Human Rights

Human rights refers to the concept of human beings as having universal rights, or status, regardless of legal jurisdiction or other localizing factors, such as ethnicity and nationality. The existence, validity and the content of human rights continue to be the subject to debate in philosophy and political science.

Legally, human rights are defined in international law and covenants, and further, in the domestic laws of many states. However, for many people the doctrine of human rights goes beyond law and forms a fundamental moral basis for regulating the contemporary geo-political order. For them, they are democratic ideals. The term "human rights" has replaced the term "natural rights" in popularity, because the rights are less and less frequently seen as requiring natural law for their existence.

Where it has been adopted, human rights legislation commonly contains:

- **security rights** that protect people against crimes such as murder, massacre, torture and rape.

- **liberty rights** that protect freedoms in areas such as belief and religion, association, assembling and movement.
• **political rights** that protect the liberty to participate in politics by expressing themselves, protesting, voting and serving in public office.

• **due process rights** that protect against abuses of the legal system such as imprisonment without trial, secret trials and excessive punishments.

• **equality rights** that guarantee equal citizenship, equality before the law and nondiscrimination.

• **welfare rights** (also known as economic or social rights) that require the provision of education and protections against severe poverty and starvation.

• **group rights** that provide protection for groups against ethnic genocide and for the ownership by countries of their national territories and resources. (Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights" Jun 18, 2006).

The Malaysian Government's commitment to human rights is clearly reflected by the enactment of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia Act 1999, Act 597. The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) was then established in the September 1999 with the task to promote and protect human rights in Malaysia. In order to carry out its duties and functions more
effectively, specific working groups was formed on education and promotions, law reform, treaties and international instruments, economic, social and cultural rights, and complaints and inquiries.

Violence

On October 3, 2002, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the first World Report on Violence and Health. In it, violence is defined as "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person or against a group or community, which either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation".

Violence refers to acts of aggression and abuse which causes or intends to cause criminal injury or harm to persons, and (to a lesser extent) animals and property. The term "violence" also connotes an aggressive tendency to act out destructive behaviors. Violence falls into essentially two forms: random violence, which includes unpremeditated or small-scale violence, and coordinated violence, which includes actions carried out by sanctioned or
unsanctioned violent groups—as in war (i.e. *inter-societal violence*) and terrorism ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Violence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Violence)).

The issue of violence relate to conflict episode because chronic situation of conflict remained unsolved for a period of time prior to the violent act (Dana, 2001). Most research on violence found that verbal aggression will turn to violence when communication efforts fail to get their way. The model of aggression in generals of violence domestic episodes have been proposed:

1. a verbal confrontation, which is followed by
2. threats by the person who will employ the violence and evasive action taken by the victim in an effort to stave off the violence attack, which is followed by
3. physical violence (Lulofs and Cahn, 2000).

Lulofs and Cahn (2000) stated that violence, is an event progressing from an out-of-control conflict episode to another new issue. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that each year around 1.6 million lives are lost world-wide due to violence. It is among the leading causes of death for people ages 15-44. Its impact is greater among the male than the female population.
**Stereotype and Generalizations**

When people judge someone on the basis of our perception of the group to which he or she belongs, they are using the shortcut called stereotyping. Stereotypes can be both helpful and problematic. They are helpful when they give us a starting point to start thinking about something or someone. However, they can also be problematic, when people are inaccurately stereotyped. Since stereotype may not contain a shred of truth or may be irrelevant (Robbins, 1996).

Generalizations, however, are different from stereotypes. Rather than being based on experiences as a stereotype is, generalizations are based on data and can be applied to a majority of the members in a population. Generalizations based on research but not stereotypes (McLean, 2006).

**Activities**

1. Determine another important issue related to conflict management.
2. Discuss how the issues can be considered in handling conflict at the different context (situation) or level.