having ratified numerous human rights conventions- all its governing bodies and community institutions and groups, learn about human rights as related to their daily lives and concerns.. --to assure that all the laws, policies, resources and relationship in the community maintain the dignity and serve the well being of all its members.. --and moves into the 21st century as a Human Rights Community.

Working Towards Sustainable Human Rights Communities Worldwide

Comprehensive human rights education training by, with, for and about
all constituencies and areas of concern in the community,

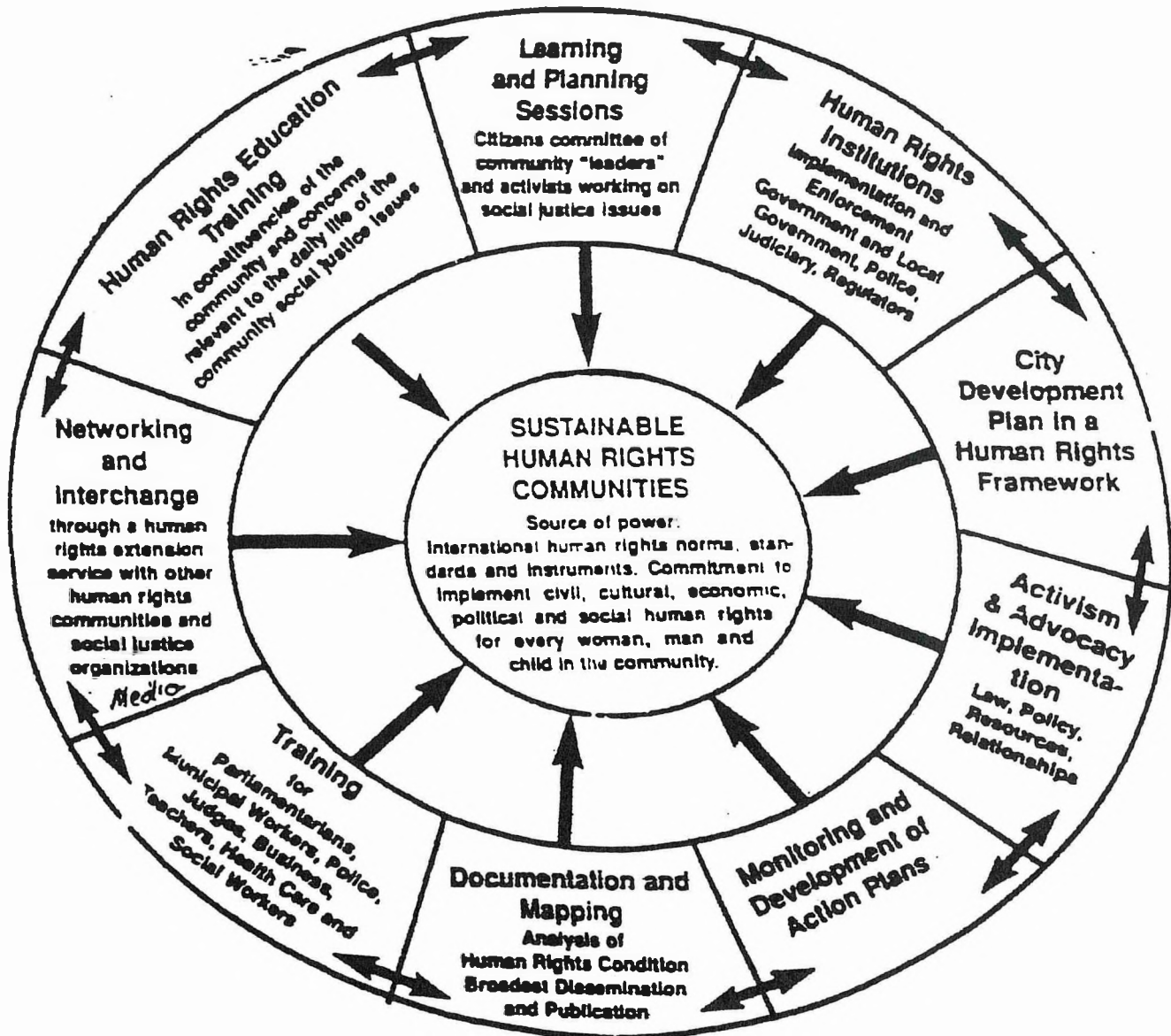
such as

Aged: Children: Development: Differently Abled: Disarmament: Education:
Environment: Consumers: Ethnicity: Health: Human Settlements: Human Security: Immigrants:
Indigenous Peoples: Labour: Civic Groups: Migrants: Peace: Housing: Food:
Poverty: Race: Refugees: Sexual Orientation: Women.

Guiding Principles of Process and Governance:

including

Accountability: Reciprocity: Participation: Transparency: Enforcement: Immediate Prevention:
Satisfaction of 5 Basic Needs for All (Food, Health, Housing, Education, Work)



Background

Far-reaching human rights treaties including the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural, and Civil and Political Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination have been signed and ratified by most nations around the world. It must be made known to people in all countries that by the act of ratification, UN Member States undertake an obligation to adjust their national laws to conform with international human rights norms and standards, and to implement and enforce civil, political, economic, social and cultural human rights of all women, men, youth and children as equal citizens of the state. A Human Rights Community can help ensure that governments fulfill their human rights obligations to their people!

What does it mean to be a Human Rights Community?

How does a community become a Human Rights Community?

A Human Rights Community is one in which all its members, from policy makers to ordinary citizens, learn about and adhere to human rights obligations. Relating human rights norms to their own immediate and practical concerns, they join to make a commitment to enter into a community-wide dialogue for the purpose of developing the guidelines of their Human Rights Community. All organizations, public and private, join to monitor violations and implementation of human rights at all levels of the society. They develop the methodology to ensure that all decisions, laws, policies, resource allocation and relationships are bound by human rights norms and standards at all levels of the decision-making and problem-solving process. They ensure that human rights serve as guiding principles by which the community develops its future plans and institutions.

Proposed Process

Step 1:

Local and highly committed activists need to identify all civil society organizations, solidarity groups, governmental and UN agencies, and all other institutions concerned with the social and economic issues vital to the community, such as:

children, culture, development, differently abled, education, environment, food security, health care, housing, human security, peace, poverty alleviation, refugees, religion, women work and workers;

The process of developing a Human Rights Community needs to be fully inclusive of all sectors of society working on issues that are meaningful to the daily lives of the people of that community. Full representation and participation of all sectors is a central element of the plan.

Step 2:

Call for a meeting of representatives of groups and institutions mentioned above, to:

- a. Establish a Steering Committee which will oversee and facilitate the program, inclusive and representative of all sectors of the community.
- b. Schedule learning and planning sessions in which all Committee members will participate. At these "learning meetings," Committee members will articulate their concerns and be introduced to the concepts and principles of a Human Rights Framework as it relates to their specific issues. At these sessions the challenges and opportunities available to government agencies and institutions, ordinary citizens and community activists will be highlighted to enable the participants to use the powerful space for action made available by human rights norms and standards. Discussions will involve the systemic analysis and examination of causes and effects of human rights violations in the community. As part of this learning process members of the Committee will work together to develop a common vision for their Human Rights Community.
- c. Collectively design a plan of action, assign the preparation of materials (oral and written), and design a delivery system and extension services to reach members of all constituencies to create a learning multiplier effect. Educators and the media will be summoned to work in close collaboration with the Committee to enhance and enrich the viability of the development of the Human Rights Community.

In effect, the Steering Committee develops a "training of trainers" program with, by, and for their constituencies. Members of the Committee develop a learning process and a dialogue with their constituencies introducing the discourse of human rights as related to their needs and aspirations. They share learning and action experiences by developing a comprehensive human rights education extension service, comprised of local and international human rights resource persons, educators, lawyers, and activists, available to support the Steering Committee in its work responding to the self-defined needs and requests of the community. They can organize special human rights training sessions for parliamentarians, municipal workers, law enforcement, the judiciary, business people, teachers, health care and social workers, and government officials in order that all state and non-state actors understand and uphold their obligations and commitments to human rights.

Step 3:

As the dialogues, discourse, learning and debating spreads around the community, each citizen will be requested to play a part in effective human rights advocacy in the community. Each will be asked to:

- a. Become a human rights "educator," bringing human rights into everyday discourse in the family and community. Parents can bring human rights into their homes and teach their children about the dignity of themselves and of all people. Human rights "educators" can insert human rights into all dialogue that takes place in the community, reaffirming the connection between human rights and justice for all.
- b. Become a human right "monitor." Aware of their government's human rights obligations, people will develop sensitivity to human rights, awareness, judgment, and consciousness, and will be able to look at their life and development with a human rights perspective. They will be asked to monitor violations of human rights in the community, as well as progress towards human rights implementation.
- c. Become a human rights "documenter." Effective human rights advocacy requires careful documentation. In communities where people do not write or read, a local "recorder" can be appointed to whom citizens can come to "document" the human rights violations and progress towards implementation which they have observed and monitored.

Education, monitoring and documentation are vital elements of the process of "knowing and claiming human rights." Members of the community will be encouraged to bring creativity into these processes, using testimony, community and city hall meetings, street theater, and informal community discussions. The results of monitoring and documentation can then be collected and shared to ensure the inclusion of the full and holistic spectrum of the community's individual and collective human rights needs and to provide a systemic analysis of human rights violations. Vital to human rights advocacy is the creation of mechanisms for accountability.

Step 4:

For a community to become a Sustainable Human Rights Community, citizens must participate in the decisions that determine their lives and ensure that all institutions which service the community become "human rights institutions," abiding fully by human rights norms and standards. The process of learning, monitoring, documenting, etc., will lead to the development of the immediate and long-term action plans to achieve this goal.

The above detailed steps will weave the infrastructure for a democracy that delivers human rights, a "human rights democracy," through participation, reciprocity, accountability and transparency in the following way:

Community members will:

- a. Examine existing law, work to amend local and national laws, and lobby for new laws and statutes to promote and protect human rights.
- b. Ensure that all local and national policies are formulated and implemented consistent with human rights.

- c. Study existing development budgets and consider the formulation by the community of alternative budgets in line with human rights needs and aspirations. This will enable the community to voice and document its development priorities and request reallocation of available resources and the creation of new resources.

All of the above will lead to:

- Strengthening, changing, and developing newly defined relationships in the community to promote and protect equality of women, men, youth and children, and to build relationships based on equality between women and men, ethnic groups, religious groups, and others, and with their elected bodies, local and national.

The four proposed pillars of action regarding **laws, policies, resources and relationships** of and in the community will enable citizens to get fully involved in the decisions that determine their lives within a human rights framework. These actions can lead to the development of a Sustainable Human Rights Community in which the sources of power are international human rights norms, standards, and instruments, leading to a commitment by governments and local authorities, law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, regulators and community leaders to implement and enforce civil, cultural, economic, political, and social human rights for every woman, man, youth and child.

It is important to note that an integral part of these programs and activities are the actions of community members to create and oversee a fully comprehensive community development plan. The plan may lead to:

- A community preparing a "human rights charter." Individual communities can also collaborate with other Human Rights Communities that will be established around the world to develop a Universal Charter for a Human Rights Community.
- A human rights "strategic plan" addressing all actors -- state and non-state -- affecting human rights from the community, national and international levels.
- "Human Rights Citizens" insisting that their governing and law enforcement institutions abide by the plan, implement and enforce it. •A community human rights court, the development of mechanisms of checks and balances, and appointment of a human rights ombudsperson and a local human rights education program committee.

As community members themselves define what their human rights community is all about, they become agents of social change. This new understanding and analysis will lead, in the words of Nelson Mandela, to **creating a new political culture based on human rights.** In the process of developing a Human Rights Community, human rights education is imperative to enabling community members to learn, monitor and take actions that will

weave a human rights way of life and bring about economic and social change necessary for sustainable development.

(The vital role of human rights education to sustainability was emphasized in the Plan of Action of the Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995 - 2004, adopted by the UN General Assembly.)

On-going programs of human rights education will enable people to understand that every injustice is a human rights violation and that the attainment of social and economic justice is the fulfillment and protection of human rights.

Guided by human rights norms and standards, ordinary people will be able to investigate and define solutions to problems of poverty, unemployment, violence against women, malnutrition, marginalization, and illiteracy, to mention only a few. As part of their responsibility, community members will take action for the immediate prevention of human rights violations in their midst and call for the enforcement of all human rights norms and standards.

It is imperative that the community works with its elected authorities to ensure that the institutions that govern the community become human rights institutions. Specifically, local and national governments, the judiciary, police, financial and industrial institutions and regulators must fulfill their obligations to prevent human rights violations and promote the realization of human rights for all.

Developing a Human Rights Community is an ongoing, vital, and dynamic process which, by perpetually building on itself, weaves a human rights culture.

Three communities are already adopting this process, the City of Rosario, Argentina, The City of Nagpur, India; and the City of Thies, Senegal are moving into the 21st century as Human Rights Communities. KHC, Kind Hearts Committee in Sudan is now developing the Foundation for human rights communities in the Sudan.

The nation of Mali had adopted a national plan of human rights education: "Mali a Human Rights Nation By the Year 2000"

For more information, please contact:

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The series is the fruition of a first-ever solidarity effort by human rights educators and filmmakers in the: US, Latin America and Africa. Four NGOs acted as producers: Instituto de Genero, Derecho y Desarrollo, Rosario, Argentina; NGO Resource Center, Zanzibar, Tanzania; TOSTAN of Senegal and PDHRE.

The Dramas were based on actual life stories selected from around the world and filmed in four countries. The specific drama does not necessarily depict a situation in a specific country but is used to demonstrate a universal phenomena: the effects of Patriarchy on women and girls.

The manual was prepared as a set of guidelines for the training of trainers to adopt to their own national and local needs, and to introduce CEDAW across their societies. Even though the video Series and the Manual are about CEDAW, the producers of the Series feel they can be used as excellent education tools for learning about the human rights framework from a gender perspective as it relates to all people's daily lives

To order the above contact: PDHRE, 526 West 111th St., Suite, 4E NY, NY 10025, USA
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HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION IS A HUMAN RIGHTS!

About PDHRE...

Founded in 1988, the People's Decade for human Rights Education (PDHRE) is a nonprofit, international service organization that works directly and indirectly with its network of affiliates, primarily women and social justice organizations, to develop and advance pedagogies for human rights education relevant to people's daily lives in the context of their struggles for economic and social justice and democracy. PDHRE members include experienced educators, human rights experts, United Nations officials, and world renowned advocates and activists who collaborate to conceive, initiate, facilitate, and service projects on education in human rights for social and economic transformation. The Organization is dedicated to publishing and disseminating demand-driven human rights training manuals and teaching materials, and otherwise servicing grassroots and community groups engaged in a creative, contextualized process of human rights learning, reflection, and action. PDHRE views human rights as a value system capable of strengthening democratic communities and nations through its emphasis on accountability, reciprocity, and people's equal and informed participation in the decisions that affect their lives. PDHRE was pivotal in lobbying the United Nations to found a Decade for Human Rights Education and in drafting and lobbying for various resolutions by the World Conference on Human Rights, the UN General Assembly, the UN Human Rights Commission, the UN Treaty Bodies, and the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Human rights education is a way of clearing and preparing the ground for reclaiming and securing our right to be human, it is learning about justice and empowering people in the process. It is a social and human development strategy that enables women, men, and children to become agents of social change. It can produce the blend of ethical thinking, action, and participation of people in the decisions which shape their lives, that is needed to cultivate public policies based on human rights. It opens the possibility of creating a common vision for the 21st century -- weaving a new political culture based on human rights -- strengthening democracy as delivery systems of human rights for all!

IMPOSED IGNORANCE IS A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION!

The material needs of my neighbors are my spiritual needs!

--from a sage

Want to Learn More?

Visit the PDHRE Web Site!

www.pdhre.org

A site dedicated to human rights learning for a better world

The PHDRE website interprets and translates human rights in an easy to use way to make the human rights framework useful and relevant for people's daily lives and their struggles for a better world.

Using the PDHRE website, we encourage people everywhere to:

- Become aware of their **Government's Obligations and Commitments** to ensuring human rights for all – and hold governments accountable!
- Explore the **Indivisibility and Interconnectedness** of human rights
- Learn to use the **Human Rights Framework** in advocacy and actions for:

the aged	environment	indigenous people	race
children	race / ethnicity	land	refugees
development	food	migrants/ immigrants	religion
disability	health	minorities	sexual orientation
discrimination	housing	peace	women
education	poverty	children	work / workers

- Learn to create their own **Human Rights Resource Packets** for sharing the human rights framework with social justice groups
- Learn about **human rights and the global economy** through our **Programme on Trade and Investment**
- Help CLADEM raise 100,000 signatures for a **Declaration of Human Rights from a Gender Perspective**
- Learn about **Human Rights Communities** in Argentina, Mali and India and their development around the world
- Down **Methodology and Learning Materials** on human rights education
- Read about and contribute to our upcoming publication, **Women's Passport to Dignity**
- **Participate! Spread the Word!** We encourage action and exchange and would be pleased to link our site with relevant others

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The People's Decade for Human Rights Education (PDHRE) is an independent international non-profit organization working for a human rights culture by actively providing and promoting human rights learning at all levels of society. PDHRE has conducted human rights training at the community level in more than 60 countries and has produced a unique range of written and audio-visual materials on human rights. PDHRE was instrumental in the creation of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995 - 2004) and is committed to the implementation of the Decade's goals. PDHRE is a founding member of the International NGO Committee on Human Rights in Trade and Investment (INCHRITI).

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