



## THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN MODERN SOCIETY

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**Abstract.** This article analyzes the role of human rights in the development of modern society, as well as their close connection with democratic governance, the rule of law, social justice, civil society, economic development, and security in the digital age. Human rights are considered as a universal system of values that recognizes the inherent dignity, freedom, and equality of every person. The article relies on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations on December 10, 1948, information from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the norms related to human rights in the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In addition, the article discusses modern challenges to human rights, such as discrimination, violence, corruption, information security, protection of personal data, and social inequality. The study concludes that ensuring human rights is not only a legal obligation, but also one of the main factors determining the stability, peace, and development of society.

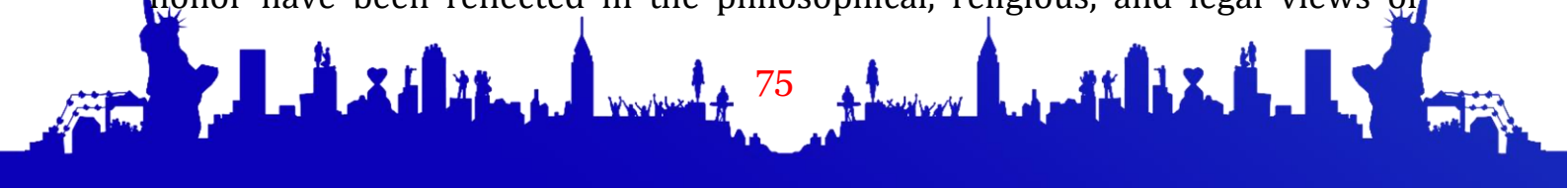
**Keywords:** Human rights, freedom, equality, rule of law, democracy, civil society, social justice, constitution, digital rights, legal culture.

### Introduction

The development of modern society is closely connected with the attitude toward the individual, the recognition of human rights and freedoms, and their practical protection. Today, the level of political, economic, and cultural development of states is measured not only by gross domestic product, industrial growth, or technological indicators, but also by the implementation of such principles as human dignity, justice, equality, freedom, and the rule of law. Therefore, human rights are considered one of the most important criteria of modern society.

Human rights are a set of fundamental rights and freedoms that belong to every person from birth and must be recognized and guaranteed by the state. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, human rights are universal, inalienable, indivisible, and interrelated. This means that the violation of one right may negatively affect the enjoyment of other rights as well.[2]

The idea of human rights has gone through a long historical process of formation. Since ancient times, the concepts of justice, freedom, equality, and honor have been reflected in the philosophical, religious, and legal views of





different peoples. However, the recognition of human rights as a universal international standard strengthened especially after the Second World War. On December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This document, for the first time in human history, defined the basic rights and freedoms that must be protected for all people. The Declaration consists of 30 articles and is still recognized as the main moral and legal foundation of the international human rights system.[1]

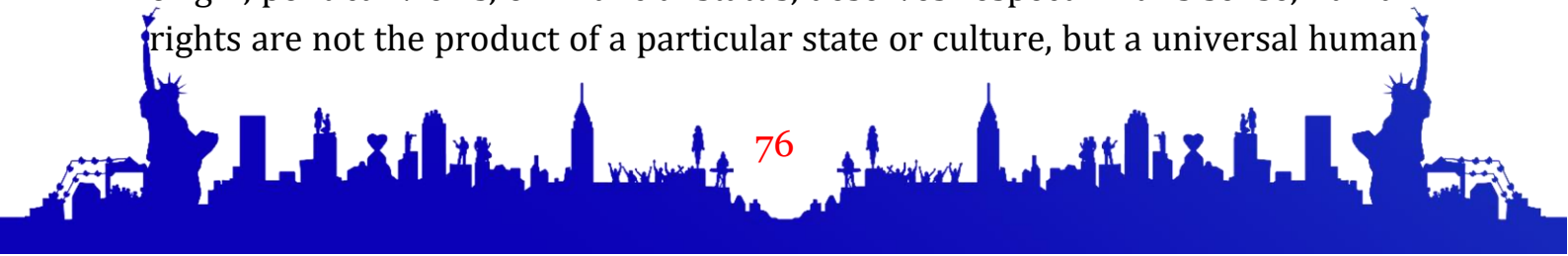
The importance of human rights is explained primarily by the fact that they determine the status of the individual in society. In a society where human rights do not exist or remain only on paper, justice, stability, and trust become weak. A citizen whose rights are not protected does not trust the state, does not actively participate in social life, and cannot fully realize his or her potential. On the contrary, in a society where human rights are guaranteed, a person can think freely, receive education, work, own property, express opinions, participate in governance, and contribute to the development of society.

In the current era of globalization, the meaning and scope of human rights are expanding. In the past, human rights were mainly associated with the right to life, liberty, personal security, freedom of speech, and political participation. Today, however, new issues such as environmental security, digital privacy, gender equality, the rights of persons with disabilities, migration, freedom of information, the use of artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity are also considered within the framework of human rights. Thus, human rights are not a static concept, but a complex socio-legal phenomenon that develops together with society.[6]

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, human rights are also defined as one of the priority directions of state policy. Article 19 of the new edition of the Constitution states that human rights and freedoms in the Republic of Uzbekistan are recognized and guaranteed in accordance with generally recognized norms of international law and the Constitution, and that human rights and freedoms belong to everyone from birth. This norm forms the constitutional basis for honoring human dignity, strengthening the legal status of citizens, and directing the activities of state bodies toward human interests.

### **Main Part**

The essence of human rights is based on the natural dignity of the human being. Every person, regardless of nationality, language, religion, gender, social origin, political views, or financial status, deserves respect. In this sense, human rights are not the product of a particular state or culture, but a universal human





value. The first important principle of human rights is universality. According to this principle, rights belong equally to all people. Regardless of which country a person lives in, which nation he or she belongs to, or which social group he or she represents, every person has the right to enjoy fundamental rights. The second principle is inalienability. This means that human rights are not privileges that can be taken away from a person, but permanent values connected with the natural status of the individual. The third principle is indivisibility and interdependence. For example, if the right to education is restricted, a person's opportunities to work, participate consciously in political processes, and achieve economic well-being also decrease. Therefore, civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights should not be viewed separately, but as a single integrated system.[2] Within the United Nations system, special international mechanisms have been established to protect human rights. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, there are nine core international human rights treaties, and their implementation is monitored by relevant expert committees. In addition, treaty bodies, the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review, and other mechanisms operate within the UN system. This system serves to monitor human rights through international cooperation and to assess the obligations of states.[2]

A democratic society cannot be imagined without human rights. This is because the essence of democracy is based on people's power, citizens' free participation, political pluralism, equality before the law, and individual freedom. If a person cannot freely express his or her opinion, participate consciously in elections, use the right to receive information, or exercise public control over the activities of state bodies, democracy may exist in form, but it becomes weak in essence. Human rights are the main guarantee of democratic governance. Freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, freedom of assembly, independence of the mass media, and the impartiality of the judiciary are the main pillars of a democratic society. These rights allow citizens to act not as passive objects in their relationship with the state, but as active subjects. In modern society, civil society institutions — non-governmental organizations, mass media, trade unions, neighborhood communities, public associations, and independent experts — play an important role in protecting human rights. They monitor the activities of state bodies, raise social issues, protect the interests of vulnerable groups, and contribute to the development of legal culture in society. Therefore, in a society where human rights are developed, the protection of human rights is not only the task of the state, but also the common responsibility of the whole society.





The most important condition for ensuring human rights is the rule of law. The rule of law means that state bodies, officials, and citizens act on the basis of law, that no one is above the law, and that courts operate independently and fairly. Where there is no rule of law, human rights remain without real guarantees. The World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index evaluates the rule of law according to several criteria, including limits on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice. [7] This shows that the connection between human rights and the rule of law is regarded as an important criterion at the international level as well. The rule of law is especially important in the judicial and legal system. Every person must have the right to apply to an independent court, receive legal protection, and achieve fair justice when his or her rights are violated. In a society where the judiciary is not independent, citizens feel unprotected. Such a situation increases social dissatisfaction, a sense of injustice, and distrust toward the state. Therefore, fair justice is a practical guarantee of human rights.

Another important function of human rights in modern society is ensuring social justice. Social justice means that members of society have equal opportunities, use state resources fairly, and are not discriminated against in such basic areas as education, healthcare, employment, housing, and social protection. Economic and social rights create the necessary conditions for citizens to live a decent life. The right to education is the basis for a person's professional development, social activity, and economic independence. The right to healthcare determines a person's quality of life and ability to work. The right to work allows a person to realize his or her potential, support the family, and benefit society. In modern society, social inequality poses a serious threat to human rights. Poverty, unemployment, differences in access to education, restrictions in access to medical services, gender inequality, and barriers for persons with disabilities prevent the full realization of human rights. Therefore, state policy should not be limited to declaring general rights, but must create mechanisms that ensure these rights in real life.

Human rights are also directly connected with economic development. A person whose rights are protected becomes active, initiative-taking, and creative. Such a person has the opportunity to engage in entrepreneurship, own property, receive education, compete in the labor market, and implement innovative ideas. Such an environment is an important condition for economic growth. On the contrary, in a society where legal guarantees are weak, the investment climate





worsens, corruption increases, labor productivity decreases, and citizens cannot fully realize their capabilities. Therefore, ensuring human rights is not a separate issue from economic policy; it is an integral part of it. For example, guaranteeing property rights develops entrepreneurship, protecting labor rights strengthens social stability, and the right to education increases human capital. The modern economy is based on knowledge, technology, and innovation. In such conditions, human creative potential becomes the most important resource. Human rights create the environment that allows this potential to emerge. Free thought, academic freedom, openness of information, gender equality, and social inclusion are necessary conditions for an innovative economy.

In the twenty-first century, human rights are facing new challenges. The Internet, artificial intelligence, big data, social networks, and digital platforms have entered all areas of human life. On the one hand, this process has expanded opportunities for access to information, education, communication, entrepreneurship, and public services. On the other hand, it has created problems such as protection of personal data, digital surveillance, cyberbullying, false information, algorithmic discrimination, and information manipulation. Digital rights are becoming an inseparable part of the modern human rights system. Access to the Internet, privacy of personal data, freedom of expression online, digital security, and fair use of artificial intelligence are urgent issues from the point of view of human rights. If technologies serve human interests, they accelerate social development. However, if they are used without control and responsibility, they may pose a threat to human freedom and privacy. Therefore, modern states must develop legislation, technical security measures, and ethical standards that protect human rights in the digital space as well. Digital development should not become a tool for restricting human rights, but rather a means of expanding and effectively ensuring them.

### **Conclusion**

Human rights are one of the most important criteria determining the moral, legal, political, and social development of modern society. Where there are no human rights, democracy, the rule of law, social justice, a stable economy, and civil society cannot fully develop. Therefore, ensuring human rights is a constitutional, political, and moral obligation of every state. As analyzed in this article, human rights are universal, inalienable, indivisible, and interrelated. They are not limited only to political freedoms, but include many areas such as education, healthcare, labor, social protection, access to information, environmental security, and digital





privacy. Therefore, a comprehensive approach to human rights is necessary in modern society.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, the constitutional foundations of human rights have been strengthened, and reforms aimed at developing a legal system in accordance with international standards are being carried out. The recognition in the Constitution that human rights and freedoms belong to every person from birth is an important legal basis for honoring human dignity. However, ensuring human rights does not end with the adoption of laws. It also requires their practical implementation, increasing citizens' legal culture, strengthening the responsibility of state bodies, and developing public control. In conclusion, a society that respects human rights is a just, stable, free, and progressive society. The protection of human rights is necessary for the dignity of every citizen, the well-being of every family, the stability of every state, and the peaceful future of all humanity.

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