

Chapter 2. Rights, Prohibitions, and Interests: Clues for Screening International Conventions.

We could categorize international Conventions and Declarations dealing with human and labor rights as emphasizing either rights and liberties, or prohibitions, or human interests.

a) An Emphasis on Rights and Liberties

Rights are usually defined as "what-is-due" to human beings (and sometimes nonhuman beings) following from their own nature or species. Rights are then universal, because they characterize species rather than individuals. Some basic rights and liberties have been recognized by many international Conventions.

As to the labor rights, we could find out:

- freedom of association (ILO Convention, no 87)
- collective bargaining (ILO Convention no 98)
- right to work in just and favourable conditions; right to social security; right to decent standards of living; right to education (UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)
- right to life; freedom of opinion and expression; right to security; right to privacy; right to a fair trial; freedom of conscience and religion; liberty of movement; right to peaceful assembly (UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights)

b) An Emphasis on Prohibited Human Behaviors

Prohibitions are more rooted in cultures and civilizations than in human nature, although some of them are quite close to universal taboos, thus to human nature. Prohibitions actually show