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## ROLE OF NGOS IN PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

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### **Abstract :**

*Many organizations in the universe devote their efforts to protecting human rights and ending infringement of human rights or abuse of human rights. Number of human rights organizations maintain extensive websites documenting violations and calling for corrective action, both at a governmental and grass-roots level. Public support and condemnation of abuses is important to their success, as human rights organizations are most effective when their calls for reform are backed by strong public advocacy.*

*In the era of Proliferation and with the development of the one global society it felt compulsory to confirm the liability in respect of an assurance of Human Rights in state boundaries. Despite the United Nations and Regional arrangements for the same it is impossible to have a clear picture of the status of the state's obligation. Civil Society has areas which possess an area equal to but aloof from the state where citizens related in accordance with their own interest where impartial or detached bodies are required for proper watch on each and every thing. NGOs contribute and play by far the dynamic, positive and active parts of civil society organizations. The flourishing growth Non Government Organizations over the past three decades have given them a seldom important role and function and led them to occupy a distinctive sector within the broad category Civil society organizations.. Today it is believed that without the active involvement of NGOs the UN human rights system would not function well. The activities of human rights NGOs are numerous.. To build a culture of rights and encourage the enforcement of human rights both at national and international level, an approach described above has a great contribution besides the efforts of the Government.*

**Key Words:** Human Rights, NGO, Activism, infringement, Protection

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### **Introduction :**

“To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity.” – Nelson Mandela

“The evolution of the human rights movements clearly illustrates humanity’s ongoing struggle towards creating a better world.” - Robert Alan

The NGO are a necessary corollary to the democratic machinery of the government, they are means of democratic empowerment of those who are less powerful and less advantaged as the government machinery and its authorizing institution are not always sufficient to guarantee the protection of human right.

Human rights are necessary for the survival of mankind. These rights protect our right to freedom, right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, etc. These are universally accepted principles governed by International law. However, there seems to remain a gap between actual acceptance of these rights and laws which mention them. Weaker sections of the society many times



cannot cope with the existing legal structure on human rights. Hence, this is where Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) intervene. The NGO sector is developing rapidly across the globe. What started as a cure to tackle poverty, illiteracy, and other social evils today has extended to global trade, finance, the environment, and building international relations. So what are NGOs? NGOs in simple words are organizations that think beyond money or financial profit and work towards helping people grow. A very well-defined meaning of the term NGO is given by the World Bank as, private organizations which conduct activities to promote the interests of the poor, provide social services, and undertake community development. According to the NGO Advisor's 2021 statistics, the Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee, also known as (BRAC) an NGO placed in Dhaka Bangladesh was voted the best NGO in the world. Among the much-appreciated work done by the BRAC, providing aid to the Rohingya, at a time when the world is fighting for solutions against the humanitarian crisis, stood out. This was just one example of the tremendous work these NGOs do, and across the globe, the number of NGOs is also increasing. As more NGOs have entered the frame, their scope as mentioned above has also grown wide.

### **Legal status :**

International law does not mention the legality of NGOs. However, as NGOs are spread out in many countries, national laws do regulate NGOs as legal entities. For example, in India NGOs come under the purview of different legal enactments like the Income Tax Act 1961, the Societies Registration Act 1860, the Companies Act 2013, and the Public Trust Acts of that particular state. Giving a universal legal recognition to the NGOs under international law is necessary because this will ensure the participation of more NGOs in the administration and their decision-making process, which will, in turn, help the political leadership of the country.

### **Human Rights Activism:**

Despite there being documents imposing individual rights like The Magna Carta(1215), The English Bill of Rights(1689), The French Declaration on Rights of Man and Citizen(1789), and the US Constitution on Bill of Rights(1791), it took two devastating World Wars for the people to actually believe human rights should be brought up as an issue on the World stage. The birth of the United Nations in 1945, was a step to recognize human rights issues around the world. UN member states pledged to establish and promote human rights to all. Further, in 1948, the UN adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a vote from a majority of 56 member nations. Its main concern was the recognition of human rights on the global stage. The preamble of the UDHR itself mentions, recognizing equal rights to all members of a family is needed for maintaining freedom and peace in the world.

### **Human Rights And Ngo :**

Human right as the Rights relating to life, liberty, equality, and dignity of individuals guaranteed by constitution or embodied in international covenants. The term non-governmental or more accurately non-profit is normally used to cover the range of organization which go to make civil society. NGO's range from small pressure groups on, For Example, specific environmental concerns or specific human rights violations through Educational charities, Women refuges, Cultural associations, religious organization, legal foundation, humanitarian assistance programs.



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NGO's have a vital role to play in the promotion and protection of human rights specially in the developing countries has the largest number of NGOs whose activities are spared in including the promotion and protection of human rights.

**Bringing the Gap :**

NGOs endeavour to plug gaps in the governments programs and reach out to section's of people often left untouched by state projects.

**Role of an Enabler :**

Community-level outfits and self-help groups are critical for bringing an change in the ground. NGOs and research agencies that have access to foreign funding.

**Acting As Pressure Group :**

There are political NGOs that mobilize public opinion against governments policies and actions to the extent such NGOs are able to educate the public and put on public policy. They act as important pressure groups in a democracy.

**Role In Participative Governance :**

Many civil society initiatives have contributed to some of path breaking laws in the country including the Environmental Protection Act 1986, Right to Education Act 2009, Forest right Act 2006 and Right to Information Act 2005.

**Acting As a Social Mediator :**

The social inter –mediation is an intervention of different levels of society by various agents to change social and behavior attitude within the prevailing social environment for achieving desired results to change the society.

**Role of NGOs in Protection of Human Rights:**

As mentioned above, the scope of NGOs has widened. The Vienna Conference in 1993 conducted by the United Nations, which was attended by roughly around 840 NGOs around the world, pledged for a combined human rights mission. Human rights NGOs work towards the betterment of humanity and help in providing assistance to victims suffering from human rights violations, collecting information on persons violating human rights and reporting the same to various agencies, spreading awareness, and educating about the importance of human rights. In 2007, the United Nations established the Human Rights Council for the protection of human rights around the world. NGOs played an important role by participating in various discussions of the Council. They were instrumental in bringing to the notice of the Council various human rights violations around the world, suggesting different kinds of solutions, and approving certain resolutions.

**Amnesty International :**

Amnesty International is one of the biggest human rights NGOs in the world. Founded



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in 1961, this organization has been pivotal in promoting the protection of human rights around the world. AI has exposed human rights violations by governments, armed militias, political groups, etc.

### **Impact In India :**

International Human Rights Day is celebrated on 10th December around the world with the aim of creating awareness among people about these rights. Kailash Satyarthi, an Indian human rights activist, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 for his efforts against child trafficking and exploitation. However, in India the scenario on human rights is tense. Various human rights issues like extrajudicial killings, rape, domestic violence, custodial deaths, etc. still prevail. In 2019, the National Campaign against torture reported around 125 custodial deaths in India.

### **Milaan Foundation :**

Milaan Foundation is an NGO that basically works towards empowering small girls across the country. This organisation ensures underprivileged girls get all the basic requirements and proper training to stand up for themselves in the future. Till now, the organisation has worked and helped around 40,000 children in the country.

### **Child In Need Institute :**

Child in need institute is a non-profit organisation registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 in India. This organisation works towards the betterment of poor children in the country. The main motive is to break the chain of social issues like poverty, illiteracy, unemployment amongst the underprivileged in the country.

### **Acid Survivors Sahaas Foundation :**

The Acid Survivors Sahaas Foundation provides treatment to acid-attack victims. It also ensures employment and other assistance. This NGO is based in Mumbai and provides aid to around 50 acid-attacks victims across four states in the country.

### **Committee for Legal Aid to the Poor (CLAP) :**

The CLAP works towards providing legal assistance to the poor. It works towards protecting human rights through the process of law.

### **Advocacy For And With Poor :**

In some of the cases Non Governmental Organization can act as ombudsmen for the needy and poor community and makes possible to influence state policies and development on their behalf. Pilot project is proved to be an important in this respect, by arranging or organizing public talk and to get involved the community in it. It is possible only through formulation of government policy and plans, to make research accessible to the public.. Thus NGOs play roles from advocates for the poor to implementers of government programs; from agitators and critics to partners and advisors; from sponsors of pilot projects to mediators.

Role of NGO at International level in protecting human right.



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‘Amnesty International was awarded a Nobel Prize to Peace in 1977’ An international Level Amnesty International is one of the known organization (NGO) works to improve and protect the status of human rights. This Organization is dedicated to publishing infringement of human rights, particularly freedom of speech and religion and right of political dissent. It also works for the release of political prisoners and, when necessary, for the relief of their families. For its commendable services in the field of human rights, Amnesty Following are some important case studies in respect of Protection of Human Rights by the help of Judiciary.

Vishaka V/s State of Rajasthan & Ors

Bandhua Mukti Morcha vs Union Of India & Ors (16 December 1983)

Union for Democratic Rights V/s Police commissioner Delhi, head quarters 1989 4 SCC 730.

Peoples’ Union For Democratic Rights V. State Of Bihar & Ors (19 December 1986)

### **Conclusion :**

NGO mobilize public opinion and contributes a lot to the society by pressurizing the government on certain issues, such as protection of prisoners rights, torture etc. They approach the judiciary on behalf of poor people who otherwise have no access to justice and ask for submission of certain reports and play a special role especially in the developing countries for the development of human rights. The Non Governmental organizations work from elemental level to the national and international level in the protection of human rights. NGO plays a role like a voice of the community as most of the community are not able to express their views and opinion about the things. With the help of judiciary or by hand to hand cooperation with judiciary to achieve the goal. Each and every human is designated to have certain basic human rights which are accessible to them without fear or frown and some sort of human rights are protected by the United Nations and its agencies. In India human rights are protected and saved by the judiciary, human rights commissions, besides it these organizations the Non Governmental organizations also have an important role in protection of human rights as discussed above.

Frequent programme in respect of awareness of human rights should be initiated by the NGO rather than yearly or bimonthly NGOs also need to get more aid both from foreign and within India which will be useful to carry out their cause. NGO should define their area of activities or goal for protection or promotion of the human rights or to achieve their immediate goal. A strategic thinking should be applied wherever possible on a long term basis. Every NGO must have their own ideas and clear goes including priorities to be achieved along with the work plan for individual and staff activities.

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