

What are human Rights.

Human rights are inherent, universal, and inalienable rights that belong to every person simply by virtue of being human, regardless of nationality, race, religion, or any other status. They include fundamental freedoms like the right to life, liberty, and security, as well as rights to education, healthcare, and a fair trial.

The principles of Human Rights.

Universality and Inalienability: Human rights are universal and inalienable. All people everywhere in the world are entitled to them. The universality of human rights is encompassed in the words of Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” Leviticus 19:33-34 states ““When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God. This means that God is God of all. He created all humanity and does not Change. He is Omnipresent.

Indivisibility: Human rights are indivisible. Whether they relate to civil, cultural, economic, political or social issues, human rights are inherent to the dignity of every human person. Consequently, all human rights have equal status, and cannot be positioned in a hierarchical order. Denial of one right invariably impedes enjoyment of other rights. Thus, the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living cannot be compromised at the expense of other rights, such as the right to health or the right to education.

Interdependence and Interrelatedness: Human rights are interdependent and interrelated. Each one contributes to the realization of a person’s human dignity through the satisfaction of his or her developmental, physical, psychological and spiritual needs. The fulfilment of one right often depends, wholly or in part, upon the fulfilment of others. For instance, fulfilment of the right to health may depend, in certain circumstances, on fulfilment of the right to development, to education or to information.

Equality and Non-discrimination: All individuals are equal as human beings and by virtue of the inherent dignity of each human person. No one, therefore, should suffer discrimination on the basis of race, colour, ethnicity, gender, age, language, sexual orientation, religion, political or other opinion, national, social or geographical origin, disability, property, birth or other status as established by human rights standards. Deuteronomy 1:16-17 “16 And I charged your judges at that time, “Hear the disputes between your people and judge fairly, whether the case is between two Israelites or between an Israelite and a foreigner residing among you. 17 Do not show partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be afraid of anyone, for judgment belongs to God. Bring me any case too hard for you, and I will hear it.” James 2:1-8 states that My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favouritism. 2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. 3 If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” 4 have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? 6 But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the

rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong? 8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing right. 9 But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. Galatians 3:28 states: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus". This verse emphasizes that in Christ, traditional social and cultural distinctions are rendered irrelevant, and all believers are united as one. Proverbs 22:2 states, "The rich and the poor meet together; the Lord is the Maker of them all," emphasizing that despite societal differences, everyone is created by God and has equal value. This phrase "The rich and the poor meet together": highlights the fact that regardless of wealth or social standing, all people are part of the same human experience and interact with each other. "The Lord is the Maker of them all": emphasizes that the Creator is the same for everyone, regardless of their social or economic status. It suggests that everyone is equally valuable in God's eyes and should be treated with respect and dignity. Genesis 1:27 states, "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them". This verse signifies that humans are created in a way that reflects God's character and nature, it reinforces the idea that humanity is a special creation, made to bear God's likeness. This also emphasizes the diversity and complementarity of humanity, with both men and women created in God's image.

Participation and Inclusion: All people have the right to participate in and access information relating to the decision-making processes that affect their lives and well-being. Rights-based approaches require a high degree of participation by communities, civil society, minorities, women, young people, indigenous peoples and other identified groups.

Accountability and Rule of Law: States and other duty-bearers are answerable for the observance of human rights. In this regard, they have to comply with the legal norms and standards enshrined in international human rights instruments. Where they fail to do so, aggrieved rights-holders are entitled to institute proceedings for appropriate redress before a competent court or other adjudicator in accordance with the rules and procedures provided by law. Individuals, the media, civil society and the international community play important roles in holding governments accountable for their obligation to uphold human rights. Genesis 9:5-6 has it that "I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being. "Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind". This accountability is both to fellow human beings and God. They are upheld by the rule of law and strengthened through legitimate claims for duty-bearers to be accountable to international standards. Most of the Countries have ratified the Human rights treaties and domesticated them. For example, South Sudan Domesticated the universal declaration of human Rights by enshrining it in the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan , the Constitution of South Africa, Liberia, Sierra Leone, etc.

Human Rights are limited. There a certain limitation that are associated with Human rights. People are born to enjoy the God given rights in truth and obedience. For example, the bible warns people of misusing their freedom. **1peter 2:16** "Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God". God gave man freedom to honour him by doing things that glorify his name. You can glorify the name of God by being kind to his creation (fellow human beings), by blessing people around you, respecting them

knowing that they are created by God in his image and are endowed with inalienable rights among whom are Rights to life, liberty and Pursuit of happiness. Human Beings are Sacred due to the fact that they are created by God and are temples of God hence are subject to respect. Genesis 1:27 states, "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them". This verse signifies that humans are created in a way that reflects God's character and nature, though not necessarily in a physical sense. This reinforces the idea that humanity is a special creation, made to bear God's likeness. The fact that he created them "male and female", emphasizes the diversity and complementarity of humanity, with both men and women created in God's image. In 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, Paul emphasizes that believers are God's temple, and the Spirit of God dwells within them, warning that anyone who destroys God's temple (the church) will be destroyed, as God's temple is holy. "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" Paul uses the metaphor of a temple to describe the church, emphasizing that believers are not just individuals but a collective body where God's Spirit resides. "If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is holy, and you are that temple." Paul warns against actions that would defile or destroy the church, emphasizing the sacred nature of the Christian community. The consequence of destroying God's temple is severe, as God will destroy those who act against His people. Hence if anyone kills anyone intentionally, his/her right to life can be limited by execution. Anyone who strikes a man and kills him shall surely be put to death (Exodus 21:12). The freedom movement can be limited by imprisonment. 1 Corinthians 6:12 states, "Everything is permissible for me, but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible for me, but I will not be mastered by anything." This acknowledges the freedom Christians have in their lives, not being bound by specific rules or laws. It also highlights the importance of considering the impact of one's actions on oneself and others. It also emphasizes the need to exercise self-control and not allow anything to control or dominate one's life. In Genesis 2:16-17, God commands the man (Adam) to freely eat from any tree in the garden, except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, warning that eating from it will result in death. Verse 16: "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat' ". Verse 17: "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.". God instituted Marriage in the garden of Eden and gave man and woman to enjoy the fruit of marriage. Genesis 2:21-25 states: So, the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. However, this right is limited to man and a woman (union of a man and a woman). Leviticus 20:13-16 states: If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them. And if a man takes a wife and her mother, it is wickedness: they shall be burnt with fire, both he and they; that there be no wickedness among you. And if a man lies with a beast, he shall surely be put to death: and ye shall slay the beast. And if a woman approach unto any beast, and lie down thereto, thou shalt kill the woman, and the beast: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.