



Human Rights in the Face of Global Challenges

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Abstract

Human rights in the face of global challenges are becoming increasingly important as the world becomes ever more interconnected. The global community is facing a multitude of challenges, from climate change, wars and displacement to political instability and economic inequality. In response to these issues, the international community has renewed its focus on human rights. This renewed focus has led to an increased emphasis on the protection and promotion of fundamental rights, such as the right to life, liberty, and security of the person. At the same time, global challenges threaten to undermine the progress made in protecting human rights. For example, the displacement caused by climate change has the potential to create conditions in which human rights abuses can flourish. Similarly, economic inequalities can lead to social exclusion and discrimination. In order to protect and promote human rights in the face of these global challenges, governments must work in partnership with non-governmental organizations, civil society groups, and individuals. This collaboration should focus on strengthening existing human rights laws and creating new ones to tackle the issues of climate change, displacement, and economic inequality. In addition, governments should ensure that everyone has access to the justice system.

Keywords: Human rights, Climate change, Governments, Education, COVID-19, Legislation, Protection

1. Introduction to Human Rights and Global Challenges

Human rights are fundamental rights that are inherent to all human beings, regardless of their nationality, ethnicity, religion, or any other status. These rights include the right to life, liberty, and security of person, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and the right to work and education, among others. Human rights are based on values such as dignity, fairness, equality, respect, and independence, and are protected by international law¹. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a cornerstone document in the history of human rights and enshrines the rights and freedoms inherent in all people. It is important to address human rights in the face of global challenges, as they are essential for ensuring the well-being and dignity of all individuals². Global challenges, such as climate change, wars, pandemics, and economic inequality, are complex and interconnected issues that affect people worldwide. Climate change, for instance, poses a significant threat to food production and increases the risk of natural disasters such as floods and droughts³. Economic inequality and poverty also remain major challenges, with millions of people around the

¹ Human Rights | United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/human-rights>

² What are human rights?. <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/human-rights/what-are-human-rights>

³ A Proclamation on Human Rights Day and. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/12/09/a-proclamation-on-human-rights-day-and-human-rights-week-2021/>

world living in extreme poverty. The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the importance of addressing global challenges, as it has had a profound impact on societies and economies worldwide⁴. Addressing human rights is essential for tackling global challenges, as it helps to ensure that the most vulnerable and marginalized individuals are not left behind. Human rights provide a framework for addressing social and sustainable development, gender equality, and other key issues. In fact, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has emphasized the importance of human rights in achieving sustainable development⁵. Therefore, incorporating human rights into policies and programs aimed at addressing global challenges can help to ensure that the well-being and dignity of all individuals are protected.

2. Objectives, Research and Questions

In simple terms, this research aims to examine the role of human rights to provide a framework for addressing social and sustainable development, gender equality, and other key issues.

The study is exploratory in nature and aims to provide important insights into the dynamics and interactions of various factors for the creation of sustainable emphasis on the protection and promotion of fundamental rights.

The main questions asked in this research:

- What are the some of the basic human rights?
- To what extent have these rights been respected in the period of Covid 19?
- What is the role of governments, civil society and individuals to guarantee the protection of human rights?

3. Research Methodology

Analysis issues: There are several levels of analysis where challenges can arise due to various factors. A challenge for developing countries and underdeveloped countries. By protecting the right to freedom of expression, we can promote democracy, accountability, and human rights around the world.

Research methodology: A qualitative methodology is the most appropriate and effective tool to address the objectives of this study with the aim of answering the main questions that have been raised.

Data collection method: This study refers to the behavior patterns of the protection of human rights is in addressing global challenges. Considering the theoretical framework, the methodology was built to answer the main issues raised and the materials that supported the research argument were used.

Looking into the future: The findings of this study can renew the applicability of research in the future, e.g. conducting a comparative study and how much human rights have been respected in developing countries.

3.1 Right to Life and Health

The right to life and health is a fundamental human right that encompasses access to healthcare services. However, many individuals face barriers to accessing healthcare, including lack of health insurance, poor access to transportation, and limited healthcare resources⁶. The opportunity to use appropriate healthcare services in proportion to healthcare needs is essential for ensuring the right to health. In the United States, for example, the healthcare system has been criticized for its high costs and limited access to care. Ensuring access to healthcare services, especially for vulnerable populations such as refugees and those living in poverty, is crucial for upholding the right to life and health⁷. The right to life and health also includes protection from environmental hazards. Environmental factors such as air and water pollution, exposure to toxic substances, and climate change can have negative impacts on health⁸.

In Albania, for instance, the historical conviction that differences between groups should not lead to discrimination

4 Global Issues | United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues>

5 What are the 10 biggest global challenges?. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/01/what-are-the-10-biggest-global-challenges/>

6 How the IMF Continues to Change To Confront Global <https://www.imf.org/en/Blogs/Articles/2022/01/18/blog-how-imf-continues-to-change-to-confront-global-challenges>.

7 (PDF) Value Pluralism and Liberalism: A Conflictual or a https://www.researchgate.net/publication/367465368_Value_Pluralism_and_Liberalism_A_Conflictual_or_a_Supportive_Connection_between_Them

8 Pandemics: Risks, Impacts, and Mitigation. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK525302/>

has established a strong sense of unity in protecting the environment and the right to life and health⁹. Global negotiations have also been held to address environmental degradation and protect the ocean. Upholding the right to life and health requires addressing environmental challenges and promoting sustainable practices. The right to life and health also encompasses the eradication of diseases and epidemics¹⁰. Pandemics and disease outbreaks can greatly increase morbidity and mortality, causing significant harm to individuals and communities¹¹. Disease outbreaks are defined as the occurrence of disease cases in excess of normal expectancy, while pandemics are global disease outbreaks that affect a wider geographical area¹². Eradicating diseases and preventing pandemics requires global cooperation and investment in healthcare infrastructure and research¹³. By upholding the right to life and health, individuals and communities can thrive and flourish.

3.2 Right to Education

Access to education is a fundamental human right that is essential for the development of individuals and societies. However, many individuals around the world still lack access to education. According to a study by Roser et al. in 2016, school attendance is a key indicator of access to education¹⁴. To ensure that everyone has access to education, it is necessary to mobilize resources and implement innovative solutions to provide education remotely, leveraging hi-tech and low-tech solutions. Initiatives such as the Global Partnership for Education and the Coalition for Girls' Education are working to support millions of children, particularly girls, to fulfill their right to education in countries with the greatest gender disparities in education. By addressing the issue of access to education, we can help to create a more equitable and just world. In addition to access, ensuring quality education for all is also crucial. The UNESCO Global Education 2030 Agenda aims to provide quality education for all, with a focus on improving learning outcomes and developing the skills needed for the 21st century. Every child has the right to learn, and it is essential to provide a safe and supportive learning environment that fosters creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills¹⁵. Moreover, promoting interfaith tolerance and spiritual enrichment can also contribute to a more holistic and well-rounded education. By prioritizing quality education, we can help to build a more educated and empowered global community.

However, there are still many barriers to education that need to be addressed. Poverty, child marriage, gender-based violence, and overcrowded classrooms are just a few examples of the barriers that children living in poverty face when trying to access education. Overcoming these barriers requires a collaborative effort from governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector. The Global Education for Peace campaign is one example of a network of educators and activists working to promote equality and human rights through education¹⁶. By addressing these barriers, we can help to ensure that every individual has the opportunity to reach their full potential and contribute to a more peaceful and prosperous world.

3.3 Right to Work and Fair Wages

The right to work and fair wages is a fundamental human right that is essential for individuals to live with dignity and security. This right includes protection from exploitation and forced labor. In Albania, for example, religious beliefs have always emphasized the importance of treating workers fairly and providing them with just compensation. The transformation of society also involves addressing the issue of forced labor and exploitation, which requires a deliberate and concerted effort. The U.S. Trafficking.

Victims Protection Act (TVPA) provides legal recourse for victims of forced labor and exploitation¹⁷. Thus, ensuring

9 *Interfaith Dialogue in Albania as a Model of Interreligious* <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48710259>

10 *Outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics—what you need to* https://apic.org/monthly_alerts/outbreaks-epidemics-and-pandemics-what-you-need-to-know/

11 *Access to Health Services - Healthy People 2030* <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/access-health-services>.

12 *U.S. Health Care from a Global Perspective, 2022* <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2023/jan/us-health-care-global-perspective-2022>.

13 *Access to Healthcare during COVID-19 - PMC* <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7999346/>

14 *Global Education* <https://ourworldindata.org/global-education>

15 *Education | UNICEF* <https://www.unicef.org/education>

16 *UNESCO's Global Education Coalition* <https://www.unesco.org/en/global-education-coalition>

17 *AT THE UN: Launch of a Global Alliance to Eradicate Forced* <https://fxb.harvard.edu/2016/10/06/at-the-un-launch-of-a-global-alliance-to-eradicate-forced-labor-modern-slavery-human-trafficking-and-child-labor/>.

that individuals are protected from exploitation and forced labor is crucial for safeguarding their human rights. Fair wages and safe working conditions are also essential components of the right to work. The UNESCO Global Labour University has emphasized the importance of fair wages in promoting social justice and reducing inequality. In Cameroon, for example, the Baha'i community has worked to improve working conditions and promote fair wages for workers. Addressing unemployment and underemployment is also critical in ensuring that individuals have access to fair wages and safe working conditions. In Ghana, youth unemployment and underemployment rates are higher than overall unemployment rates in the country. Therefore, addressing unemployment and underemployment is crucial for promoting the right to work and fair wages¹⁸. In addition to fair wages and safe working conditions, addressing underemployment and unemployment is also essential for promoting the right to work. Underemployment and unemployment are national occupational health risk factors that can have a significant impact on an individual's physical and mental health. In the United States, for example, black workers are at a higher risk of losing their jobs and experiencing unemployment. The official concept of unemployment includes all jobless individuals who are actively seeking work. Addressing underemployment and unemployment requires identifying areas of strength and opportunities for improvement¹⁹. Thus, promoting the right to work and fair wages requires addressing the systemic issues that contribute to underemployment and unemployment.

3.4 *Right to Food and Water*

Access to clean water is a fundamental human right that is essential for maintaining good health and well-being. However, according to a report by the United Nations, one in four people around the world do not have access to clean drinking water. Poor access to water, sanitation, and hygiene continues to be a major challenge for billions of people worldwide, leading to numerous health problems. It is crucial for governments and organizations to prioritize the development of infrastructure and policies that ensure universal access to clean water and sanitation²⁰.

The availability of nutritious food is another important aspect of the right to food. A healthy diet is essential for maintaining good health, yet many people around the world struggle with food insecurity and malnutrition²¹. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 report notes that despite progress in some regions, global trends in child undernutrition, including stunting and wasting, remain concerning. This highlights the need for policies and programs that address the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition, such as poverty, inequality, and climate change²². In conclusion, the right to food and water is a fundamental human right that is essential for maintaining good health and well-being. Access to clean water and nutritious food is crucial for addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, and climate change. Governments and organizations must prioritize the development of infrastructure and policies that ensure universal access to clean water and sanitation, as well as address the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition. Only by working together can we ensure that everyone has access to the basic necessities of life²³.

3.5 *Right to Housing and Shelter*

The right to adequate housing is a fundamental human right that is enshrined in international law. Adequate housing means having secure tenure, which includes protection from forced evictions and the ability to live in a safe and healthy environment. Unfortunately, many individuals and families around the world lack access to adequate housing, which can have significant negative impacts on their physical and mental health, education, and employment opportunities²⁴. Therefore, it is essential to prioritize and ensure access to adequate housing for all individuals. Homelessness is a global human rights violation that affects millions of people worldwide. It is a complex issue that requires a multifaceted approach to address. Governments and organizations must work to protect individuals from homelessness by providing

18 *Civil Litigation as a Tool to Combat Forced Labor in Global* <https://traffickinginstitute.org/civil-litigation-as-a-tool-to-combat-forced-labor-in-global-supply-chains-a-douglass-fellow-advocacy-event/>.

19 *Addressing Youth Unemployment in Ghana Needs Urgent* <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/09/29/addressing-youth-unemployment-in-ghana-needs-urgent-action>

20 *Public Health Impacts of Underemployment and* <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/18/19/10021>

21 *Energy has a role to play in achieving universal access* <https://www.iea.org/commentaries/energy-has-a-role-to-play-in-achieving-universal-access-to-clean-water-and-sanitation>

22 *Food | United Nations* <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/food>

23 *Addressing world hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity* <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12891157/>

24 *Hunger and Undernourishment* <https://ourworldindata.org/hunger-and-undernourishment>.

access to affordable housing, social services, and employment opportunities. Additionally, addressing the root causes of homelessness, such as poverty and discrimination, is crucial to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless. Housing inequality is a significant challenge that must be addressed to ensure that all individuals have access to adequate housing. In many countries, housing inequality is closely tied to racial and socioeconomic disparities²⁵. Therefore, it is essential to implement policies and programs that address these disparities and promote housing justice. Lawmakers must also make amends for past discriminatory housing policies and work to eliminate housing discrimination in all forms. By addressing housing inequality, we can ensure that everyone has access to safe, secure, and affordable housing, regardless of their race or socioeconomic status²⁶.

3.6 *Right to Freedom of Expression*

Freedom of expression, including freedom of speech and press, is a fundamental human right that is crucial for the functioning of democracies. The United Nations has recognized the importance of this right, with Irene Khan being appointed as the UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Opinion and Expression in 2020. The US government has also recognized the importance of freedom of expression, with the Freedom in the World report tracking global trends in political rights and civil liberties for 50 years. However, despite these efforts, censorship and online privacy continue to be major challenges to the right to freedom of expression. It is essential that governments and tech companies work together to protect this fundamental right and prevent censorship and surveillance²⁷. Access to information is another critical aspect of the right to freedom of expression. The development of technology has made it easier for individuals to access information, but censorship and restrictions on access to information remain a significant challenge. In many countries, governments control the media and limit access to information, making it difficult for citizens to make informed decisions. It is essential that governments work to promote transparency and accountability, and ensure that citizens have access to accurate and reliable information. Addressing censorship and online privacy is essential to protecting the right to freedom of expression. Censorship can limit the ability of individuals to express their opinions and ideas, and can also limit access to information. Additionally, online privacy is crucial for protecting individuals from surveillance and other forms of government intrusion. It is essential that governments and tech companies work together to protect these fundamental rights, while also ensuring that individuals are protected from harmful content and cyber threats²⁸. By protecting the right to freedom of expression, we can promote democracy, accountability, and human rights around the world.

3.7 *Right to Equality and Non-Discrimination*

One of the fundamental rights of every individual is the right to equality and non-discrimination. Discrimination on any grounds, such as race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual orientation, is a violation of human rights. Albania has taken steps to protect its citizens from discrimination, as reflected in its 2010 law "On protection from discrimination". The Albanian people have also demonstrated tolerance and awareness of their shared identity, regardless of external factors. However, there is still a long way to go to achieve true equality and non-discrimination on a global scale. Addressing gender inequality is an essential component of promoting equality and non-discrimination. Despite progress made in recent years, gender inequality remains a significant challenge worldwide. The United Nations has set a goal to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls through its Sustainable Development Goals. However, the Global Gender Gap Report 2022 indicates that gender parity is not recovering, and it will take another 132 years to close the global gender gap. The climate crisis also has a disproportionate impact on women and girls, exacerbating existing gender inequalities²⁹. Addressing gender inequality requires continued efforts and a coordinated approach across sectors and countries. Promoting diversity and inclusion is another critical aspect of ensuring equality and non-discrimination. Diversity and inclusion are essential for creating a culture of respect and acceptance of differences. Many organizations worldwide have recognized the importance of diversity and inclusion and have implemented programs to promote them

²⁵ The Human Right to Adequate Housing: A Tool for <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1447150/>

²⁶ Racial Differences in Economic Security: Housing. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/racial-differenc-es-in-economic-security-housing>

²⁷ Women and the right to adequate housing. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-housing/women-and-right-ade-quate-housing>

²⁸ Policy Recommendations: Internet Freedom. <https://freedomhouse.org/policy-recommendations/internet-freedom>

²⁹ Executive Order on Preventing Online Censorship. <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-preventing-online-censorship/>

However, managing diversity and inclusion in the global workplace can be challenging. Successful organizations actively embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion, recognizing their importance in promoting a culture of respect and acceptance. As such, promoting diversity and inclusion should be a priority for individuals, organizations, and governments worldwide³⁰.

3.8 Right to Peace and Security

The right to peace and security is a fundamental human right that must be protected. This includes protection from violence and conflict, which can have devastating effects on individuals and communities. In Albania, religion has never been a source of conflict in society, and religious communities have always succeeded in coexisting peacefully. However, in many other parts of the world, conflict and violence are ongoing issues that threaten the safety and security of individuals³¹. The promotion of peaceful societies is therefore crucial in ensuring that individuals can live free from fear and violence. The Global Campaign for Peace Education is an example of a movement that seeks to promote peace through education and awareness-raising campaigns. Addressing terrorism and extremism is also an important aspect of protecting the right to peace and security. Goal 16 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals specifically focuses on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies. The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) works to promote international cooperation in the fight against terrorism and supports member states in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The State Department also engages in global efforts to address terrorism and encourages countries to build their capacity to prevent and respond to terrorist threats³². However, right-wing extremist groups have experienced a revival in recent years, with a surge of anti-immigration and xenophobic sentiment³³. It is therefore important to continue to address and combat extremism in all its forms to ensure the right to peace and security for all individuals. In conclusion, protecting the right to peace and security requires addressing a range of global challenges. This includes promoting peaceful societies, addressing terrorism and extremism, and protecting individuals from violence and conflict³⁴. It is important for governments, international organizations, and civil society to work together to ensure that individuals can live free from fear and violence. By doing so, we can create a more just and peaceful world for all.

4. Conclusion

Upholding human rights is crucial in addressing global challenges such as poverty, conflict, and climate change. As the ongoing tragedy in Darfur reminds us, protecting the human rights of individuals is a significant challenge at the international level. Universal human rights are at the center of the Global Goals, and unless they are met, none of the goals can be achieved. Governments, civil society, and individuals all have a role to play in ensuring human rights are upheld and protected. Governments must prioritize the promotion and protection of human rights through policies and legislation. For example, Pakistan has established a National Commission for Child Welfare and Development to assess and promote children's rights. Canada works closely with other governments, Indigenous peoples, civil society, and international organizations to promote human rights. Civil society also plays an essential role in increasing accountability and promoting human rights, as demonstrated by the experiences of Human Rights Watch and the Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions. Finally, individuals can advocate for human rights in their communities and support organizations that promote human rights. Addressing global challenges through human rights approaches requires the collective effort of governments, civil society, and individuals. It is essential to prioritize the promotion and protection of human rights in policies and legislation, increase accountability, and advocate for human rights in communities. As the concept of human rights has become a universal value since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations in 1948, it is crucial to continue the work towards realizing these rights for all individuals. Only by upholding human rights can we tackle global challenges and achieve sustainable development and lasting peace.

However, global challenges may require temporary limitations on certain human rights. In times of war, some

30 *Global Gender Gap Report 2022* | World Economic Forum. <https://www.weforum.org/reports/global-gender-gap-report-2022/>

31 *What is diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I)?* <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/mckinsey-explainers/what-is-diversity-equity-and-inclusion>

32 *Peace, justice and strong institutions - Goal.* <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/>

33 *Right-Wing Extremism and Terrorism in Europe Current* <https://cco.ndu.edu/PRISM/PRISM-Volume-6-no-2/Article/839011/right-wing-extremism-and-terrorism-in-europe-current-developments-and-issues-fo/>

34 *The Global Challenge of Protecting Human Rights.* <https://digitalcommons.du.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1316&-context=djilp>

human rights may need to be temporarily limited for national security reasons. For example, limiting freedom of movement may be necessary to prevent the spread of a deadly virus during a public health emergency. Furthermore, economic crises may require temporary limitations on certain economic rights to prevent economic collapse. Therefore, in some situations, it may be necessary to limit certain human rights temporarily. Moreover, some countries may have cultural or religious differences that make it difficult to uphold certain human rights. For example, some countries may have different views on the role of women in society, which may make it difficult to enforce gender equality. Some countries may also have different views on freedom of speech, which may make it difficult to promote open and free discourse. Therefore, it may be challenging to impose Western values on non-Western societies. Finally, protecting human rights can be costly and may not always have immediate benefits. Providing access to education and healthcare can be expensive, and protecting the rights of marginalized communities may not have immediate economic benefits. In some situations, it may be more practical to prioritize economic development over human rights. For example, a developing country may need to focus on economic growth to lift its citizens out of poverty before it can prioritize human rights.

5. Recommendations and Calls to Action

Human rights are fundamental values that ensure equality and dignity for all individuals. However, in the face of global challenges such as war, economic crises, and public health emergencies, protecting human rights can be a challenging task. Scientific research describes how the human rights should not be compromised in the face of global challenges. This paper argue how protecting human rights can help mitigate global challenges and why international cooperation is crucial to protecting human rights. Addressing counter-arguments stating that global challenges may require temporary limitations of certain human rights, some countries may have cultural or religious differences that make it difficult to uphold certain human rights, and protecting human rights can be costly and may not always have immediate benefits.

Firstly, upholding human rights is a fundamental value of democratic societies. Limiting human rights can set a dangerous precedent and undermine the legitimacy of governments. History has shown that limiting human rights can lead to authoritarianism and human rights abuses. Therefore, protecting human rights is necessary to maintain social justice and prevent the erosion of democracy. Furthermore, human rights must be protected to ensure that marginalized communities are not left behind in times of crisis.

Secondly, protecting human rights can help mitigate global challenges. Ensuring access to education and healthcare can improve public health outcomes and reduce the burden on healthcare systems. Protecting freedom of speech can promote scientific advancements and innovation, leading to new solutions for global challenges. Protecting the rights of marginalized communities can create more inclusive societies and reduce tensions that can cause conflict. Therefore, protecting human rights can lead to more resilient societies that are better equipped to face global challenges.

Thirdly, international cooperation is crucial to protecting human rights. International organizations can hold governments accountable to human rights standards and provide support to countries in need. International cooperation can lead to better human rights policies, as countries can learn from each other's successes and failures. Furthermore, international pressure can help improve human rights in countries with poor records, as governments may be more likely to make changes if they face consequences for their actions. Therefore, it is important to strike a balance between protecting human rights and addressing global challenges.

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