

3- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)



*Adopted by UN General Assembly
Resolution 217A (III) of 10 December 1948*



Presentation Contents

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Introduction

- The **denial** of human rights and fundamental freedoms not only is an individual and personal tragedy, but also creates conditions of social and political unrest, sowing the seeds of violence and conflict within and between societies and nations.
- HR are declared as principles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: **A declaration is not legally binding**. It lays out principles and objectives and carries moral weight.
- However, many countries have cited the UDHR or included its provisions in their basic laws or constitutions.



Introduction... 2

- **Many HR covenants, conventions and treaties** concluded since 1948 have been built on the UDHR principles.
- **A covenant, convention or treaty, unlike a declaration, has the force of law.**
- Those who sign the document, called the **signatories**, have not only a moral obligation but a **legal obligation** to respect its terms.
- A covenant, convention or treaty is **signed between states**. Once it is signed, **it must be ratified** by the signatories. This means, that the treaty must be accepted by the country's own **parliament** or equivalent legislative body. Then it becomes law.



Introduction... 3

- One of the greatest achievements of the **United Nations** is the creation of a **comprehensive body of HR legislation**.
- For the first time in history, there exists **a universal code of HR**; a code to which all nations can subscribe and to which all people can aspire.
- The broadest legally binding HR agreements negotiated under UN auspices are the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights.



Introduction... 4

- HR activities in the UN are coordinated by the **Office of the High Commissioner for HR** in Geneva.
- The Office, services the UN Commissions on HR and most UN HR treaty bodies.
- Every year, the Office receives about 400,000 complaints of human rights violations.



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

*Basic International Pronouncement
of the Inalienable Rights
of All Members of the Human Society*



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

On December 10, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

- **UDHR Main Provisions:**

- **Civil Rights**
- **Political Rights**
- **Economic Rights**
- **Social Rights**
- **Cultural Rights**



UDHR: International HR Standard

■ The UDHR is:

- **A Declaration by the UN General Assembly Adopted on December 10, 1948 (HR Day),**
- **It Consists of Minimum & Common HR Standard for All Human Beings,**
- **It Has 30 Articles:**
 - **Civil & Political Rights (Articles # 3 – 21),**
 - **Economic, Social & Cultural Rights (Articles # 22 – 27),**
 - **Promotion, Protection & Fulfillment of UDHR (Articles # 28 – 30).**
- **Contains No Provisions for Monitoring or Enforcement.**



UDHR Articles

http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/lang/eng_print.htm

■ Article 1

- All human beings are **born free and equal in dignity and rights.**

■ Article 2

- Everyone is entitled to all the **rights and freedoms** set forth in this Declaration, **without distinction of any kind**, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
- Furthermore, **no distinction shall be made** on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country.



UDHR Articles

http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/lang/eng_print.htm

■ Article 3

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

■ Article 4

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

■ Article 5

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

■ Article 6

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



UDHR Articles

http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/lang/eng_print.htm

■ Article 10

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

■ Article 11

- Everyone charged with a penal offence has the **right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty** according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defense.
- **No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence which did not constitute a penal offence.**