

Understanding Human Rights

Session Hand-Out

Use information from the in-class readings and discussions to answer the questions below (when prompted).

1. What are "human rights?" How did they become international law?
2. What three categories are human rights often grouped into? What does each category of rights protect?
3. The reading asks "Do human rights work?" How would you answer that question after completing the reading? Use specific evidence to support your answer.
4. Look at the colors on your copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Think about the world and think about your own country. Which category of rights do you think is most at risk right now? Which article do you think is most frequently violated? Why?
5. Answer one of the following questions on the back of this paper.
 - a. Choose one right from each color category that you rely on in your daily life. Write the article number and explain in one sentence why it matters to you.
 - b. Choose one right that you think is most at risk for people your age. Which article is it, and why do you think it's under threat?
 - c. Look back at your answer to question 3: "Do human rights work?" How would you modify your answer in response to our class discussions today? If you would not change your answer, why not?