

INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE



The Justice Desk
A Human Rights NPO



WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS?

Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the first, foundation document listing the 30 rights to which every person is entitled. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its third session on 10 December 1948.

WHAT IS A RIGHT HOLDER?

- People who are entitled to Rights (everyone!)
- Are entitled to claim Rights.
- Are entitled to hold the duty bearer accountable.
- Has a responsibility to respect the rights of others.

WHAT IS A DUTY BEARER?

- Support rights-holders to claim their rights
- Speak out and advocate for the rights of others
- Politicians, local authorities, institutions, public servants, parents, teachers, civil servants, students, educated people.

WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION FOR SOUTH AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS?

The foundation for South African human rights is found in The Bill of Rights which is in Chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.



HUMAN RIGHTS

WE HAVE 30 FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS & FREEDOMS:

Article 1 Right to Equality
Article 2 Freedom from Discrimination
Article 3 Right to Life, Liberty, Personal Security
Article 4 Freedom from Slavery
Article 5 Freedom from Torture and Degrading Treatment
Article 6 Right to Recognition as a Person before the Law
Article 7 Right to Equality before the Law
Article 8 Right to Remedy by Competent Tribunal
Article 9 Freedom from Arbitrary Arrest and Exile
Article 10 Right to Fair Public Hearing
Article 11 Right to be Considered Innocent until Proven Guilty
Article 12 Freedom from Interference with Privacy, Family, Home and Correspondence
Article 13 Right to Free Movement in and out of the Country
Article 14 Right to Asylum in other Countries from Persecution
Article 15 Right to a Nationality and the Freedom to Change It

Article 16 Right to Marriage and Family
Article 17 Right to Own Property
Article 18 Freedom of Belief and Religion
Article 19 Freedom of Opinion and Information
Article 20 Right of Peaceful Assembly and Association
Article 21 Right to Participate in Government and in Free Elections
Article 22 Right to Social Security
Article 23 Right to Desirable Work and to Join Trade Unions
Article 24 Right to Rest and Leisure
Article 25 Right to Adequate Living Standard
Article 26 Right to Education
Article 27 Right to Participate in the Cultural Life of Community
Article 28 Right to a Social Order that Articulates this Document
Article 29 Community Duties Essential to Free and Full Development
Article 30 Freedom from State or Personal Interference in the above Rights



Human Rights & Social Justice

WHAT IS SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social Justice is the promotion of a fair and equal society by challenging injustice. Social Justice exists when it is recognized that all people share a common humanity and therefore have the right to equal treatment, support for their human rights, the just and fair allocation of resources, opportunities and privileges.

WHAT IS SYSTEMIC INJUSTICE?

Injustice often embeds itself into the very way that we operate as a country and community, therefore making it systemic. Systemic injustice can be found in the interpretations of our laws, the running of institutions, organisations and companies, as well as in the ways in which we interact with each other. Many, if not most, people operating within this system are unaware of the injustice caused by their daily interactions. However, there are others who are aware, but who do not wish to sacrifice the benefits they receive from the system in order to correct it.

An example of systemic injustice was the Apartheid system of South Africa.

WHAT IS SOCIAL INJUSTICE


Social injustice is when individuals, families and communities are deprived of their basic human rights. Human rights represent basic necessities needed to live a healthy, adequate standard of living. People are deprived of their human rights for a variety of reasons. Governments and oppressive laws may deprive certain groups of people from accessing opportunities and services such as education or fair employment.

Factors such as corruption, economic crisis, natural disasters and violence can result in the violation of human rights for a short or extended period of time. Societal structures and institutions can marginalize and disempower groups of people by denying them access to basic rights such as housing, water and nutrition.

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Charity vs Justice



Charity aims to provide solutions to the effects of injustice and its symptoms.

Charity responds to immediate needs and looks for immediate solutions.

Charity provides direct services like food, clothing and shelter.

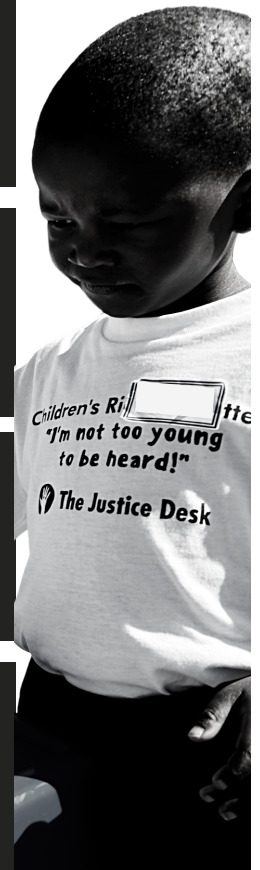
Charity is often private, individual acts.

Justice aims to deal with the root causes of social problems and addresses the underlying structures or causes of the problems.

Justice responds to long-term needs and looks for long-term solutions.

Justice promotes social change in institutions or political structures.

Justice involves public, collective actions.



What is Advocacy?

Advocacy involves speaking out for and alongside people who have not been given the space or opportunity to speak out for themselves. It means standing up and demanding that the rights of all people (and not just yours) are respected, protected and fulfilled.

Advocacy reaches out to some of the most marginalized and disadvantaged sectors of the community, people that formal services and systems often overlook. These include: people who are victims of poverty and inequality; people who may be isolated in their own home, care homes or hospitals; or who lack confidence to speak up because they have been ignored or abused in the past; or those who have lost faith in services; or are unaware that services and support exist.

Advocacy in all its forms seeks to ensure that people, particularly those who are most vulnerable in society, are able to:

- Defend and safeguard their rights.
- Have their views and wishes genuinely considered when decisions are being made about their lives.

Different ways to engage with Justice:



The Justice Desk

Promoting the Power of
Everyday Activists

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