

**CLASS: SS3**

**SUBJECT: CIVIC EDUCATION**

**TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS**

**WEEK: 10**

**TERM: FIRST**

### **MEANING OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

Human right can be defined as the fundamental or basic privilege every citizen of a country has a claim to, irrespective of gender, class, tribe, religion or status. Human rights are essential right every citizen should enjoy. These rights are inalienable and cannot be taken away or denied a person.

Human rights are universal and are guaranteed by the United Nation in its UN charter on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). Nigeria as signatory has incorporated these rights her constitution.

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS**

1. **Inherent:** human rights are inherent to each individual. The rights belong to the people and are not granted by anybody or authority.
2. **Universality:** Human Rights are universal, as such; it is a privilege that every citizen of the world must enjoy.
3. **Inalienability:** this means that human rights cannot be denied or taken away from a person except through legal means.
4. **Indivisibility:** human right cannot be fragmented or broken into parts. The provision of the rights should be enjoyed by human beings irrespective of gender, culture, tribe, religion or statutes.
5. **Equality:** this implies that every right is important and can be claimed by every citizen irrespective of gender, status, tribe, or religion. Every citizen should have equal access to provision of this right as contained in the country's constitutions.

### **CATEGORIES OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

1. **Natural Rights:** These are basic rights every human being is entitled to; these rights are inherent as human beings are born with them. Natural rights include right to life, freedom of movement, freedom of expression, right to marry, freedom of association, etc.
2. **Political rights:** these are right an individual enjoys for being a member of a political community. They include right to hold public office, right to vote and be voted for, right to form or join any political party, right to criticize the government, etc.
3. **Social rights:** These are rights that are necessary for adequate standard of living, these rights enable individual to fulfill their obligation to the society. Social rights include right to education, right to health care, right to recreational facilities, right to social amenities provided by the government, etc.

4. **Economic rights:** Economic rights include right to own and sell property, right to gainful employment, right to own business, right to fair salary wages, right to a reasonable limitation of working hours, etc.
5. **Civic Rights:** These rights include right to vote and to be voted for, Right to fair hearing, Freedom of expression, Freedom of movement etc.
6. **Legal rights:** This right includes right to sue and to be sued, right to fair trial, right to equality before the law and right to serve as a witness in the court of law.
7. **Cultural Rights:** This includes the totality of the people's beliefs, mode of worship, languages, religions way of thinking, dancing, dressing and greeting. Therefore, cultural is the right to participate in one's community culture activities without any form of disturbance of discrimination.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

- 1: Gives three instances in Nigeria and/or elsewhere where an individual's right was denied him or her.