

dependent relationship between humanitarian problems, human rights issues and the conditions of peace. It states, among other things, that in order to create conditions of stability and well-being, which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations, the UN shall promote:

solutions of international economic, social, health and related problems; and international cultural and educational cooperation; and

universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.

Article 56 pledges all members to take joint and separate action in cooperation with the UN to achieve the purposes set forth in Article 55.

These Articles comprise the nucleus of potential United Nations action in defence of human rights and in promotion of humanitarian enterprises.⁵ The Charter does not, however, define those human rights in any detail or establish the conditions of humanitarian aid. This is done in supplementary documents. Cited together they amount to a formidable injunction on behalf of those attempting to negotiate humanitarian ceasefires. They are exemplified by: The Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 1977; The Universal Declaration of Human Rights; The International Covenants on Human Rights; and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide. These documents will be discussed in terms of the various Articles contained therein that may be particularly germane for those hoping to arrange humanitarian ceasefires.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The most basic human right contravened by war is the right to life. This right is inherent, and is established by Article 3 of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

⁵ See: Peter Macalister-Smith, *International Humanitarian Assistance: Disaster Relief Actions in International Law and Organization*, Dordrecht, Netherlands: Martinus Nijhoff, 1985, pp. 57-59.