

Lecture: 3

DIMENSIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS:

This division of human rights into three generations was introduced in 1979 by Czech jurist Karel Vasak.

The three categories align with the three principles of the French Revolution: liberty, equality, and fraternity.

->**Liberty**(First Generation Rights) Preconditions for a dignified human existence have often been described in terms of freedoms(e.g., freedom of movement, freedom from torture, and freedom from arbitrary arrest).

Civil-political/ negative rights are considered as first-generation rights that relate to freedom and participation in political life. They limit the power of the state over citizens and aim to prevent abuse by those in power.

They are set out in Articles 2-21 of the UDHR. First generation rights include:

- ✓ Freedom from all forms of discrimination; for example, on the basis of gender and race.
- ✓ The right to life, liberty and security.
- ✓ Freedom from slavery and forced labor.
- ✓ Freedom from torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment.
- ✓ Freedom from arrest without cause or judicial process, detention or exile.
- ✓ The right to a fair and public trial.
- ✓ The right to privacy.
- ✓ Freedom of movement and residence.
- ✓ The right to seek asylum from prosecution.
- ✓ Freedom of conscience, religion and thought.
- ✓ Freedom of opinion and expression.
- ✓ Freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
- ✓ The right to take part in government and to vote.
- ✓ The right to own property and not to be deprived of it arbitrarily.

->**Equality** (Second-generation Rights) social-cultural-economic human rights/ positive rights that are the rights must be provided by the individual/ groups/ the state irrespective of the religious, ethnic or gender differences.¹

Second generation rights are set out in Articles 22-27 of the UDHR

and include:

- ✓ The right to social security.
- ✓ The right to work and to protection against unemployment.

¹ However, not all governments can afford to provide these rights to all citizens, so they are incremental. This means that governments must demonstrate that they are taking positive steps to achieve them

- ✓ The right to rest and leisure, including public holidays with pay.
- ✓ The right to an adequate standard of living.
- ✓ The right to education.
- ✓ The right to take part in cultural and scientific activities and to protection of one's scientific and artistic creations.

->**Fraternity** (Third Generation Rights) collective-developmental rights of people/ Green Rights

Third generation or 'solidarity rights' cover group and collective rights, which include, the right to development, the right to peace and the right to a clean environment.

They include the right of everyone to a sustainable, clean and healthy environment, to social development and to other collective or group, rather than individual, rights. They are set out in Articles 28 and 29 of the UDHR.