

# Topic: Human Rights

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## Meaning of and Examples of Human Rights

The fundamental right that humans have by the fact of being human, and that are neither created nor can be abrogated by any government.

Human rights is simply the natural right and privileges enjoyed by citizens of any given state which are usually outlined in the constitution of the state. It is the duty of a state to ensure that her citizens enjoy these rights.

These was the major reason why the United Nations Organization (UNO) urged are member states and all government of the entire world to incorporate the existence of human rights in the their constitutions for easy and proper references.

## Human Rights according to 1999 constitution are outlined as follows:

- The right to life
- Freedom from slavery act
- Right to acquire and own movable and unmovable property
- Freedom of the press
- Right to fair hearing
- Right to dignity of human person
- Freedom of movement and freedom of expression
- Right to private and family life
- Freedom of unlawful detention and imprisonment

## History of Human Rights

Originally, people had rights only because of their membership in a group, such as a family. Then, in 539 BC, Cyrus the Great, after conquering the city of Babylon, did something totally unexpected—he freed all slaves to return home. Moreover, he declared people should choose their own religion. The Cyrus Cylinder, a clay tablet containing his statements, is the first human rights declaration in history.

The idea of human rights spread quickly to India, Greece and eventually Rome. The most important advances since then have included:

**1215: The Magna Carta**—gave people new rights and made the king subject to the law.

**1628: The Petition of Right**—set out the rights of the people.

**1776: The United States Declaration of Independence**—proclaimed the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

**1789: The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen**—a document of France, stating that all citizens are equal under the law.

**1948: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights**—the first document listing the 30 rights to which everyone is entitled.

### The 1948 Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (text) is a declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948 at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris, France. The Declaration arose directly from the experience of the Second World War and represents the first global expression of what many people believe to be the rights to which all human beings are inherently entitled.

The Declaration consists of thirty articles which, although not legally binding, have been elaborated in subsequent international treaties, economic transfers, regional human rights instruments, national constitutions, and other laws. The International Bill of Human Rights consists of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two Optional Protocols. In 1966, the General Assembly adopted the two detailed Covenants,

which complete the International Bill of Human Rights. In 1976, after the Covenants had been ratified by a sufficient number of individual nations, the Bill became international law, to be followed by all.

### **Limitations to Human Rights**

The rights of the citizens stated in the constitution are not absolute; they are limited to some extent. There are some conditions under which these rights can be curtailed. Some of these conditions are:

1. During emergency period like war, threat to internal security, a citizen may be detained without trial by the president if the person is regarded as a security risk.
2. The right to life of a citizen can be denied if the person is found guilty of a murder or criminal case.
3. The right to freedom of assembly or association can be denied if the association is not in accordance to the law of the land. e.g. cultism,
4. Right to freedom of movement can also be denied if the citizen has criminal case pending in court in which giving the criminal bail might jeopardize the investigation of the case by the law enforcement agencies.
5. The right to vote can also be curtailed if a citizen is not 18 years old.