

Three Generations of Rights?

First Generation

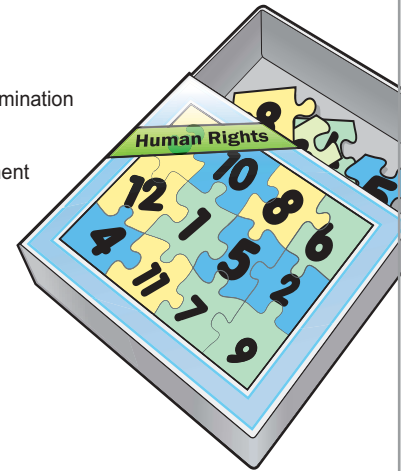
- 1** Civil & political rights
- 6** Right to freedom from arbitrary arrest
- 7** Freedom of assembly
- 9** Freedom of conscience & expression

Second Generation

- 2** Economic & social rights
- 4** Right to health
- 5** Right to education
- 10** Right to employment & housing

Third Generation

- 3** Right to self-determination
- 8** Right to development
- 11** Right to a healthy environment
- 12** Right to cultural heritage



Some human rights commentators have classified human rights into 'three generations of rights' reflecting the different historical periods in which these rights emerged:

- **first generation rights** - associated with civil and political rights (e.g. the right to freedom from arbitrary arrest, to freedom of assembly or freedom of conscience and expression)
- **second generation rights** - those rights which guarantee the economic and social rights of individuals (e.g. the right to health, education, employment and housing)

- **third generation rights** - these rights were not directly included in the Universal Declaration and are usually termed as Group or People's Rights (e.g. the right to self-determination, the right to development etc., and are rights which can only be fully achieved within the context of a community). Some commentators deny the status of human rights to this category, claiming that human rights are by definition only those rights pertaining to an individual.

There is now also talk of a Fourth Generation of Rights linked mostly to issues of Intergenerational Justice or the Rights of Future Generations.