



International Human Rights Covenants and Conventions



National Human Rights Commission
India

International Human Rights Covenants and Conventions



TRAINING & RESEARCH DIVISION

**NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
INDIA**

International Human Rights Covenants and Conventions

© 2021, National Human Rights Commission, India
First Edition : 2020
First Reprint : 2021

Published by



National Human Rights Commission

Manav Adhikar Bhawan, C-Block
GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi - 110 023
Email : covdnhrc@nic.in
Website : www.nhrc.nic.in

Editorial & Technical Assistance :
Publications Unit, NHRC

Printed at
SMAT FORMS
3588, G.T. Road,
Old Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110007
Ph.: 9810520802
E-mail: smatforms@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COVENANTS AND CONVENTIONS

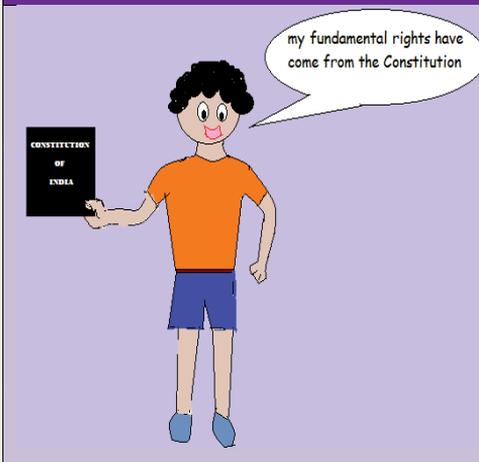
UNDERSTANDING HUMAN RIGHTS

When we speak of 'rights' we usually mean something that we are entitled to or have a claim over, and which is protected by law. When a person says they have the right to vote, it means that they are entitled to vote, the law will protect them when they do vote, and penalize those who prevent them from voting. When a person says they have the right to life, this means that they are entitled to live, the law protects them in this, and will penalize those who violate this right.

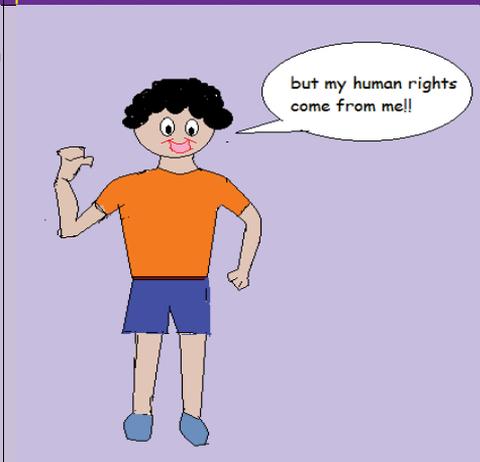
These rights are expressed in some law and are enforced by law. In fact, rights are the creation of some law or the other. In India, the fundamental rights come from the Constitution. The right to vote is guaranteed in the Constitution and the Representation of People's Act. Our rights as motorists are found in the Motor Vehicles Act. Even customary rights (practiced more by indigenous people) have their source in the established practices of particular tribes.

Human rights are a unique and special category of rights. Like other rights, they refer to something we are entitled to or have a claim over. But unlike other rights, they are not sourced in some specific law. Human rights are those rights to which every human being is entitled *because they are human*. The *source* of human rights is our humanity – each person is entitled to human rights for the sole reason of being human. Human rights are not created by any law or any government – they are a part and parcel of our being human.

Most rights come from some specific law



Human rights come from and are a part and parcel of human nature



Human rights are those rights which every human being is born with. Each person is entitled to human rights for the sole reason of being human. It does not matter what country a person belongs to, or what age, gender or religion. It is premised on the understanding that nature allows every human being (without any distinction whatsoever) with certain basic rights that cannot be taken away by any government.

Human rights are a distinct type of rights characterized by the following special features:



HUMAN RIGHTS ARE UNIVERSAL

Human rights are applicable to everyone everywhere. All human beings are endowed with human rights irrespective of one's country, gender, economic status, race, religion, etc. Geographical and political borders are irrelevant to human rights. Human rights are the same for all human beings. We are all born free and equal in dignity and rights— human rights are universal.

<p>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</p>  <p>DEATH PENALTY PERMITTED SAME SEX MARRIAGE PERMITTED MINIMUM LEGAL DRINKING AGE 21 YEARS</p>	<p>SOUTH AFRICA</p>  <p>DEATH PENALTY ABOLISHED SAME SEX MARRIAGE PERMITTED MINIMUM LEGAL DRINKING AGE 18 YEARS</p>	<p>CHINA</p>  <p>CAPITAL PUNISHMENT PERMITTED SAME SEX MARRIAGE NOT LEGAL MINIMUM LEGAL DRINKING AGE 18 YEARS</p>
<p>UNITED KINGDOM</p>  <p>CAPITAL PUNISHMENT ABOLISHED SAME SEX MARRIAGE PERMITTED MINIMUM LEGAL DRINKING AGE 18 YEARS</p>	<p>INDIA</p>  <p>CAPITAL PUNISHMENT PERMITTED SAME SEX MARRIAGE NOT EXPLICITLY RECOGNISED MINIMUM LEGAL DRINKING AGE 18 YEARS IN SOME STATES; 25 YEARS IN OTHERS</p>	<p>SAUDI ARABIA</p>  <p>CAPITAL PUNISHMENT PERMITTED SAME SEX MARRIAGE NOT PERMITTED MINIMUM LEGAL DRINKING AGE NONE. DRINKING IS ILLEGAL</p>

Laws and rights differ from country to country.....

But human rights are the same everywhere and for everyone
HUMAN RIGHTS ARE UNIVERSAL

<p>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</p>  <p>HUMAN RIGHTS FREEDOM JUSTICE EQUALITY DIGNITY RIGHT TO LIFE NON - DISCRIMINATION NO SLAVERY NO TORTURE PARTICIPATION etc</p>	<p>SOUTH AFRICA</p>  <p>HUMAN RIGHTS FREEDOM JUSTICE EQUALITY DIGNITY RIGHT TO LIFE NON - DISCRIMINATION NO SLAVERY NO TORTURE PARTICIPATIO etc</p>	<p>CHINA</p>  <p>HUMAN RIGHTS FREEDOM JUSTICE EQUALITY DIGNITY RIGHT TO LIFE NON - DISCRIMINATION NO SLAVERY NO TORTURE PARTICIPATIO etc</p>
<p>UNITED KINGDOM</p>  <p>HUMAN RIGHTS FREEDOM JUSTICE EQUALITY DIGNIT RIGHT TO LIFE NON - DISCRIMINATION NO SLAVERY NO TORTURE PARTICIPATIC etc</p>	<p>INDIA</p>  <p>HUMAN RIGHTS FREEDOM JUSTICE EQUALITY DIGNITY RIGHT TO LIFE NON - DISCRIMINATION NO SLAVERY NO TORTURE PARTICIPATION etc</p>	<p>SAUDI ARABIA</p>  <p>HUMAN RIGHTS FREEDOM JUSTICE EQUALITY DIGNITY RIGHT TO LIFE NON - DISCRIMINATION NO SLAVERY NO TORTURE PARTICIPATIO etc</p>

Universality is not the same as uniformity. Universality of human is not a threat to the broad spectrum of human diversity and cultures. Rather, it emphasizes that *all* persons be valued and respected.

 **HUMAN RIGHTS ARE INHERENT**

Human Rights are inherent because they are not granted by any person or authority. They do not have to be bought, earned or inherited. They belong to people simply because they are human. Human rights are inherent to each individual.



HUMAN RIGHTS ARE INALIENABLE

Human rights cannot be rightfully taken away from anyone. Indeed, across the world human rights are often violated. But that is what it is – a *violation* of human rights. Those who violate human rights cannot argue that the person gave up or somehow forfeited their human rights. *Human rights cannot be taken away* – not by any individual, organization or state. Nor can anyone give up or forsake their human rights – these rights are integral to each of us.

Under Taliban rule the rights of women were severely curtailed. Laws were passed to deprive women of their rights to freedom, education, livelihood, movement, etc. In such a situation, the Taliban rulers could well say that they are not violating any women's rights as women had no rights in the first place! But they could never argue that they were not violating the human rights of women, as no government can do away with human rights. People still have human rights even when the laws of their countries do not recognize them.



HUMAN RIGHTS ARE INTERDEPENDENT AND INDIVISIBLE

Human rights are interdependent and indivisible. The enjoyment of one right depends on the enjoyment of many other rights, and no one right is more important than the rest. It is sometimes argued that for poor countries like India, the focus should be on ensuring that people have enough to eat – and until that is achieved, there is no need to focus on other human rights. However, if one's rights to equality and freedom are violated, and one suffers discrimination and exploitation, it is almost impossible to rise out of poverty.

Human rights are interdependent and indivisible - the enjoyment of one right depends on the enjoyment of many other rights

INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS AND CONVENTIONS

Human rights are sometimes mistakenly seen as a 'western concept' or a 'creation of the UN'. This clearly is not the case as human beings are not 'granted' human rights by any state, geographical area, or organisation. Human rights are inherent in every human being. The United Nations (UN) is an international organization formed in 1945 to increase political and economic cooperation among member countries. One of the key objectives of the UN is to promote human rights. Various UN documents (declarations, covenants and conventions) have given expression to the concept of human rights. The UN is thus not the creator of human rights, but represents the aspirations of the countries of the world to promote and protect human rights.



The United Nations represents countries across the world (including India) in the global effort to preserve world peace and promote human rights. The UN is not the 'creator' of human rights. Over the years, its various treaties/instruments (covenants, conventions) have expressed the content and context of human rights

THE INTERNATIONAL BILL OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (**UDHR**), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (**ICCPR**), and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (**ICESCR**) together form the **International Bill of Human Rights**.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

In 1948, under the banner of the United Nations, nearly all the countries of the world (including India) made a comprehensive declaration on human rights. This Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) serves as a common standard for human rights "for all peoples and all nations". The UDHR begins with the powerful declaration that all human beings are members of the "human family", and respecting the inherent worth and dignity of each individual is the "foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world."

	
<p>The UDHR declares that respecting the inherent worth of each member of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace</p>	<p>The The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) together form the International Bill of Human Rights</p>

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

This Covenant was adopted by the United Nations in 1966 and came into force in 1976. India became a party to the convention in 1979. The ICCPR elaborates the civil and political rights mentioned in the UDHR. Civil and political rights are those rights that protect peoples' freedom from violation by governments, social organizations, and private individuals. They ensure one's ability to participate in the civil and political life of the society and state without discrimination or repression.

Civil rights include the right to life and safety, protection from discrimination, the right to freedom and privacy. Political rights include procedural fairness in law, the right to a fair trial, right of participation in political life, the right to vote, etc.

The *civil and political human rights expressed in the UDHR and the ICCPR include:*

 ***The right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.*** This right includes the freedom to choose a religion or belief of one's choice, practice one's faith, and spread one's beliefs through teaching.

 ***The right to freedom of expression and opinion.*** This includes the freedom to seek information and ideas of all kinds. This right also implies the duty to respect the reputation and rights of others, and maintain public order as well as public health and morality.

 **The right to freedom of association** including the right to form and join trade unions. This right may be restricted by law for the sake of public security, public health, morality and the rights and freedoms of others.

 **The right to life.** No one shall be deprived of life without proper legal safeguards. Death penalty may be imposed only in the most serious cases, and only by a competent court. Children below the age of eighteen should not be given the death sentence.

 **Freedom from torture and degrading treatment.** No one should be subjected to torture, or cruel/inhuman/degrading treatment. All forms of slavery should be banned by law.

 **Right to liberty and security of person.** A person can only be arrested for a just cause and by a proper legal procedure. Arrested persons should be tried by a proper court of law without undue delay. Everyone charged with a criminal offence should be presumed innocent until proved guilty under law.

Civil and political human rights expressed in the UDHR and the ICCPR include:

		
<p>The right to freedom of thought, expression, conscience and religion</p>	<p>The right to freedom of association</p>	<p>The right to life.....death penalty only in the most serious cases, and never for children</p>
		
<p>Freedom from torture, degrading treatment and slavery</p>	<p>Equality before the law and equal protection of law</p>	<p>Right to liberty and security of person. Arrests only as per law</p>

 **Right to movement.** People are free to travel across their country and choose where they will live. They can leave any country (including their own) and should not illegally be denied entry into their own country.

 **Equality before the law.** Everyone is entitled to equality before the law and the equal protection of law. Courts should treat everyone equally, without discrimination on grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, opinions, origin, property, birth or status.

 **Right to dignity.** There should be no unlawful interference with a person's privacy, family, home, honour and reputation.

 **Right to participatory democracy.** Countries should hold free and fair elections, giving every adult citizen the right to vote. Every **citizen** of a country has the right to take active part in political processes and public life.

Civil and political human rights expressed in the UDHR and the ICCPR include:		
		
<p>Right to dignity (e.g. privacy)</p>	<p>Right to participatory democracy</p>	<p>Right to marriage and family</p>

 **Right to marriage and family.** Adults have the right to marry and start families. No one should be forced into any marriage.

 All people have the **right of self determination** i.e. they can freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.



Freedom from propaganda for war or hatred. Propaganda for war should be prohibited. Advocacy of any national, racial or religious hatred that leads to discrimination, hostility or violence should also be prohibited.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

This Covenant too was adopted by the United Nations in 1966 and came into force in 1976. India became a party to the convention in 1979. The ICESCR elaborates the economic, social and cultural rights mentioned in the UDHR. Economic, social and cultural rights are those rights concerning the basic social and economic conditions needed to live a life of dignity and freedom e.g. employment rights, social security, health, education, food, water, housing, healthy environment, culture, etc. Under the ICESCR, countries must take steps “to the maximum of (their) available resources” to progressively realize these rights.

The economic, social and cultural rights expressed in the UDHR and the ICESCR include:



The right to work. This includes the right to choose the work of one’s choice, and fair wages. Men and women should get equal pay for equal work. Workplaces should be safe, and allow for adequate rest, leisure and paid holidays.



The right to form and join trade unions. This right can only be restricted by law for the sake of national security, public order or the protection of the rights of other people. Workers have the right to go on strike, but it should be done in accordance with the laws relating to such strikes in the country.

Economic, social and cultural rights expressed in the UDHR and the ICESCR include:

<p>The right to choose one’s work, equal pay for equal work, the right to form trade unions</p>	<p>Social security (e.g. social insurance, maternity leave, health care, unemployment allowance, family and child support, etc)</p>

 **The right to social security.** This includes the right to social insurance, health care, unemployment allowance, family and child support, maternity leave, disability assistance, etc.

 **Maternity leave.** Mothers in employment should be given adequate paid leave before and after childbirth.

 **Protection of children.** Children and young persons should be protected from economic and social exploitation. Making them work in hazardous employments should be punishable by law. The law should prescribe minimum age requirements for employment.

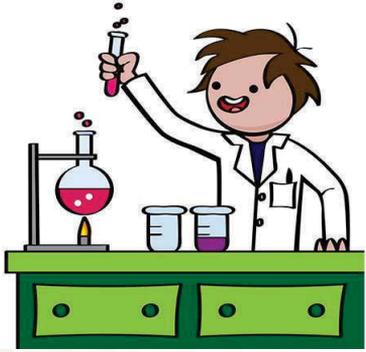
 **Adequate standard of living.** This includes adequate food, clothing, housing, and the continuous improvement of living standards.

 **Right to food.** States should improve methods of production, conservation and distribution of food. Agricultural production should be improved to achieve the most efficient use of natural resources.

 **Right to health.** Everyone has the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Towards this end, states should focus on:

- Reducing infant mortality
- Improving the environment
- Prevention, treatment and control of diseases
- Facilitating medical treatment for those in need of it

Economic, social and cultural rights expressed in the UDHR and the ICESCR include:

	
Right to take part in cultural life, and enjoy benefits of scientific progress	Right to adequate standard of living, food, and health

 **Right to education.** Everyone has the right to education. Primary education should be compulsory and made available free to all. Education should aim at the full development of the

human personality, and strengthen respect for human rights. Secondary and higher education should gradually be made accessible to all.

 **Right to science and culture.** Everyone has the right to take part in cultural life, and enjoy the benefits of scientific progress. Creators of any scientific, artistic or literary products are entitled to benefit from these. States should develop and disseminate science and culture, and respect the freedom necessary for scientific research and creative activity.

Other Key Human Rights Conventions

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was adopted in 1979 and came into force in 1981. CEDAW is the result of the realization that the violation of women's rights across the world is so widespread and deep-rooted, that a special focus is necessary to effectively deal with it. CEDAW comprehensively sets out women's rights as human rights. India became a party to CEDAW in 1993.

CEDAW defines discrimination against women as any **distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex** which can interfere with the enjoyment by women of their human rights. These terms imply an increasing degree of violation of a woman's rights.

There is a shortage of schools in Rajurgaon village. The village council decides to run the school in two shifts (morning and early evening) so that more children can attend school. They decide that boys can attend both shifts, but girls can only attend the morning shift "for the sake of safety". This is a **distinction** that reduces the girls' right to education, as fewer seats will be available for them as compared to the boys.

The council then decides that girls should not study Science and Mathematics as these are "not suitable subjects for girls". This is a **restriction** on the girls' human right to education. If the council later decides that girls should remain at home and not go to school, this would be an **EXCLUSION** of their rights.

Countries party to CEDAW (such as India) are required to:



Ensure the full development and advancement of women



Eliminate social and cultural prejudices against women



Take effective measures to stop trafficking and exploitation of women

CEDAW focuses on women's rights as human rights

		
Full and free participation of women in political life	No discrimination in employment and economic advancement	Equality in matters of marriage, family and children

-  Ensure that women participate fully and freely in political life (as voters, candidates, policy makers, public officials, etc)
-  Ensure equal rights of women in all levels of education
-  Remove discrimination in employment, and secure equal opportunities and rewards
-  Secure equal rights of men and women in marriage and freedom to choose one's spouse
-  Spread the understanding that men and women have a common responsibility in child raising. Also ensure that women have equal rights to determine responsibly how many children they will have and when

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) came into force in 1990, and India became a party to it in 1992. The CRC recognizes that because of their physical and mental immaturity, children need special safeguards, care and protection. It focuses on non – discrimination, the best interest of the child, survival and development, as well as the right of children to engage and participate in various aspects of life.

Under the CRC, a child usually means a person below the age of eighteen years. It says that the rights of the child include:



Following the principle of "the best interest of the child" to decide cases affecting children. In all actions concerning children, the **best interest of the child** should be the main consideration.

The CRC focuses comprehensively on child rights: non - discrimination, the best interest of the child, survival and development, and the right of children to engage and participate in various aspects of life

In all cases affecting children (e.g. child custody disputes), the matter should be decided as per the best interest of the child	Children should be protected from exploitation e.g. drugs, trafficking, abuse, etc	Primary education should be free and compulsory. School discipline should not violate a child's dignity



Children have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. Parents and legal guardians have both rights and duties with regard to their children. They can give guidance and direction, but with due regard to the growing capacities of the child. Thus, as the child grows older, s/he has to be given enough space to develop as an individual



Children should be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence, neglect or exploitation. They should be made safe from all kinds of abuse (physical, sexual, etc). States should protect them from trafficking, narcotics and other forms of abuse



Primary education should be free and compulsory. Attempts should be made so that secondary and higher education become accessible to all young people. School discipline should not be harsh or in violation of a child's dignity



Children should be protected from economic exploitation and should not be doing work that is harmful to their health and development





Children accused of committing crimes should not be treated with indignity or tortured. Those found guilty of committing an offence should not be given sentences such as death penalty or life imprisonment. A child should be presumed innocent till proven guilty. Efforts should be made for their reform and rehabilitation.

The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)

The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) was the consequence of the international realization that racial discrimination violates fundamental human dignity and must be overcome in all its forms. India is a party to ICERD which came into force in 1969. ICERD emphasizes that the idea that one race is superior to another is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous.

'Racial discrimination' is any **distinction, exclusion, RESTRICTION** or *preference* based on:



race



colour



descent



national or ethnic origin

which can interfere with a person's enjoyment of human rights.

Under ICERD, India (and other countries party to it) have to ensure:



Ending racial discrimination through law and other methods



Spreading racist ideas or provoking racist attacks are made punishable offences



Promoting understanding between racial or ethnic groups and fighting prejudices that lead to racial discrimination



Under ICERD racial discrimination is any discrimination based on race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin that violates a person's human rights.

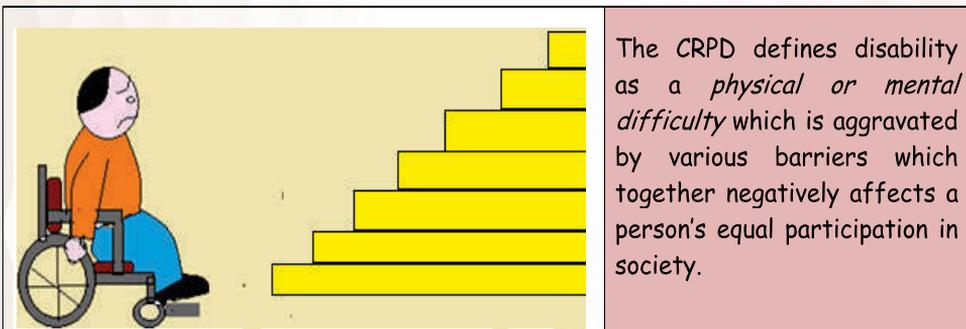
Preferential treatment to a person on account of race (e.g. special treatment to white skinned persons) is also racial discrimination.

Countries should have effective laws to punish racial discrimination

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

India is a party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which came into force in 2008. The purpose of the CRPD is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all persons with disabilities. It recognizes that social barriers and misconceptions have a huge role to play in making a person 'disabled'.

The CRPD defines disability as a *physical or mental difficulty* which is *aggravated by various barriers* which together negatively affect a person's equal participation in society. Attitudinal barriers (e.g. where social prejudice leads to unfair treatment) and environmental barriers (e.g. where surrounding structures exclude people with disability from participating effectively) are some examples of these barriers.



The key elements of the CRPD are:



Non – discrimination. Discrimination against persons with disabilities should be prohibited by law. Governments should ensure that there is 'reasonable accommodation' i.e. making necessary adjustments so that persons with disability are not excluded e.g. lifts/ramps instead of only staircases, audio signals for visually impaired.



Full and effective participation in an inclusive society, with respect for difference and acceptance of disability as a part of human diversity



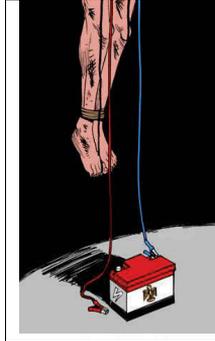
Equal opportunity in all areas of life



Accessible buildings, transportation, medical facilities, workplaces, etc. Effort to be made on 'universal design' so that places and articles are so designed that they can be used by all people, whether with or without disability.

Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)

The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) came into force in 1987. With regard to CAT, India has signed but has not ratified it. There are two steps involved in a country becoming bound by a convention – signing (the first step) and ratification (the second step). When a country signs a convention, it shows its interest to continue with the process till the stage of ratification. At this stage, the country is not bound by the terms of the convention. When a country ratifies a convention, it expresses its willingness to be bound by the conventions. India has ratified the conventions mentioned above, but has only signed CAT – meaning that India is considering the process of ratifying it, but the provisions of CAT are not binding on India so far. But even signing it does imply that India will not commit any acts that would defeat the aims or objects of the CAT.



CAT defines torture as any act by which severe physical or mental pain is intentionally caused directly or indirectly by a public official for such reasons as getting information, creating fear, coercion, etc

CAT defines torture as any act done **directly or indirectly by a public official** by which **severe physical or mental pain is intentionally caused** to a person for such reasons as:



obtaining information/confession



for punishment



creating fear/compulsion.

It does not include any suffering that may arise out of lawful action.

Akash Trivedi is the son of a millionaire. He is accused of having run over two footpath dwellers while driving his BMW. They later died due to their injuries. Akash is tried in a court of law and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. Akash is very uncomfortable in jail as it does not have any of the luxuries (air-conditioning, luxurious furniture, etc) that he is used to. He suffers great discomfort, but this is not torture.

One day two of the jailers beat him up, and tell him to arrange for payment of 2 lac rupees if he does not want to be beaten again. This is torture.

CAT requires countries to:



Take all possible steps to ensure that torture does not occur under any circumstances. Neither war, political instability nor any other emergency can be a justification for torture. Getting orders from higher authorities to commit torture is no excuse for torture



All acts of torture should be made punishable offences



Governments should regularly review instructions and practices of interrogation, custody, etc so as to prevent torture



Any allegations of torture should be promptly investigated by competent and impartial authorities

SIGNIFICANCE OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COVENANTS AND CONVENTIONS

The various international human rights covenants and conventions have played a critical role in **legislation** as well as in **judicial pronouncements in India**.

Several laws in India have been either newly made or amended in order to meet our international obligations. For example:



Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act (2015) has been passed keeping in mind the standards of the Convention on Child Rights (CRC)



The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (2012) has also been influenced considerably by the CRC



The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act (2013) has drawn inspiration from Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)



The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (2016) has been passed to give effect to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

India's courts have also given due regard to these international standards and obligations. In cases such as –

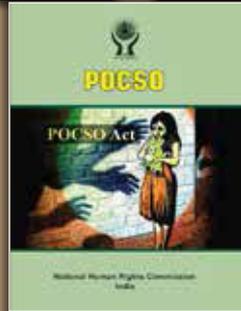
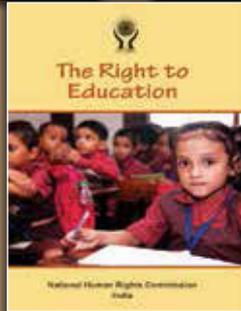
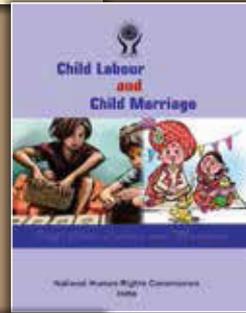
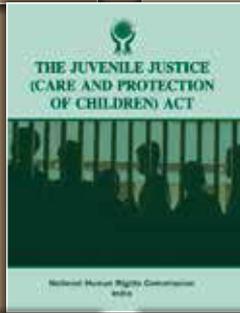
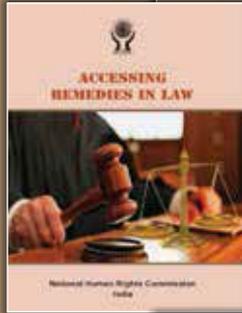
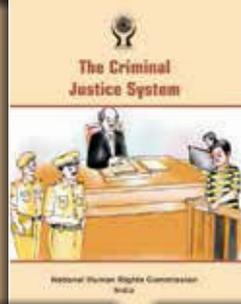
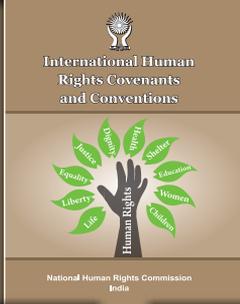
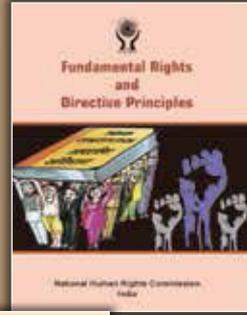
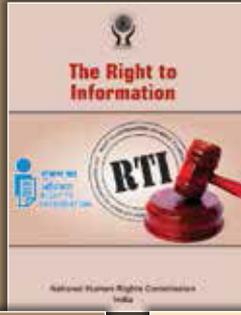
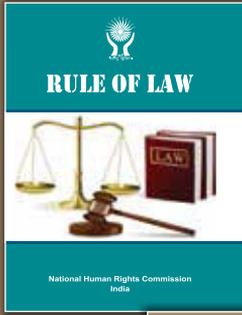


Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan (1997), a landmark judgment on sexual harassment of women at workplaces;



National Legal Services Authority v. Union of India (2014), a landmark case on rights of transgender people;

The Supreme Court stressed the importance of relying on these various international human rights treaties, especially when they are not contrary to Indian law and when the Indian law is silent on the issue at hand.



NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Manav Adhikar Bhawan, C-Block, GPO Complex
INA, New Delhi - 110 023
Email : covdnhrc@nic.in Website : www.nhrc.nic.in