



StarMUN 2025, GA3:

Research Report on the issue of Human rights and extreme poverty

Introduction

Extreme poverty is an issue affecting over 600 million people worldwide. It is defined by the World Bank as living on less than 2.15 dollars per day. It represents not only a lack of income but a denial of basic human rights such as access to food, shelter, healthcare, and education. The continued existence of poverty undermines human dignity, equality, and sustainable development. Despite international frameworks and national programs, progress has been stagnating.

Definition of Key Terms

Extreme Poverty: A condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education, and information. It is typically measured as living on less than 2.15 dollars per day.

Human Rights: The basic rights and freedoms to which all humans are entitled, including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. Protected under international law.

Social Protection: Public programs designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability.

Background Information

The concept of human rights is inadvertently linked to the elimination of extreme poverty. Poverty deprives individuals not only of economic resources but also of the ability to enjoy fundamental rights and freedoms. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) states that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for health and well-being. In reality, millions do not even have access to even the most basic necessities.

Global efforts to reduce poverty have included economic aid, structural adjustment programs, and, more recently, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly the first goal: "End poverty in all its forms everywhere". While in some countries this has already been realized, others remain in poverty due to inequality, conflict, weak governance or corruption.

Extreme poverty often disproportionately affects marginalized people, such as women, indigenous people, and persons with disabilities.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

United Nations – The UN plays a leading role in addressing extreme poverty through the Human Rights Council, UNDP, and UNICEF.

World Bank – Provides financial and technical assistance to developing countries, with a focus on reducing poverty through sustainable development and inclusive economic growth.

Relevant UN Resolutions

A/RES/53/146

A/RES/70/1.

A/HRC/RES/35/19

A/RES/65/1

Previous Solution Attempts

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):

Since 2000, the MDGs goal was to halve extreme poverty by 2015. While progress was made, especially in East Asia, it failed to fully address structural inequalities and human rights violations.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

As a successor of the MDG, the SDGs expanded the eradication of poverty and protection of human rights a bit more, by addressing the root causes of poverty and emphasizing inclusivity. SDG 1 calls for the eradication of extreme poverty for all people everywhere by 2030.

UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights:

This office provides reports and recommendations on poverty reduction from a human rights perspective. The rapporteur plays a leading role in holding governments accountable for policies that violate the rights of the poor.

National Conditional Cash Transfer Programs:

These programs combine direct financial support with incentives for education and health access.

Possible Solutions

A human rights-based approach to poverty eradication should be introduced to national and international policies, ensuring accountability, participation, and non-discrimination.

Expansion of universal social protection to guarantee access to healthcare, education, food, and housing for all.

Improved international aid coordination, targeting the most vulnerable groups especially.

Greater investment in quality education and job creation to break intergenerational cycles of poverty.

Creation of a UN-led independent body to monitor compliance with international human rights obligations related to poverty reduction.

Useful Links and Sources

<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

<https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

<https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/53/146>

<https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/RES/35/19>

<https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/65/1>

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/poverty-and-shared-prosperity>

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-poverty>

<https://ourworldindata.org/poverty>

<https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/ending-poverty>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/human-rights>

<https://www.britannica.com/browse/Human-Rights>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/WEBPOL1085152025ENGLISH.pdf>

<https://www.hrw.org/topic/economic-justice-and-rights/poverty-and-inequality>

<https://cesr.org/>