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Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

HUMAN
RIGHTS 75



सर्वे
भवन्तु सुखिनः

National Human Rights Commission, India

September, 2023

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः
सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः ।
सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु
मा कश्चिद्दुःखभाग्भवेत् ।
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

May all be happy,
May all be healthy,
May all see auspiciousness,
May none suffer,
Peace be unto all.

**National Human Rights Commission
India**



National Human Rights Commission, India

Introduction

The evolution of human rights in India is a well founded concept of righteousness that spans various civilizations, each contributing to the development of the spirit of brotherhood, ethos of equality and values for mutual respect that underpin the modern concept of human rights across the globe. India's earliest civilizations, including the Indus Valley Civilization and Vedic period, laid the fundamental edifice for some



Justice Shri Arun Mishra, Chairperson, NHRC India Presented a Memento to the Hon'ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu at Celebration of Human Rights Day

basic human rights principles. Concepts like 'dharma' emphasized moral and ethical duties, which directly or indirectly contributed to the idea of individual rights and responsibilities. During the 4th century BCE to 6th century CE India witnessed the emergence of legal codes and governance systems that recognized the rights of citizens. Asoka's edicts, for instance, promoted religious tolerance and non-violence, which are precursors to modern human rights principles.

Ancient Indian literature, including texts like the *Vedas*, *Upanishads*, and various *Dharma Shastras* (texts on ethics and duties), contains references and teachings that resonate with the principles of human rights. The ancient Indian scriptures emphasize the inherent dignity and equality of all individuals. For instance, the *Rigveda*, one of the oldest sacred texts, contains hymns that promote freedom of thought and expression. The *Upanishads* encourage seekers to question, explore, and seek spiritual truths independently. Ancient Indian texts provide guidance on the treatment of vulnerable groups such as women, children, and the elderly. The concept of justice and fairness is also central to ancient Indian literature. The *Manusmriti*, while reflecting the social norms of its time, also outlines principles of justice, including punishment proportionate to the crime. *Ahimsa*, or non-violence, is a foundational principle in Indian philosophy. It emphasizes not causing harm to any living being and is a precursor to modern ideas of the right to life and physical integrity. The ancient Indian Gurukul system, as depicted in texts like the Mahabharata, highlights the importance of education and knowledge dissemination, emphasizing the right to access education. It is pertinent to note that interpretations of these ancient texts may vary, and their relevance to modern human rights may



require adaptation and contextualization. Nevertheless, these early Indian writings demonstrate an awareness of principles that align with contemporary notions of human rights and dignity, emphasizing the respect for individuals' intrinsic worth and the need for ethical conduct in society.



Celebration of NHRC Foundation Day

Indian culture has a profound and enduring tradition of compassion, empathy, and caring for others that stretches back to ancient times. Concepts like “Ahimsa” (non-violence) and “Karuna” (compassion) are central to Indian philosophy and spirituality, notably exemplified by figures like Mahatma Gandhi. The teachings of ancient texts like the Upanishads and Bhagavad Gita emphasize the importance of empathy and selflessness in one’s actions and relationships. Moreover, practices such as “Seva” (selfless service) are deeply ingrained in Indian society, fostering a sense of community and mutual support. This culture of compassion has not only shaped individual behavior but has also influenced Indian social institutions and policies, emphasizing the interconnectedness of all beings and the need to alleviate suffering wherever possible.

India’s commitment to human rights predates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) adopted by the United Nations in 1948. The Indian Constitution, which came into effect on January 26, 1950, enshrines a number of fundamental rights and principles that reflect a strong foundation for human rights protection, even before the adoption of the UDHR. Such as the Part III of the Indian Constitution often referred to as the ‘Magna Carta of India’ enshrines a range of fundamental rights for Indian citizens which reflect the principles of human dignity, equality, freedom, and non-discrimination that are at the core of human rights.

The significance of ‘*dharma*’ of each individual has been highlighted since times immemorial in the Indian cultural landscape. Much before the Stockholm Conference in 1972, the ancient Indian literature has stressed on protecting the environment. These texts emphasize that it is the *dharma* of each and every individual to protect the Mother Nature which is evident in the form of worshipping of trees, water, land and animals. This *dharma* of protecting the environment resulted in sustaining and ensuring welfare for all. In this endeavor, the ancient texts in a way ensured a balance between the right to exploit environment and a duty to conserve it, which is now internationally acknowledged and recognized as ‘sustainable development’. The present-day recognition of the right to a clean environment as a fundamental right in India has its roots in the liberal interpretation of existing constitutional provisions in order to include environmental protection as an essential facet of the right to life and personal liberty. India believes in the ancient philosophy of “*Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah*”, which means “May all be happy and healthy”.



Justice Shri Arun Mishra
Chairperson, NHRC in Geneva

Human rights are essential for the survival of humans and are inculcated in the society right from the beginning of human civilization. Particularly the concept of “*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*”, which means, “The world is one family”, contains the spirit of human civilization.

India actively participates in international human rights forums and treaties, contributing to the global dialogue on human rights. Its foreign policy often aligns with principles of justice and equity. As India continues to grow and evolve, protecting human rights remains a central and ongoing endeavour. In this background, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India was established on 12th October 1993 by enacting a law by the Parliament of India known as the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993. The PHRA is consistent with the Paris Principles, adopted at the first international workshop on national institutions for promoting and protecting human rights in Paris in October 1991 and endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations by Resolution 48/134 of 20th December 1993.

Composition and Structure of NHRC

NHRC consists of a Chairperson, five full-time Members and seven deemed Members. The statute prescribes high qualifications for appointing the Chairperson and Members of the Commission.

- The Commission shall consist of a Chairperson who has been a Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court; one Member who is, or has been, a Judge of the Supreme Court; one Member who is, or has been the Chief Justice of a High Court; three Members, to be



Dr. Dnyaneshwar Manohar Mulay
Member, NHRC India



appointed from amongst persons having knowledge and practical experience in matters of human rights, one of whom shall be a woman.

- The Chairpersons of the National Commission of Backward Classes, the National Commission for Minorities, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes; the National Commission for Women and the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disability shall be deemed to be Members of the Commission for the discharge of all functions except judicial functions.



Shri Rajiv Jain
Member, NHRC India

- The composition of NHRC reflects plurality, inclusiveness and representation of all sections of society to ensure participatory and wholesome mechanisms to address the issues of human rights in the country.
- The Commission has a secretary-general who is the Commission's chief executive officer (CEO). He exercises all administrative and financial powers under the control of the Chairperson, except judicial functions and the power to make regulations.

- The working strength of NHRC is around 550, which consists of various ranks of officers and officials appointed by the Commission. The Commission has five Divisions: Law Division, Investigation Division, Administrative Division, Training Division, Policy Research, Projects and Programme Division. The Law and Investigation Divisions are independent and work under the direct supervision and guidance of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission as a part of the judicial functions.
- The headquarters of the Commission is in New Delhi, and the Commission may establish offices at other places in India. However, there is no branch office of the Commission in India.



Shri Bharat Lal
Secretary General, NHRC India

Functions of NHRC

NHRC's Mandate

The Commission has a wide mandate. Its functions, listed in Section 12 (a) to (j) of the PHRA, are to inquire, suo motu or on a petition presented to it by the victim or any person on his behalf or a direction or order of any court, into the complaint of; violation of human rights or abetment thereof, or; negligence in the prevention of such violation, by a public servant. It intervenes in any proceeding involving any allegation of violation of human rights pending before a court with the approval of such court, undertakes visits to any jail or other institution under the control of the state government, where persons are detained or lodged for purposes of treatment, reformation or protection, for the

study of the living conditions of the inmates thereof and makes recommendations thereon to the government. It reviews the safeguards provided by or under the Constitution or law for the protection of human rights and also the factors, including acts of terrorism, which inhibit the enjoyment of human rights and recommend measures for effective implementation of the law for appropriate remedy. The Commission also studies treaties and other international instruments of human rights. It makes recommendations for their effective implementation, undertakes and promotes research in the field of human rights, spreads human rights literacy among various sections of society and promotes awareness of the safeguards available for protecting these rights through publications, media, seminars and other means. It encourages the efforts of non-governmental organizations working in the field of human rights and such other functions as it may consider necessary to protect human rights.

The Supreme Court of India explained the residuary clause of 12 (j) of the PHRA by observing that one must accept that human rights are not like edicts inscribed on a rock. They are made and unmade on the crucible of experience and through the irreversible process of human struggle for freedom. They admit of a certain degree of fluidity. Categories of human rights, being of infinite variety, are never really closed. That is why the residuary clause in clause (j) has been so widely worded to take care of situations not covered by clauses (a) to (i) of Section 12 of the PHRA.

Moreover, the NHRC has actively promoted awareness and education on human rights. It conducts workshops, seminars, and training programs to sensitize government officials, law enforcement agencies, and the general public about human rights principles and standards. Through seminars, workshops, and public campaigns, the NHRC has empowered individuals with knowledge about their rights, encouraging them to stand up against human rights violations. These initiatives have helped foster a culture of respect for human rights and create a more informed society. It has also developed educational materials, organized teacher training programs, and introduced human rights curriculum in schools and universities. By embedding human rights education into the academic system, the Commission has played a crucial role in cultivating a culture of respect for human rights among future generations.

The NHRC has also been involved in policy advocacy and law reform. It provides recommendations to the government on legislation and policy changes necessary to safeguard human rights effectively. By working closely with the government and other stakeholders, the NHRC has successfully influenced policy decisions and legal reforms that align with international human rights standards. This has resulted in the development of laws and policies addressing issues such as gender equality, child rights, minority rights, and the rights of marginalized communities.

Another significant aspect of the NHRC's work is its engagement with civil society organizations and human rights defenders. The Commission collaborates with NGOs, human rights groups, and activists to address systemic issues, monitor human rights situations, and support vulnerable communities. This partnership has strengthened the NHRC's reach and effectiveness in protecting human rights, particularly in cases where marginalized groups face discrimination.



NHRC Chairperson Justice Shri Arun Mishra and Joint Secretary Smt. Anita Sinha attending the GANHRI Annual Meeting in Geneva

Another significant aspect of the NHRC's work has been its contribution in formulating and amending human rights laws. The Commission has been instrumental in shaping the legal framework for human rights protection by analyzing the gaps in existing legislation and making recommendations for legal reforms. It has advocated for incorporating international human rights standards into domestic laws.

NHRC, from time to time, has endeavoured to give a positive meaning and a content to the objectives set out in the PHRA. It has moved vigorously and effectively to use the opportunities provided to it by the Act to promote and protect human rights in the country. The Commission, consistent with its mandate, took up issues involving human rights that are of significance, either suo motu, or when brought to its notice by the civil society, the media, concerned citizens, or expert advisers. The NHRC has endeavoured to safeguard the human rights by making consistent efforts in protecting vulnerable groups, strengthening the criminal justice system, doing away with stringent legislations, protecting health and mental health, securing the right to education and a right to healthy environment, protecting human rights infringement in business sector and the like.

Expanding Commission's Network and Presence

One of the most far-reaching responsibilities entrusted to the Commission under its Statute is that contained in Section 12(h), which requires the Commission "to spread human rights literacy among various sections of society and promote awareness of the safeguards available for the protection of these rights through publications, the media, seminars and other available means". NHRC continuously works towards expanding its network, presence and scope through various initiatives and strategies. Some of the key holders in its network include, the State Human Rights Commissions, Special Rapporteurs, Special Monitors, Core Group Members, Human Rights Defenders, Civil Society Organizations, amongst others.



Training of Trainers Course for Police Officers of States/UTs

State Human Right Commissions (SHRCs)

The PHRA facilitates that all State Governments should have their own State Human Rights Commission (SHRC). SHRC and NHRC have concurrent jurisdictions to deal with any of the functions assigned under section 12 of the PHRA, except matters related to union list of legislative subjects, enumerated in VII Schedule of the Constitution of India. SHRCs advance the cause of cultural diversity and regional aspirations of the people from varied backgrounds. They are equal partners in the journey of human rights movement in the country. Every SHRC is headed by a former Chief Justice or a Judge of a High Court. Other two members are from judiciary, civil organizations or persons having knowledge of or practical experience in the matters relating to human rights.

The Commission has been conducting regular meetings with SHRCs for better understanding of the common issues whereby they can discharge their role as the protector and promoter of human rights in a more proactive manner. In fact, NHRC organizes an annual day-long NHRC-SHRC meeting to discuss the ways and means to make the NHRC and SHRCs, which are autonomous and independent of each other, stronger and effective for the protection and promotion of human rights; and to explore the areas of cooperation and coordination between them.

Special Rapporteurs

The Special Rapporteurs of the Commission are human rights experts who are specifically appointed with the directive to report and advice on human rights concerns from a thematic or state-specific perspective. The system of Special Rapporteurs is a central element of the NHRC machinery and



covers all human rights: civil, political, economic, social and cultural. In addition, they cover sensitive issues like child labour, bonded labour, disability concerns etc.; and spread awareness among the people about the provisions contained in the PHRA from the point of view of seeking redressal from the NHRC in case of violation of their rights or that of others. Special Rapporteurs are social activists, academicians, human rights defenders, or persons having special knowledge on human rights.

Special Rapporteurs		
S.No.	Name	States
1	Shri Ashit Mohan Prasad	Karnataka
2	Shri Umesh Kumar	Assam, Meghalaya and Sikkim
3	Shri Akhil Kumar Shukla	Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh
4	Dr Rajinder Kumar Malik	Odisha & West Bengal
5	Shri Umesh kumar Sharma	Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh
6	Dr K. C. Sharma	Gujarat, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu
7	Shri Madan Lal Meena	Rajasthan
8	Shri P. N. Dixit	Maharashtra and Goa
9	Shri Ranjan Dwivedi	Uttar Pradesh
10	Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma	Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Leh-Ladakh and Uttarakhand
11	Shri Mahesh Singla	Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi
12	Ms. Nirmal Kaur	Bihar
13	Ms. Suchitra Sinha	Jharkhand
14	Shri Hari Sena Verma	Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry, Andaman & Nico-bar Islands, and Lakshadweep
15	Shri M. Madan Gopal	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

Special Monitors

Special Monitors are appointed by the NHRC to oversee or investigate specific human rights issues, cases, or situations. Special Monitors play a crucial role in monitoring and reporting on human rights violations, conducting investigations, and making recommendations for remedial action. They are often experts or specialists in particular fields related to human rights, like minorities, environment, disability, health, etc.

Special Monitors		
S.No.	Name	Work allocation
1	Shri Ahmed Javed	Bonded Labour and Child Labour (Subject covered - All matters relates to Bonded Labour and Child Labour)
2	Dr. Yogesh Dube	Women and Disability (Subject covered - Sexual Violence & Rape, Domestic Violence and Sexual Harassment at work place)
3	Shri Fauzan Alavi	Environment (Subject covered - All matters relating to Environment and Water)
4	Shri Surendra Kumar	Tribal Welfare (Subject covered - All matters relating to welfare of Tribals & Forest dwellings)
5	Shri Veerendra Singh Rawat Alias Swami Yoganand	Human Rights Advocacy (HR Education and Gender Equality)
6	Shri Balkrishan Goel	Child Rights and Elderly Citizens (Subject covered - All matters relating to Child Rights and Elderly Citizens)
7	Ms. Laxmi Narayan Tripathi	Transgender (Subject covered - All matters relating to Transgender, LGBT Rights)
8	Ms. Vrinda Swarup	Education (Subject covered - R.T.E. Act, Curriculum for primary, middle and secondary education, Hostels, other facilities and matters, teaching and other staff)
9	Shri Hemanta Narzary	Panchayatiraj and local self Government (Subject covered - All matters relating to Panchayatiraj and local self Government)
10	Shri Sudhir Chowdhary	Human Trafficking (Subject covered - All matters relating to Human Trafficking)
11	Shri Prem Singh Bisht	Business & Human Rights (Subject covered - All matters relating to Business & Human Rights)
12	Shri Jayanto Narayan Choudhury	Criminal Justice System (Subject covered -Jails, Juvenile Justice & Correctional Homes) and Police & Police Reforms (All matters relates to Police & Police Reforms)

Human Rights Defenders (HRDs)

The Commission has set up a Focal Point to deal with the complaints alleging harassment of Human Rights Defenders (HRD). The Focal Point is accessible 24x7 365 days. HRDs play a very constructive role in promoting and protecting human rights in the country. The role of the NHRC and the HRDs is complementary to each other. The HRDs through their work on the ground can see and raise concerns, if any, on the status of the implementation of welfare schemes and human rights situation and help the Commission in the discharge of its mandate.



Meeting of the Core Group on HRDs/ NGOs/ CSOs

Core Groups



Shri Bharat Lal, SG, led the Discourse on 'Good Governance & Human Rights' organised by PMI, Geneva during the 53rd session of Human Rights Council

Core and Expert Groups consist of eminent persons or subject experts or representatives of Government or technical institutions or NGOs in a given field required by the Commission. These Groups render expert advice to the Commission as per their expertise. Some of the important Core and Expert Groups that currently functions in the NHRC are, Core Group on Disability; Older Persons; Right to Food; Children; NGO & HRDs; LGBTQIA+; Women; Health & Mental Health; Bonded Labour; Criminal Justice System

Reforms; Environment, Climate Change & Human Rights; and Business & Human Rights. Meetings of the Core and Expert Groups are called by the NHRC periodically at regular intervals or as and when deemed necessary, in the Commission.

**24x7
Accessibility to HRDs**

Focal Point for Human Rights Defenders is Deputy Registrar (Law).

The Focal Point ensures that the complaints of HRDs of alleged harassment are placed before the Commission and directions of the Commission in every case are complied with on priority and also conveyed to the concerned HRD.

Mobile No. 9810298900

Fax No. 24651334

E-mail: hrd-nhrc@nic.in

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)/ Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)

Under Section 12(i) of the PHRA, the Commission is to encourage the efforts of the NGOs. This is a responsibility which the NHRC readily assumes, for the cause has much to gain both from the

practical help and from the constructive criticism that NGOs and the NHRC can bring to bear in their mutual interaction and growing relationship.

NHRC constantly works with the NGOs and CSOs engaged in the field of Human Rights. NHRC has also has constituted a Core Group on HRDs and NGOs to serve as a monitoring mechanism. Accordingly, with a view to utilize the knowledge, experience and expertise of credible NGOs working in the field of Human Rights, the Commission conducts regular consultations/ meetings with the NGOs and work in partnership with NGOs to jointly take up issues concerning human rights and spread of awareness and human rights literacy amongst people in different parts of the country.

Camp Sitzings, Open Hearings

One of the flagship programmes of the NHRC is to conduct Open Hearings/Camp Sitzings in different parts of the country to ensure easy access to justice at the doorstep of the poor. The Commission invites applications of human rights violation by issuing public notice before holding the Open Hearing/ Camp Sitting in a particular State. Upon receipt of such complaints, the Commission takes up those issues during an Open Hearing/Camp Sitting in the presence of both the complainant/victim and the State authorities. After hearing both sides, it renders instant justice by issuing recommendations to the government authorities. During Open Hearings/Camp Sitting, the Commission also invites the local NGOs/HRDs/CSOs by engaging with them to address various human rights issues of the region so that the Commission could draw the attention of the District and State authorities by resolving the grievances of the HRDs/ NGOS and the people of the locality. In the end, the Commission interacts with the local media and addresses the concerns raised by the media. This is a mechanism through which the Commission not only ensures the protection of the civil and political rights of the citizens but also preserves the socio-economic and cultural rights of the people in the locality by engaging with the officers of the state government and other authorities, sensitizing and making the officers aware about their role to protect human rights.

Media and Communication

The Media and Communication (M&C) Unit at the NHRC plays a crucial role in advancing the organization’s mission to protect and promote human rights within the country. This division serves as a bridge between the institution and the public, helping to create awareness, advocate for change, and ensure transparency. The M&C Unit looks after the dissemination of information through media on different issues and aspects of human rights.

It disseminates information on human rights through media by issuing press releases and publishing monthly newsletters in English and Hindi, tweeting various activities through its Twitter handle. Other activities are under:

- Organize press conference interviews of the Chairperson, Members and senior officers for media organizations in addition to media coverage of all the significant workshops/seminars organized by the Commission;



- To answer direct queries from the people on human rights-related issues, as part of the Human Rights Day celebrations, the Commission arranges special phone-in-programme, interviews, and panel discussions in coordination with national broadcaster All India Radio (AIR) and DD news.



Award distribution For Ninth Annual Competition for Short Films on Human Rights

Strengthening Outreach

Strengthening the outreach of the National Human Rights Commission, India is crucial for promoting and protecting human rights across the country. It is an ongoing process that requires commitment, resources, and a multi-pronged approach. By implementing various strategies, NHRC effectively promotes and protects human rights, while increasing its visibility and accessibility to the public.

- The Chairperson, Members and senior officers of the Commission continued their efforts to sensitize all levels of the police to human rights issues. In particular, during their visits to the various States, discussions were held with the Directors General of Police and the Heads of Police Training Institutions to encourage them to adopt and effectively use the human rights training materials prepared by the Commission for police personnel at the introductory and refresher course level.
- Intending to increase awareness of human rights among university students, the Commission introduced a 'Summer Internship Programme' in 1998, the purpose being to hold it annually and to rotate the internships, on a regional basis,



Commission's Toll free number, to expand its outreach within the country.

among the country's various universities. During the year, a 'Winter Internship Programme' was also introduced. The Commission also introduced Online Short-Time Internships, which has seen high participation. In addition, the Commission continues its online and month-long internship programmes till date.

- The Commission has expressed the importance of developing a National Action Plan for Human Rights". Accordingly, the Government of India has finalized its Action Plan for Human Rights Education. Academic institutions, bureaucracy and the police have adopted the "National Action Plan for Human Rights Education. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Secondary & Higher Education), which has a major role to play in the spread of human rights education throughout the country, has taken action by reorientation of school syllabus to bring out the element of human rights, preparation of media animation programmes which are being telecast through 'Gyan Darshan', introducing elements of human rights in foundational courses at the graduate level in Universities and Colleges, conducting specialized courses and programmes in Universities, preparation of resource material kit for human rights education in collaboration with the British Council etc.
- The Central Paramilitary Forces and Police Training Academies have also introduced modules on human rights as part of their training programmes to create better awareness among officers and men on human rights. The Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration has also introduced human rights as a subject as part of the training programmes.
- NHRC actively collaborates with civil society organizations, NGOs, and grassroots movements to amplify its reach and impact. These partnerships help in reaching marginalized communities and addressing specific human rights issues.
- A collaborative training programme is conducted by the NHRC for one day/ two days/ three days in human rights from Academic Institutes like Universities, Colleges, Administrative Training Institutions (ATIs)/ Police Training Institutes (PTIs)/ NGO's etc.
- NHRC launched its first residential 'Training of Trainers' programme on Human Rights for the officers of the different State/UT police organizations. The NHRC also conducted one-day induction training to newly appointed IFS officers. IAS officers have also been attached with NHRC for a short duration to get sensitisation training on various aspects of human rights. Members, senior officers of the Commission also impart training to the trainers of various institutions, viz., BSF, ITBP & other paramilitary forces.
- NHRC engages in dialogue with National Cadet Corps (NCC), National Service Scheme (NSS), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), Red Cross, All India Radio and Doordarshan, with a view to collaborate with them for building awareness about human rights through their vast networks. NHRC-NYKS have conducted 04 Human Rights Awareness Workshops through Webinars for NYKS Officials, National Youth Volunteers and Youth Volunteers from various states across the country. In addition, its Human Rights Photography Competition, Quiz Competition, annual debate competition for the Central Armed Police Forces, and Competition for short films on human rights are some significant activities for creating awareness of human rights issues involving citizens of the country.



Embracing cutting-edge technology

The National Human Rights Commission plays a pivotal role in India's journey towards an e-governance paradigm. As a statutory body, committed to safeguarding human rights, the NHRC harnesses the potential of e-governance to promote transparency, accountability, and accessibility in its operations. By embracing e-governance, the NHRC not only adapts to the digital age but also demonstrates its commitment to effective governance and the protection of citizens' fundamental rights in an increasingly interconnected and data-driven world.

Complaint Management System

The NHRC has taken significant steps to modernize and streamline its complaint handling process through the implementation of an e-complaint management system. This digital platform represents a substantial leap forward in making the NHRC's services more accessible, efficient, and responsive to the needs of individuals seeking to address human rights violations. With the e-complaint management system, individuals can now register and file complaints online, eliminating the need for physical visits to the NHRC office. There is also a facility of online registration of complaints through Common Service Centers spread across the country. For online registration of complaints, a common link has been developed where the complainant may register the complaint with the NHRC or with the SHRC. This development has greatly enhanced the accessibility of the NHRC's services, especially for those in remote areas or with mobility constraints. It empowers citizens to report incidents of human rights violations promptly and without geographical barriers.



Spot Enquiry in a Village

The system also enables complainants to provide comprehensive details about the alleged violations, including dates, locations, and parties involved. This crucial information streamlines the NHRC’s investigative process, ensuring that complaints are thoroughly examined and addressed. Additionally, complainants can upload supporting documents such as photographs, videos, or any evidence relevant to their case, enhancing the quality of information available for investigation.

Once a complaint is filed through the E-complaint management system, individuals typically receive an acknowledgment, providing them with a reference number and assurance that their concerns are in the process of being addressed. This not only keeps complainants informed but also fosters transparency and trust in the NHRC’s operations.

For processing, tracking status of the complaints, visit <https://hrcnet.nic.in>
Complaints can also be sent on email-id - complaint.nhrc@nic.in
Complaints can also be lodged Online in NHRC from Common Service Centres (CSCs) in India, visit <https://csc.gov.in/nhrc>

Investigation Division, an independent wing of the NHRC, essentially assists the Commission by providing its analytical report and expert views on human rights violations through highly professional persons working in the investigation and medico-legal fields. In pursuance of the direction of the Commission, it embarks upon fact-finding spot inquiry to unearth the actual facts by visiting the place of occurrence, recording the statements of the victims or witnesses, gathering other evidence and submitting the report. It also has a Rapid Action Cell (RAC) to reach out to the victims to provide immediate and instant relief for human rights violations. High Courts or the Supreme Court of India often entrust investigations for grave human rights violations to the Commission.

An electronic Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS) is a sophisticated digital solution designed to revolutionize and streamline the way organizations manage their human resources. This comprehensive software platform serves as a centralized hub for all Human Resource-related functions and activities within an organization. e-HRMS encompasses a wide array of capabilities, including employee data management, payroll processing, attendance tracking, leave management, performance appraisal, recruitment, and talent management. One of the key advantages of e-HRMS is its ability to significantly reduce administrative burdens, paperwork, and manual data entry.

e-Granthalaya, an Integrated Library Management Software developed by NIC for automation and networking of government libraries, is being used in the NHRC.

Commission’s journey to success

Consideration of Important Bills / Ordinances and Monitoring their Impact

The NHRC regularly examines and communicates its viewpoint on important Bills/ Acts. In the past, the Commission has examined bills/ acts, such as the following:

- Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929
- Terrorists and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1985 (TADA)



- Amendment of Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993
- Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance, 2001 (POTO)
- Freedom of Information Bill, 2000
- Protection from Domestic Violence Bill, 2002
- Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2007
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- Mental Healthcare Act, 2017
- The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019
- The Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021
- Draft National Policy on persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), 2022
- Recommend for removal of prejudiced provisions in 97 statutes for Hansen disease
- Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded labourer, 2021

Reviewing the Implementation of Treaties and other International Instruments

The NHRC, from time to time, also reviews to identify gaps and make recommendations for implementing international treaties and other international instruments. Some of these are:

- 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol on the Status of Refugees
- 1977 Protocols to the 1949 Geneva Convention
- 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- 2000 Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- International Convention on Migrant Workers
- International Convention on Climate Change

Civil, Political & Socio-Economic Rights

Since its establishment in 1993, the NHRC has consistently devoted equal attention to various categories of rights, encompassing civil, political, economic, social, and cultural dimensions. Among the key initiatives undertaken in the realm of civil and political rights are advocating for systemic improvements in law enforcement, the creation of human rights units within police headquarters, regular inspections of correctional facilities, mental health institutions, and government-operated as well as non-governmental residential facilities. Additionally, the NHRC has been vigilant in overseeing non-discrimination in relief efforts, rehabilitation, and the restoration of individuals affected by violence and displacement. Furthermore, the NHRC conducts field visits to assess the effective implementation of prominent government initiatives such as the Public Distribution System (PDS), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Affordable Housing (Awas Yojana), Universal Elementary Education (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan - SSA), and more. The NHRC also actively advocates for comprehensive rehabilitation and compensation for individuals displaced by large-scale projects, while safeguarding the rights of indigenous tribal communities.

Promoting Research

The Policy Research, Projects and Programmes Division (PRP&P Division) of NHRC undertakes and promotes research on human rights and organizes conferences, seminars and workshops on important human rights issues. Whenever the Commission, on the basis of its hearings, deliberations or otherwise, arrives at a conclusion that a particular subject is of importance, it is converted into a project/ programme to be dealt with by the PRP&P Division. Besides, it reviews policies, laws, treaties and other international instruments in force for the protection and promotion of human rights. It facilitates in monitoring the implementation of NHRC recommendations by the Central, State and Union Territory authorities.

Some of the recent meetings/ conferences/ seminars/ open house discussion organized by the Commission, includes:

- Open House Consultation on Health Insurance of Persons with Disabilities
- Open House Discussion on ‘Prevention of Atrocities and Other Forms of Discrimination Against SC/ST Community : Issues, Challenges and Way Forward’
- Meeting of NHRC Core Group on Criminal Justice System Reforms
- Open House Discussion on Human Rights of Indian Seafarers
- Meeting of the Core Group on Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) and NGOs
- Meeting of NHRC Core Group on Health and Mental Health
- Meeting of the Core Group on Rights of Women
- Meeting of the Core Advisory Group on Business and Human Rights: Issues and Challenges of Commercial Truck Drivers
- Virtual Meeting on the Issue of Missing Children
- Western Region Review Conference on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, and Victim Compensation Schemes
- Open House Discussion on Analysis of Prevention of Torture Bill, 2017
- Meeting on One-Stop Centres
- National Seminar on Good Governance, Development, and Human Rights

Online Courses

The Commission has taken initiative for Open Online Courses on Human Rights in 2017, which includes Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on Human Rights through SWAYAM Portal by the University Grant Commission (UGC), and Course Material on Training Programme of Human Rights and Online Training/ Awareness Generation Programme on Human Rights for Police Personnel and Judicial Officers by the Indira Gandhi Open University (IGNOU).



Advisories

National Human Rights Commission issued several Advisories during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequently to all the concerned Union Ministries and all the States and Union Territories to safeguard human dignity, life, and livelihood within the framework of democratic setup, some of which are named below:

- **Advisories issued during COVID -19 Pandemic:**

Combating Human Trafficking, ensuring the rights of women, children, elderly persons, LGBTQI+, tackling growing problems of mental health, protecting rights of prisoners & police personnel, ameliorating adversities of informal workers, protecting the interest of business communities, vulnerable tribal groups, release and rehabilitate bonded labourers, upholding dignity & protecting the rights of dead.

- **Advisories issued post Covid 19 Pandemic:**

Mitigating deliberate self-harm and suicide attempts by prisoners; prevent, minimize and mitigate Ocular Trauma; prevent human rights violations of truck drivers; prevent, minimize and mitigate impacts of environmental pollution and degradation of human rights; identification, treatment, rehabilitation and elimination of discrimination of persons affected by Hansen disease, Identify, release and rehabilitate bonded labourers, Right to food security and nutrition, Protection of human rights of the persons engaged in hazardous cleaning.

Some of the salient features of important advisories are as below:

a) Advisory to Prevent, Minimize and Mitigate Ocular Trauma

- launching publicity campaign in print, electronic and social media
- installation of posters and hoardings at hospitals, dispensaries, schools, colleges, industries/establishment prone to ocular trauma and other prominent places
- inclusion of a chapter on ocular trauma in schools curriculum and curriculum of Industrial Training Institutes (it is) for the trades having potential to cause ocular trauma
- Identifying the fire-crackers which have potential to cause eye trauma and impose a ban on use of such fire-crackers: in public places; by children below twelve years of age, except under direct supervision of an adult
- Sponsoring projects for development of low cost indigenous safety eye protection for persons engaged in activities prone to eye injuries.
- Making it mandatory to ensure availability of first-aid box containing medicines, bandages and regents to neutralize chemicals which may cause ocular trauma at all places where activities having potential to cause ocular trauma are carried out
- Streamlining the care of patients with ophthalmic trauma by providing for emergency attendance and management of patients with ophthalmic trauma conditions with other departments like neurology, plastic surgery, etc.

b) Advisory to Protect Human Rights of Truck Drivers

- Minimise physical interface between truck drivers and law enforcement agencies by providing online facilities for grant and renewal of registration certificates, fitness certificate, permits and licences; and centralised storage and retrieval of vehicle related documents
- Making it mandatory for law enforcement agencies to wear body camera while undertaking inspection of trucks and other commercial vehicles
- Mandatory installation of vehicle location tracking devices in each truck to track and detect over speeding
- Establish an online portal and a round the clock helpline to receive complaints along with evidence (photographic, videographic and documentary) from truck drivers
- Install signboards at conspicuous locations to display no-entry zones for trucks to prevent accidental entry of drivers.
- Install signboards displaying permissible speed for vehicles of different types at regular intervals.
- Install CCTV cameras at parking lots along the highways and in city centres.
- Create awareness on perils of irresponsible and drunken driving, documents to be obtained from the consignee while accepting payload of different types, care to be taken to prevent loading of illegal consignment and remedies available against harassment

c) Advisory on Identification, Treatment, Rehabilitation and Elimination of Discrimination of Persons Affected by Hansen's Disease

- Formulate guidelines and protocols for addressing the healthcare needs of the persons affected by leprosy.
- Upgrade and augment existing health care facilities in each district by providing adequate number of doctors and paramedical staff having expertise and knowledge to treat the persons affected from leprosy and associated complications.
- Ensure availability of adequate stock of drugs and other accessories including the MDT drugs for treatment and management of leprosy and associated complications.
- Extend the directly observed treatment (DOT) methodology, presently used for treatment of Tuberculosis, to the persons affected by leprosy to ensure that the all such persons receive and take all medications as prescribed in time and to monitor response to treatment.
- Ensure home delivery of all essential services, including supply of groceries and medicine to persons severely affected from leprosy.



- Amend 97 Laws providing for discrimination of leprosy affected persons in a time bound manner to end discrimination of such persons.
- Ensure confidentiality of medical and other records of persons affected by leprosy and associated complications

Safeguarding the criminal justice system

It has been a major priority of the NHRC, ever since it was established, to curb custodial violence. Towards this objective, the NHRC had issued guidelines in December, 1993 stating that in the event of any death occurring in Jail or police custody, information has to be sent to the NHRC within 24 hours. Any report of encountered death and extra-judicial killings has to be sent to the NHRC within 48 hours. Information on custodial deaths was to be followed by a post-mortem report, a videography report on the post-mortem examination, an inquest report, a magisterial enquiry report, a chemical analysis report etc. Upon inquiry of the custodial or encounter death, if it is established that death in custody is due to use of force, medical negligence, homicidal or suicidal, other than natural, or excess use of force during encounter, beyond permissible limits of self defence, the Commission recommends compensation payable to the next of kin of deceased, by the state based on the 'doctrine of vicarious liability' and the case is not closed until proof of payment is furnished by the authority. Upon the directions of the Commission, Human Rights Cells have been constituted in all the states to coordinate with the commission.

Vulnerable Groups

- **Women & children:** The NHRC is concerned with the following issues in respect of children and women: Abolition of child labour, preventing and combating child abuse, amendment of service rules to avert child employment by a public servant, preventing and combating all forms of trafficking including women and children, rehabilitation of marginalized and destitute women, missing persons/children/ women, preventing and combating of sexual harassment of women at the workplace, monitoring of juvenile homes in India, speedy disposal of rape cases, ensure access to education, food and nutrition, preventive and remedial measures against domestic violence, female feticide, formulation of guidelines for the media reporting on sexual violence against children/women, ensuring gender equality and initiate steps to introduce gender quota in Indian delegation at International Forums, protecting children from sexual abuse through social media platform. The Commission held a National Conference on Child Sexual abuse Material (CSAM) and liabilities of intermediary OTTs. The Commission suggested that the intermediaries and OTT players must deploy technology to proactively block and detect child sexual abuse material and cooperate with law enforcement agencies in their investigations.



Painting Competition

- LGBTQIA+ persons:** In the views of the NHRC, all people regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity should be able to enjoy their human rights. The Commission, therefore, had appealed to the Government to take all necessary legislative treatment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity so that no individual or a group of people is deprived of their human rights. The NHRC had also advocated for modification of Section 377 of the IPC to achieve the above object before it was decriminalised for being unconstitutional. Commission has its representatives in the National Transgender Council, established by the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019. The NHRC Core Group on LGBTQIA+ also holds regular meetings to discuss various issues of the community. The Commission also issued an advisory for providing free sex reassignment surgery in government hospitals, for permitting inclusivity, be treated at par with married daughter in the family, be allowed to inherit ancestral agricultural land, and expenditure for upliftment be included in the social responsibility goals u/s 135(1) of the Companies act, 2013.
- Migrant workers & other forms of labour:** The NHRC had also been monitoring the status of the implementation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act and assessing the effectiveness of the existing mechanism and schemes of rehabilitation of bonded labours. With the efforts of the NHRC, vigilance committees for monitoring the implementation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 have now been constituted in all the districts and sub-divisional headquarters of the States covered by the reviews undertaken by the Member. Due to consistent and persistent interventions of the Commission, Government has come up with Central Sector Scheme on Bonded Labour in 2021, with initial payment of compensation of Rs. 20,000 and rehabilitation has been delinked from the outcome of the



trial. Commission constantly monitors Silicosis cases by recommending compensations and formulating schemes for welfare of the silicosis affected persons and their families, which include rehabilitation, health checkups and employment, and many of the States have already introduced silicosis schemes.

- **Persons with Disability:** For NHRC, however, there is need for a paradigm shift in this respect, and a necessity to view questions relating to disability through the perspective of human rights. A Core Group on Disability related issues was also constituted by the Commission to consider the problems faced by the persons with disability from a human rights perspective and evolve suitable ways and means of improving the conditions of those persons.
- **Geriatric:** The NHRC has been making a continuous effort to ensure medical insurance cover for older persons beyond 70 years and as long as they live, the provision of separate queues for older persons in hospitals, an increase in old age homes facilities, provision of a separate wing for older persons and a hospital for the terminally ill funded by the Government, provision of pensions for older persons and the like. Further, it has endeavoured to ascertain from the various States the action being taken by them to check abuse of the elderly and the action that they proposed to take to protect the rights of the aged. NHRC even established a special cell for security of senior citizens in Delhi to be functional under the supervision of Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch). The Commission organised consultative meetings on safeguarding rights of elderly persons in context of Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2017.
- **Refugees:** Commission takes proactive measures for the rights and protection of refugees to file a petition with respect to Chakma Refugees, migrated from Bangladesh to India. The Commission has also taken suo-motu cognizance of other refugees matter and issued requisite directions regarding refugees from Pakistan, Myanmar and other places. The NHRC has also set up an expert group on refugees and organize discussion on rights of refugees in India.

Rights of persons involved in hazardous work

With regard to hazardous cleaning of the septic tanks, Commission has issued an advisory to the local bodies to provide safety equipments and to ultimately adopt mechanical cleaning. The Commission also ensures that compensation is paid to the victims of hazardous cleaning and ensures that mechanical cleaning is adopted in all the places.

Right to water & sanitation

NHRC regularly hold meetings on right to water on accessibility and availability on clean and safe drinking water. NHRC also emphasise the need to encourage traditional water conserving practices. NHRC has also published books on Right to water & sanitation.

Right to Health

NHRC has developed a Charter of Patients' Rights, a guidance document to formulate concrete mechanisms so that Patient's Rights are given adequate protection and operational mechanisms

are set up to make these rights functional and enforceable by law. The Commission also works extensively on HIV Aids, substance use, Silicosis, Hansen’s Disease, etc. Commission holds regular meetings on health and mental health to discuss various challenges and come up with actionable recommendations. The meeting of the Core Group on Health and Mental Health are called by the NHRC periodically at regular intervals or as and when deemed necessary, in the Commission.

Mental Health

The Commission is mandated to oversee the implementation of Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 for protection of human rights of persons with mental ailment in pursuance of the Supreme Court directions. As part of the mandate the Commission has not only visited the 4 Institutions but also directed its Special Rapporteurs to inspect all other Mental Health Institutions across the country. NHRC organised a one-day National Conference on ‘Moving Mental Health beyond Institutions’ to deliberate upon the initiatives taken by the government to address the concerns of the mental healthcare systems and what further needs to be done for better implementation of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017. The Commission also published a book, “Mental Health- Concern for All: In Context of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017”, which incorporates major aspects of mental health, such as the mental health of children, women, geriatric, LGBTQIA+, prison inmates; mental health and homelessness; disaster and mental health, and so on.

Business and Human Rights

Commission has helped in preparation of National Action Plan regarding business and human rights (BHR). NHRC is actively engaged in the BHR meetings in India and abroad. The Core Group on Business and Human Rights of NHRC also hold regular meetings to discuss the current pressing issues.

Environment, Climate Change & Human Rights

Commission has a Core Group on Environment, Climate Change and Human Rights. NHRC also issued advisory and suggested prevention, minimisation and mitigation of impacts of environmental pollution and degradation of human rights. The Commission has secured closure of large number of industries polluting environment in collaboration with the Pollution control Boards. NHRC also ensures that waste is properly managed regarding plastic problems created due to single use of plastic.

Terrorism

The NHRC has expressed the need for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on internal terrorism. NHRC also ensures that the victims of terrorism are re-settled. Commission is also in the process of constituting a core group of victims of terrorism to take care of the victims.

Strategic Plan & Annual Action Plan

The NHRC India plans a comprehensive institutional mechanism of an Annual Action Plan and a three-year Strategic Plan to streamline the Commission’s work more effectively. The mission of



developing an Annual Action Plan is to promote and protect human rights of all and enhance the reach of Commission to the grass root level, especially the vulnerable and marginalized sections of the society. The objective is to further strengthen the Commission's engagement with NGOs, Human Rights Defenders, and Civil Societies, and to make the existing mechanisms even more robust within its mandate. The Commission's focus areas are Bonded & child labour issues, human dignity for all, rights of the people from vulnerable sections of society, prison reforms, women & child rights, rights of disabled, elderly, LGBTQIA+ rights, environment protection, health care & mental health, human rights education, good governance, business & human rights.

The NHRC Action Plan is usually laid out on the aspects, including, Handling of complaints and Complaints Managements System; Human rights education, training, research and capacity building; Awareness workshops/ meetings/ seminars, conferences & team building; Implementation of official language policy; Investigation of cases; and International Cooperation.

Key Publications

Instructions / Guidelines

- Important Instruction/Guidelines Issued by NHRC (Revised Edition)
- NHRC Guidelines for Sponsoring Short/Long-Term Research Projects
- Guidelines Regarding Arrest
- Guidelines for Police Personnel on Various Human Rights Issues (in Hindi, English, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Oriya, Bengali, Assamese, Nepali, Urdu, Gujarati, Marathi and Punjabi languages)
- 'Know Your Rights Series International Human Rights Conventions, Shelter, Manual Scavenging, Bonded Labour, Child Labour, Sexual Harassment of Women at the Work Place, Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Human Rights & HIV/AIDS (available in English, Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi, Assamese, Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali, Gujarati, Oriya, Nepali and Manipuri)
- Human Rights-A compilation of International Instrument (Vols. 1 & 2 in Hindi)

Annual Reports (1993-1994 onwards)

- The annual Report of NHRC is laid before the Parliament of India, which has been published in every financial year and is also available on the NHRC's website.

Journals / Newsletter

- Annual Journal of the National Human Rights Commission, India (2002 {Vol. 1} onwards)
- Monthly Newsletter (English/Hindi)

Criminal Justice / Human Rights Manual

- State-of-the-Art Forensic Sciences: For Better Criminal Justice.
- Professional Policing: Human Rights Investigation & Interviewing Skills and Human Rights & Custody Management (In collaboration with the British Council, New Delhi)
- Human Rights Manual for District Magistrates
- Human Rights Best Practices Relating to Criminal Justice- In a Nutshell
- Handbook on Spot Enquiries
- Manual on Human Rights For Police Officers

Mental Health

- Quality Assurance in Mental Health
- Mental Health Care and Human Rights
- Care and Treatment in Mental Health Institutions- Some Glimpses in the Recent Period
- Mental Health – Concern for All: In the context of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017
- Status of Implementation of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017.



National Conference on Moving Mental Health Beyond Institutions, New Delhi



Anti Trafficking

- Information Kit on 'Trafficking in Women and Children'
- Action Research on 'Trafficking in Women and Children in India' (Orient Longman, New Delhi)
- Judicial Handbook on Combating Trafficking of Women and Children for Commercial Sexual Exploitation (In collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development & UNICEF)
- From Bondage to Freedom: An Analysis of International Legal Regime on Human Trafficking
- Report of the National Workshop to Review the Implementation of Laws and Policies Related to Trafficking: Towards an Effective Rescue and Post-Rescue Strategy

Children's Issues

- Guidebook for the Media on Sexual Violence Against Children
- Children in India and their Rights
- Rights of the Child (In Hindi and English)
- Discrimination Based on Sex, Caste, Religion and Disability- A Handbook for Sensitizing Teachers and Teacher Educators (In collaboration with National Council for Teacher Education New Delhi)
- Human Rights Education for Beginners

Scheduled Castes

- Report on Prevention of Atrocities against Scheduled Castes (English/Hindi)

Population Policy, Development and Human Rights

- Report of the National Colloquium on Population Policy, Development and Human Rights
- Declaration Adopted at the National Colloquium on Population Policy, Development and Human Rights
- Schemes and Programmes of the Government of India on Human Rights-Related Issues

Displaced Persons

- NHRC's Recommendations on Relief and Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons

Others

- Glossary of Human Rights Terms (English to Hindi & Hindi to English)

- Report of the International Round Table on National Institutions Implementing Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- National Old Age Pension Scheme- Issues of Policy & Governance
- Dalit Rights
- Human Rights to Adequate Housing and Land
- Rights of Home-Based Workers
- Environment and Human Rights
- The Coasts, the Fish Resources and the Fish Workers’ Movement
- Report of the Workshop on Detention
- UDHR (English, Hindi and other regional languages).
- UN Human Rights Defenders (English, Hindi and other regional languages)
- Disability Issues
- Disability Manual 2005
- Handbook on Employment of Persons with Disabilities in Government of India
- Rights of the Disabled
- Health Issues
- Women’s Right to Health
- Large Volume Parenterals: Towards Zero Defect
- Report of the Regional Consultation on Public Health and Human Rights
- Report of the National Conference on Human Rights and HIV/AIDS
- National Human Rights Commission Interventions on Silicosis – Health Care as Human Rights
- Recent Initiatives of NHRC – Health Care as Human Rights

Books on Various Human Rights Issues

- Rule of Law
- Accessing Remedies in Law
- Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles
- Right to Information
- Criminal Justice System



- Child Labour and Child Marriage
- A Handbook on International Human Rights Conventions
- Juvenile Justice Act
- POCSO
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Violence
- Kidnapping, Abduction and Trafficking (ITPA and IPC)
- Maternity Benefits, Sexual Harassment at Workplace and Equal Remuneration
- Constitutional and Civil Rights to Protect SC & ST from Atrocities and the Law against Witch-Hunting
- Responsibilities of the Police towards the Vulnerable Sections of Society
- Right to Food and Right to Shelter
- Rights of Elderly Persons/Senior Citizens
- Bonded Labour and Manual Scavenging
- Reproductive Rights (Pregnancy, Surrogacy, PCPNDT, Miscarriage)
- Right to Water
- Right to Sanitation
- Employee Compensation, Minimum Wage, Gratuity and Pension
- Rights of Jail Inmates/Prisoners
- Rights of People Suffering from HIV/AIDS and Rights of LGBTIQI+
- Disability Rights (Persons with Disabilities Act, Mental Health Act, National Trust Act)
- Contract Labour, Unorganized sector, Interstate Migrant Workers, Domestic Workers.

Gandhiji expressed his views to the makers of the new Constitution of India:

Fundamental Rights can only be those rights the exercise of which is not only in the interest of the citizens but that of the whole world...Rights cannot be divorced from duties. This is how Satyagraha was born, for I was always striving to decide what my duty was.



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Theme of the logo of National Human Rights Commission, India as per the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950

- (i) The logo features the Ashoka Chakra at its heart. The petals in the upper half of the Chakra, which is derived from the national flag, change to brilliant orange rays radiating upwards and outwards. Like the sun's rays, these too are indicative of hope and movement, with a far reaching penetrating quality. The rays benefit all, without distinction, and are not subject to limitations of any kind. The entire symbol is guarded by two side arms which seem to raise it and protect it, thereby suggesting universal love and hope – qualities which are the birthright of all mankind.
- (ii) The Sanskrit quotation "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah" is also incorporated in the logo.

समानी प्रपा सह वोन्नभागः ।
समाने योक्ते सह वो युनज्मि ।
अराः नाभिमिवाभितः ॥

—अथर्ववेद—संज्ञान सूक्तम्

“All have equal rights to articles of food and water. The yoke of the chariot of life is placed equally on all shoulders. All should live together in harmony, supporting one another like the spokes of a chariot wheel connecting its rim and hub.”

— Atharva Veda-Sangyan Suktam



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