

It is a widely known and understood fact that human rights are fundamental to each and every individual; which is to say that every person has the right to uphold their dignity and autonomy, without disrupting the same rights of others. The question that should be asked is why these fundamental requirements are not being followed through thoroughly? Human rights are broad and cannot be subject to an absolute definition, making it difficult to be universally binding. There are a multitude of issues concerning human rights that have been ongoing for centuries, which makes it difficult to dedicate one single issue as the most pressing one, as they are all, in their own right, considered to be harmful to humanity.

I believe that one of the biggest concerns regarding international human rights is how the effectiveness of human rights conventions differ when being implemented within different states. An interesting argument against the formation of a universal human rights charter provided by some, is that the formation of such a universal law falls prey to the risk of becoming an ethnocentric venture that will inevitably lead to the destruction of cultural norms. Although this criticism of the doctrine has gained a few supporters over the last few decades, it ignores the basic underpinnings or rather, the essence of the human rights charter. The implementation of human rights does not bring with it cultural hegemony but rather provides a support structure to all individuals over a myriad cultures. The problematic lies not within the form (structure) of the human rights framework, but rather in the content (implementation). The gap between the ideal nature of the human rights doctrine and its contemporary implementation is growing greater each day. It is a verifiable fact that the implementation of the human rights doctrine has left a lot to be desired. This can clearly be seen in the vastly differing importance human rights are afforded around the world.

It is quite evident that certain nations afford due importance to the international charter on human rights while other nations, although having ratified the charter, have not yet implemented any binding legislation to ensure a cessation of human rights abuses.

These issues vary on a national and/or international basis. However, for the purpose of this essay, I would like to focus on the inhumane treatment that is seen in Myanmar, which I believe, is one of the gravest crimes under international law. As seen in most international human rights violations, the most affected parties are particularly the minorities, which in this case are the Rohingya Muslims, specifically, one million of them. Myanmar is predominantly a Buddhist country. The main issue that arose was when the government of Myanmar denied the Rohingya Muslims citizenship, which directly refuses them as an autonomous person. The census of 2014 also excluded the Rohingyas, making them stateless and treated as such. The Myanmar government see them as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. This issue deeply concerns the dignity and autonomy of the Rohingya Muslims, by enforcing upon them violence and alleged abuses. The OHCHR has provided that the right to a nationality is a fundamental human right and that statelessness should be prevented by States granting their nationality to persons who would otherwise be stateless or are either born in their territory or are born abroad to one of their nationals. It also provides that States must also prevent statelessness upon loss of deprivation of nationality. These are rights that help constitute a person's autonomy. However, the contrary is seen in Myanmar.

There have been a vast number of allegations of abuse by security forces upon the Rohingyas, which include arson, extortion, increasingly severe restrictions on movement, killings, rape of women and girls, lack of health care and food as well as enforced disappearances. The OHCHR has only intervened by having periodic reports on the situation in Myanmar. Yet, there has not been any major consolidation on their part. The grave offences that are committed against the Rohingya Muslims have not been seen to have reduced. The situation in Myanmar is only one in many issues relating to mistreatment of persons, which is also why I am interested in garnering more knowledge in this field in order to implement positive change in the world of human rights.