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UGC NET Paper 2

Human Rights and Duties (092)
Complete revision notes — all 10 units

10 units | Tables & formulas | Key revision points

01 Concept of Human Rights
02 Historical Development
03 International Bill of Human Rights
04 Core UN Conventions
05 UN Human Rights Machinery
06 Regional Systems
07 Human Rights in the Indian Constitution
08 Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993
09 Rights of Vulnerable Groups
10 Judicial Activism and Contemporary Issues

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How to use these notes

- Read one unit at a time, then test yourself with its key revision points.
- Make your own short notes on topics you find difficult.
- Units follow the main areas of the official syllabus — the exact unit list can change between sessions.
- Always check the latest syllabus and notices on the official UGC NET portal: **ugcnet.nta.ac.in**.

UNIT 01

Concept of Human Rights

Meaning, nature and theories of human rights.

- Inherent, universal, inalienable, indivisible, interdependent.
- Theories: natural rights (Locke), legal positivism, Marxist, capability approach.
- Three generations — Karel Vasak: civil-political, socio-economic, collective (solidarity) rights.

★ Key revision points

- Three generations = Karel Vasak.
- Rights are universal and inalienable.
- Natural rights = Locke.
- Third generation = solidarity rights.

UNIT 02

Historical Development

Landmark documents in the history of rights.

Document	Year
Magna Carta	1215
English Bill of Rights	1689
US Declaration of Independence	1776
French Declaration of the Rights of Man	1789
US Bill of Rights	1791

★ Key revision points

- Magna Carta: 1215.
- French Declaration: 1789.
- US Bill of Rights: 1791.
- English Bill of Rights: 1689.

UNIT 03

International Bill of Human Rights

UDHR and the two covenants.

- **UDHR** — adopted 10 December 1948 (Human Rights Day); 30 articles; drafting led by Eleanor Roosevelt.
- ICCPR and ICESCR — adopted 1966, in force 1976.
- Optional protocols to ICCPR (individual complaints; abolition of death penalty).

★ Key revision points

- UDHR: 10 Dec 1948, 30 articles.
- Covenants: 1966; in force 1976.
- Human Rights Day = 10 December.
- Eleanor Roosevelt chaired drafting.

UNIT 04

Core UN Conventions

Major human rights treaties.

Convention	Year
CERD (racial discrimination)	1965
CEDAW (women)	1979
CAT (torture)	1984
CRC (child)	1989
CRPD (persons with disabilities)	2006

★ Key revision points

- CEDAW: 1979.
- CRC: 1989.
- CAT: 1984.
- CRPD: 2006.

UNIT 05

UN Human Rights Machinery

Institutions protecting human rights.

- Human Rights Council (2006, replaced the Commission on Human Rights); Universal Periodic Review.
- OHCHR — High Commissioner (post created 1993, after the Vienna Conference).
- Treaty bodies; special rapporteurs.

★ Key revision points

- HRC: 2006.
- UPR reviews all member states.
- High Commissioner post: 1993.
- Vienna Declaration: 1993.

UNIT 06

Regional Systems

Regional human rights instruments.

- European Convention on Human Rights (1950); European Court of Human Rights (Strasbourg).
- American Convention on Human Rights (1969).
- African (Banjul) Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981).

★ Key revision points

- ECHR: 1950.
- Banjul Charter: 1981.
- European Court = Strasbourg.
- American Convention: 1969.

UNIT 07

Human Rights in the Indian Constitution

Fundamental rights, DPSP and duties.

- Fundamental Rights (Part III); Article 21 — right to life widened by courts.
- DPSP (Part IV); Fundamental Duties (Part IVA, Article 51A) — added by the 42nd Amendment (1976), on Swaran Singh Committee advice; 11 duties now.
- Writs under Articles 32 and 226.

★ Key revision points

- Fundamental Duties: Article 51A.
- Added by 42nd Amendment (1976).
- 11 duties (86th Amendment added one).
- Article 32 = right to constitutional remedies.

UNIT 08

Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993

NHRC and state commissions.

- NHRC established 12 October 1993; chairperson — a former Chief Justice of India or Supreme Court judge.
- State Human Rights Commissions; human rights courts.
- Other bodies: NCW, NCSC, NCST, NCPCR.

★ Key revision points

- NHRC: 1993.
- PHRA: 1993.
- Chair: former CJI or SC judge.
- NCPCR protects child rights.

UNIT 09

Rights of Vulnerable Groups

Women, children, minorities, SC/ST and others.

- SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
- Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.
- Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016; Transgender Persons Act, 2019.

★ Key revision points

- Atrocities Act: 1989.
- RTE Act: 2009.
- RPwD Act: 2016.
- Transgender Persons Act: 2019.

UNIT 10

Judicial Activism and Contemporary Issues

Landmark cases and emerging rights.

- PIL — S. P. Gupta (1981); Maneka Gandhi (1978) — due process under Article 21.
- Vishaka (1997) — sexual harassment guidelines; Puttaswamy (2017) — right to privacy.
- Emerging issues: environment, digital rights, refugees, business and human rights.

★ Key revision points

- Maneka Gandhi: 1978.
- Vishaka: 1997.
- Privacy (Puttaswamy): 2017.
- PIL widened access to justice.

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