

Module 2: Mandated Tasks of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

Lesson 2.3



Protection of Human Rights



Relevance

Peacekeeping personnel must:

- Recognize and respond to human rights violations/abuses
- Protect and promote human rights



Learning Outcomes

Learners will:

- Identify human rights violations/abuses
- Explain UN policies on human rights
- Identify human rights-related roles in mission
- Describe coordination role of human rights unit
- List actions to take when human rights violations/abuses are observed



Lesson Overview

1. Definitions
2. Importance of Human Rights Protection
3. Legal Framework
4. UN Partners Leading in Human Rights
5. UN Policies on Human Rights
6. Human Rights in UN Peacekeeping
7. Roles & Responsibilities
8. What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do



Learning Activity

2.3.1

Trauma of War

Instructions:

- Consider the testimonies of civilians
- Which human rights are at risk?
- What is your responsibility as the UN?
- Discuss “vulnerability”, “duty to protect” and “trust”

Time: 10-15 minutes

- Group work: 5-7 minutes
- Discussion: 5-7 minutes



Learning Activity

2.3.2

Human Rights – Violations and Abuse

Instructions:

- What is the difference between human rights violations and human rights abuses?
- Give examples of human rights violations

Time: 10 minutes

- Brainstorming: 5-7 minutes
- Discussion: 3 minutes



1. Definitions

Violations & Abuses

- **Human rights violation:** action/inaction of state official or agent – police, soldier, judge, local administrator, parliamentarian
- **Human rights abuse:** committed by non-state actors – rebel groups, corporations, individuals



2. Importance of Human Rights Protection

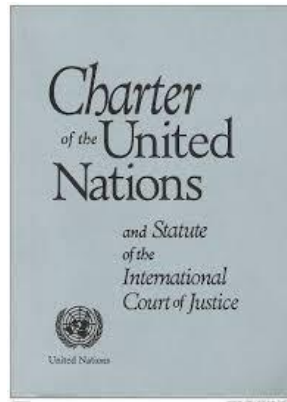
- Human rights – a core pillar of the UN
- “We will not enjoy development without security, we will not enjoy security without development and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights”





3. Legal Framework

- UN Charter
- International Human Rights Law
- Security Council resolutions





4. UN Partners Leading in Human Rights

- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)





5. UN Policies on Human Rights

- “Human Rights up Front” (HRuF) Initiative (2013)
- UN Policy on Human Rights in UN Peace Operations and Political Missions (2011)
- UN Policy on Human Rights Screening of UN Personnel (2012)
- Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN Support to Non-UN Security Forces (2013)



6. Human Rights in UN Peacekeeping

- Integrate into every day work
- Support national capacity





7. Roles & Responsibilities

Human Rights Unit

- Monitor and investigate human rights violations/abuses
- Produce internal and public reports
- Advocacy and intervention
- Strengthen national/local capacity
- Coordination and mainstreaming in PKO, UNCT and Humanitarian Country Team

Goal

Protection
Empowerment



Other Units

Rule of Law/Justice

Corrections

Gender Adviser

Women Protection Adviser

Child Protection

Protection of Civilians

SSR

Civil Affairs

Electoral

DDR

Political Affairs

DSRSG/RC/HC

SRSO's Office



Special Roles of Police

- Mentoring
- Vetting, training and advising
- Investigating
- Reporting



Human Rights



Special Roles of Military





8. What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do

- Take note of facts
- Immediately report
- Protect sensitive information
- Consult Human Rights component
- Promote understanding – translators
- Avoid false expectations – victims, witnesses
- Appropriate intervention
- Follow the situation



Learning Activity

2.3.3

Essential Information to Record

Instructions:

- Consider the testimonies of civilians
- Document human rights violations and abuses
- Record key information for investigation and follow-up

Time: 5 minutes

- Brainstorming: 3 minutes
- Discussion: 2 minutes



Summary of Key Messages

- Violations/abuses – state/non-state actors
- UN policies on human rights – integrate into activities, screen UN personnel, compliance of non-UN security forces
- All personnel play a role – coordination role of Human Rights component
- Take action – report, coordinate, intervene



Questions



Learning Activity

Learning Evaluation