

Human Rights Development

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Human rights are moral principles or norms that describe certain standards of human behaviour, and are regularly protected as legal rights in national and international law. They are fundamental rights “to which a person is inherently entitled simply because he or she is a human being”, and which are “inherent in all human beings.

The modern sense of human rights can be traced to Renaissance and Protestant reformation in Europe, alongside the disappearance of the feudal system and religious conservatism that dominated the middle ages.

In the 19th century, human rights became a central concern over the issues of slavery and gender equality. Slavery is unfree labour or forced labour. In the 20th century, the world wars and huge losses of life and gross abuses of human rights that took place during them, were a driving force behind the development of modern human rights instruments. The League of Nations was established in 1919 at the negotiations over the Treaty of Versailles following the end of the World War I. The United Nations Organisation replaced the League of Nations in 1945 after the end of 2nd world war. The United Nations has played an important role in international human rights law since its creation. Following the World Wars, the United Nations and its members developed much of the discourse and the bodies of law that now make up international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by United Nations General Assembly on 10 December, 1948 in Paris, France

Development of Human rights

Human rights are the rights and person has simply because he or she is a human being. Human rights are held by all persons equally, universally and forever. 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. Kant said that human beings have an intrinsic value absent in inanimate objects. To violate a human right would therefore be failure to recognise the worth of human life. Human right is a concept that has been constantly evolving throughout human history. They have been

intricately tied to the laws, customs and religions throughout the ages.

Different countries ensure these rights in different ways. In India they are contained in the constitution as fundamental rights i.e. they are guaranteed statutorily.

In the middle ages and later the renaissance, the decline in the power of the church led society to place more emphasis on individual, which in turn caused the shift away from feudal and monarchist societies, letting individual expression flourish.

British Magna Carta (1215) granted by King John is a very much significant in the development of human rights. The main theme of Magna Carta was the protection against arbitrary acts by the king.

French Declaration of the Rights of Man (1789). The representatives of French people, organised as a National Assembly and have determined to set forth in a solemn declaration the natural, unalienable and sacred rights of man.

Apart from these, there are various other documents also reflected the ideas of human rights which helps in its development. In fact, since

the beginning of the 19th century it was recognised in the constitutional law of many states that human beings possess certain rights, worth of human personality began to be realised.

The initial impetus of the human rights legal regime and movement was in reaction to the Nazi atrocities of the world wars 2nd. In the aftermath of the 2nd world war, the United Nations Charter included promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms among the principal purposes of the organisation. United Nations moved quickly to formulate international human rights norms. The preamble of United Nations Charter reaffirms “faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women.” General Assembly debate in 2017 by new global coalition- which includes the United Nations Labour Agency and Organisation’s entity promotion of women’s rights- striving to raise women’s pay across the

world in equal to men's. In addition, equal pay empowering women, impacts other key goals, such as promoting inclusive societies, reducing poverty and creating conditions for decent work and gender equality.

The universal declaration of human rights (1948), commonly referred to as international magna carta, extended the revolution in international law ushered, in by the United Nations charter -namely, that a how a government treats its own citizens is now a matter of legitimate international concern, and not simply a domestic issue. It claims that all rights are interdependent and indivisible.

The principles of UDHR have been incorporated into the constitutions of most of the more than 185 nations now in the United Nations. Although the declaration is not a legally binding document, the universal declaration has achieved the status of customary international law because people regard it "as a common standard of achievement for all people all nations."

The end of cold war and it's effect on human rights is reflected in part in the text of 1993 Vienna Declaration and programme of action adopted at the world conference on rights held in Vienna in June, 1993.

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action reaffirms the right to development and was adopted by consensus at the world conference on Human Rights 1993.

The Rio Declaration on environment and development sought solutions to poverty, the growing gap between industrialised and developing countries and environmental problems.

Human rights are fundamental to the stability and development of countries all around the world. Great emphasis has been placed on international conventions and their implementation in order to ensure adherence to a universal standard of acceptability. With the advent of globalisation and the introduction of new technology, these principles gain importance not only in protecting human beings from the ill-effects of change but also in ensuring that all are allowed to a share of the benefits.

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