

The Idea of Human Rights in a Divided World

Outline:

I Introduction

Thesis statement: Human rights are facing systemic erosion in political, economic, and social spheres, undermining the very idea of an equal world; yet, through pragmatic measures, their universality can be revived.

II Defining the key Term "Human Rights"

- i) Evolution
- ii) Definition (UN)
- iii) UN Declaration of Human Rights

III Nature of Division in the World

- i) Political divisions
- ii) Economic divisions
- iii) Social divisions
- iv) Technological divisions

IV**Threats to Human Rights in a Divided World:**

A- Erosion of popular sovereignty

B- Restrictions on freedom of speech and media

(case in point: North Korea and Russia)

C- Conflicts undermining fundamental rights

(case in point: starvation in Gaza & Sudan)

D- Rise in economic inequalities

(case in point: Global North vs South)

E- Persecution of religious and ethnic minorities

(case in point: Alawite Arabs in Syria)

F- Marginalization of immigrants

(case in point: Anti-immigrants sentiments in Europe)

G- Rise in gender-based violence against women

(case in point: Women Apartheid in Afghanistan)

H- Violence against transgender and LGBTQ+

I- Erosion of Privacy rights

case in point: cyberattacks & digital surveillance)

J- Suffering of marginalized communities due to climate change

case in point: Developed vs developing countries)

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V How the World is selective in Determining Human Rights— A Case Study of Ukraine and Palestine

VI Pragmatic measures to Revive Human Rights in a Divided World

A- Reforming UNSC veto structure

B- Ensuring strong accountability of Human Rights violators

C- Bridging global inequalities

D- Empowerment of vulnerable communities and civil society

VII Conclusion

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal'" said Martin Luther King Jr in his famous 1967 speech. Despite passing of more than fifty years of this speech, human rights are in

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shambles across the globe. Human rights violations are not limited to a particular geographical region of the World. Various efforts by different international bodies, such as UN Human Rights Council, Red Cross, and The Council of Europe have failed to uplift the universal rights. An escalating violations of fundamental rights raises questions about the future of human rights. What is the role of human rights in a shifting global order? Can the world defend and ensure human rights remain an effective tool for justice? However, several evidences show that human rights are in grave danger at the moment. For example, the erosion of popular sovereignty, restriction on freedom of speech, and widening economic inequalities manifest the degrading status of human rights. Moreover, victimization of religious and ethnic minorities, violence against weaker genders and breach of privacy rights further prove the threats posed

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to human rights. Nevertheless, reviving universal rights is not an impossible task if certain policy measures are taken. Reforming UNSC veto structure, bridging global inequalities, and empowering local and civil society can ensure desired human rights.

Hence, Human rights are facing systemic erosion in political, economic, and social spheres, undermining the very idea of an equal world; yet, through pragmatic measures, their universality can be revived.