



PODCAST 4

THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL SOLIDARITY ON HUMAN RIGHTS



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In today's episode we will explore what Human Rights are and the impact Social Solidarity has had on them over the years. Social solidarity plays a crucial role in the promotion and protection of human rights. It refers to the sense of unity and collective responsibility within a society, where individuals recognize their shared interests and mutual dependence.

Let's start off with what exactly are Human Rights?

As World War Two was ending in 1945, representatives of 50 countries gathered at the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco, California from 25 April to 26 June 1945. For the next two months, they proceeded to draft and then sign the UN Charter, which created a new international organisation, the United Nations, which, it was hoped, would prevent another world war like the one they had just lived through.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was the first international document adopted by the United Nations General Assembly which details 30 articles of individual's basic rights and freedoms. These are applicable to all human beings regardless of where they come from.

The declaration was accepted by the General Assembly as Resolution 217 on 10 December 1948 at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris, France. Of 58 members of the United Nations at the time, 48 voted in favour, none against, eight abstained, and two did not vote.

Adopted as a "common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations", the Universal Declaration of Human Rights commits nations to recognize all humans as being born free and equal in dignity and rights regardless of nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status.

However, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a declaration, meaning that it does not impose legal obligations on governments. It sets out the basic standards and principles of human rights but lacks the force of law. However, it has been incorporated into many national constitutions, regional treaties, and national laws, influencing the development of human rights standards around the world.

The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) is a treaty meaning it is legally binding on those nations who have signed up to it. It was adopted on 4th of November 1950 and came into force on 3rd of September 1953. The ECHR is a treaty signed by the member states of the Council of Europe to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in Europe.

Now let's move onto the Articles contained within The European Convention of Human Rights and what rights they entail!



ARTICLE 1

Obligation to respect Human Rights

The High Contracting Parties shall secure to everyone within their jurisdiction the rights and freedoms defined in the convention.

ARTICLE 2

Right to Life

ARTICLE 3

Prohibition of torture

ARTICLE 4

Prohibition of slavery and forced labour

ARTICLE 5

Right to liberty and security

ARTICLE 6

Right to a fair trial

ARTICLE 7

No punishment without law

ARTICLE 8

Right to respect for private and family life

ARTICLE 9

Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

ARTICLE 10

Freedom of expression

ARTICLE 11

Freedom of assembly and association

ARTICLE 12

Right to marry

ARTICLE 13

Right to an effective remedy

ARTICLE 14

Prohibition of discrimination

ARTICLE 15

Derogation in time of emergency



To enforce these rights, the European Court of Human Rights was established.

Individuals, groups, or states can bring cases before the court if they believe their rights under the ECHR have been violated. The Court is based in Strasbourg, France, and its decisions are legally binding on the countries involved. The ECHR itself does not have direct enforcement powers, but member states must implement the Court's decisions.

You might now start to wonder what Human Rights and Social Solidarity have in common?

In an increasingly interconnected world, the concept of social solidarity extends beyond national borders, influencing global human rights frameworks, cooperation, and actions. This sense of shared responsibility among nations and people is key to ensuring that human rights are respected and protected on a global scale.

Social solidarity has played a major role in shaping major international human rights with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights being a result of the collective will of nations around the world to create a set of common standards for human dignity and equality. The idea of shared responsibility and mutual respect for human rights is embedded in international agreements like this one.


International Human Rights efforts often depend on the cooperation of multiple states, international organisations, and civil society groups. Social solidarity, both within and between countries, creates a shared sense of purpose in ensuring that human rights are not just a national concern but a global one.

For example, when countries collaborate on issues like climate change, refugees, or human trafficking, they are recognizing that these problems transcend borders and require a collective response. This sense of solidarity helps drive international cooperation in forums like the United Nations, where member states work together to uphold human rights through agreements, treaties, and resolutions.

Solidarity emphasizes the need for fairness and equal treatment of all members of society just the same way as Human Rights do. In a society where people stand together in solidarity, there is greater pressure on governments and institutions to address inequalities, discrimination, and human rights abuses. This collective support helps ensure that laws and policies promote social justice and equal access to rights, opportunities, and resources.

Social solidarity can mobilize collective action to fight for human rights. When people join forces in solidarity, they can advocate more effectively for the rights of oppressed or marginalized groups. Movements such as the civil rights movement, the fight for gender equality, and global campaigns against human trafficking all demonstrate how solidarity can serve as a catalyst for human rights advancements.

Solidarity creates a sense of collective moral responsibility for protecting human rights. It encourages individuals to not only care for their own well-being but also to actively support the rights and welfare of others. This shared sense of moral duty can influence governments and organizations to prioritize human rights protections and respond to violations.



On a global level, social solidarity can extend beyond national boundaries, creating a more interconnected world where human rights are upheld universally. International human rights treaties like the ECHR that we discussed and the United Nations rely on the solidarity of member states to ensure the protection and promotion of rights across borders.

During times of crisis—such as war, famine, or natural disasters—social solidarity can be crucial in ensuring that human rights are maintained, even under challenging circumstances. Communities coming together to provide humanitarian aid, protect refugees, and demand accountability for abuses help safeguard human rights in the midst of conflict or disaster.

In summary, social solidarity fosters an environment where human rights are respected, advocated for, and protected. It encourages a collective effort to promote justice, equality, and the dignity of all individuals, contributing to the creation of a more humane and equitable society.

We hope you found this podcast informative and enjoyed learning about Human Rights and how social solidarity impacts them. If you would like to carry on learning and exploring social solidarity subjects, please like and subscribe for our next podcast!

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