

# WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION



## 21st CENTURY HUMAN RIGHTS

*Information Handbook*

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# LIST of USEFUL ABBRIVATIONS

|        |                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ASEAN  | Association of Southeast Asian Nations                                                                                                               |
| CAT    | Convention Against Torture/Committee Against Torture                                                                                                 |
| CBO    | Community-based organization                                                                                                                         |
| CEDAW  | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women/Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women |
| CERD   | Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination                                                                                                |
| CESCR  | Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights                                                                                                    |
| CHR    | Commission on Human Rights                                                                                                                           |
| CIS    | Commonwealth of Independent States                                                                                                                   |
| CPRMW  | Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families                                                          |
| CRC    | Convention on the Rights of the Child/Committee on the Rights of the Child                                                                           |
| CSW    | Commission on the Status of Women                                                                                                                    |
| DPA    | Department of Political Affairs                                                                                                                      |
| DPKO   | Department of Peace-Keeping Operations                                                                                                               |
| ECOSOC | United Nations Economic and Social Council                                                                                                           |
| FAO    | Food and Agriculture Organization                                                                                                                    |
| HRC    | Human Rights Committee                                                                                                                               |
| ICC    | International Criminal Court                                                                                                                         |
| ICCPR  | International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights                                                                                                 |
| ICERD  | International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination                                                                    |
| ICESCR | International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights                                                                                       |
| ICJ    | International Court of Justice                                                                                                                       |
| ICRC   | International Committee of the Red Cross                                                                                                             |

# LIST of USEFUL ABBRIVATIONS

|        |                                                                  |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ILO    | International Labour Organization                                |
| IMF    | International Monetary Fund                                      |
| IOM    | International Organization for Migration                         |
| NGO    | Non-Governmental Organization                                    |
| OAU    | Organization for African Unity                                   |
| OCHA   | Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs              |
| OSCE   | Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe              |
| UDHR   | Universal Declaration of Human Rights                            |
| UNDP   | United Nations Development Programme                             |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNFPA  | United Nations Population Fund                                   |
| UNGA   | United Nations General Assembly                                  |
| OHCHR  | Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights                 |
| UNHCR  | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees                    |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund                                   |
| UNIFEM | United Nations Development Fund for Women                        |
| WFP    | World Food Programme                                             |
| WHO    | World Health Organization                                        |
| WHRO   | World Human Rights Organization                                  |

# ABOUT WHRO

World Human Rights Organization (WHRO) ensure that freedom is both preserved and promoted. World Human Rights Organization (WHRO) is an autonomous, voluntary non-governmental and non-profit organization that promotes and protects human rights globally.

We must make sure that every person has these rights simply because they are human beings. They should be guaranteed to everyone without discrimination of any kind, such as race, color, sex or even their opinion.

World Human Rights Organization (WHRO) focuses on monitoring, research, and analysis in the field of human rights, as well as the promotion of democracy and the rule of law on the national and international level.

## WHAT IS HUMAN RIGHTS ?

Human rights are commonly understood as being those rights which are inherent to the human being. The concept of human rights acknowledges that every single human being is entitled to enjoy his or her human rights without distinction as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Human rights are legally guaranteed by human rights law, protecting individuals and groups against actions which interfere with fundamental freedoms and human dignity. They are expressed in treaties, customary international law, bodies of principles and other sources of law. Human rights law places an obligation on States to act in a particular way and prohibits States from engaging in specified activities. However, the law does not establish human rights.

Human rights are inherent entitlements which come to every person as a consequence of being human. Treaties and other sources of law generally serve to protect formally the rights of individuals and groups against actions or abandonment of actions by Governments which interfere with the enjoyment of their human rights.

The following are some of the most important characteristics of human rights:

- human rights are founded on ***respect for the dignity and worth of each person***;
- human rights are ***universal, meaning that they are applied equally and*** without discrimination to all people;
- human rights are ***inalienable, in that no one can have his or her human*** rights taken away other than in specific situations . for example, the right to liberty can be restricted if a person is found guilty of a crime by a court of law;
- human rights are ***indivisible, interrelated and interdependent, for the*** reason that it is insufficient to respect some human rights and not others. In practice, the violation of one right will often affect the respect of several other rights. All human rights should therefore be seen as having equal importance and of being equally essential to respect for the dignity and worth of every person.

# INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

The formal expression of inherent human rights is through *international human rights law*. A series of *international human rights treaties and other instruments* have emerged since 1945 conferring legal form on inherent human rights.

The creation of the United Nations provided an ideal forum for the development and adoption of international human rights instruments. Other instruments have been adopted at a regional level reflecting the particular human rights concerns of the region. Most States have also adopted constitutions and other laws which formally protect basic human rights. Often the language used by States is drawn directly from the international human rights instruments.

## WHAT IS HUMANITARIAN LAW ?

International humanitarian law (sometimes referred to as .the law of armed conflict. and .the law of war.) is a body of principles and norms intended to limit human suffering in times of armed conflict and to prevent atrocities. It can be defined as that part of international law . Comprising international treaty and customary law . which seeks to protect persons who are not, or are no longer, taking part in the hostilities (i.e. sick, wounded or shipwrecked combatants, prisoners of war and civilians), and to restrict the method and means of warfare between parties to a conflict.

The 1864 Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field laid the foundations for contemporary humanitarian law.

The 1874 Diplomatic Conference and the Hague Peace Conferences of 1899 and 1907 constitute important milestones. Modern international humanitarian law is mainly embodied in the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 (188 States Parties) and the two 1977 Protocols Additional to those Conventions (152 and 144 States Parties respectively), namely:

- Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in the Armed Forces in the Field;
- Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked members of the Armed Forces at Sea;
- Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War;
- Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War;
- Additional Protocol I relative to the Protection of victims of international armed conflicts;
- Additional Protocol II relative to the Protection of victims of non international armed conflicts.

Significantly, common to all Geneva Conventions is article 3 which establishes minimum rules to be observed by each party to an *internal armed conflict*. This article provides that persons taking no active part in the hostilities “shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, without adverse distinction” and “the wounded and sick shall be collected and cared for”.

Other humanitarian law instruments deal with topics as diverse as the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, the prohibition of biological and chemical weapons and of certain conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects.

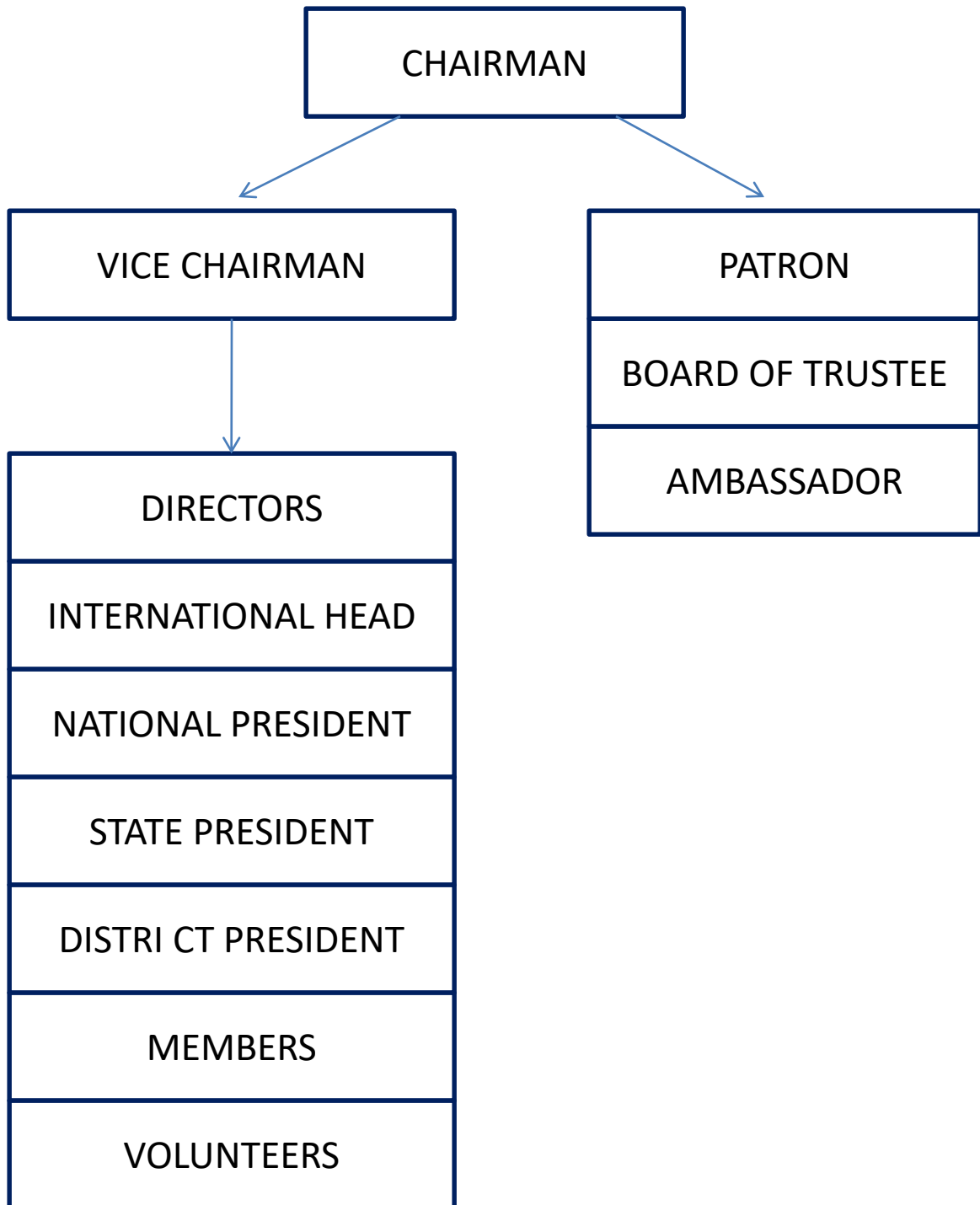
Recent examples of humanitarian law are the 1995 Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons and the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines, Ottawa Treaty, which entered into force on 1 March 1999.

## LINK BETWEEN HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

Humanitarian law and human rights law were traditionally regarded as separate areas of international law . human rights law setting standards for State conduct in guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of individuals and humanitarian law providing standards for the protection of war victims and the manner in which hostilities are conducted. In other words, it was thought that human rights law was less applicable in situations of humanitarian emergency and armed conflict. Those holding this view pointed to the provisions in the ICCPR which permit States to derogate temporarily from some civil and political rights in times of public emergency which threaten the life of the nation. However, the provisions of most international human rights instruments apply even in times of armed conflict.

The need to safeguard human rights during armed conflict has been given priority - as human rights are recognized as integral to peace and security. In 1966, the then Secretary-General investigated the extent to which international human rights instruments protected human rights in times of armed conflict. It was found that the major international instruments, for example the International Bill of Human Rights, provided for a broader spectrum of human rights protection than the Geneva Conventions. This acknowledgement guided the adoption by the Teheran World Conference on Human Rights in 1968 and the General Assembly in 1970 of a number of resolutions recognizing that fundamental human rights in international instruments continue to apply in situations of armed conflict. Similarly, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action called on all States and all parties to armed conflicts to pay strict observance to international humanitarian law as well as to the minimum standards required for protecting human rights. In 1996, the Commission on Human Rights recognized the need to identify the fundamental principles applicable to situations of internal violence.

# ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE



# WHRO CELLS

- ANTI-CORRUPTION CELL
- ART, CULTURE AND SCIENCE CELL
- ANIMAL TORTURE & CRUELTY PREVENTION CELL
- AGRICULTURE GRIEVANCE CELL
- CONSUMER RIGHT GRIEVANCE CELL
- EDUCATIONAL GRIEVANCE CELL
- ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION CELL
- HEALTH CELL
- LABOUR PREVENTION CELL
- LEGAL CELL
- SKILL DEVELOPMENT CELL
- WOMEN CELL
- YOUTH CELL

# WHRO Focus Area



# REASERCH & ADVOCACY 360<sup>o</sup>

- Think Tanks
- Policymakers
- Domain Experts
- Legal Management
- Content Management
- Field Management
- Media Management
- CSR Funding

# UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

## Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, therefore,

The General Assembly,

Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures,

national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

### **Article 1**

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

### **Article 2**

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, 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.

Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

### **Article 3**

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

### **Article 4**

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

## **Article 5**

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

## **Article 6**

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

## **Article 7**

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.

## **Article 8**

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

## **Article 9**

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

## **Article 10**

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

## **Article 11**

1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.
2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

## **Article 12**

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

## **Article 13**

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.
2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

## **Article 14**

1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

## **Article 15**

1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

## **Article 16**

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

## **Article 17**

1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

## **Article 18**

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.

## **Article 19**

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

## **Article 20**

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

## **Article 21**

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
2. Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country.
3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

## **Article 22**

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

## **Article 23**

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

## **Article 24**

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

## **Article 25**

1. 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, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.
2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

## **Article 26**

1. 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.
2. 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 all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.
3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

## **Article 27**

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.
2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

## **Article 28**

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

## **Article 29**

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.
2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.
3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

## **Article 30**

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.



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