

HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

Updated 11 June 2025

PREAMBLE

Human rights are universal and inalienable; indivisible; interdependent and interrelated - encompassing fundamental freedoms and entitlements that all individuals possess, regardless of their background or status. They are interconnected and must be upheld equally. Human rights are inherent to all people, regardless of race, sex gender, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, geographical region or any other status. It includes the right to life and liberty, security, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of thought, opinion and expression, and the right to education. It includes the right to live one's life with liberty, freedom from slavery, without torture or intimidation, with freedom of speech, the equal right to work, and to live with respect and dignity. Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discrimination.

VISION

The vision of APGF is a world in which the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) are universally implemented. Where national and international compliance with International Human Rights Law is prioritised, laying down the obligations of governments to promote, protect, and respect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals and groups.

NEW RIGHTS

Human Rights obligations are articulated in agreements including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Protocols; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Protocols; and many other international conventions for the protection of rights and freedoms. These new and revised rights need clear APGF actions at local, national and international levels.

In 2022, the United Nations included the universal human right, "to live in "a clean, health and sustainable environment". This right acknowledges the impacts of climate change; and it also calls on State Members, and other key international organizations to scale up efforts to turn that into reality. And so, APGF shall uphold rights whilst exploring what this means at Country Levels; and APGF will also discuss, review and re-formulate APGF positions concerning other human rights that have been prioritised due to escalating global priorities, including:

- Arbitrary Detention
- Crimes Against Humanity
- Forced Disappearance
- Sexual and Gender-based Violence

- Genocide
- Summary Execution
- Torture
- War Crimes
- Genocide

OBJECTIVES

The APGF objective shall ensure adherence to the international human rights law that guides the obligations of governments to act in certain ways or to refrain from certain acts, in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups.

The APGF objective is a strong national human rights system that monitors, protects, and enforces human rights for all regardless of race, sex, sexual preference, or other discriminatory measures; and there is active participation in and compliance with international human rights bodies, legislation, and practices.

ACTIONS

Universal human rights are fundamental and must be respected and protected in all countries and for all people. Economic, social, cultural, environmental, civil and political rights are universal, interdependent, inseparable, and interrelated; and therefore, APGF will do the following:

Human Rights at Party/Community Level

- Work with local communities to promote awareness of human rights and ensure their Protection.
- Ensure equal opportunity to participate in the decision-making processes that affect peoples' lives and environments.
- Ensure the right to work and the right to social protection in just and favourable conditions.
- Ensure the right to free expression and assembly with all economic, social and cultural Rights intact.
- Ensure that everyone has the right to equal pay for equal work without discrimination.
- Ensure an adequate standard of living and the highest attainable standards of physical and mental well-being.
- Ensure the right to education and the enjoyment of benefits of cultural freedom and scientific progress.

- Ensure equal rights and community obligations as citizens, without imposing unwanted conformity to the values and lifestyle of the dominant culture or government.
- Recognise that all communities, whether empowered or disadvantaged and discriminated, are sections of society deserving of protection by law without discrimination based on ethnicity, race, faith, religion, sex, language, geographical location, or any other status.
- Support the rights of Nature to exist and to flourish, through legal protections developed in partnership with local communities.
- Legislate to protect the community and environment where a company proposes to carry out an activity in the community which would violate that community's rights.
- Oppose and actively legislate against torture, including stoning.
- Put an end to the death penalty, oppose the death penalty in all cases, and support campaigns for its abolition where it still exists with abolitionist or retentionist countries.

Human Rights at National Level

- Uphold the rights of women to make their own decisions, including control of their fertility by the means they deem appropriate, free from discrimination or coercion.
- Secure effective national recognition and observance of the principles and spirit expressed in the UDHR Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Ratify and adhere to all international human rights conventions including their optional protocols.
- Ensure that international human rights law is also protected by national legislation that is binding on the government and is respected, protected, and promoted domestically.
- Ensure compliance of the international human rights law by the government to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups.
- Condemn political violence used to intimidate opponents as strongly as torture, illegal imprisonment, uncontrolled personal data disclosure or extraordinary rendition by particular governments.
- Free political prisoners and ensure torturers are brought to justice through the judicial system in a timely manner.
- Protect citizens subjected to human rights abuses by foreign countries.
- Promote agreed international human rights with other countries, including the application of diplomatic and commercial pressures on regimes and governments that violate human rights.

- Uphold the rights of human rights activists/defenders, environmental campaigners and the right to free speech, protest, and to publicly and freely express their views. Undertake serious and international investigations if these activists disappear or are killed/murdered, and the people responsible are identified and brought to justice through the judicial system.

Human Rights at Regional Level

- Support the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- Put an end to the trafficking and sex trafficking of women and children.
- Put an end to slavery of all kinds
- Put an end to the practice of forced evictions, territorial invasions, and land grabs for resources on the basis of ethnic, religious, territorial or development claims
- Support and promote efforts to further develop, refine and articulate the rights of communities and of nature in binding international agreements.
- Ensure a multi-pronged approach like international legal frameworks, robust monitoring and investigation, and targeted interventions, along with promoting education and awareness regarding the violations of the human rights in the conflict zones including genocides, warlike situations, strife, political repressions, economic sanctions, and religious discrimination.
- Support the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and support moves for indigenous people to establish and work through their own international bodies.
- Support the rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples to self-determination, land rights, and access to traditional hunting and fishing rights for their own subsistence, using humane and ecologically sustainable techniques.
- Oppose and act against dictatorships and regimes that deny human rights, regardless of their political claims through measures such as diplomacy, sanctions, trade, stopping arms and components of arms supplies.
- Ensure that governments keep human rights violations firmly on the agenda during their diplomatic and international duties.

Human Rights at International Level

- Endorse and call for enactment of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions, UN Declaration on Indigenous Rights, other international instruments, and the Global Greens Charter - for the protection of rights and freedoms, and endorse resourced implementation at all levels – community, national, regional and international.
- Call for the UDHR Universal Declaration of Human Rights to be amended to include rights to a healthy natural environment, including oceans, and intergenerational rights to natural and cultural resources.
- Ensure that the UN Commission for Human Rights and other treaty bodies are adequately resourced so they can operate effectively at all levels.

- Promote and strengthen the role of the International Criminal Court and use all available means to encourage all nations to ratify the Rome Statute which is the law of treaties obliging all states to refrain from "acts which would defeat the object and purpose" of the treaty, until they declare they do not intend to become a party to the treaty.
- Strongly oppose and work against any forms of genocide or attacks on any one race by another for reasons of land access, resources, and cultural or ethnic grounds.
- In occupied countries or territories - assure aid such as shelter, food and water and basic necessities; ensure freely accessed and protected aid routes to prioritised population groups, including refugees. To block aid routes is a human rights violation, as is the deliberate use of famine and starvation on civilians.
- Assure access to political prisoners from agencies such as the Red Crescent and Red Cross and other international aid agencies.

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