

**1. Is there a moral imperative (obligation) for MEDCs to aid LEDCs when there are issues of human rights violations?**

I believe that economically developed countries (MEDCs) have a moral obligation to assist less economically developed countries (LEDGs). This is because of the constant pressure and ideology that international aid will significantly benefit LEDG's economies and development. Although no law mandates MEDCs to intervene in human rights issues in LEDGs, several different international treaties and agreements promote working together. For example, in the United Nations Charter, Article 1 emphasizes the importance of cooperation internationally in preserving human rights and freedoms for all. From a moral perspective, MEDCs are wealthier in resources; they are known to have more resources and technologies to support LEDGs. As well, MEDCs may feel obligated to aid LEDGs in humanitarian crises, because of the importance of stability and global peace. For example, the UK recently announced funding for more than 850,000 people in Yemen, who are suffering due to the humanitarian crisis from the civil war. As a result, more Yemenis can get access to food and other essential resources. Overall, MEDCs have a moral duty, to help alleviate suffering and protect human rights around the world. From the LEDG's perspective, they generally welcome the assistance of MEDCs. Unfortunately, this aid is not always ethically distributed or allocated. For example, during the 2010 Haitian Earthquake crisis, Oxfam sent workers to help with natural disaster relief, who ended up exploiting the local people instead of helping them.

**2. Is there a status or privilege that exempts us from the promotion and protection of human rights for all?**

Morally speaking, no status or privilege exempts us from the promotion and protection of human rights for all, as human rights are universal and we all have an ethical duty to uphold them regardless of our position in society. I believe that governments, corporations, and influential figures have even more of a responsibility because they hold a more significant impact on change. To promote the protection of human rights, we must speak up and work together to advocate for those experiencing human rights violations and make sure their voices are heard. This can even be done by holding influential figures accountable and encouraging businesses to fulfill corporate social responsibility. In order to make change, we must all get together and put ourselves into action.

**3. Who is responsible for the human rights of women and children especially, when their country does not?**

In my opinion, non-government organizations, otherwise known as NGOs, such as the UN, and UNICEF have the greatest role in protecting the human rights of women and children when their country does not. This is because NGOs are a large influence and are capable of intervening in human rights concerns. These organizations play a crucial role by providing direct assistance to the affected groups, such as shelters, and educational programs, NGOs also work by monitoring human rights abuses and documenting cases both domestically and internationally. Because NGOs are independent, they can speak out about injustices without any political restraints. This responsibility can be exemplified through the actions taken through organizations regarding the Kenya beading culture, where clan warriors can "choose" girls as young as 8 years old to have sexual relations with. This tradition involves rape, forced abortion, and lasting health problems and psychological trauma. In an attempt to save girls from this practice, Josephine Kulea established the Samburu Girls Foundation in 2021. After being saved from this beading practice by her mother, she wanted to do the same for other girls in her community. Since then, she has saved almost 170 girls and rescued over 125 babies. However, these violations were not taken seriously by the law and she has had difficulties getting funding for her program. Fortunately, more organizations, also founded locally by Samburu women have also joined her fight, including the Samburu Women Trust and campaigns against

female genital mutilation (FGM). Although progress may seem slow, organizations must work together to reach a larger audience and create change in their communities. If law enforcement is ineffective, it is up to these organizations and community leaders to be the voice for their people.

**Where does the responsibility for human rights lie?**

Overall, I believe that although there is not one answer about where human rights lie, in situations where one's own country or government is not protecting their rights, other nations, non-government organizations, and other aid groups must step in. By highlighting the different stakeholder groups mentioned earlier and examples of moral obligation, I believe that human rights are a shared responsibility that we all must help to protect. For example, spreading awareness through social media, educating the people around us, and speaking up about inequalities are all ways we can promote the freedom and rights of everyone.

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