



Australia's
Global
University



Refugee women:
Key to the
Global Compact
on Refugees



UNSW
Forced Migration
Research Network

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS USING RECIPROCAL RESEARCH: Session 3: Human Rights

Human Rights: What they mean to us



What is the United Nations?



What is the Human Rights Framework?

The United Nations has produced many international conventions, declarations and legal documents which list our human rights.

These laws and documents together make up the human rights framework.

When Governments sign these documents and conventions they are agreeing to respect these human rights.



What are human rights?

These are the rights to which all people are entitled regardless of race, gender, religion, age or any other social characteristic.

They are **universal** - this means they belong to everyone, everywhere.



What are human rights?

They are *indivisible*, which means that all human rights are of equal importance.

They are *inalienable*, which means that although someone may stop you having them, they are still your rights.





Universal Declaration of Human Rights

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

- Food, water, shelter
- Health care
- Education
- The right to family
- Access to income and the right to work
- The right to religion
- The right to enjoy the cultural life of your community



Civil and political rights

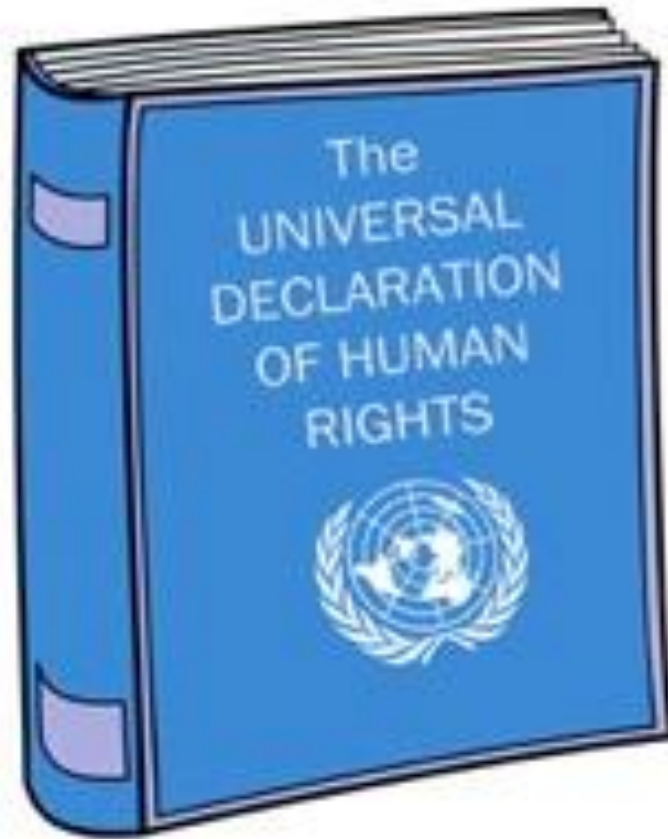
- Access to the law
- Political freedom
- Access to income
- The right not to be tortured
- To live without persecution
- The right to seek asylum
- The right to work free from exploitation,
- The right to life, to security, to freedom
- Freedom of movement
- The right not to be forced into a marriage



Obstacles to human rights

- **Political challenges**
 - State sovereignty & lack of political will
- **Ideological challenges**
 - Universality versus cultural relativism
 - Individual or collective rights
- **Women's and girls' human rights**
 - Gender neutral or gender blind

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights





Autonomy and self determination



Shelter, food and water



The right to live with family



The right to live in freedom from all forms of violence



The right to good health care



The right to full and equal access to the law



The right to freedom of speech



The right to education – for girls and boys - and also for life-long education



The right to social security, equal access to resources, and to work



The right to freedom of religion and religious expression



The right to political freedom and representation by both men and women



The human rights 'necklace'

Each coloured bead represents a group of our rights.

The closed circle of the necklace symbolises the equal value of each right and the indivisibility and inalienability of rights.

Refugees are often given a packet of beads and twine to make a symbolic necklace of their rights as an exercise.

This story demonstrates what this can mean to them



Refugees have rights!



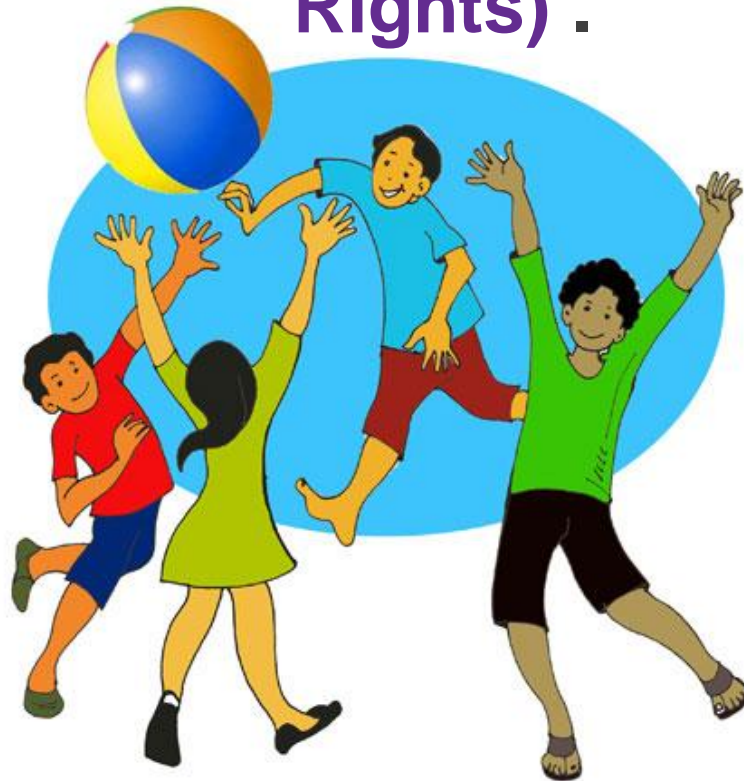
All refugees have a right to full protection from all forms of human rights violations.

Their rights are set out in the 1951 Refugee Convention, its 1967 Protocol (and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights).



Children have rights!

Their rights are set out in the
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CROC)
(and the Universal Declaration of Human
Rights) .



Children's rights

- The right to go to school
- The right to be with their parents
- The right to have fun
- The right not to have to work like an adult
- The right to go to a doctor
- The right to protection from sexual abuse
- The right to be protected from drugs
- The right to be safe – to live and grow in safety
- The right to not be recruited as a soldier or to fight in a conflict

- The right of every child to live in security with their family.



- The right of every child not to be conscripted as a child soldier or sex slave



- **The right of every child not to be exposed to drug taking or drug trafficking**



- **The right of every child to freedom from formal work and to leisure time**



Women have rights!

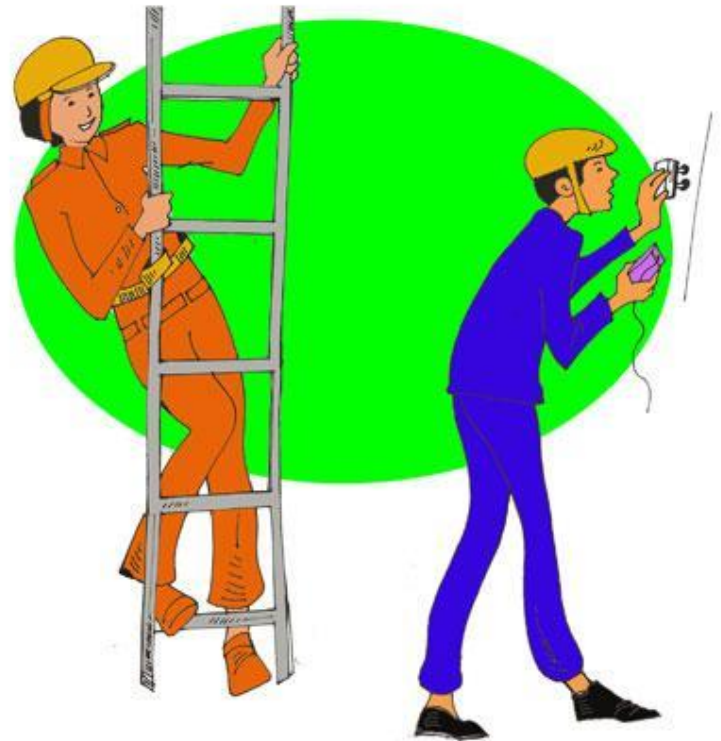
Their rights are set out in the **Convention to Eliminate Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**
(and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)



- The rights of women to be free from **sexual and gender based violence** and to live free from fear of sexual and gender based violence



- **The right of women to work wherever she wants to, in traditional and untraditional forms of employment**



- The rights of women to take part in decision making and political processes, and the right to life-long education.



- **The right of women to choose their own partner and sexuality and to not be forced into marriage for any reason.**

