VI. HOW CAN ACCESS TO HUMAN RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITY BE EXPANDED?

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I. Human Rights: A New International Agenda

A. International Human Rights

1. The Standard--Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UN, 1948)
   General Assembly set forth a "common standard of achievement for all people and all nations...shall strive... to promote respect for these rights and freedoms by progressive measures..."

   - Articles (30) identify basic human rights as long term goals, including:
     - Political freedoms
       (e.g., free speech, right to assembly, no exile)
     - Personal freedom
       (e.g., no slavery, right to join union, choose wife)
   - Right to adequate standard of living/health
     (e.g., food, clothing, housing, medical care, social services)
   - Right to an education, jobs
Strengths/Weaknesses (visionary--passed 61 years ago!)
✓ No direct legal force (like Declaration of Independence)
✓ Sets standards, gives leverage to human rights advocates
✓ Most nations see “rights” as desirable social goals, but not legally binding

2. Organizations/groups that Monitor Human Rights Abuses
   o UN Commission on Human Rights (created in 1947)
     ✓ Membership (53 countries)
       ▪ Regional blocks selected representatives
       ▪ Five-year terms, met once a year
     ✓ Historical role/contribution
       ▪ Monitor/investigates abuses
       ▪ Power lies in identifying/embarrassing violators
     ✓ Lost credibility/discredited
       ▪ Once chaired by Libya, members have included countries with poor human rights records (China, Zimbabwe, Cuba, Sudan, Congo, Saudi Arabia)

   • Became increasingly political--failed to pass resolutions criticizing Zimbabwe, Russia, Cuba, Sudan, etc but some argued that the US also violate human rights—citing death penalty, executing juveniles, uses “child” soldiers, has supported regimes that violate human rights, many post-9/11 violations (prisoners at Guantanamo Bay w/o charges, etc.)

   ✓ Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights established in 1993 to promote/protect rights cited in the UDHR (Link)

   ✓ UN Human Rights Council (2006)
     o 47 members, based on regional representation
     o Reports to the UN-HCHR
     o Bush administration boycotted, Obama asked to join (2012)

   o International Criminal Court (Link)
     ✓ Members = 110 states, but not the US, Russia, China, India
✓ Targets perpetrators of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity
✓ Cases referred to the court by the UN Security Council
✓ A court of last resort—where national courts have failed
✓ Cases considered: Northern Uganda, DRC, CAR, Darfur
✓ Seen as a deterrent to future atrocities like Rwandan genocide
✓ Increasingly seen by African countries as being biased/targeting African countries/leaders

• International NGOs—"grassroots" organizations
  (Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch)
  ✓ Increasingly important in putting pressure on abusing governments
  ✓ Have targeted private companies for failing to address labor/environmental issues (e.g., Shell, Reebok, Nike)

• US State Department (WWW)
  ✓ Reports to Congress annually on human rights violators (500 pp.)
  ✓ Definition of human rights, as a US foreign policy objective, has expanded
    1960s—focused on protecting people from government mistreatment
    Today—focus reflects broader UDHR goals
    (e.g., political rights, resolve internal conflicts, insure integrity of the person, press freedom, religious freedom, women/children’s rights, workers’ rights, and eliminate trafficking in persons (slavery for sex/labor, 27 million, 800,000 per year trafficked worldwide, 18-20,000 enter the US annually) (Nat. Geo)

✓ US govt’s willingness to promote HR with sanctions has varied by:
  ▪ Admin: Carter—strong advocate (Nobel Peace Prize, 2002)
  ▪ Country: Cuba—yes, China—no

✓ On-going debate: Is a “push or pull strategy” best?
  (e.g., China & WTO, greater engagement ➔ internal reforms)?
3. Should All Countries Be Held To the Same Human Right Standards?

- Controversial Issues (e.g., child labor, women's rights, fair wage)
  - Do “universally accepted” standards exist?
  - What should be the “criteria” for establishing a standard?
  - Should “cultural/religious values” be considered?
  - Who should sets the “standards”?

- Why aren’t human rights criticisms/sanctions applied to all violators?
  - Countries protect their friends/allies (e.g., Darfur= China; Israel=US)
  - Pressure for sanction influenced by domestic politics (US=Cuba)
  - Criticisms made mainly against LDCs

- Expanding human rights represents a “historical trend” to empower the powerless
  - Evolving standard towards being more inclusive
  - Growing acceptance of expanding choice for all groups

II. Expanding Access to Opportunity

- Much progress, but still many concerns

- US has faced similar human rights issues that LDCs face today

  - Women (Photos)
    - Vote (New Zealand=1893, 26 before US; US=1920, 19th Amend.)
    - Political office—few senators are women?
    - Admission to medical school—will get married and stop working?
    - Glass ceiling—few corporate top executives are women?

  - Disadvantage groups/Minorities (Photos)
    - African Americans—Why is the South “red”?
    - Asians:
      - Land ownership restrictions in 1800s & 1900s
      - WW II Intern camps, lost property (Japanese Americans)
    - Latinos--deported during the 1930s depression
    - Native Americans—land stolen, promised broken
    - Catholics—early 1900s, anti-Catholic fear, accused of stocking arms in church basements for insurrection, “convent inspection” laws, KKK targeted Catholics, Jews, immigrants
    - Moslems—since 9/11, widely believed to support terrorism
• Children/child labor
  • Factory labor
  • Farm labor
  • Orphans sent west (early 1900s)

o Expending human rights is a historical process—over time, new laws are enacted to protect the powerless in both DCs and LDCs

o Future—what human rights issues will your kids ask you, “Why?” (e.g., universal access to health care, gay marriage, death penalty)

A. Women (Social Watch)
  1. Some Indicators of Neglect/Discrimination—DCs & LDCs
     o Economic gap—big income gap, 70% of the poor
     o Education gap—less educated, lower literacy rates
     o Empowerment gap—less political representation

Also
  o Have low social status, compared to men
  o Less access to credit, agricultural extension services

2. Some Concerns Raised by Human Rights Advocates
  o Domestic violence (DCs also), honor killings if wife is unfaithful

  o Female infanticide, bride burning (India)

  o FGM (W. Africa, Egypt)

  o Forced marriages, bride price/dowry, polygamy (Africa, South Asia)

  o Banned from school (Taliban, Afghanistan) /workplace

  o Can’t vote (many Middle East countries) or drive (Saudi Arabia)

  o Forced prostitution/sex tourism (Thailand, E. Europe, Brazil)

  o No right to inherit property, own land, kids/divorce (Zimbabwe)

  o Work in sweatshops—long hours, poor working conditions, no benefits (C. America, Asia)
**Paradox:** Several LDCs have had a female president/prime minister (Previously--India, Israel, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, others?; Now--Argentina, Liberia, Brazil, others?)

3. **Some Consequences (Why does lack of access to HR matter?)**
   - Major individual & societal impacts—"Girls Count":
     - Direct impact on women
     - Impact on society?
     - Impacts political agenda?

4. **Factors that Contribute to a Lack of Opportunity for Women (including women in the US?)**
   - Culture/traditional values
   - Religion values
   - Lack of political voice/power

5. **Some Strategies For Meeting the Needs of Women**
   - Promote legal reforms & cultural changes
     - **LDCs**—local activists/NGOs are working to:
       - Change laws (recent actions)
         - Morocco—banned polygamy
         - Kuwait—same political rights as men
         - Egypt—gave women the right to divorce
         - Senegal—banned FGM
         - LAC/India/Morocco/Brazil—quotas for political offices
         - Jordan—gave women the vote
         - Iraq—female cops
       - Pressure govt./companies to provide benefits/opportunities
         - Bangladesh (labor activist)
         - Saudi Arabia (greater work opportunities)
       - Enforce existing laws, punish human traffickers, assist victims
     - Change cultural values/reinterpret religious texts
       - Senegal (Tostan)—create a social consensus
       - Middle East—Koran values women, gives equal rights
     - Much progress, but potential for a backlash
       - What’s needed for true reform?
**DCs**

- Hillary Clinton’s signature issue; pitch= in country’s best interest
- NGOs & legislators are pressing for
  - Stiffer laws to prosecute their citizens who traffic in people, participate in sex-tourism
  - Sanctions against countries that traffic in people
- Some US firms are setting an example by hiring/training women

**Invest in social services that benefit women**
- Education—female teachers, village schools, relevant curriculum
- Health Services—family planning, rural clinics

**Invest in addressing women’s household/agricultural needs**
- Household needs **Examples?** Tanzania: Solar Circle (Photo)
- Agricultural needs **Examples?**

**Develop programs that address women's income-earning needs**
- Job training, “livelihood skills” (e.g., nuns in Dominican Republic)
- Small loans (e.g., Grameen Bank, World Relief/Rwanda) (Photo)

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**B. Disadvantaged Groups: the Landless, Minorities, Indigenous People & Refugees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who/where are they?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The rural landless</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Photo)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Africa—best land owned by whites (e.g., Zimbabwe, S. Africa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>L. Amer. (Brazil: 1% own 90% of land; Venez: 10% own 97%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asia (e.g., India, Indonesia)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Minorities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Low status social classes (e.g., lower castes in India)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Members of minority religion (e.g., Christians in Sudan)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Indigenous groups</strong></td>
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<td>LAC (55 million indigenous people, e.g., Guatemala, Bolivia)</td>
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<td><strong>Refugees (32 million)</strong></td>
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<td>(UNHCR, distribution, Photo)</td>
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<td>Victims of civil unrest (e.g., Afghan/Iraq, Darfur, Palestine)</td>
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**1. Some Indicators of Neglect/Discrimination**

- Lower income, higher incidence of poverty
- Lack of political representation
- Higher infant mortality rates, poorer health
- Less access to education, jobs, health services
2. Some Concerns Raised by Human Rights Advocates
   - Limited access to land, due to colonial heritage (rural landless)
     - Latin America—Spanish land grants
     - Africa—colonial policies (e.g., Zimbabwe, South Africa)
   - Insecure land right
     - Indigenous people in LA—land grabs for timber, oil, plantations
   - Human rights abuses
     - Indigenous groups in LA, refuges, minorities
   - Limited access to social services (health, education)
     - Indigenous groups, refugees, minorities
   - Neglected by development projects
     - Indigenous groups, minorities

3. Some Consequences (Why does lack of access to HR matter?)
   - Political instability (e.g., Zimbabwe, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, M. East)
   - Individual and societal loss

4. Some Factors that Contribute To a Lack of Opportunity for Disadvantaged Groups
   - Tradition/culture
   - Lack of political power/voice

5. Some Strategies for Meeting the Needs of Disadvantaged Groups
   - Political action:
     - Organize the disadvantaged to increase their political influence (NGOs, grassroots organizations)
     - Strengthen democratic institution (legal & political systems)
   - Legal remedies—enact laws to end legal discrimination, promote affirmative action to reduce inequality
     - India: affirmative action (lower casts, women)
       - Gandhi—1940's, jobs for untouchables (video clip, 6 min.)
     - Brazil: affirmative action for Afro-Brazilians
     - Why are affirmative action/racial preferences needed?
o Targeted programs to meet the needs of the disadvantaged:
  (e.g., Brazil—land reform, “Fome Zero” (food distribution program);
  India => social spending, “Rural Employment Guarantee Act”;
  “barefoot college”; micro-credit; cellphone banking; Jhai PC)

C. Youth

1. Legal Framework
    ✓ Similar to UDHR, but focuses on kids (not ratified by US)
    ✓ Sets standards for:
      ▪ Eliminating child labor, child prostitution, serving in armed
        forces, sale of children
      ▪ Providing access to social services (health, education, etc)

2. Some Concerns Raised by Human Right Advocates
  o Child labor, especially bonded labor (Photo)
  o Child soldiers (300,000 kids)—forced recruitment (Photo)
  o Child trafficking/sex tourism (ECPAT) (Photo)
  o Street kids/orphans (Photo)

3. Some Consequences (Why does a lack of Access to HR Matter?)
  o Lifelong damage to health/AIDS
  o Loss of self-esteem
  o Loss of opportunity to attend school (Photo)
  o Delinquency/crime

4. Some Factors that Contributing to a Lack of Opportunity for Children
  o LDCs
    ✓ Poverty
      Why?
    ✓ Civil conflicts, wars (child soldiers)
    ✓ Lack of government will/weak law enforcement in some LDCs
    ✓ Cultural values
      Examples?
  o DCs
    ✓ “Demand” for cheap products in DCs
    ✓ Lack of public awareness in DCs (“I didn’t know”)
5. Some Strategies for Meeting the Needs of Children

- **LDCs**
  - Enforce existing laws—child soldiers, child labor, sex tourism
  - Increase access to education (NGOs, governments) via:
    - After school program (Brazil’s slums)
    - Reduce gender gap in education (Ethiopia)
    - Free education (Kenya—eliminated primary school fees)
    - Public libraries (Nepal, Kenya’s camel library)
    - Innovative initiatives in higher education (S. Africa)

- **International Organizations** (NGOs, ILO, WTO)
  - Pressure LDCs to enforce existing laws, improve conditions

- **DCs/Citizens in DCs**
  - Pressure governments to enforce existing laws, pass new laws
  - Pressure private firms to address human rights issues by monitoring suppliers/banning child labor

III. The Challenge of Increasing Access to Human Rights & Opportunity

A. **Full access** to human rights & opportunity is limited by interrelated factors—poverty, culture/traditions, legal & political structures

B. **Challenges facing LDCs**
  - Promoting cultural change through education
  - Developing programs that target groups most at-risk
  - Passing/enforcing legislation that eliminate discrimination & guarantees human rights
  - Developing more representative political systems

C. **Challenges facing DCs**
  - Promoting greater awareness of human rights issues and OUR role in contributing to & addressing these problem (Demand)
    - Sex trade
    - Child labor, sweatshop labor
  - Assisting LDCs to reduce poverty—a major factor that limits access to opportunity & contributes to human rights in LDCs