

## **Essay about the most pressing concern in International Human Rights Law**

The International Human Rights Law was created to promote and protect human rights on social, regional, and domestic levels. While the OCHRC lists more than hundred Human Rights Issues, I will concentrate on the one that seems to be the most pressing concern to me in the International Human Rights Law – Human Rights and Climate Change. That climate change is real is out of question by now – also, that human-made greenhouse gas emissions are its primary cause.

According to the 5th Assessment Report, conducted in 2014, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)<sup>1</sup> the consequences of the climate change will be severe: increasing frequency of extreme weather accidents and natural catastrophes, rising sea-levels, floods, heat waves, droughts, desertification, water shortages, and the spread of tropical and vector-borne diseases. These facts affect directly and indirectly all humans on this planet– therefore the International Human Rights Law will need to step in. It will not only affect the right to life, water and sanitation, but also food, health, housing, self-determination, culture and development.<sup>2</sup>

Furthermore, these horrible consequences are and will affect people and communities even stronger, that are already disadvantaged, might it be because of the economical situation of their state or natural, geographical conditions. Climate change does not also risk the homes and housing of various islands – also habitants of Greenland, tundra and arctic ice are affected.

Climate change will affect all of us– around the globe and irreversible. But the governments of this world do not seem to be affected. At least not now – let this be a problem for the future. But this, for me, is the most pressing concern: to avoid future, massive Human Rights Issues, more People leaving their country, more drought but less harvest actions need to be taken now, not later. Therefore Climate Change is a topic that affects us all and needs to be treated as such. The governments of this planet have to prioritize climate change over economics, sustainability over quick solutions. But it is not only on the states to be held accountable: also businesses, and most importantly: every single one of us.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/> (04.08.2019).

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/SYR\\_AR5\\_FINAL\\_full.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/SYR_AR5_FINAL_full.pdf) (04.08.2019).

Do not waste resources, think about where there is potential to save energy and CO2 emissions. If we all work together, we can still make a remarkable difference, even though for some issues it might be too late.

Therefore the OHCHR points out the following Key Messages:

1. To mitigate climate change and to prevent its negative human rights impacts
2. To ensure that all persons have the necessary capacity to adapt to climate change
3. To ensure accountability and effective remedy for human rights harms caused by climate change
4. To mobilize maximum available resources for sustainable, human rights-based development
5. International cooperation
6. To ensure equity in climate action
7. To guarantee that everyone enjoys the benefits of science and its applications
8. To protect human rights from business harms
9. To guarantee equality and non-discrimination
10. To ensure meaningful and informed participation<sup>3</sup>

Human Rights should protect those that are most affected of climate change, also to prevent further human rights violations in the near future. But firstly, states need to take actions, with more environmental friendly laws. For a better future for all of us and our future generation. The governments of this world need to cooperate and work together in order to set effective measurements. They need to exchange and communicate about technologies, knowledge but also financially. Only if Human Rights are considered in these decisions, the actions will fulfill human rights standards.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/KeyMessages\\_on\\_HR\\_CC.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/KeyMessages_on_HR_CC.pdf) (03.08.2019).