

International Human Rights Day, 2020

1st Virtual Seminar on Human Rights and Changing Dynamics of Policing

Organised by

Centre for Participatory Democracy

Date- 10th Dec 2020

Introductory Note:

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14th Dalai Lama said, “Peace can only last where human rights are respected, where the people are fed, and where individuals and nations are free”.

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December — the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights(UDHR). The UDHR is a milestone document that proclaims the inalienable rights which everyone is entitled to as a human being - regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. 10th December is an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of human rights in re-building the world we want, the need for global solidarity as well as our interconnectedness and shared humanity.

Over the years world has witnessed an increase in police brutality. Such excesses by the police results in one of the most common and serious violation of the human rights and it happens more often than we care to admit even in our communities. It is precisely to prevent such excesses that range from verbal to physical abuse that there are checks and balances in place in the law. The over enthusiasm with which some law enforcement officers use the resources at their disposal often results in innocent person being injured. While there was great uproar on social media recently regarding the George Floyd murder and police brutality on black people in the US, in India too the Vikas Dubey case and Telangana encounter cases caused considerable debate as well as outcry.

In recent years, there has been a marked increase in the number of cases of police brutality in the prisons as well as outside prisons. This begs the question; has the time come to ratify the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT) and give expression to this by enacting a national law against torture? The Law Commission of India has already submitted the draft Prevention of Torture Bill, 2017 for enactment by the parliament in October 2017, however this has not yet seen the light of day.

Human rights grant all people the right to live with **dignity, freedom, equality, justice, and peace** simply by virtue of being human beings. These rights are guaranteed to everyone without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status. Human rights are essential to the full development of individuals and communities.

There have been arguments justifying the need for excesses and others against. Hence it is important that every section be heard. What is accepted across board is that this issue is brought to the forefront, and appropriate action should ensue. For this it is important that people from multiple walks of society express their views and opinions that arise from each one's experience of reality.

This webinar therefore is an attempt to bring together people from different walks of society. It encourages constructive debate and explores the possibility of the use of modern technology. It seeks to raise awareness of human rights in instances of police excesses as only informed citizens can assert their rights and enjoy the true meaning of social justice and empowerment.

To facilitate the discussion a webinar cum panel discussion is proposed to be organised on the

Theme: Human Rights and Changing Dynamics of Policing.

Date: 10 Dec 2020

Time: 11:00 AM To 12:30 PM

Objectives:

1. Educating citizens about human rights available to them, so that they can voice their opinion.
2. Police reforms in 21st century to make them more humane in nature.
3. Act of balancing: Rights available to Police and Rights available to citizens.

Outcome:

1. Draft a policy paper based on challenges and suggestion and present the same before competent authorities.
2. Call for papers to be announced for the special issue of e-magazine on HR & Policing.

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Organising Team

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