



World Health Organization

# What is the “value-added” of human rights in public health?

## HEALTH & HUMAN RIGHTS

How can human rights support work to strengthen health systems?

What is a human rights-based approach to health?

How does stigma and discrimination inhibit access to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment?

### THE WORK OF WHO ON HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Every country in the world is now party to at least one human rights treaty that addresses health-related rights, including the right to health and a number of rights related to conditions necessary for health.

WHO is actively strengthening its role in providing technical, intellectual and political leadership in the field of health and human rights.

Promoting and protecting health and respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights are inextricably linked:

- Violations or lack of attention to human rights (e.g. harmful traditional practices, slavery, torture and inhuman and degrading treatment, violence against women) can have serious health consequences.
- Health policies and programmes can promote or violate human rights in their design or implementation (e.g. freedom from discrimination, rights to participation, privacy and information).
- Vulnerability to ill health can be reduced by taking steps to respect, protect and fulfil human rights (e.g. freedom from discrimination on account of ethnicity, sex and social status and the rights to food and nutrition, water, education and adequate housing).



HEALTH IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT

### WORK PROGRAMME

The 2008/2009 work plan includes:

- WHO Health and Human Rights Strategy
- Indicators for monitoring the right to health
- Handbook on a human rights-based approach to health in the context of Poverty Reduction Strategies
- Long-distance learning tool on health and human rights
- Project on Indigenous peoples' health and human rights

### OBJECTIVES

- Supporting governments to integrate a human rights-based approach in health development.
- Strengthening WHO’s capacity to integrate a human rights-based approach in its work.
- Advancing the right to health in international law and international development processes.

## COMING SOON

### Annotated bibliography

The WHO annotated bibliography on health and human rights consists of key, germinal writings on the subject. It will be accessible on line in the form of a database, searchable by health topic, author and title.

### Global database

The database on legal instruments and case law on the right to health will allow users to search across international and regional instruments, national constitutions and case law by right (i.e. right to health, right to food) or by health topic (i.e. communicable disease, HIV/AIDS).

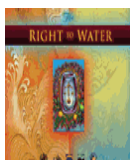
## PUBLICATIONS



**"25 Questions & Answers on Health and Human Rights"** provides answers to key questions which come to mind in exploring the linkages between health and human rights. *Available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Khmer, Mongolian, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish, Tagalog (Filipino), Vietnamese, Korean and soon in Portuguese.*



**"WHO's Contribution to the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance: Health and Freedom from Discrimination"**. This publication considers the linkages between racial discrimination and health. *Available in English, French and Spanish.*



**"The Right to Water"** addresses water as a human right and examines its implications on the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders.



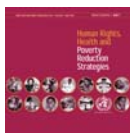
**"International Migration, Health and Human Rights"** draws attention to important human rights challenges that migration poses for health policy-makers. *Available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.*



**"The Right to Health"** cartoon has been developed in recognition of the fact that improving awareness and understanding of the right to health is an essential prerequisite to operationalizing this right. *Available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.*



**"HIV/AIDS Stand Up For Human Rights"** cartoon launched by the United Nations Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Joint Programme for HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and WHO, is designed to empower young people to promote human rights in relation to HIV/AIDS. *Available in English, French, Portuguese, Spanish & Thai, and soon in Tagalog (Filipino) & Tok Pisin (Papua New Guinea).*



**"Human Rights, Health and Poverty Reduction Strategies"** is intended to provide a tool for health policy-makers to design, implement and monitor a poverty reduction strategy through a human rights-based approach.



Video: **"Health, my right!"** The objective of this video is to raise awareness about, and understanding of, the right to health. Three students explore together the key components of the right to health by reviewing international legal instruments and discussing how these apply in practice - in the everyday lives of people around the world.

For more information please see our website [www.who.int/hhr](http://www.who.int/hhr)

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