

January 2018

January 7, 2018

ISSUE: Human and Civil Rights

Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, 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.

Universal human rights are often expressed and guaranteed by law, in the forms of treaties, customary international law, general principles and other sources of international law. International human rights law lays down obligations of Governments to act in certain ways or to refrain from certain acts, in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups.

TEACHING: What the Church teaches, is in scripture or is the position of the Archdiocese or USCCB:

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is the national anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, working to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ "... *to bring good news to the poor ... release to captives ... sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free.*" (Luke 4:18)

Human Rights are given not taken. Human rights are not something that man creates out of whole cloth, on mere subjective whim, by social contract, or through popular vote. Human rights are based upon an objective moral order. Human rights are built upon human dignity, which comes from the fact that man is made in the image and likeness of God and is called to communion with God.

ACTION: What we can do to promote equality, rights, health, safety and dignity of others:

Support the Campaign for Human Development as it works to break the cycle of poverty by helping low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives, families and communities. CCHD offers a hand up, not a hand out.

MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/grants/economic-development-grants-program/economic-criteria-and-guidelines.cfm>

January 14, 2018

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The principle of universality of human rights is the cornerstone of international human rights law. This principle, as first emphasized in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in 1948, has been reiterated in numerous international human rights conventions, declarations, and resolutions. The 1993 Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, for example, noted that it is the duty of States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems.

TEACHING: What the Church teaches, is in scripture or is the position of the Archdiocese or USCCB:

Psalm 82:3 : Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.

Do we truly realize that something is wrong in a world where there are so many farm workers without land, so many families without a home, so many laborers without rights, so many persons whose dignity is not respected? Do we realize that something is wrong where so many senseless wars are being fought and acts of fratricidal violence are taking place on our very doorstep? Do we realize something is wrong when the soil, water, air and living creatures of our world are under constant threat? So, if we do realize all this, let us not be afraid to say it: we need change; we want change. (7/9/15) Pope Francis

ACTION: What we can do to promote equality, rights, health, safety and dignity of others:

The future of humanity does not lie solely in the hands of great leaders, the great powers and the elites. It is fundamentally in the hands of peoples and in their ability to organize. It is in their hands, which can guide with humility and conviction this process of change. I am with you. Each of us, let repeat from the heart: no family without lodging, no rural worker without land, no laborer without rights, no people without sovereignty, no individual without dignity, no child without childhood, no young person without a future, no elderly person without a venerable old age. Pope Francis, Address at the World Meeting of Popular Movements, Bolivia

MORE INFORMATION:

[usccb/human and civil rights.](http://usccb/human-and-civil-rights)

January 21, 2018

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All human rights are indivisible, whether they are civil and political rights, such as the right to life, equality before the law and freedom of expression; economic, social and cultural rights, such as the rights to work, social security and education, or collective rights, such as the rights to development and self-determination, are indivisible, interrelated and interdependent. The improvement of one right facilitates advancement of the others. Likewise, the deprivation of one right adversely affects the others.

TEACHING: What the Church teaches, is in scripture or is the position of the Archdiocese or USCCB:

Proverbs 14:31: Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.

How important it is that the voice of every member of society be heard, and that a spirit of open communication, dialogue and cooperation be fostered. It is likewise important that special concern be shown for the poor, the vulnerable and those who have no voice, not only by meeting their immediate needs but also by assisting them in their human and cultural advancement.
(8/14/14) Pope Francis

ACTION: What we can do to promote equality, rights, health, safety and dignity of others:

I like to think that the most important work that we have to do today, among us, in humanity, is the work of listening: listening to each other. Listening to each other, without rushing to give a response. Welcoming the words of a brother, of a sister, and then thinking to offer my own. But the ability to listen: this is very important. It is interesting: when people have this capacity for listening, they speak with a low, calm voice.... Instead, when they do not have it, they speak loudly; they even shout. Among brothers and sisters, we all must speak, listen to each other and speak slowly, calmly, seeking the path together. And when you listen and you speak, you are already on the right path. (4/5/17) Pope Francis

MORE INFORMATION:

uscgb/human and civil rights.

January 28, 2018

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Human rights entail both rights and obligations. States assume obligations and duties under international law to respect, to protect and to fulfill human rights. The obligation to respect means that States must refrain from interfering with or curtailing the enjoyment of human rights. The obligation to protect requires States to protect individuals and groups against human rights abuses. The obligation to fulfill means that States must take positive action to facilitate the enjoyment of basic human rights. At the individual level, while we are entitled our human rights, we should also respect the human rights of others.

TEACHING: What the Church teaches, is in scripture or is the position of the Archdiocese or USCCB:

Matthew 25: 40, Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.ø

Vatican II: in the "Declaration on the relationship of the Church to non-Christian religions": "We cannot in truthfulness call upon that God who is the Father of all if we refuse to act in a brotherly way toward certain men, created though they be to God's image. The ground is therefore removed from every theory or practice which leads to a distinction between men or peoples in the matter of human dignity and the rights which flow from it. As a consequence, the Church rejects, as foreign to the mind of Christ, any discrimination against men or harassment of them because of their race, color, condition of life, or religion";

ACTION: What we can do to promote equality, rights, health, safety and dignity of others:

To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope; it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds; it is to bring the warmth of hope! (3/19/13) Pope Francis

MORE INFORMATION:

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