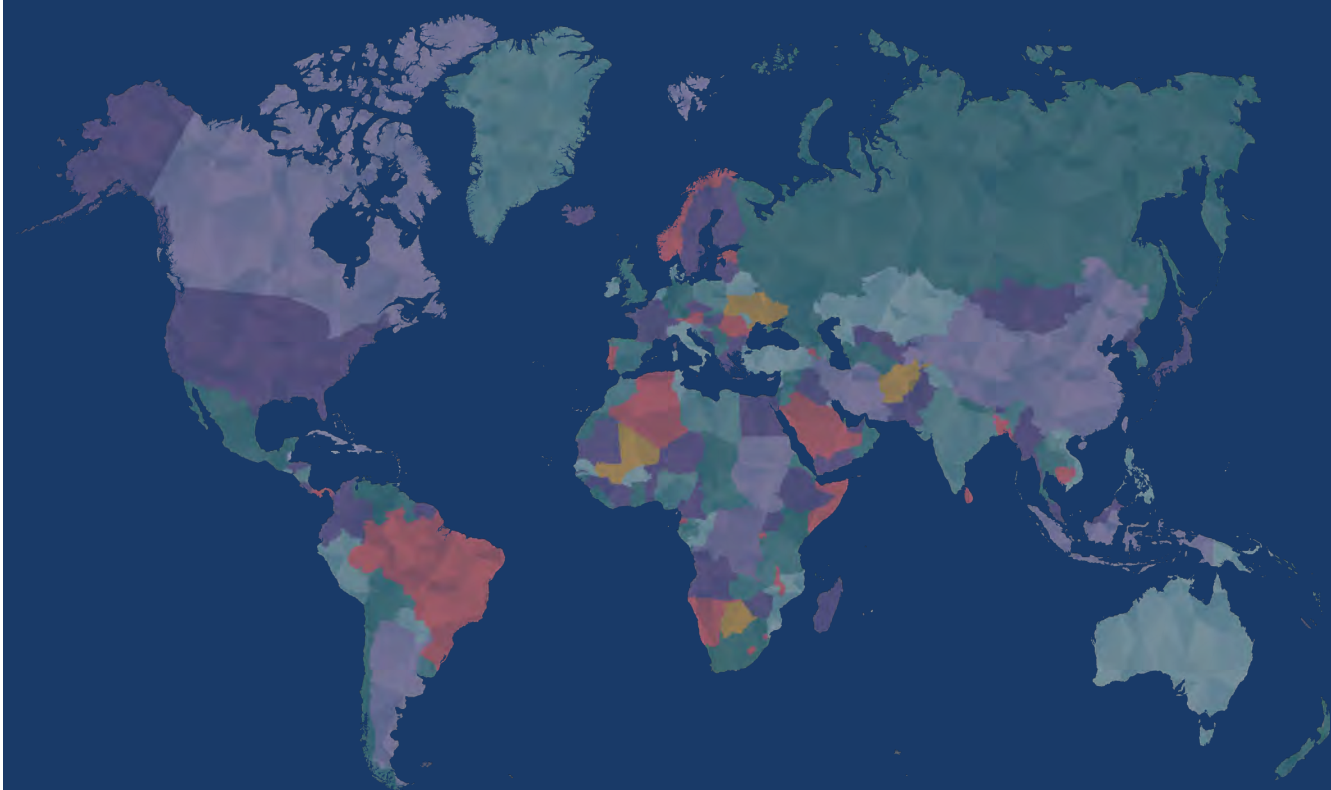


UNEQUAL **WORLD** Conference

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



December 11–12, 2023

Book of Abstracts

UNEQUAL WORLD Conference

Fourth Edition

Shaping a World of Freedoms:

*75 Years of Legacy and Impact of
the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
How Will Human Rights Shape the Future?*

December 11-12, 2023

New York, NY, USA

This publication includes the abstracts accepted for presentation at the UNEQUAL World Conference on December 11-12, 2023. The conference was organized by the UNEQUAL World Research Center, IPSEC, and UN Liaison Office for IRLA and SDA.

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Editors: Nelu Burcea, Lucile Sabas, Thierry Valle

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Preface

Over the past 75 years, the effort to uphold universal human rights and religious freedom has evolved into a delicate balancing act between lofty ideals and harsh realities. Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the document has stood as a pivotal landmark, leaving a distinctive fingerprint on global legal, political, and social landscapes. With a commitment to equality and dignity, nations globally gathered to safeguard and advance fundamental human rights principles while striving for inclusion, non-discrimination, and the protection of human rights. However, reflecting on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on its 75th anniversary, we may recognize that our aspirations are still far from being realized. Emerging challenges and ever-changing landscapes encourage us to strengthen universal human rights and religious freedom for future generations.

In celebration of the 75th year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UNEQUAL World Conference organized on December 11-12, 2023, the fourth conference edition titled *Shaping a World of Freedoms: 75 Years of Legacy and Impact of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. How Will Human Rights Shape the Future?*

The main purpose of this research initiative was to analyze the profound impact of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in various areas, including the advancement of human dignity, fundamental freedoms, human security, civil and political rights, including the freedom of religion or belief, law, human development, health, humanitarian rights, economic, social, and cultural rights, social justice, equality, and non-discrimination, among other related subjects.

This edition of the UNEQUAL World Conference was attended by more than 50 participants from 21 countries: Cameron, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, France, Egypt, India, Italy, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria, Perú, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the USA.

We would like to express our appreciation to all participants for their valuable involvement in the conference and to the session chairs for their support and leadership. Special thanks to all guest speakers for their outstanding presentations and valuable insights and to everyone involved in preparing this publication.

On behalf of the organizers,

Nelu Burcea, Lucile Sabas, Thierry Valle

Shaping a World of Freedoms

***75 Years of Legacy and Impact of
the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
How Will Human Rights Shape the Future?***

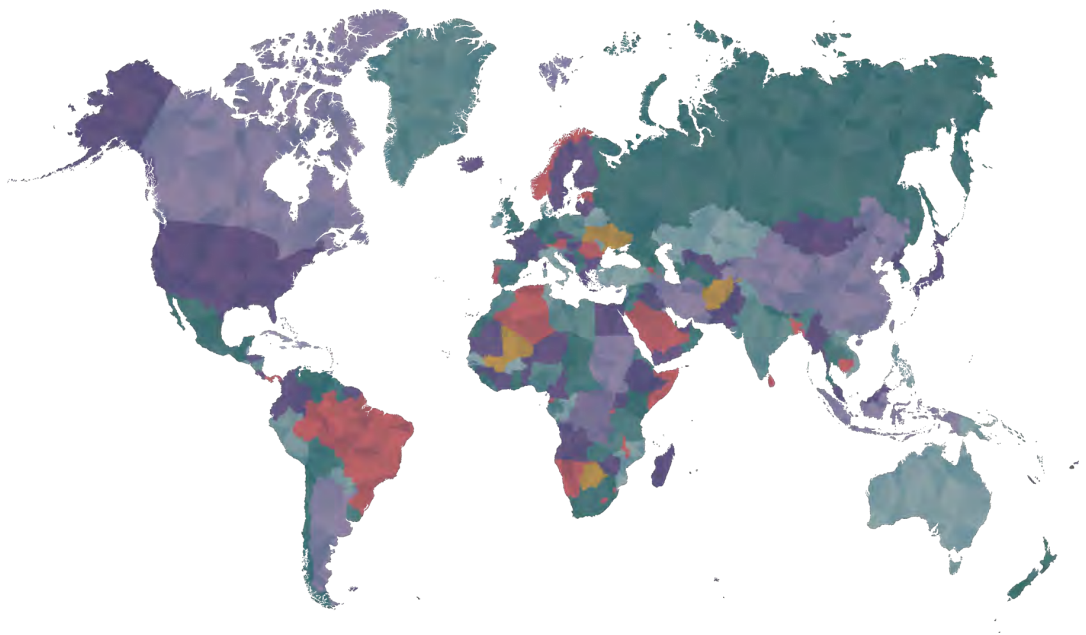


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Freedoms of Thought, Conscience, Religion or Belief at 75

Nazila Ghanea¹ and Michael Wiener²

¹*United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief; Professor of International Human Rights Law, University of Oxford*

²*Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Switzerland (the views expressed are those of the co-authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the UN)*

Abstract: When the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on December 10, 1948, one of the fundamental freedoms it proclaimed in article 18 was the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief. During the UDHR’s *travaux préparatoires* between 1946 and 1948, various views on the contours of article 18 and its potential tensions with other human rights were highlighted by diplomats and civil society representatives from different regions and religions, illustrating both its fundamental importance and controversial character. Already in his 1941 Annual Message to Congress, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Four Freedoms speech included the “freedom of every person to worship God in his own way everywhere in the world”. After the end of World War II and the formation of the United Nations in 1945, these four freedoms were also alluded to in the UDHR, whose preamble proclaimed “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”. It is noteworthy that Franklin D. Roosevelt’s narrower reference to the “freedom to worship God”, which implies a monotheistic religion, was enlarged to “freedom of belief” in the preamble of the UDHR. This subtle, but important, clarification by the UN Commission on Human Rights was introduced under the leadership of Eleanor Roosevelt, the former U.S. first lady from 1933 to 1945. This research will trace the trajectory from the *travaux préparatoires* of the UDHR in the 1940s to the legally binding Covenants (adopted in 1966) and subsequent Declarations on the elimination of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief (1981), the rights of persons belonging to religious minorities (1992), the prohibition of incitement to religious hatred (2012) and the 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights” (2017). This historical overview will illustrate the gradual evolution of freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief over the past 75 years, notably through hard law norms and soft law standards as well as the authoritative interpretation by UN treaty bodies and special procedures mandate-holders.

Keywords: UDHR, 75 years, four freedoms

Human Rights “Diplocacy”: Optimizing Diplomacy and Advocacy through Peer-Learning

Ibrahim Salama¹ and Michael Wiener²

¹*Chief of the Human Rights Treaties Branch at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)*

²*Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Switzerland (the views expressed are those of the co-authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the UN)*

Abstract: The 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a timely opportunity for critical reflection on how to achieve a paradigm shift from relying merely on the “power to embarrass and mobilize shame” to mastering the art of engaging broadly and optimizing convergences. The unfinished human rights business requires a new vision and corresponding innovative human rights *diplocacy*, based on lessons learned over the past decades of human rights work and using its full toolbox. Against this background, the present research seeks to link the hidden dots between diplomacy, advocacy and peer-learning in the field of human rights. We will focus on the intersectionality between freedom of religion or belief and other related human rights. However, our analysis of human rights *diplocacy* is equally applicable to all fundamental freedoms. The neologism *diplocacy* describes constructive human rights engagement by and with State officials, UN independent experts, faith-based actors and other civil society representatives through quiet diplomacy, public advocacy and peer-learning, based on analysis of empirical evidence and pragmatic solutions (Salama/Wiener 2022, 297). The term *diplocacy* also alludes to a related feature, in the sense of *deblock-acy*, since it aims at deblocking impasse situations. These may be the result of protracted conflicts or of tensions among competing freedoms. Human rights blockages also result from the growing push-back against human rights universality, whether on socio-cultural, historical and populist grounds or for geopolitical reasons. In that sense, human rights *diplocacy* may also de-bloc centuries old religious alliances or inherited animosities. Beyond theoretical analysis, we will elucidate this concept by zooming into three case studies where this strategic combination of diplomacy and advocacy has already been applied in practice, using peer-to-peer learning among faith-based actors and other stakeholders. The lessons learned from these case studies could inspire further improvement and new application of this methodology.

Keywords: diplomacy, advocacy, peer-learning, human rights

Human Rights and Disability - A 75th Anniversary Panoramic View

Floyd Morris¹

*Senator, PhD, Director for the Centre for Disability Studies, The University of the West
Indies Mona, Kingston, Jamaica*

Abstract: It is 75 years since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was formulated (United Nations 1948). These rights were established to protect all citizens and to ensure that their dignity and humanity are preserved. The rights prescribed in the UDHR are universal, indivisible and inalienable. But whilst these rights were designed for all human beings, there are some individuals who have consistently seen their rights being violated over the past 75 years. Persons with disabilities are among the groups of individuals whose rights are consistently violated in society (Degener 2017; Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean-ECLAC 2017; United Nations 2018; Morris 2022). The consistent violation of the fundamental rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities has contributed to these individuals being isolated from the mainstream of society and has resulted in low levels of education, high unemployment, poor health outcomes and deep negative social attitudes (World Health Organization-WHO 2011; ECLAC 2017; United Nations 2018). In this research, the author gives a panoramic view of the situation of persons with disabilities in the context of human rights over the past seventy-five years. The fundamental question to be answered is: Has there been a major global transformation of the lives of persons with disabilities through human rights treaties? An examination is made of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The major models of disabilities are examined to highlight how they contribute to restrict or empower persons with disabilities in their society. Attention is then placed on the theoretical and methodological frameworks. This article is concluded with an evaluation of some preeminent post-CRPD issues, including how to get the fundamental rights and freedoms of all persons with disabilities to be respected in society in order to facilitate meaningful transformation.

Keywords: dignity, fundamental rights, persons with disabilities

Addressing Gender-Based Violence for Effective Exercise of Women's Citizenship Rights in Africa

Amal Nagah Elbeshbishi

*Chief, Employment & Skills for Sustainable Development Section for the
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Office for North Africa, Rabat, Morocco,
Professor of Economics at Faculty of Commerce, Mansoura University, Egypt*

Abstract: The conceptions of citizenship that have emerged in many African countries have often not fully incorporated women and girls, whose citizenship rights have been contested or subject to delimitations based on cultural and/or religious norms and practices, centered around the control of their bodies and sexualities. This article explores the link between women's bodies, their sexualities and the enjoyment of their rights, and the active disciplining that institutions – including families, communities, cultural and religious bodies, and the States – have been engaged in to produce the virtuous African female. The epidemic of violence against women and girls negates their fundamental human rights and their claim to full citizenship and protection within their States. The article also reviews the efforts to confront violations, including law reform and legislation, the African Union, and the UN, and suggests an agenda for the effective exercise of women's citizenship rights.

Keywords: women's citizenship rights, Africa, law reform

Economic Rights and Human Dignity

Lucile Sabas¹ and Syoum Negassi²

¹PhD, Associate Professor of Economics and Associate Dean, College of Professions,
Andrews University, USA

²PhD, Full Professor, PRISM, Université de Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne, France

Abstract: Henri Leclerc's famous declaration "Freedom and human dignity must be effective, and there is no point in saying that everyone must live free if they do not have the means to live", published in *Le Monde de l'Education* of July-August 2001 perfectly captures the link between human dignity and economic rights. While the emphasis is on human dignity in the context of celebrating 75 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it is necessary to evaluate the results obtained in respect of the economic rights of populations, and, more particularly, in developing countries. Through this analysis, we will attempt to answer the following questions: What progress have countries made in reducing poverty and respecting the economic rights of populations in developing countries, since their adherence to the Economic, Social and Cultural Pact of the United Nations? What strategies could extend the results regarding respect for people's economic and social rights? Lastly, how can we improve the system designed to encourage countries to respect the commitments they made when they signed the Economic and Social Pact, ensuring that the respect for economic rights would become a reality for about seven hundred million citizens worldwide? A review of statistical data and existing literature on the subject will allow us to answer these questions. Moreover, in this study we considered the adequacy between the macroeconomic and development policies put in place by certain countries of the sub-Saharan region to capture the effects of their factor endowments on the living standards of their populations. To do so, we conducted a regression analysis on panel data for four sub-Saharan African countries with high factor endowment, Nigeria, Gabon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Equatorial Guinea. The results revealed that oil price is correlated with GDP per capita and is statistically significant at 5% level of significance. However, oil exports do not seem to impact the standard of living of the populations.

Keywords: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, human dignity, economic rights

Human Rights Online: Towards A New Generation of Human Rights in the Virtual World

Julia M. Puaschunder

PhD, Columbia University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, New York, NY, USA

Abstract: Human rights guide interactions based on moral standards of human behavior. Despite the universal and inalienable character of human rights and their protection by national and international law, surprisingly human rights have just recently begun to be addressed in relation to digitalization. Three potential developments of human rights are envisioned in the artificial intelligence age: (1) Attention may shift from human rights protecting against surveillance by national governments towards human rights-backed regulation against the interference of big data reaping online entities for surveillance and generating insights. Privacy protection – like enacted in the General Data Protection Regulation and the Right to Delete and implicitly in the Digital Millennium Copyright Act – may leverage into an inalienable human right to protect humans in the digital millennium from privacy infringements online. (2) With freedom of expression pitted against hate speech control in online social media platforms, future applications of human rights to online contexts should balance liberty with protection. Online virtual spaces should be scanned for upholding dignity in the virtual world featuring anonymous actors. A well-balanced virtual space should offer freedom of expression, yet also promote respectfully-protected human dignity. Worker rights could inspire the relation of social online media platform providers with their customers and users. For instance, the unionization of online users of virtual spaces could protect human rights when spending time and effort to share information and communicate, which generates big data for online market platform, social online media and search engine providers. (3) With a heightened degree of anonymity possible in virtual spaces, human rights online should focus on quality assurance when it comes to the credibility and accuracy of online content. Online bots, fake accounts and news but also Search Engine De-optimization (SEDO) developments in the digital millennium infringing on the right to know and access to accurate information that can also cause social upheaval, legal and democratic instability as well as financial turmoil. Governance, governments and industry providers are meant to safeguard online virtual environments. With the International Law Commission monitoring the use of social online media for establishing customary law and legal practice guidelines, a new generation of human rights online should address the role of accuracy and democratization of social media platforms.

This research captures emerging challenges humanity faces in the coming decades regarding the worldwide-ongoing digitalization. In the future, human rights obligations of governments and monopolistic internet firms but also individual virtual market actors may ennoble online spaces to flourish a new generation of human rights advancement in the digital age.

Keywords: accuracy, anonymity, artificial intelligence, credibility, digital age, dignity, human rights, international customary online law, internet, online marketplaces, privacy, search engines, searchplace discrimination, searchplace ethics, social online media platform providers, virtual spaces

The Actuality of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights versus the International Law Crisis

Titus Corlatean

Associate Professor, National Defence University "Carol I", Bucharest, Romania

Abstract: December 10, 2023, celebrating 75 years from the historical moment of the adoption of the UDHR, offers, first of all, the opportunity to reflect upon the magnitude, role, and fundamental impact of the Declaration on the international legal regime established for the protection of fundamental Human rights and liberties. At the same time, it highlights the need to assess the current actuality of this instrument in the context of a real and serious crisis in the international law system. The crime of aggression perpetrated by Russia against Ukraine, including large-scale violations of the right to life—the most important fundamental human right—by the Russian army and the political leadership from the Kremlin, along with inhuman sufferance generated to the innocent civilian population, the kidnapping of tens of thousands of Ukrainian children, and the destruction of critical civilian infrastructure through military means, more recently, the Middle East drama provoked by the terrorist Hamas organization's attack against Israel, further emphasize the deep crises determined by a profound disrespect of different international actors for the fundamental principles and norms of international law, and the current lack of efficiency of the international system established by the UN Charter in 1945. The need for a serious reform of the UN Charter system and of the Security Council, the imperative for assuring the accountability for the crime of aggression underline, at the same time, that there is no alternative to the obligation of returning to multilateralism, that means the functioning of the international society based on rules and to the non-negotiable respect for fundamental human rights, as proclaimed already in 1948 by the UDHR. Going back to the foundation, as consecrated by the fundamental principles and norms of international law and by political and legal instruments guaranteeing human rights, using refreshed and more innovative institutions, tools, ways and political visions represents the only choice for humankind to reject the abusive and unilateral use of force in international relations between states and, thereby, to rebuild peace and security for all human beings. From this perspective, there is no doubt about the permanent actuality of the UDHR.

Keywords: Universal Declaration, human rights, international law, crises, crime of aggression, peace, principles, norms, actuality

The Situation of Religious Freedom in Latin America in Light of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Teresa Flores

Director of the Observatory of Religious Freedom in Latin America – OLIRE

Abstract: This article aims to highlight how the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the entire legal structure that arises from it, has had a favorable impact on the legal development that makes possible the recognition and protection of one of the first human rights to be claimed, that of freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. Nonetheless, despite advances in its protection and after reviewing the Violent Incidents Database (VID) of the Observatory of Religious Freedom of Latin America - OLIRE, in four Latin American countries (Cuba, Nicaragua, Colombia, and Mexico); we have identified several obstacles that prevent the effective exercise of this right and moreover and we have taken notice of how the control or protection bodies of human rights in the universal system do not always include some of these contexts when analyzing or evaluating the status of this right.

Keywords: religious freedom, UDHR, Cuba, Nicaragua, Colombia, Mexico

Human Dignity, the Rise of Secularism, and Religious Freedom: Reflections on the Occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Nicholas Miller

*JD, PhD, Professor of Law and Religion
Honors College of Washington Adventist University*

Abstract: The concept of human dignity has become perhaps one of the most widespread, articulated, shared values in the international community. One cannot really find anyone arguing against it, perhaps with the exception of a few post-modern nihilists safely imprisoned in ivory towers of academia. And yet, at the beginning of the decade of the 2020s, profound threats to human dignity have been revealed in our modern world. These include: 1) **The Covid Pandemic uncovered:** Stark health inequalities between the rich and the poor, as well as among racial minorities, loss of livelihoods of the marginal, disruptions in education, again, especially for the poor and minorities, which undermined the sense of equal human dignity for all. 2) **During the Trump Presidency, There was a Heightened Sense of Racial Injustice and Discrimination:** The killing of George Floyd in 2020 and subsequent protests highlighted systemic racism and police violence, which disproportionately affects marginalized communities. These incidents sparked discussions about racial equality, social justice, and the preservation of human dignity for all individuals regardless of their racial or ethnic background. 3) **Refugee and Migrant Crisis Has Only Worsened:** The sense that human dignity is not universal but reserved for the rich and powerful was made palpable by the enormous time, resources and attention poured into the submersible lost at the wreck of the Titanic earlier this year; versus the relative neglect of the hundreds of poor Africans and Arabs drowning and dying in over-crowded boats in the Mediterranean sea, while trying to immigrate to Europe. This ongoing refugee crisis, exacerbated by conflicts, climate change, and economic instability, has exposed hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people to harsh conditions and human rights violations in transgression of human dignity. 4) **Return to Barbaric European Wars:** It was with a sense of deja vu that those familiar with European history watched the invasion of Ukraine, and then the terrorist attacks on Israel with the resultant invasion of Gaza. To watch on our media land invasions, bombings of modern apartment buildings, and city centers, and bodies of men, women, and children in the streets, made very real the dehumanization that war brings with it, with the actual destruction of not just human dignity, but humans themselves.

What has caused this radical 21st-century disjuncture between the ideal of human dignity and practice? It seemed that part of the benefit of the secularizing of human rights was their universalization. No longer would rights be connected only with a certain racial or ethnic group, or religious or creedal identity, or geographical location. Dignity was meant, we were assured, for all. But could the secularization of concepts of dignity have other, perhaps intended consequences that have contributed to the fraying of dignity in the 21st century? And not just to the fraying of dignity, but also to the concepts of freedom of religion and belief that is based on that concept of dignity? This paper looks at the changes to concepts of practices of human dignity that the rise of secularism has caused. It assesses the impact those changes have had on religious freedom in particular. It concludes with some closing thoughts on how people of faith may respond to the secularizing influences on human dignity and religious freedom in a way that will uphold the values of religious (and non-religious) ethical and moral pluralism, but will also preserve a role for religion to uphold the concept of the special nature of the individual and the community.

Keywords: Universal Declaration, human dignity, secularism, religious freedom

Religious Freedom, Still an Uphill Path

Silvia Baldassarre¹ and Francesca Evangelisti²

¹Prof. Research Fellow At The University Of Florence, Italy

² PhD, National Secretary of the International Association for the Defense of Religious Freedom (AIDLR), Italy

Abstract: After the dramas of the first half of the 20th century, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ushered in the age of fundamental rights and freedoms and exerted a vast influence throughout the world as a source of inspiration for constitutions, national laws, and conventions on various particular rights. After 75 years, can we say that the principles proclaimed by Magna Carta, and reiterated in many other international documents, have been realized? Undoubtedly, progress in many areas is undeniable but, as current history shows, there is still a long way to go. Even in countries, such as Italy, that have implemented the principles enshrined in the 1948 Declaration, the effective protection of human rights and freedoms shows critical profiles. One of the main critical aspects is evident in the Italian *governance* of the religious phenomenon. The articles of the Constitution that directly deal with religious freedom are: 3, 7, 8, 19, 20. Other articles indirectly affect religious freedom, including Articles 2, 17, 18 and 21. The State's relations with the Holy See are governed by the Lateran Pacts signed in the fascist period (1929) and revised in 1984. On the basis of Article 8 of the Italian Constitution, the State stipulated, with a 36-year delay, law of agreements (“*leggi di Intesa*”) with 13 religious confessions “other than Catholic”. In Italy, CESNUR (Centre for the Study of New Religions) counted 866 confessions in 2016, which are still subject to the “law on admitted cults”, an unconstitutional law dating back to the fascist era. There is a pyramid structure of the religious phenomenon that represents a serious breach of equal freedom without distinction of religion and of the principle of the secularity of the State. This system was further aggravated by a ruling of the Constitutional Court (no. 52 of 2016) that recognized in the government an absolute and unquestionable discretion in choosing its religious interlocutors, who remain deprived of any jurisdictional protection. The paper aims to focus on the still uphill path of religious freedom, focusing on the concrete difficulties of a religious minority historically rooted in Italy, the Seventh Day Adventists. The condition of the Adventist Church, which enjoys an understanding with the State, is paradigmatic of the still long way to go. The specific case of the law of “*Intesa*” between the Italian government and the Italian Union of Seventh-Day Adventist Churches: benefits and limits of its actual implementation through the work of the SDA Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department. Religious freedom is a universal right that will be realized not only at a theoretical level but even in real life.

The Importance of the Principle of Presumption of Innocence

Nicoleta-Elena Hegheș

*Researcher 2nd Degree, “Andrei Rădulescu” Legal Research Institute of Romanian
Academy, Bucharest, Romania*

Professor, PhD, “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University of Bucharest, Romania

Abstract: The present study aims to analyze the concept of presumption of innocence and the importance of the principle of presumption of innocence in Romanian criminal procedural law, also reported to the aspects related to this subject within the scope of the regulations of art. 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The presumption of innocence will be presented in a general way, starting from the definition, explaining the terminology of this concept and analyzing its history and evolution, emphasizing the importance of this principle. Human rights are fundamental values of the entire international community. Human rights are essential for ensuring economic development as well as democracy and peace in the world. International human rights instruments, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, provide for a series of fundamental rights that are related to the criminal process, as well as the humanitarian values that accompany them regarding the inherent rights of people in their capacity as human beings to integrity physics, freedom and self-determination. All this sets the limits of what a state can do in order to carry out the criminal investigation, trial, conviction and punishment of the perpetrators and therefore in order to achieve the security of society as a whole. The presumption of innocence is a basic rule in the conduct of the criminal process and at the same time, through its implications, it represents one of the fundamental human rights. Thus, can be explained the inscription of this principle in a series of international law documents that aim at the fundamental rights of each person, particularly in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. At the global level, despite the progress made in the last decades in several fields, human rights face multiple challenges.

Keywords: human rights, presumption of innocence, Romanian criminal procedural law

Safeguarding Tomorrow: Human Rights, Religious Freedom, and Sustainable Development

Thierry Valle

President, Coordination of Associations and Individuals for Freedom of Conscience, France

Abstract: This presentation examines the profound significance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, particularly the fundamental right of freedom of religion or belief, in upholding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as we face new challenges in a world under climate change. The author argues that religious freedom enables poverty to be tackled through self-reliance, promotes gender equality, and fosters peace in a world where it is often seen as a source of conflict. The author urges the international community to engage religious freedom actors in implementing the SDGs to preserve our planet for future generations.

Keywords: Universal Declaration, Human Rights, Sustainable Development Goals, freedom of religion, peace, international cooperation

Protecting Faith and Belief: 75 Years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Questions for the Future of Human Rights

Nelu Burcea

Liaison of the Seventh-day Adventists & IRLA to the United Nations

Abstract: Seventy-five years of existence of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) could mean more than history; it can be considered a meaningful inspiration for many generations of people in search of a deeper understanding of the concept of human rights. The legislative systems of more nations, over this time, have begun to mention the idea of human dignity or human rights in the context of the integration of all individuals under the protection of the laws. On December 10, 1948, 50 nations' representatives came together in Paris to adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Now, there are 193 member states of the UN, all of whom have signed on in agreement with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations 2023). It is significant that a document promoting freedom and peaceful coexistence was released just after the Second World War as a symbol of the rebirth of humanity after a period of worldwide religious and ethnic hatred and crimes against humanity. This document's inception and 75-year history show that regardless of how much humanity can struggle with problems related to the violation of human rights and hatred, there are still multiple chances to overcome the contextual conflict and promote the values of respect and valuing human dignity.

Keywords: Universal Declaration, human rights, human dignity, freedom

The Case for Teaching Humanities and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights

Jonathan Scriven

Associate Director of the Honors College at Washington Adventist University, USA

Abstract: In recent years, there has been a discernible decline in the emphasis placed on humanities education within schools up and down the education system. As the spotlight increasingly shifts towards STEM disciplines, there is a growing concern that we are neglecting the vital role that humanities play in shaping well-rounded individuals. The erosion of humanities education in schools not only risks undermining the development of crucial skills but also jeopardizes the very essence of a holistic and enriching education. The humanities encompass disciplines such as literature, philosophy, history, and the arts – subjects that delve into the complexities of human thought, culture, and experience. Included within humanities ideas are those of human rights. As we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, it is a worthwhile exercise to consider how declines in the teaching of humanities impact understanding about what human rights are, how they develop within societies, and how they are protected for future generations.

Keywords: humanities education, schools, human rights

Human Rights Advocacy: A Practitioner's Guide

Liberato C. Bautista

President of CoNGO—The Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations

Abstract: The human rights struggle is the human effort to participate in making God's people whole. This struggle is a conscious human act whereby human beings not only discern but live out human dignity. Adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948, seventy-five years ago this year, is one example of a conscious human struggle to inscribe how we should treat fellow human beings through the protections that human rights laws afford. The UDHR contains what is now cited as the basic enumeration of universal civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights from which subsequent treaties, covenants, protocols, and conventions have been drawn and enacted. Human dignity cannot be legislated, adjudicated and enforced, but human rights can be, in the form of codified norms and standards called international human rights laws. Thus, through various levels of treaty-making, mainly through the United Nations, the human rights regime today includes the International Bill of Human Rights, composed of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocol. The body of international human rights laws continues to grow as the human rights movement and the human rights struggles continue to raise awareness for what and who else needs protection. Today, the right to development, the right to peace, and the right of future generations are generating greater interest among legal experts and activists alike, and someday, sooner rather than later, they may be codified into law.

Keywords: UDHR, international human rights, future generations, awareness

A Strategy for Safeguarding Human Rights Against Religious Profiling Within the Context of Religious Terrorism

Dan G. Şerb

PhD researcher, University of South Africa; President, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ireland and Northern Ireland, Dublin

Abstract: The main question of a theoretical and phenomenological qualitative research study conducted in Ireland was: What can be done to strengthen the safeguarding of religious liberties while still allowing effective measures against terrorism? The line of reasoning employed in answering this question was developed within the following conceptual progression: (1) Religious terrorism has raised major concerns regarding the role of religion in today's society while reinforcing the idea that violence is innate to religion. (2) The premise that violence is inherent to religion has been scholastically challenged and a new, more plausible alternative has been developed, namely that religion is often used as a front for political, economic, and territorial disputes. (3) Ideological religious fundamentalism (or *religionism*), whereby 'truth' is conceptualized in absolutist ways, often leads to extremism and radicalism, which sometimes can manifest through violent acts (often referred to as religious terrorism). (4) National and international security are high on the political agendas of all nations. As a response to the threat terrorism poses, counterterrorism measures have been developed and implemented. Many of these measures make use of *profiling* practices in order to identify and monitor prospective perpetrators. (5) There are various forms of profiling with *racial and ethnic profiling* being best known. Religious profiling is prevalent, especially in regard to the people from Muslim backgrounds, and it is often practiced under the guise of ethnic and/or racial profiling. (6) Profiling, and *religious profiling* especially, is a practice which often infringes on human rights of individuals and groups of individuals. Therefore, a strategy needs to be implemented to safeguard the protection of such rights and liberties. This is even more imperative as the danger exists for religious discrimination to become covertly systemic. A strategy was developed for the safeguarding of religious liberties which rests on three pillars: (1) awareness and advocacy, (2) lobbying, and (3) networking; its foundational premise is that there is an imperative need to create space for religious profiling awareness and to promote the inclusion of the term and concept 'religious profiling' in legal documentation and treaties. **Keywords:** human rights, safeguarding, religious profiling, terrorism, security, counterterrorism, religionism, fundamentalism, extremism, systemic discrimination

The Ultramontane Roots of the Hegemonic Concept of Religion in Brazil (1824–1945)

Guilherme Brasil de Souza

Princeton Theological Seminary, USA

Abstract: The following paper defends the thesis that the concept of religion and its derivative notions of religious freedom and Brazilian Catholic national identity developed in the first 115 years of Brazilian constitutional history as a compromise. This compromise occurred between an ultramontane and counterrevolutionary concept of religion and Brazilian Dictator Getúlio Vargas's balancing of the competing interests of this reactionary concept of religion with more moderate and liberal political interests during the period of Brazilian history known as the *Estado Novo* (1937-1945). By ultramontane concept of religion, I am referring to a concept of religion that emphasizes the principle of authority embodied in a key figure (i.e. pope, integralist leader, etc.), institution (i.e. Church, government, etc.), day (i.e. Sunday), and specific rite (i.e. Tridentine) in a worldview without any room for error in religious matters nor any separation between the spiritual (i.e. religious) and temporal (i.e. political) spheres.¹ The goal of the paper is to explain how Brazil's hegemonic Christian secularist cultural, political, and religious establishment developed from a conservative reactionary concept of religion. The chapter hopes to show how this concept of religion developed from a historically marginal authoritarian, European, ultramontane understanding of religion to enshrining itself in the Brazilian Constitutions of 1934 and 1937 with reverberations even to the present.² This ultramontane concept of religion and its derivative notions of religious freedom and Catholic national identity proved to be foundational for understanding not only current discussions of church and state relations in Brazil, but the growing phenomenon of Christian Nationalism in Brazil and abroad. **Keywords:** religious freedom, Brazil, church, state

¹ The etymology of the word "ultramontane" refers to those who looking behind the Alps towards Rome and displayed a conservative "Roman" religious practice characterized by papal infallibility, ecclesiastical hierarchy, alignment with Tridentine liturgical forms, and, politically, by a negative attitude towards 19th century liberal ideas of liberty, equality, and democracy characteristic of the post Westphalian nation. In John W. O'Malley, *Vatican I: The Council and the Making of the Ultramontane Church*, (Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2018), 59; F. Azevedo, "A Inesperado Trajetória do Ultramontanismo no Brasil Império," *Perspectiva Teológica*, no. 20 (1988): 201–218; F. Azevedo, "Os Antecedentes Históricos do Conflito entre Dom Vital e o Regalismo Brasileiro e a Sua Resolução Ineficaz," *Revista Eclesiástica Brasileira*, no. 68 (2008): 91–126; R. Azzi, *O Altar Unido Ao Trono: Um Projeto Conservador*, *História Do Pensamento Católico No Brasil*, vol. 3, (São Paulo, SP: Edições Paulinas, 1992), 129; Cândido Moreira Rodrigues, *A Ordem: Uma Revista de Intelectuais Católicos (1934-1945)* (Belo Horizonte, MG: Autêntica, 2005), 108, 35; Italo Domingos Santirocchi, *Questão de Consciência: Os Ultramontanos no Brasil e o Regalismo do Segundo Reinado (1840-1889)*, (São Luis, MA: EDUFMA, 2015), 169.

² For this periodization of Brazilian constitutional history see Luis Roberto Barosso, *Curso de Direito Constitucional Contemporâneo: Os Conceitos Fundamentais e a Construção do Novo Modelo*, 9th ed. (São Paulo, SP: Saraiva, 2020), 83, 134.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights: An Inspirational Charter

Marco Marsili

Università Cà Foscari di Venezia, Dipartimento di Filosofia e Beni Culturali (DFBC-UNIVE); Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Centro de investigação do Instituto de Estudos Políticos (CIEP-UCP); Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (ISCTE-IUL), Centro de Estudos Internacionais (CEI-IUL); Instituto Universitário Militar, Centro de Investigação e Desenvolvimento (CIDIUM); Academia Militar, Centro de Investigação, Inovação e Desenvolvimento (CINAMIL); Centre for Strategic Research and Analysis (CESRAN)

Abstract: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), proclaimed by the UN Assembly on December 10, 1948, is a touchstone and an inspiration for similar instruments. The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), drafted by the Council of Europe in 1950, is considered the European response to the UDHR. The African (Banjul) Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHP), adopted by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1981, mirrors the UDHR. The Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam (CDHRI), adopted by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in 1990, which follows the first Muslim instrument, the Universal Islamic declaration of human rights, adopted by the Islamic Council in 1981, can be considered the Islamic version of the UDHR. The Arab Charter on Human Rights (ACHR) adopted by the League of Arab States in 2004, embodies the principles enshrined in the UDHR. In 2012, ten Asian states, members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), adopted the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), which in its preamble recalls the UDHR. Despite references and similarities with the UDHR these instruments show limits related to religious constraints—the Islamic Shariah—that do not ensure the full implementation of fundamental human rights. Indeed, some charters are incompatible with international norms and standards on human rights since Western and Arab values diverge substantially, and these differences are reflected in such instruments. The AHRD suffers from the inspiration of autocratic regimes that promoted it and hence fails to include several key basic rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to freedom of association. While it served as the inspiration for many similar instruments, the UDHR is still unique and inimitable.

Keywords: Islam, Arabs, Muslims, Europe, Asia, Africa

Freedom of Conscience and Religion in the Constitution in Poland

Mirosław A. Michalski

Professor, Christian Theological Academy in Warsaw, Faculty of Social Sciences, Poland

Abstract: On May 3, 1791, the second in the world and the first in Europe modern constitution was passed in Poland, which introduced political reforms in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Although it did not address freedom of conscience and religion, it was an important step in this direction. It introduced the principle of equal access to offices regardless of nobility status, nationality or religion and limited the influence of the Roman Catholic Church on the state by lifting the ban on apostasy and limiting the immunity of the clergy. Regaining independence in 1918 allowed the Second Republic to adopt a constitution in 1921, inspired by the ideas of the Enlightenment and liberalism, which preached tolerance and respect for human rights. It introduced the principle of separation of state and church, gave the possibility to conclude agreements between the state and religious associations, guaranteed freedom of conscience and religion to everyone and equality of all faiths before the law. The 1935 Constitution restricted freedom of conscience and religion. Favoring the Roman Catholic Church, it introduced the principle of cooperation between the state and church and recognized the Roman Catholic religion as the basis of public morality. The first constitution of the People's Republic of Poland of 1952 separated the state from churches and other religious organizations and prohibited granting them any privileges or public powers. It formally guaranteed freedom of conscience and religion and equality of all citizens regardless of religious beliefs, but in practice this freedom was restricted and violated by the authorities. The constitution of the People's Republic of Poland of 1976 did not significantly change the regulations on freedom of conscience and religion, but introduced a new formulation on the cooperation of the state with churches and other religious organizations in the interest of man and the common good, it reflected the social and political changes in Poland of the agreement between the state and the Catholic Church in the 1970s. The changes in Poland after 1989 made it necessary to amend the constitution. The current constitution adopted in 1997 guarantees everyone freedom of conscience and religion and the equality of all citizens regardless of their religious beliefs. It also introduces the principle of worldview neutrality of the state and the possibility of agreements between the state and churches and other religious associations that define their mutual relations and rights. However, some religions are favored or marginalized by public authorities.

Keywords: Constitution, freedom of conscience and religion, limited right, religion

The Persistence of Dignity

Bill Knott

Director of Government Affairs for the Seventh-day Adventist World Church, USA

Abstract: It will seem strange to many of us that the single word—dignity—created such controversy when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was being drafted in the spring of 1948. Today, “dignity” is an essential component of almost every document an international body either contemplates or creates. And we should note—and celebrate—that the crucial word “dignity” appears no less than five times in the English draft of the original Declaration. It isn’t there by accident—as a token of some collective desire for self-affirmation or communal self-congratulation. “Dignity” has always been a hard-won word; a word that must be sought; a word that must be struggled for; a word that challenges both those who love human freedom and those who fear human freedom to look deep into their ways of framing the world. Seventy-five years ago yesterday, the nations of the world came together in an unusual and even momentary consensus to affirm what they couldn’t deny: that dignity is an essential, undeniable, ineradicable component of what it means to be human. We frequently light candles on anniversaries, both to recall those who didn’t reach this day, and in anticipation of all who will come after us. Perhaps they also will come to know some measure of freedom and dignity because of the words the world adopted three quarters of a century ago. As we remember, we grieve for all of those who had to suffer, those who had to struggle, and all of those who died between then and now in this perpetual battle to preserve the meaning of dignity. And we remember—we remember all of those whom the world doesn’t name—the teachers, and the clergy, and the diplomats, and the legislators, and the judges, and the citizens who day by day, vote by vote, bill by bill, judgment by judgment, classroom by classroom, and sermon by sermon build up the moral meaning of this Declaration in our hands. This anniversary is not only ours—it is theirs: it belongs to all of them. And to all of us.

Keywords: Declaration, anniversary, dignity, human freedom

Human Rights and Inequality: Exploring the Economic Perspective

Priya Bhalla

Associate Professor, PhD, Motilal Nehru College (E), University of Delhi, India

Abstract: It is likely to be universally agreed that protecting human rights is an essential component of economic growth. However, it is unfortunate that economists have so little voice in debates about human rights. Furthermore, (neoclassical) economics also prioritizes maximizing profits, maximizing utilities, minimizing costs, and reaching the maximum levels of efficiency without taking welfare, distributional or humanitarian concerns into account. All of this is happening despite the fact that current vertical and horizontal inequality is growing and is one of the important causes for deprivation of basic human rights such as health, education, food, nutrition and other basic needs apart from unequal opportunities. Because there is little, if any, connection between the issue of inequality and human rights, it is crucial to investigate it. What the world needs at this time is a comprehensive, inclusive, egalitarian and sustainable strategy founded on Gandhian principles. Human rights activist Mahatma Gandhi dedicated his life to helping the impoverished, people working in sanitation, and untouchables. Several ideas he developed or popularised by him, such as Daridranarayan, manual labor, and trusteeship, indicate his preference for guaranteeing everyone equal rights. Particularly, he was concerned with right to work as unemployment was one of the most pressing problems faced by India in early 20th century. His nonviolent campaigns, including the Salt Tax Movement and Satyagraha, offer a different strategy for obtaining human rights. Particular studies (Thapar 1993; Norvell 1997; Gupta 2019) have highlighted the noteworthy fact that Gandhian movements drew and awoke women to fight against the Raj and society's exploitation and oppression, ultimately leading to their emancipation and assurance of human rights. The study adopts a theoretical and critical approach to explore all these ideas.

Keywords: human rights, economic growth, inequality,

Mental Health - A Universal Human Right

Meenu Sharma

Associate Professor, Psychology, Chitkara University, India

Abstract: Mental health is a universal human right essential for everyone, irrespective of location or identity. It involves the right to protection, awareness about mental health, access to available, accessible, acceptable, and high-quality care, as well as the right to liberty and independence. However, all over the world, many people with mental illness often face human rights violations, experiencing exclusion from community life and limited access to appropriate treatment. Mental health awareness is the ongoing effort to reduce the stigma around mental illness and conditions by sharing personal experiences. Consultation with mental health professionals can be difficult due to societal stigma. A proper diagnosis helps people feel less alone and helps them find solutions to their problems, which may persist from childhood. Quality of life may play an important role in the mental health of people. People with poor economic status and from a socially neglected family environment are the victims of human rights violations. Lack of treatment and lack of availability and accessibility for mental health conditions may affect people's rights. Sometimes they are forced to neglect their mental health conditions. Getting proper diagnosis and treatment are important factors, as misdiagnosis and wrong treatments may affect their overall mental health. Parenting also plays an important role in mental health and awareness. Poor parenting and neglect negatively impact children, and childhood experiences may also affect people's mental health. Living in a family and society that promotes proper care, protection and awareness about mental health is fundamental for human rights protection. Mental health has become a universal human right. Society's concepts about mental health very much affect people. Therefore, protecting others' rights is as important as protecting our own rights. Promoting awareness about mental health may help people to recognize and address their illness and make the treatment process easier.

Keywords: mental health, human right, mental health care and protection

Unity in Diversity: Morocco's Journey in Upholding Human Rights Through Cultural Richness

Houssine Soussi

*Associate Professor, PhD, The National School of Business and Management of Dakhla,
University of Ibn Zohr, Morocco*

Abstract: This research paper delves into the intricate tapestry of Morocco's human rights landscape, exploring the intersection of cultural diversity and the principles laid out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Since the adoption of the UDHR, Morocco has navigated a path of progress, grappling with the challenge of upholding human rights while cherishing its diverse cultural heritage. The paper begins with a historical overview, tracing Morocco's commitment to human rights in the context of the global journey since 1948. It then shifts its focus to the unique cultural diversity within Morocco, examining the coexistence of various cultural norms and values. Through the lens of specific human rights issues, the paper analyzes the delicate balance between cultural richness and the principles enshrined in the UDHR. The exploration extends to Morocco's proactive approaches in promoting human rights, encompassing government policies, civil society involvement, and grassroots movements. The effectiveness of these strategies is critically assessed, providing insights into the nation's ongoing efforts.

Keywords: UDHR, cultural richness, Morocco, human rights

Limits to Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning: Exploring the Human Rights Perspective

Aditya Bhalla

Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT), New Delhi

Abstract: A just and fair society is built on the foundation of human rights. They are necessary to promote a person's freedom, dignity, and personal development, as well as the advancement of society as a whole. Any individual has the right to them, regardless of their color, gender, nationality, or religion. Technological developments in the digital era might have unintended consequences. These technologies can be used to promote human rights, as well as undermine the protection and implementation of these rights. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been progressing at a rapid pace for the past few years. It incorporates a variety of technologies, ranging in complexity and application, such as machine learning, image and speech recognition, and natural language processing, which might have a major effect on a wide spectrum of human rights. The development of AI presents two challenges. First, there is the ethical integration of AI in different sectors of society. For example, an AI may inherit the programmer's biases and prejudices. The second challenge relates to the dangers and hazards that artificial intelligence (AI) poses when it is misused. AI, for example, may be readily leveraged to enable various forms of hacking, such as offering a more effective model for password cracking or bypassing CAPTCHA. Because AI is so easily scalable, it might be possible to build a mass surveillance system that easily invades our privacy. It may be used to produce highly sophisticated phishing emails and webpages that closely resemble authentic ones. More focus should be placed on these issues than is provided in the literature. The current study centers on these issues and suggests appropriate next steps.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, human rights, digital era, ethical integration

Linguistic Representation of Religious Intolerance in Online Nigeria Newspapers

Joshua Sunday Ayantayo¹ and Adekunbi Eniola Akintola²

^{1,2} *Federal College of Agriculture Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria*

Abstract: Extant studies on religious right in Nigeria have commented on religious discrimination and association in the country. Studies on religious intolerance, especially as it may affect human rights, are very scanty. The present study is designed to discuss how religious intolerance in Nigeria is represented in the media with the hope to reveal how the representation affects human rights in the country. The study will also discuss the linguistic devices used to project such representations and discuss the implications of the representation for human rights in the country. Content-based and descriptive analyze will be adopted to analysis data collected from Nigerian newspapers. Four notable online Nigerian newspapers will be selected for data collection not only because of the national spread, but also because they devoted enough pages to the coverage of religious intolerance in Nigeria and deployed linguistic devices to negotiate meaning. The newspapers are, Premium Times, Sahara Reporters, thecables and People's Gazettes. Data will be sampled from the selected newspapers between 2020 and 2023 because the period witnessed unprecedented cases of religious intolerance due to outbreaks of insurgents that are presumed to have religious influence. The study will adopt exclusion and inclusion layers of van Leeuwen's (2008) critical discourse analysis (CDA) because it helps to reveal how social actors and their activities are conceal and inferred in discourse. Data will be grouped according to the identified representations and subjected to critical analysis to reveal the dimension of religious intolerance in the media and show how it threatens human rights in the country. The study is expected to be useful to policymakers, human rights experts and the media.

Keywords: linguistic representation, religious intolerance, online newspaper, Nigeria, discourse

Preamble for Peoples: Securing Social Justice through Education - A Critical Review

Solomon Bondla

PhD, Jazan University in Saudi Arabia

Abstract: The constitution is primarily considered as the foundational text of any democratic nation, and furthermore, the preamble provides a vision statement that constitutes the conceptual framework for self-governance. Indeed, it is the soul of the constitution. The preamble signifies collective assertion as it begins with ‘We, the people of India.’ They gifted themselves a constitution that secures for all citizens justice, equality, liberty and fraternity which are the four existential features of a democratic nation. The right to justice is enshrined in the preamble, emphasizing three forms of justice – social, economic and political, which is essential to lead a life with dignity and self respect. The primary objective of the paper is to focus on social justice and an attempt is made to critically review how social justice is translated into the lives of people through education. Indian society is diversified in terms of geographies, languages, religions and cultures. Furthermore, Indian society is stratified by class, caste and gender. In such a diverse and stratified society like India, securing social justice is very challenging to governments. This paper studies how successive governments, with their policies, have tried to secure social justice in tangible terms through education in the past seven decades of Indian Independence. It also explores the areas of achievement and under achievement, gaps, hurdles, improvements and challenges. The present paper is primarily based on secondary sources such as published books, scholarly articles, government reports etc. The findings of the paper will be shared with concerned policy bodies to draw their attention to furthering social justice through education.

Keywords: preamble, constitution, social justice, education, right to human dignity

Empowering Girls in STEM: Insights from the S-Team Project

Maja Mačinko

Professor of Physics and Polytechnics, Elementary School Ivan Cankar, Croatia

Abstract: The field of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) has long been characterized by gender disparities, with female representation significantly lower than that of their male counterparts. The unequal participation of girls and women in STEM not only perpetuates gender inequality but also hinders the field's innovation potential. The S-Team Project, an ambitious European initiative aimed at promoting gender inclusivity in STEM, serves as a beacon of hope in addressing these disparities. This abstract presents a comprehensive overview of the S-Team Project, highlighting its purpose, methods, findings, and conclusions. The project's overarching goal is to foster an inclusive environment where girls and young women are encouraged to pursue STEM education and careers. It achieves this through a multi-faceted approach, including mentorship programs, workshops, and outreach activities designed to ignite and sustain interest in STEM subjects. The S-Team Project's methods are rooted in collaboration. Researchers, educators, and industry experts work in tandem to develop and implement inclusive practices in STEM education. The utilization of innovative digital tools and learning materials further supports these efforts. Findings from the S-Team Project indicate a substantial increase in the number of girls and young women participating in STEM-related activities. By dismantling stereotypes and promoting diversity within the STEM community, the project has effectively sparked interest and curiosity among female students. This has translated into higher enrollments in STEM programs and increased female representation in STEM-related professions. In conclusion, the S-Team Project exemplifies the significant impact that collaborative, inclusive initiatives can have on bridging gender gaps in STEM. By fostering a more equitable world, where girls and young women are empowered to explore and excel in STEM fields, we pave the way for a future of innovation and discovery that truly reflects the diverse talents and perspectives of our society. This abstract underscores the urgency and relevance of such endeavors in creating a more equal world and a brighter future for all.

Keywords: STEM, primary school education, inclusion, hackaton

Human Rights and Empowering Indian Women: Investigating the Significance of Financial Education in Attaining Financial Freedom and Socioeconomic Empowerment

Ramya H P¹ and Deepak R²

¹Assistant Professor, Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering, India

²Associate Professor, Ramaiah Institute of Technology, India

Abstract: This research examines the critical intersection of human rights and the empowerment of Indian women by examining the transformative impact of financial education. It investigates how financial literacy plays a pivotal role in empowering women within the Indian context, facilitating their journey toward financial freedom and socioeconomic empowerment. The study aims to comprehensively assess the current level of financial literacy among Indian women, analyze its influence on financial decision-making, and understand its subsequent effects on their economic independence. Historically, financial literacy among Indian women has been alarmingly low. A recent study by the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) revealed a financial literacy rate of approximately 24.3% for India. Moreover, an S&P survey emphasized a significant knowledge gap, with over 75% of Indian adults lacking adequate understanding of basic financial concepts. Among women, this knowledge deficit is even more pronounced, with over 80% being financially illiterate. Consequently, inadequate financial literacy results in detrimental financial decisions, impacting individuals directly and deterring potential users of financial products and services. Addressing this pressing issue requires a substantial focus on financial education to imbue financial inclusion with true meaning and empower citizens to achieve economic well-being. Gender disparities in financial literacy exacerbate this challenge, primarily due to limited access to formal financial education and constrained opportunities for women to enhance their financial knowledge, often influenced by cultural norms and traditional gender roles. By assessing the correlation between financial education and the acquisition of essential financial skills, this research seeks to understand how knowledge and awareness influence women's confidence in making informed financial choices, engaging in investments, and practicing prudent savings. Inadequate financial literacy can lead to suboptimal financial decisions, restricted investments, insufficient savings, and increased vulnerability to financial risks. Women often struggle to comprehend complex financial

products, terms, and investment options, hindering their ability to make informed choices. Additionally, this study investigates the prevailing challenges and barriers that impede the dissemination of financial education and financial inclusion among women in India. Through an in-depth analysis of the relationship between financial literacy, financial inclusion, and socioeconomic advancement, this research aims to shed light on pathways to enhance the efficacy of financial literacy programs. Ultimately, this contributes to the broader objective of empowering women and fostering a more financially inclusive and prosperous society, in alignment with the principles of human rights.

Keywords: human rights, financial education, literacy, women empowerment, gender disparities, financial inclusion

Exploring the Economic Consequences of Child Labor in Informal Economies in India

Lakshay Sharma¹ and Salineeta Chaudhuri²

^{1,2} Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, School of Social Sciences, CHRIST
(Deemed To be University), Delhi NCR Campus, India

Abstract: Child labor, defined as the engagement of children in economic activities that are harmful to their physical and mental development (ILO 1999), is a complex problem in India that affects millions of children across various sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, and services (Banerjee and Duflo 2007; Nandi et al. 2019). An estimated 4.3 million children aged 5-17 were engaged in child labor in India in 2020 (ILO 2021). The primary objectives of this literature review are to synthesize and analyze existing research findings on the economic consequences of child labor in India's informal economies. Identify key factors in the literature that contribute to its persistence within India's informal sectors. A comprehensive search of academic databases and relevant research sources was undertaken, ensuring that a rigorous and extensive selection process was applied to identify and choose scholarly articles, reports, and studies specifically addressing the economic dimensions of child labor in India's informal economies. The analysis of existing literature reveals child labor in India's informal economies has severe economic consequences, including educational deprivation, health risks, reduced productivity, and perpetuated poverty (Ghosh and Jain 2019). Factors contributing to its persistence include poverty, lack of education, social norms, and demand for cheap labor. In addressing the complex issue of child labor in India, a holistic approach is necessary. This involves not only addressing the economic consequences but also tackling the root causes that sustain child labour. Policies and interventions aimed at improving access to quality education, enforcing regulations by having better laws, and advocating for policies that reduce the demand for child labour within both informal and formal economies are imperative for the well-being of Indian children and the overall development of the nation (Ray 2000; Dammert et al. 2011; Emerson and Souza 2013).

Keywords: child labor, informal economies, review of literature, economic consequence

Human Rights Violation Against Children: Case Study of Gaza-Hamas War

Shahi Shaika

PhD, Amity University Noida, India

Abstract: Children are one of the most susceptible classifications of casualties during war. Albeit quiet a number of global instruments existing to safeguard them, yet numerous infringements are committed against children around the world. Israel gave consent to the Convention of 1991 and yet has been censured for not maintaining its standards. UNICEF reprimanded Israel for its inability to make an administration designated commission on the rights of children or implement any children's rights system or program (UNICEF 2015). Israel guarantees that the Convention does not have any significant bearing in the West Bank and does not characterize Palestinians younger than 16 in the Involved regions as children, despite the fact that Israeli regulation identifies a child as being under 18, in accordance with the Convention. In the Israel-Palestine conflict, children have been the victims of human right violations. The absence of protection has raised alarm, particularly for Palestinian children living in Gaza who are under continuous attack by the Israeli forces. Using the analytical approach, this descriptive study reports unbiased and unadulterated doctrinal research. It tries to address the issues of security related to children according to the standards set by the International Humanitarian Law. The context of the study is its focus on Israel's violation committed during the ongoing Israel-Hamas War, which started on October 7, 2023, and is still ongoing. Reuters reports that 4104 children have been killed since October 7, 2023. According to Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres, "Gaza is a graveyard for children." This human rights violation is analyzed using the outline given by the IV Geneva Convention and its supplementary *modus operandi* with respect to the rights and security of children during a conflict. It is critical to comprehend the idea of the safety and security of children considering International Human Rights and to recognize how Israel penetrated the guidelines and breached the rules.

Keywords: human rights, children, Gaza, Israel, Israel-Hamas war

Youth Exclusion, International Migration and Rights of Migrants in Contemporary Societies

Olayinka Akanle

*PhD, Department of Sociology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria; Senior Research Associate,
Department of Sociology, University of Johannesburg, South Africa*

Abstract: The primary objective of this paper is to contribute original and current knowledge and practice within the framework of human rights from the perspectives of youth exclusion and international migration. In this paper, I argue that while migration is as old as history across the world, the current wave of international migration is massive, unprecedented and definitive, continentally and globally. And this can be traced to the humongous exclusion of the youths from the fundamentally and supposedly beneficial social structures and institutional arrangements that are meant to include and empower them in the first instance. This disempowers the youths and exposes them to human right abuses as they migrate across spaces and contexts. Based on my experiences, mentoring youths and researching international migration and human rights, it is believed that youth exclusion is massive globally and continues to propel migrations, including precarious and dangerous ones, and continues to compromise human rights of the youths and migrants as they move across global borders in many ways. Unfortunately, there appears to be an instituted culture of silence, negligence and nonchalance among key actors in global migration systems and governance, except when it, sometimes, touches on national and global securities. No one appears to care when, and if only, rights of migrants are involved. It is against this background that this paper addresses this dangerously taken-for-granted intersectionalities of youth exclusion, international migration and rights of migrants. This paper is based on many years of research and practice, mentoring of youths, primary insights, autoethnography, and extended in-depth analysis of secondary data.

Keywords: human rights, youth exclusion, international migration

Religious Freedom on the Example of the Legal Situation of the Polish Catholic Church

Damian Heratym

Christian Theological Academy of Warsaw, University, Poland

Abstract: The Polish Catholic Church was organized in the United States of America by a Polish clergyman, Franciszek Hodur, who recognized the economic, social and cultural problems of Polish migrants. Because of the language barrier, the American Polish community had problems with the basic religious activities. Therefore, the idea of establishing parishes where it would be possible to receive the sacraments and pastoral care provided by clergy proficient in Polish was born. The immigrants' conflict with the local church authorities led to the independence of the Polish National Catholic Church, which was transferred to Polish territory after 1919. However, it functioned without legal recognition until 1946, which severely hampered the Church's activities. Recognition came on February 1, 1946, under the March Constitution. After the death of Bishop J. Padewski in the prison of the Security Office, the separation from the PNKK in the United States was announced. Throughout the period of the People's Republic of Poland, the Church functioned under legal recognition by the Ministry, without a law on the relationship of the state to the Polish Catholic Church. This law was only passed by the Sejm on June 30, 1995. Initially, work on such a law was announced immediately after legal recognition, but the law had been suspended since 1948, when the Ministry withdrew the bill. After political changes in Poland, religious freedom was guaranteed by law, influenced in part by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which in Article 18 says that all people have freedom of conscience and religion. The Polish People's Republic as a country dependent on the Soviet Union abstained from voting on the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The enactment of the Act on the Relationship of the State to the Polish Catholic Church was made possible due to the earlier enactment of the 1989 Act on Freedom of Conscience and Religion, guaranteeing all citizens of the Republic of Poland the freedom to profess their religious beliefs. The Act on the Relationship of the State to the Polish Catholic Church allows the Church to freely organize and perform public worship, grants legal personality to Church entities, allows the Church to organize educational institutions and includes catechists, clergy and students in the general social insurance system. Other matters are regulated by the Internal Law of the Polish Catholic Church.

Keywords: Polish National Catholic Church, Law, Legal recognition, Religious freedom

Migration and Food Security in Latin America*

Adriana Carolina Silva Arias¹, Jaime Andrés Sarmiento Espinel², and Milton Mauricio Herrera Ramírez³

^{1,2,3}New Granada Military University, Colombia

Abstract: Economic, political, social crises, famines, and natural disasters have triggered unexpected and growing migration flows in Latin America. Increased border security, migration control, as well as crises in global labor markets, have led to unprecedented massive migrations, primarily towards countries within the same region. This demographic reconfiguration of these South-South displacements entails a set of unprecedented characteristics. This growing demographic flow, originating from crisis contexts, reaches areas facing similar conditions of food and energy insecurity. The data used comes mainly from the Recent Immigration Ethnosurvey conducted in 2021 (LAMP-ENIR 2021). This research analyzes food and energy security within the context of the main migrant flows in Latin America: Venezuelans, Haitians, and Nicaraguans. The data was collected in five host cities in Latin America: San José (Costa Rica), Santiago (Chile), Barranquilla, Cúcuta, and Santa Marta (Colombia). The integration and inclusion of recent migrants' flow in Latin America could have heterogeneous effects depending on the migratory profile and host city, which could lead to differentiated impacts on energy and food equity in destination locations, especially during global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

Keywords: migration control, Latin America, food and energy insecurity

* Product derived from the research project “Incidencia de los flujos poblacionales Sur-Sur en la sustentabilidad: La conexión entre la seguridad energética y alimentaria de los migrantes en Latinoamérica/ Incidence of South-South Population Flows on Sustainability: The Connection Between Energy and Food Security of Migrants in Latin America” financed by the Vice Presidency for Research of the Universidad Militar Nueva Granada, 2024-2025 term.

Freedom and Responsibility of Personality in the Age of Globalization

Viktoria Pitulei

*PhD, Ivano-Frankivsk National Medical University,
Department of Psychiatry Narcology and Medical Psychology, Ukraine*

Abstract: Purpose – This study aims to identify real and potential connections of freedom and responsibility under such fundamentally new conditions.

Methods – The research employs theoretical and methodological analysis and synthesis, utilizing institutional method.

The findings – Globalization has several characteristic features that can be used to trace the development of the problem of the correlation between freedom and responsibility. These include the formation of a single world social system, which is accompanied in particular by the creation of the structure of global social institutions, the creation of a single information space, and the transformation of the sphere of culture into a single multicultural space. These changes leads in a shift in the status of traditional communities and the emergence of fundamentally new ones, which, together with the above-mentioned transformations, also changes the fields of freedom and spheres and the degree of individual responsibility. The effect of globalization arises precisely when the fate of humanity begins to depend on the actions of an individual person. The content of human freedom is increasingly determined by the global problems of humanity, and if at first such determination has a segmentary character, then over time, it necessarily becomes the basis for the realization of human freedom. In addition to the usual institutional, the main ways of realizing freedom for a person in the age of globalization are through network and multicultural channels. Each of these ways has its own negative and positive forms of realizing freedom as refraining from action or active resistance and active and creative activity.

Conclusions – Although social structures are traditionally viewed as independent of individual freedom, on the contrary, they are rather considered as conditions of socialization and social restrictions that set the framework for the realization of individual freedom, they depend as being based on social norms, on their recognition by individuals. That is, a certain degree of freedom of action is required for successful responsibility.

Keywords: freedom, responsibility, humanity, personality, globalization

Exploring Empathy, Altruism and Forgiveness among Police Personnel

Jotika Judge

*Assistant Professor, Chitkara School of Psychology and Counselling,
Chitkara University, Punajb*

Abstract: Police personnel are the crucial link between the government and public in every nation. They are the most visible and approachable part of justice officials. One that an individual in distress will approach first and rely on their support for alleviation of the distress in emergency situations. Thus, it is important for police personnel to display variables like empathy, altruism and forgiveness when dealing with individuals in their most vulnerable states. This study assesses levels of these variables among 300 police personnel (150 male and 150 female) from Punjab, India. For this purpose, standardized questionnaires, namely Toronto Empathy Questionnaire (Sperng, McKinnon, Mar & Levine 2009), Self-Report Altruism Scale (Rushton 1981) and Heartland Forgiveness Scale (Thompson, Synder & Hoffman, 2005) were used. The results revealed that around 55 % of police personnel display high levels of empathy, around 50% showed high levels of altruism and around 40% displayed high levels of forgiveness. Rank and Gender differences in these variables were also analyzed, revealing significant rank differences in empathy and significant gender differences in altruism and forgiveness. The results obtained are especially relevant in providing initial and in-service training for personnel to integrate these positive psychological variables in their interactions with the public. This will not only ensure the smooth functioning of the law enforcement system but also build and sustain trust and integrity in the public-police relationship.

Keywords: empathy, altruism, forgiveness, police personnel, public-police trust

Municipal Internal Control System and Its Impacts on the Principles of Good Governance

Prince Chukwuneme Enwereji

*PhD, Department of Financial Accounting, School of Accounting Sciences,
University of South Africa*

Abstract: The Auditor General of South Africa highlighted in his speech that internal control mechanisms are required to avoid financial losses and detect financial fraud. Due to financial mismanagement in the local municipalities of the North West province in South Africa, this study aims to investigate the internal control practices of role-players in the local municipalities and how they affect service delivery. A qualitative research approach was adopted, and a traditional literature review was applied to find answers to the problems of the study. The findings from the study revealed that internal control measures are taken to prevent errors and irregularities, identify financial problems and ensure that corrective actions are taken to facilitate good governance. It was discovered that the state of municipal internal control systems is worsening, as only 17.8% of the municipalities could achieve clean audit reports in the 2020/2021 financial year. Considering the techniques used by international countries to achieve accountability, it was highlighted that they institute a central monitoring and reporting body to oversee the municipal financial practices while the concept of oversight is held in high esteem. Furthermore, the study confirmed that most municipalities in South Africa do not facilitate consequence management, which has invariably escalated financial misappropriations and other poor financial practices. The study recommends several measures, including the establishment of clear roles and responsibilities, implementation of proper accounting policies and procedures, incorporation of internal audit processes and consequent management, and ensuring timely and accurate financial reporting to bolster robust internal control systems.

Keywords: internal control, principles of good governance, service delivery, municipal governance, South Africa

Rice's Salty Battle: Safeguarding Global Food Security Amidst Climate Change

Carlos Cordeiro¹, Abdulrahman Taieb² and Taha Ozsoy³

^{1,2,3} Prime Technical Institute, Portugal

Abstract: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights enshrines the right of every individual to an adequate standard of living, encompassing essential food access. As climate change drives rising sea levels and shifting weather patterns, the salinity of soil and water in many coastal regions intensifies. This development poses a substantial threat to the food security of billions, particularly in Asia and Africa, where rice serves as a staple. This work explores the diversity and socio-economic significance of rice, highlighting varieties such as Long-Grain, Medium-Grain, and Short-Grain. Within this context, the challenge of increased salinity, which jeopardizes regular rice cultivations, is examined. Evidence suggests that certain rice varieties exhibit varying degrees of salt tolerance. Dedicated breeding programs emerge as crucial in cultivating salt-resistant strains. Understanding the genetic and molecular mechanisms underpinning rice's salt resistance is essential for the development of such resilient varieties. Through targeted breeding programs, refined agricultural methodologies, and strategic soil amendments, the challenges posed by salinity can be addressed. In conclusion, salt resistance in rice carries vast global implications. By nurturing resilient rice crops, we not only bolster food security but also advocate for sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation. This paper accentuates the pivotal role of science and innovation in upholding human rights in a dynamically changing world, illuminating the nexus between agriculture, environment, and human rights.

Keywords: Climate Change and Salinity, Rice Varieties and Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Human Rights

Millennial Generation as Agents of Religious Tolerance

Roma Wijaya

Syubbanul Wathon Islamic College, Indonesia

Abstract: The 21st century is known to the public as the millennium era or the millennial generation. People who fall into this group are those born around the 1980s and 1990s, even up to the 2000s. The dynamics of social change experienced by the millennial dynasty is that it is routinely dominated by technology, especially the internet and smartphones. Other behaviors include a low level of loyalty, a greater inclination in using non-cash transactions, and high desire for travel or vacation. Massive criticism made by conservatives towards millennial communalism is sometimes ignored. Millennials' morals and behavior experience abstract patterns, because they imitate content from the internet, especially social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Tik Tok, and others. Supposedly, the triumph of technology today is a tool to realize religious tolerance. However, until now the phenomenon of intolerance is still rolling like a ball that is always contested. This issue becomes interesting, because with a variety of incoming information, the millennial generation is considered capable of realizing tolerance. But the reality is that various intolerant events appear on social media. Therefore, this study aims to explore the social dynamics of millennial groups who are agents of implementing religious tolerance values. This paper uses a descriptive-analytic approach. Based on this brief description, researchers will conduct searches both by library research and observing social media phenomena and criminal physical acts identified as intolerance and tracing groups identified as spreading tolerance.

Keywords: millennial generation, social media, tolerance

Strengthening Human Rights Protection in Climate Disasters Vulnerable Communities: The Case of Indian Sundarbans

Kousik Das Malakar

*Senior Research Fellow (Doctoral), Department of Geography, School of Basic Sciences,
Central University of Haryana, India*

Abstract: This study investigates the intricate connection between climate change, human rights, and disaster susceptibility, with a particular emphasis on the Indian Sundarbans region. The Sundarbans, a unique deltaic ecosystem, is facing increased climate-related calamities ranging from cyclones to sea-level rise. These incidents disproportionately affect marginalized people, calling the effectiveness of human rights safeguards in disaster management and climate adaptation into inconsistencies. According to the vital principles and rights described in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the study's thought emphasized the fundamental question of the 'right to equality and non-discrimination' and 'right to social security'. A mixed-methods approach was taken by utilizing interdisciplinary data collection methodologies such as Participatory GIS, household sampling, focused group discussions, on-site surveys, and leveraging supplementary secondary sources such as existing human rights literature, legal policy frameworks, and analogous resources. This technique attempted to intricately map the community's future trajectory in terms of climate-induced human rights and justice issues. In this regard, this study used a variety of social science techniques (such as spatial econometric models to analyze spatial injustice in the vulnerable population's standard of living, Garrett's ranking techniques for the level of satisfaction, and other analytical approaches to investigate and shape the strength of human rights protection in climate disaster vulnerable communities in Indian Sundarbans). This study revealed spatial inequality, injustice, and a poor degree of satisfaction in their everyday lives, livelihoods, social capital, and security, all of which impaired their fundamental human rights. Finally, in the context of climate-related calamities, this study suggests assessments that enhance human rights protection. This study contributes to a better understanding of the interconnections between human rights and climate resilience by diving into the lived experiences of local people.

Keywords: Spatial injustice; Human rights protection; UDHR; Climate disasters; Vulnerable communities; spatial econometric models; Application of participatory GIS; Indian Sundarbans

Human Rights as We 'Move' - UDHR and Forced Migration

Shubhra Seth

*Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Indraprastha College for Women
University of Delhi, Delhi, India*

Abstract: The feeling of returning home gives a sense of respite and belonging to many. But when the home does not give a sense of belonging and it is just a mere lifeless structure that one returns to every day, the human rights of the homeless come into question. The Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) live with this dilemma every day. Living in relief colonies or camps, their condition is similar to that of refugees, as they are forced to leave their homes, resulting in severed ties with the community, disintegration of families, unemployment and limited or no access to land, housing, food and education. The visible and acknowledged mark of separation which differentiates an Internally Displaced Person from a refugee is the internationally recognised state border. Faced with situations varying from armed conflicts, internal strife, continuous and systematic violation of human rights, those who flee and seek asylum in countries other than their own are recognized as refugees. On the other hand, the ones who continue to stay within the borders of their own countries, seeking protection and support from their own government, join the category of internally displaced persons. This paper is an attempt to compare and connect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. Forced migration due to conflict is a reality today in every continent across the globe, and internal displacement further triggers cross border movement, leading to a growing number of people seeking asylum from host countries. In its 75 years of existence, UDHR continues to be the foundation through which the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement can be examined and integrated into the domestic laws by the affected countries, which may reduce the voluminous number of displaced.

Keywords: Internally Displaced Person, refugees, forced migration, human rights

Exploring Possibilities to Achieve Human Rights Through Education

Seema Agnihotri

Amity Institute of Education, Amity University, India

Abstract: In its pursuit to mark its distinction with other living beings, man has covered a long journey of civilization, evolving from hunter-gatherer societies to the modern practice of ordering food online through electronic gadgets. In this splendid journey of civilization, when human society seems to be successful in reigning over the other living species of the planet, the same seems to get failed when within society, as an individual, one is ready to snatch away the rights of another individual on explicit and implicit note due to acute fragmentation and division perpetuated under the umbrella term of religion, region, gender or socio-economic status. The divisions which have been created for facilitation have now become the major cause of rift between individual, group and communities in such a way that frequent wars, conflicts and unprecedented brutalities have put the survival of human society at stake. The climax one can witness in two world wars fought within short span of time with the utmost feeling of 'Us and them' and caused millions to lose their lives without any fault and emerged as the strong reason for the 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights' by the then created United Nation. The follow-up of this declaration has drawn the attention of the world towards the concept of 'Human Rights' but in its literal implementation, it hardly matches the spirit. With this aforementioned background, this paper has attempted to seek the intervention of education as a potent tool to bring awareness about human rights from schools to higher education through sound curriculum and pedagogical transactions. The methodology of the paper is qualitative based on secondary sources. The paper concludes by generating recommendations for practitioners on how to convert the concept of human rights into reality.

Keywords: human rights, role of education

A Critical Analysis of the Protection of Human Rights in India

Pooja Pant

Amity Institute of Education, Amity University Uttar Pradesh, India

Abstract: Human rights are those to which every individual is entitled and which are fundamental to his or her development as a human being. The population of India is the most vibrant and culturally diverse, with a rich history of civilization and a variety of rulers across its regions. Following independence, democracy was chosen as the form of government, and at the beginning of the twenty-first century, India emerged as the world's largest democracy. It is also important to note that India gained its independence during a period when the idea of human rights was gaining popularity worldwide. As a result, the Indian Constitution demonstrates a strong commitment to protecting fundamental rights, or what are essentially basic human rights. This paper attempts to analyze the development of concept of Human Rights and its protection in India and how it evolved over time in pre and post-independence. The objectives of the study are to historical background of Human Rights in the world and India, to identify the constitutional provisions for the protection of Human Rights in India and to highlight the status and concerning issues related to human rights in India.

Keywords: human rights, constitutional provisions, democracy

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