



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Indian Council of Education, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[3 February 2023]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## **Socio-Political Rights**

Human rights have become a ubiquitous feature of contemporary social and political discourse. From the high-level world of international relations, through national contexts of societies emerging from authoritarianism or war, to localised communities struggling to meet basic needs, human rights play a part in framing debates about justice, equality and the meaning of a good life. The proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948 brought into prominence the socio-political rights. Socio-political rights are an important constituent in the full realisation of basic human rights. In general terms, these rights can be understood as a class of rights that protect individuals' freedom from infringement by governments, social organizations, and private individuals. They ensure one's entitlement to participate in the civil and political life of society and the state based on the principle of equality without discrimination or repression. Such rights are constant and inalienable rights, possessed by all people. Ideally, governments should promote and protect human rights through systems of law for the effective realisation of socio-political rights. The components of socio-political rights include life, liberty, and security of person; the freedom of religion, thought, political expression, movement, assembly, speech, and organization; due process of law, education, employment, health, property ownership, cultural preservation; the right to marry and found a family; and freedom from discrimination, unjust punishment, persecution, tyranny, and oppression. Socio-political rights include basic freedoms, liberties, and protections to which all persons are entitled. These rights are not specific to one government or religion but are based on the principle of equality. In other words, these rights entail guaranteed access to essential social and economic goods, services, and opportunities to all without any discrimination.

A seminal document adopted to guarantee social, civil and political rights is the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The ICCPR obligates countries that have ratified the treaty to protect and preserve basic human rights, such as: the right to life and human dignity; equality before the law; freedom of speech, assembly, and association; religious freedom and privacy; freedom from torture, ill-treatment, and arbitrary detention; gender equality; the right to a fair trial; right family life and family unity; and minority rights. The Covenant compels governments to take administrative, judicial, and legislative measures in order to protect the rights enshrined in the treaty and to provide an effective remedy.

Without enjoyment of socio-political rights, human rights are reduced to merely formal categories. Socio-political rights are integral to the functioning of a smooth democracy and both are inextricably linked. Socio-political rights stand out as authentic and genuine fundamental rights that are actionable, demandable and that require serious and responsible observance.

We understand that Human Rights Council is working hard to make a better world but still we have a way to go forward and more stringent laws needs to be formulated to make sure that human rights are not mere formalities but necessity.

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