



## **6- HR Role of Civil Society**

---





# Contents of Presentation

---

3

- **What is Civil Society?**
- **Examples of Civil Society Actors**
- **Role of NGOs in Promoting Human Rights**
- **NGOs HR Activities: National Level**
- **Examples of NGOs Interventions**
- **NGOs Must Be Credible**
- **Challenges Faced by Civil Society Actors**
- **Conclusion**



# What Is Civil Society?

---

*Civil Society Refers to Non-Government Organizations,  
Community Groups, and Associations of Citizens  
Involved in Public Activities.*



# Examples of Civil Society Actors

---

- **HR Defenders** (e.g. On-line Activists);
- **HR Organizations** (e.g. NGOs, Associations, Victim-support Groups);
- **Coalitions & Networks** (e.g. Women's Rights, Children's Rights or Environmental Issues);
- **Persons with Disabilities, and their Representative Organizations;**
- **Community-based Groups** (Indigenous people, Minorities, Rural Communities);
- **Faith-based Groups** (Mosques, Churches);



# Examples of Civil Society Actors (2)

---

- **Unions** (e.g. Trade Unions, Professional Associations such as Associations of Journalists, Associations of Judges and Lawyers, Student Unions);
- **Social Movements** (e.g. Peace Movements, Student Movements, Pro-democracy Movements);
- **Professionals Supporting the Promotion of HR** (e.g. Humanitarian Workers, Lawyers, Doctors and Medical Workers);
- **Relatives and Associations of Victims of HR Violations;**
- **Public Institutions Promoting HR** (Schools, Universities, Research Bodies); **and**
- **Cooperatives & Economic Associations.**



# **Role of NGOs in Promoting Human Rights**

---

- **Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) Have Assumed Increasingly Important Role in Promoting Human Rights.**
- **Many NGOs Also Provide Interventions in Socio-economic Development Areas such as:**
  - **Poverty Alleviation,**
  - **Women Empowerment,**
  - **Combating Illiteracy, and**
  - **Microenterprise Development**



# **Role of NGOs in Promoting Human Rights (2)**

---

- **Advocacy & Representation**
- **Media Campaigns**
- **Providing Assistance**
- **Raising Public Awareness, Particularly to the Poor  
& Vulnerable Social Groups**
- **Monitoring of HR Situations**





# **NGOs HR Activities: National Level**

---

- **Stimulate and Inform Public Debate on Human Rights Issues; and**
- **Assist the Government in Setting and Observing Appropriate Standards for Protecting Human Rights**



## **NGOs HR Activities: National Level (2)**

---

- **Focus Attention on the Needs of Particularly Vulnerable & Disadvantaged Groups; and (e.g. Minorities, Immigrants, Children, Uneducated, Mentally Disturbed, Handicapped and Elderly); and**
- **Assume the Role of Observer of the Government and Parliament in the Process of Adopting Legislation.**



# Examples of NGOs Interventions

---

## ■ Endeavour to Resolve Problems and Address

### Important Issues to Society such as:

- **Combat Poverty, Corruption and Economic Inequality;**
- **Respond to Humanitarian Crises Including Armed Conflict;**
- **Promote Public Freedom of Expression;**
- **Support Crime Prevention, and the Rule of Law and Accountability;**
- **Advocate Transparency of Government Budgets;**
- **Work on Protecting the Environment;**