



International Legal Protection of Human Dignity

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Abstract:

The international human rights system is based on a set of international conventions and bodies concerned with their protection. Human dignity, as an inherent right linked to the individual, is among the most important rights under this protection, as it represents one of the greatest challenges facing the international community, particularly because the concept of human dignity is broad and depends on the legal and political system of each state.

International legal efforts have codified the protection and respect of human dignity by promoting a dignified life for individuals without discrimination based on race, religion, sex, or social status.

Keywords: Human Rights, Human Dignity, International Conventions, International Bodies

Introduction:

Since human dignity emanates from the human being itself and is inherent to them, the right to respect it constitutes an absolute principle that cannot be violated or waived. It is a sacred right enshrined in most positive laws, giving it a universal character. The principle of human dignity gained critical importance in the international legal system following the massacres and horrific atrocities committed against humanity during the First and Second World Wars.

The principle of respecting human dignity is closely linked to human rights, which in turn requires its preservation and protection through concentrated international efforts. While some view respect for human dignity as a supreme societal value guaranteed by natural law, most states and international bodies tasked with human rights aim to ensure this guarantee by protecting human integrity and dignity under both international human rights law and international humanitarian law. However, human dignity as a fundamental principle, despite its global recognition, remains a concept still ambiguous to many researchers and philosophers. Its content is broad and cannot be precisely defined because it touches the profound nature of the human being. Dignity is inherent to the human being and represents one of the most essential characteristics of human personality.

Therefore, studying the essence of human dignity and its legal protection under international law raises the question: To what extent is human dignity enshrined in international law, and how effective are international efforts in upholding the principle of respect for human dignity?



To explore this, the study addresses the topic by defining the principle of human dignity from an international perspective in **Chapter One**, and examining international mechanisms for its protection in **Chapter Two**.

Chapter One: The International Perspective on the Principle of Respecting Human Dignity

The international system has emphasized the principle of human dignity as an inherent human right, especially due to its close link to fundamental human rights. Its concept is associated with the principles of a dignified life, equality among humans, and non-discrimination for any reason, whether religious, racial, or otherwise.

This chapter includes the embodiment of the principle of respect for human dignity in the international system and its significance (**Section One**), followed by the classification of international jurisprudence regarding human dignity as a human right (**Section Two**).

Section One: Embodiment of the Principle of Respecting Human Dignity in the International System and Its Importance

The principle of respect for human dignity, as a foundation of human rights, is characterized by its conceptual ambiguity at the international level. Human rights, including respect for human dignity, encompass ideas from political, philosophical, legal, economic, and social domains, as well as collective and individual rights. This diversity leads to differing interpretations of the principle socially and even within religions.

Subsection One: Evolution of the Idea of Respecting Human Dignity in the International Legal System

Since the right to human dignity is inherent to the individual, it first appeared in the American Declaration and then in the French Declaration of 1789. The principle of human dignity forms a basis for human rights in international conventions since 1948. The term “human dignity” implies the requirement to respect individuals. The evolution of human rights has manifested in measures such as the prohibition of slavery in the Vienna Conventions of February 1815, the Aix-la-Chapelle Conference of 1818, the Verona Conference of 1822, the suppression of slavery and slave trade and protection of indigenous populations at the Berlin Conference of 1885, and in Brussels in 1890. Reviewing international conventions and agreements shows that they have not provided a clear and precise definition of the principle of respecting human dignity. This is due, as mentioned, to the inherent ambiguity of human rights principles in general and the principle of human dignity in particular, given differing political and philosophical perspectives.

Although international conventions and agreements did not define the principle precisely, they recognized the right of individuals to protect their dignity through fair treatment and equality among all persons. For example, the preamble of the United Nations Charter of 1945 states: “We reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small.” Article 55(c) of the UN Charter



specifies: “...promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion, and to ensure that these rights and freedoms are effectively realized.”

The Preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: “Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world.” Paragraph five reaffirms that “...the peoples of the United Nations have reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person.” Article one declares: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”

Additionally, the preambles of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights affirm that all human beings possess inherent dignity, making human dignity the cornerstone of these covenants. They guarantee the right to life, liberty, security, and basic rights such as health, education, and a decent standard of living, while prohibiting slavery and criminalizing torture, thereby establishing a world founded on security, peace, and justice.

The African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights also affirms the right of every individual to respect for their dignity, as does the Arab Charter on Human Rights, reflecting the Arab nation’s belief in human dignity.

Moreover, many international agreements enshrine the principle of respecting human dignity, such as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979), and the European Convention on Human Rights (1950).

Subsection Two: The Importance of Respecting Human Dignity in the International System

Human dignity represents one of the most essential foundations of human societies. Some jurists argue that the most important lesson learned worldwide from World War II is the recognition by governments that human dignity must be protected as the highest value of the constitutional system. Consequently, human dignity is central to civilization, encompassing cultural, spiritual, intellectual, and material components, ensuring stability and continuity of life.

The principle of respecting human dignity is global in scope, aiming to protect the essence of humanity and allow individuals to live freely and with dignity. Its importance lies in achieving justice and development, peace and security, and protecting individuals from oppression and discrimination by promoting equality and freedom of thought and conscience.

The significance of the principle is reflected in the following:

- **Cornerstone and foundation of human rights:** Human dignity derives its strength from being the essence of human existence and forms the basis for all fundamental rights and freedoms, including the right to life, liberty, education, and work, as affirmed in the



Preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Recognition of inherent dignity is the principle ensuring equality and non-discrimination.

- **Building just and equal societies:** Upholding human dignity helps create a discrimination-free environment, guarantees equal opportunities, and protects the rights of all individuals, ensuring fairness and equity.
- **Achieving peace and stability:** Respect for human dignity helps prevent conflicts and injustice, fosters social stability, reduces violence and war, and promotes comprehensive well-being and justice.
- **Supporting human development:** It improves access to essential services such as education and health, supporting societal growth.
- **Barrier against extremism:** The principle recognizes the intrinsic value of each person, prevents humiliation or dehumanization, and promotes mutual respect and self-esteem, acting as a barrier against extremism and intolerance.

Attempts by international jurisprudence to define the principle of respect for human dignity have not produced a comprehensive and inclusive definition, which is reflected in international conventions and agreements. It is difficult to formulate a single definition because dignity is not a specific standard but a concept encompassing all principles and rights.

Section Two: Classification of International Jurisprudence on Human Dignity as a Human Right

Regarding types of human rights, international jurisprudence classifies them based on quantity into individual and collective rights. They are also classified by subject matter into personal, civil, economic, cultural, social, and political rights. Respect for human dignity, as a human right, has been categorized in jurisprudence with dimensions that help identify its nature and type relative to other human rights. Human dignity is considered an individual right tied to the value and essence of the person, deserving respect, recognition, and protection. It is also an inalienable right that cannot be waived or diminished. Additionally, it is a collective right linked to the recognition and respect of others' dignity, necessitating a collective obligation to protect these rights and harmonize individual and group rights within a coherent system for peaceful coexistence.

Subsection One: Respect for Human Dignity as an Individual Right

The principle of respecting human dignity is considered one of the rights inherent to the person, and it is called so due to its connection with the components of personality, and given that it is one of the rights that pertain to elements of the personality, which are established for every human being. Therefore, these rights are enjoyed by both citizens and foreigners alike.

The individual dimension of the right to respect human dignity develops in the individual a sense of their position among other individuals, as every person has the right to have their dignity



respected in society, to the extent necessary to achieve their satisfaction. To clarify human dignity as an individual right, it is necessary to define the elements of its individual dimension:

01 / Human dignity is intrinsic and inherent to the human being

Human dignity is considered an inherent and inseparable right for the human being. It is an essential value with which one is born and cannot be taken away or waived for any reason or consideration. Human dignity is a right that accompanies a person from birth, emphasizing the values of freedom and human dignity, commitment to ethical principles, and respect for human life.

Considering the legal classifications of rights, which rely on the perspective from which these rights are viewed, there are political rights and civil rights. Political rights are enjoyed only by those who hold the nationality of the state granting the right, whereas civil rights are enjoyed by every person residing in the territory of the state granting the right, whether citizen or non-citizen. Civil rights are divided into general and private rights. The right to respect human dignity is considered one of the private rights inherent to the human being, granted from birth, and is among the fundamental components of personality in its various aspects. It is also known as a personal right because it is one of the rights that cannot be dispensed with, being inseparable from the human person. The characteristics of personal rights include:

- **Inseparable from the person:** Given that they are connected to the human being as a living entity, they cannot be separated and are established simply by existence.
- **Non-financial, general, and absolute rights:** Personal rights are non-financial and lie outside the realm of financial transactions. They are general in nature, as the public enjoys these rights. Their absolute nature means that personal rights are enforceable against everyone.
- **Non-transferable:** They cannot be sold, waived, or transferred, either for consideration or gratuitously. They also cannot be seized because they are inherent to the human person and exist with their being.
- **Not subject to limitation periods:** They are established from birth and are not subject to the statute of limitations, whether extinctive or acquisitive, even if a long period has passed. However, the statute of limitations does apply to civil claims arising from violations of this right, such as claims for compensation for unlawful acts, which are subject to general rules.
- **Non-inheritable:** These rights do not transfer to heirs. They exist with the person and terminate with the end of their existence, meaning personal rights cannot be inherited either through natural succession or testamentary disposition.
- **Create a financial right to compensation:** Although non-financial, violations of these rights generate a financial right, allowing for claims for material or moral damages.

Considering the characteristics of human dignity as a personal right, it is guaranteed to every person. Each individual must feel esteemed and honorable, and it is not permissible to humiliate or belittle them under any circumstances. Human dignity is a divine gift from the Creator. It is not a



transient attribute but the essence of existence. The principle of respecting human dignity is fundamentally based on human existence. God Almighty honored humans, as He says: (*“And We have certainly honored the children of Adam and carried them on the land and sea and provided them with good things and preferred them over many of those We created, with [definite] preference.”*)

Individual human dignity supports the interests of the individual, but other forms of dignity may require choosing between individual and collective dignity. Thus, individual rights related to inherited dignity may yield or give way to the interests of the state, but the interests of dignity favor the individual.

Since human dignity is inherent to the human being, it makes the right inherently linked to the individual and a necessary extension of their existence. It cannot be separated from them and therefore cannot be dealt with, sold, waived, or seized.

02 / Human dignity is recognition of the self

The principle of respecting human dignity requires recognizing the individual as the holder of an inherent right and treating them as an end, not a means, by preserving their value and human dignity from any deviation, fault, or flaw that may harm it. The principle involves the development of the person’s self, abilities, and potential, preserving them from anything that diminishes or harms them, and continually developing and enhancing their capacities.

The principle is also linked to self-esteem and self-respect, and recognition of the value of the self. Promoting self-respect through the principle of respecting human dignity contributes to well-being, reassurance, and a happier life, while developing positive self-confidence. It also affects the respect for the dignity, privacy, property, and rights of others, fostering healthy relationships and better self-expression through the fulfillment of mutual rights and obligations. Self-esteem and recognition are psychological factors of great importance for individuals in achieving a dignified and happy life.

03 / Human dignity protects against violations

Human dignity includes the individual’s right to protection from violations or harm, even in the most extreme circumstances such as wars. Human dignity strengthens the rule of law, which must be guided by core values aimed at protecting the rights and freedoms of individuals. There is no true rule of law without recognizing human dignity as a supreme value and providing mechanisms to ensure its respect and protection. Serious violations of human dignity conflict with the rule of law and constitute a major obstacle to its establishment amid existential wars involving religious, political, or nationalist groups. Violations of human dignity are exacerbated by criminal behavior, extremist conflicts, or corrupt governance, all of which without exception undermine the rule of law.



Subsection Two: Respecting Human dignity as a collective right

While the principle of respecting human dignity is an individual and personal right inherent to every person from birth, at the same time, upholding this principle requires mutual commitment within society by respecting others and providing all necessary material and social conditions for development and flourishing, ensuring justice and social cohesion for all. To clarify human dignity as a collective right, it is necessary to address the elements of its collective dimension:

01 / Human dignity achieves social justice

The principle of respecting human dignity is closely linked to achieving social justice. An individual cannot develop their abilities or enjoy their dignity without social justice among members of the same society, which requires decent living conditions for everyone. Achieving social justice entails the absence of disparities among individuals and groups within the state, requiring a fair distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges to ensure equal opportunities and equality among citizens. This grants individuals equal fields and opportunities to achieve equity, solidarity, and mutual support, by providing basic rights for each person in society, such as health, education, and social security, while promoting community participation and influencing decisions to achieve results necessary for political stability and social integration, requiring reforms to achieve sustainable development for all, free from marginalization and exclusion.

Considering human dignity as a collective right that cannot be disposed of or waived, it must be respected by both individuals and the community, as an individual and collective right, with mutual obligations. The individual's right ends where the rights of others begin, aiming to achieve public interest and protect public order.

02 / Human dignity achieves peace and stability

The principle of respecting human dignity enhances social stability, prevents conflicts, and ensures security and peace within society. The foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world is human dignity. It also contributes to comprehensive human development and building societies based on justice and equality, guiding individuals toward cooperation, construction, and welfare instead of conflicts and wars. It is a fundamental principle in human rights and international law and is essential for achieving human, political, and social security.

03 / Human dignity is a mutual obligation

Human dignity is a mutual obligation, requiring respect for the dignity of others and avoiding humiliation, to the same extent that one's own dignity is respected. It also necessitates contributing to building a society free from discrimination and violence by treating every individual as a being of intrinsic value, which constitutes a shared responsibility among individuals, communities, and states. Every person must treat others with respect and appreciation and ensure their right to live with dignity. This responsibility is embodied in legislation and human rights, including protection



from humiliation and degradation in all circumstances, regardless of race, religion, or social class. Human dignity as a mutual obligation requires providing each other with the conditions to live with dignity as the basis for building just and prosperous societies.

Chapter Two: International Mechanisms for the Protection of Human Dignity

States, as the primary guarantors of individuals' rights, aim to ensure compliance with the provisions of conventions related to human rights. Protecting human dignity as a foundation of human rights is a subject of interest for peoples and international bodies, due to the care and efforts of individuals in obtaining, protecting, and promoting their rights.

Given the importance of the principle of respecting human dignity as a foundation of human rights, it has acquired significant international value, owing to the international conventions and agreements that have sought to enshrine it, starting with the United Nations Charter (First Section), as well as the international institutions and bodies established for its protection (Second Section).

Section One: International Instruments for the Protection of Human Dignity

International legislation generally confirms the importance of the human being as a living entity and emphasizes the necessity of respecting and preserving their dignity from any infringement. Since the principle of respecting human dignity is an inherent right inseparable from the individual, the international community is obliged to take all possible measures and intensify efforts to protect humans and preserve their dignity. The international instruments for protecting human dignity include treaties, agreements, and declarations issued by the United Nations and other international bodies, forming an international legal framework binding on ratifying states. These instruments set rules governing relations between states or regulate specific areas to protect individuals and enhance their dignity.

Subsection One: International Charters

The principle of respecting human dignity, as one of the most important pillars of human rights, has received significant attention at all levels, recognizing the individual's right to have their dignity respected and preserved from any infringement. International charters provide a means to achieve this protection, especially in light of abuses faced by individuals worldwide, including violations of fundamental rights guaranteed under international law, such as attacks on honor and reputation, privacy violations, and other acts affecting human dignity.

Among the most important international charters concerning human dignity are the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the two International Covenants on Civil, Political, Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. The international community has witnessed violations of human dignity since ancient times, even before the UN Charter, through inhumane treatment, various forms of torture, injustice, slavery, and exploitation. Protection of human dignity prior to the UN Charter was based on scattered customary and legal principles without a unified



international system. The codification of international law effectively began after the Charter, with the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The United Nations Charter, issued on 26-06-1945, is considered the cornerstone from which states and the international community launch the principle of respecting human dignity. Although this Charter did not provide a precise definition of the concept of human dignity, its focus was on protecting human rights and freedoms and the means to achieve this. However, the United Nations Charter is regarded as the first international instrument that explicitly referred to the respect of human dignity. The provisions contained in the United Nations Charter regarding human dignity can be seen as a response by the international community to the violations of human rights resulting from World War II and as a measure to safeguard international peace, based on the premise that effective international protection of human rights is an essential condition for global peace and progress.

The United Nations Charter reinforced the right to respect for human dignity and considered this right among the fundamental human rights. One of the objectives of the United Nations is to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction based on race, gender, language, or religion. The United Nations has increasingly moved toward addressing human rights violations internationally, making the protection of human dignity a matter subject to international accountability for those who violate it.

The founding instrument of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1946 affirmed that human dignity requires the dissemination of culture and the instillation of principles of justice and peace for all humans to achieve it. The preamble of UNESCO's founding charter states: "Human dignity requires the dissemination of culture and the education of all people in the principles of justice, freedom, and peace. This work is a sacred duty for all nations and should be carried out in a spirit of mutual cooperation."

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights enshrined the principle of respecting human dignity by explicitly mentioning it six times. Its preamble affirms that "all members of the human family are endowed with inherent dignity" and that "the rights enjoyed by members of the human family arise from the inherent dignity of the human person." Article 1 states: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights," and Article 5 asserts that "no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment." Moreover, Article 22 recognizes that every person, as a member of society, has the right to social security and that it is entitled to the economic, social, and cultural rights indispensable for dignity and the free development of personality, through national effort and international cooperation in accordance with each state's structure and resources. Article 23 also establishes that "everyone who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for themselves and their family an existence worthy of human dignity." The Declaration calls for respect for human dignity by governments and societies as the basis for equality, justice, and freedom, emphasizing the right of every individual to live with dignity, access education and healthcare, and be protected from torture and degrading, cruel, or



inhuman treatment, thus providing a strong framework for safeguarding individuals from violations that threaten their dignity.

Similarly, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 1966 and entered into force on 23 March 1976, enshrines the principle of respect for human dignity in its preamble: “The States Parties to the present Covenant, recognizing that the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family are the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world, and acknowledging that these rights derive from the inherent dignity of the human person...” Article 7 stipulates: “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment,” and Article 10, paragraph 1, mandates that “all persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.” Hence, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights reinforces dignity as “inherent in all members of the human family,” forming the fundamental principle from which all rights derive, including the prohibition of torture, protection of privacy, guarantees of fair trials, and the right to life, emphasizing the humane treatment and rehabilitation of prisoners, thereby imposing obligations on states to protect individuals from all such violations.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 1966 and entered into force on 3 January 1976, also guarantees respect for human dignity, considering it a fundamental source of all rights contained therein. Its preamble explicitly states that the rights it encompasses derive from “the inherent dignity of the human person.”

Section Two: International Conventions

Following global developments in human rights and the conclusion of numerous international agreements, the international community has sought, through ratification of treaties and conventions on human rights, to secure the fundamental rights of individuals, such as respect for human dignity as an inherent and comprehensive right that ensures protection from all forms of violation. International conventions have been established to guarantee and protect human dignity as an intrinsic value from birth, explicitly incorporating this fundamental right. The most notable of these include:

- **International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD):** Adopted by the UN General Assembly on 21 December 1965 and entered into force on 4 January 1969, this treaty aims to combat racial discrimination based on race and eliminate it, ensuring enjoyment of fundamental rights without distinction of race, color, descent, or national origin. It is considered the primary international legislation in combating racism, with most countries having acceded to it, emphasizing that racial discrimination threatens international peace and security, and affirming that the foundation of human rights is dignity and equality.



- **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW):** Adopted by the UN in 1979 and entered into force in 1981, this binding international document aims to eliminate discrimination against women and promote their rights in all fields, including work, education, health, and political and social life. It is considered the “International Bill of Women’s Rights” and a key framework for protecting women’s rights worldwide, obliging states to combat discrimination and integrate equality principles into their domestic legal systems. Protecting women’s dignity is central to this convention by ensuring their enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with men.
- **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC):** Adopted by the UN on 20 November 1989 and entered into force in 1990, it aims to protect children’s rights, guaranteeing their access to education, healthcare, and protection from exploitation and violence. It establishes legal standards for civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights for children and is the most widely ratified human rights treaty, obliging states to ensure a dignified life for children without discrimination. It emphasizes the protection of children’s dignity, their best interests, non-discrimination, participation, and the right to life and development.
- **Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:** Adopted by the UN on 10 December 1984 and entered into force on 26 June 1987, it obliges states to criminalize torture, prohibit deportation or extradition in cases of torture, and protect individuals from torture and inhuman treatment, reflecting the international community’s commitment to preventing torture and promoting human rights globally.
- **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD):** Adopted by the UN in 2006 and entered into force on 3 May 2008, it prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities, exemplifying international cooperation to promote and protect human rights and dignity. Persons with disabilities are ensured full enjoyment of their human rights and full participation in society, grounded in the principles of inherent dignity, non-discrimination, and autonomy.

It is evident that international conventions and treaties play a crucial role in protecting human dignity, fostering security, and promoting equality across various aspects of life, including work and education. They have contributed to establishing many international labor standards and shaping international law, forming a key pillar of the general theory of human rights.

Section Two: International Institutions and Bodies for the Protection of Human Dignity

International bodies tasked with protecting human dignity include organizations and institutions dedicated to safeguarding and promoting human rights worldwide. Among the most prominent is the United Nations system, which plays an effective role in human rights protection and is a priority within its agenda. This system includes specialized organizations for human rights protection and,



additionally, treaty-based and charter-based bodies play an active and purposeful role in realizing and enhancing human rights while preserving inherent human dignity.

Subsection One: Protection through Human Rights Organizations

The role of UN human rights organizations in protecting human dignity is highlighted by the **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**, which seeks to protect these rights, preserve individual dignity, provide support to states in implementing international standards, raise awareness about human dignity globally, operate within peacekeeping missions, investigate and report on human rights violations worldwide. The OHCHR also serves as the secretariat for the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary bodies, such as advisory committees, special rapporteurs on specific issues or regions, universal periodic review, working groups, and treaty bodies.

The role of UN human rights organizations is also reinforced through the **Human Rights Council**, established in 2006 as an independent intergovernmental body of the United Nations responsible for promoting and protecting all human rights worldwide, tasked with safeguarding, promoting, and protecting human rights and human dignity.

Subsection Two: Protection through Human Rights Treaty Bodies

Human rights treaty bodies (committees of experts) monitor the implementation of core international human rights treaties and conventions through independent experts who observe treaty compliance. There are currently ten treaty bodies (nine committees concerned with specific conventions and a subcommittee on the prevention of torture). Their main tasks include reviewing state reports, issuing general comments, handling individual complaints and investigations. Additionally, other bodies concerned with human rights and protection of dignity include:

- **Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council:** An intellectual body composed of eighteen independent experts conducting research and providing recommendations in the field of human rights, based on field studies requested by the Council.
- **Working Groups:** Established by the Human Rights Council, consisting of two independent working groups under the “complaints procedure” to address serious human rights violations.

Overall, human rights bodies significantly contribute to promoting and preserving the dignity of individuals and groups, playing a central role by raising awareness of the need to respect others and refrain from actions that may undermine their dignity.

Conclusion

The protection of human dignity is considered one of the fundamental goals, values, and international standards that states and the international community strive to achieve. Human dignity



is not merely a philosophical or theoretical concept; rather, it is a fundamental right of every individual, enshrined in numerous international charters and conventions.

Respecting human dignity requires the combined efforts of individuals, civil society, governments, and international communities, all contributing to raising awareness and promoting human values that ensure individuals live with dignity. This is an ongoing process that necessitates active cooperation among states to guarantee that every person can live in a safe and suitable environment that respects their rights and dignity. Human dignity represents the essence of humanity and the foundation of human rights, and its protection is a duty for every individual, institution, or state, regardless of their backgrounds or circumstances.

From this study, which addressed the issue of the extent of respect for human dignity in international law and the efforts made to enshrine it, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. It is difficult to establish a comprehensive and universally accepted definition of human dignity at the international level, as its meanings vary according to cultural, philosophical, social, and political contexts.
2. Violations of human dignity at the international level have existed throughout history, with individuals and communities subjected to acts that undermine their dignity and diminish their value through violence, slavery, wars, and various other means that infringe upon their rights.
3. A key characteristic of human dignity is that it is individual in its essence and source; however, it requires both individual and collective responsibility for its protection. It is an individual right, as every person deserves respect and a life of dignity from birth, given that human dignity is an inherent right present from the moment of birth. It is also a collective right, as it is linked to every member of society and is affected by interactions among individuals within the same community—when people treat each other with respect and dignity, it positively reflects on the welfare of society as a whole.
4. Respect for human dignity has been pursued by international charters and conventions, particularly the United Nations Charter, which serves as the foundation for all human rights, in addition to a set of core conventions whose implementation is binding on ratifying states, as well as the various international bodies tasked with ensuring that individuals' dignity is not violated worldwide.
5. Despite the progress made by states and international organizations in protecting human dignity, violations continue in the modern era, presenting significant challenges to achieving a world characterized by peace, security, and respect for the human dignity of all humanity.

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