

# INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVER

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council Of the United Nations

## AN INTRODUCTION

International Human Rights Observer (IHRO) is a NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and an independent, nonprofitable, non-political, and non-governmental registered human rights organization under social welfare act 1961 in Pakistan. It was founded in 1996.

IHRO is a human rights advocacy, research, monitoring, training and development organization and working together with Governments, United Nations and other institutions to promote and protect the basic fundamental human rights of the masses declared in the universal charter of human rights of United Nations and other human rights institutions including constitution of Pakistan to build a global village of lasting peace, social, and economic justice and development for the 21st century. It has volunteer biggest volunteers network across the country including AJK and Gilgit Baltistan .

IHRO focuses to prevent the abuses by empowering the people through Human Rights Education, as knowledge is power. It builds partnerships to end grave abuses of the rights for achieving physical and mental integrity, freedom of religion, beliefs and expression and also freedom from discrimination for the whole humanity.

IHRO has also been focusing to create awareness about Human Rights through education and advocacy. IHRO has a strong network of 73,000 volunteers, working regionally, nationally and internationally, documenting the abuses and giving the victims a platform to ensure that their voices are heard. Our slogan is; "*Protect Human Rights, Serve Humanity*", at IHRO, we think humanity is one body; discomfort or pain in any part of the body causes the whole body to suffer. Thus it is imperative that the whole humanity is accorded with the international standards of human rights.

#### **VISION**

International Human Rights Observer's envisions a world in which every individual irrespective of his cast, religion or color enjoys international human rights norms and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

#### **MISSION**

Our mission and dream is to promote and protect human rights and since 1996, we are striving to make our dream a reality — we believe that it could be a *reality*. To make it happen we advocate, research and undertake action at all possible levels; national, international and government, grass roots. We are focusing our efforts to prevent the abuses by empowering the people through Human Rights Education, as knowledge is power. We build partnerships to end grave abuses of the rights for achieving physical and mental integrity, freedom of religion, beliefs and expression and also freedom from discrimination for the whole humanity.

### **CURRENT PROGRAMS**

#### 1.ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS

The advocacy and awareness programs being run by IHRO contain different segments like lectures, seminars, focused group discussions [FGDs] and conferences, etc. The aim of these activities is basically to educate the people on different kinds of atrocities against the humanity, providing familiarity with the UN Human Rights treaties to the general public, students, and representatives of city governments, Police and district administration, lawyers, doctors, teachers and professors. Building techno- professional linkages with the organizations working for the human rights at grass roots.

### 2.TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

Pakistan Institute of Human Rights and Teaching [PIHRT] is a Human Resources Development Facility within the setup of IHRO that basically works for the capacity building and professional skill enhancement for the staff of the NGOs, Village Organizations [VOs], CBOs and other forms of voluntary groups working for the promotion and education of the Human Rights in throughout the country.

## 3.HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION UNIT

The voluntary members of IHRO in the country are basically trained in monitoring and recording the human rights abuses in the country. The same staff at the grass roots keep an eye over the locally reported and under reported cases and further after recording the same provide feedback to IHRO head office for further suggesting the strategy to deal with case.

## 4. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION UNIT [RPU]

IHRO has established a RPU that is basically responsible for conducting researches to be used as a feed back to look into the socio-cultural reasons of human rights discriminations and abuses. The research stuff is also utilized as resource information for other organizations, governments, international NGOs with whom IHRO is working to collaborate on such problems and suggest the remedies to end all. IHRO also widely distributes the research works and other documents prepared within the setup of organization to other local and international partners for information dissemination.

# Following are the Key strengths of the IHRO operations:

- Through Human Rights Education it creates consciousness with respect of right and liabilities among individuals.
- IHRO works for the implementation of Universal declaration of Human Rights and other related chartered covenant and protocols by Pakistan.
- IHRO takes necessary action in preventing Human Rights Violation and provide aid and assistance including legal aid to victims of Human Rights violations to Individuals and Groups striving to protect Human Rights.
- It receives and investigates reported and unreported cases and allegation of Human Rights violations and recommending appropriate action to the concerned authorities.
- It co-operates with National and international organizations, groups and individuals engaged in promoting human rights and to participate in meeting and conferences on Human Rights at home and in abroad.

**International Human Rights Observer** 

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