**What are the challenges the world is facing now and how will they affect the future of human rights.**

**Poverty** is a major challenge affecting a considerable number of the world’s population. People living in poverty usually lose their economic and social rights such as the right to education, health, food ,adequate housing, and safe water surviving on the bare minimum. Their employment opportunities are limited due to lack of access to education , which further widens the gap between the poor and the rich and contributes to social inequality.

**Gender and social inequalities** which are rampant in society result in women, people with disabilities and those from minority groups having unequal access to and control over economic resources. This usually deprives them of their basic rights as most necessities are beyond their reach. Moreover, people from these communities are more prone to repressive laws, violence and do not have the power to express their will freely.

**Climate change and natural disasters** which are on the increase will also have a negative effect on people’s rights. As the world experiences more and more natural disasters and pandemics such as the COVID 19, the pressure exerted on the few resources left will leave the poor with more loss of their basic rights than those with the means of survival.

As more governments especially in Africa are shifting away from **democracy**, people are losing their right to freely determine their own political, economic, and social choices. Governments which lack democracy fail to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of opinion and expression and tend to use violent means to suppress the will of the people.

**What future do you want for human rights?**

An ideal world would be one where everyone respects the rights of humanity. Equal opportunities should be availed for everyone to reduce the economic and social inequalities that deprive others of their rights. Everyone, including the poorest must have access to adequate basic needs such as food, shelter, health, and education. Discrimination on whatever grounds should be eliminated and everyone must live a dignified life regardless of differences in colour, wealth, abilities, gender, or religion.

**What are your recommendations to decision and policymakers, including governments, civil society, international organizations, the United Nations, and others to advance human rights in the future?**

Collaboration among governments, civil society, and international organisations is key to ensure that policies are put in place and enforced which advocate for human rights despite race, gender, religion, or background.

Education and skills training for economic empowerment should be made a priority and measures should be taken to ensure that even the poorest have access to education. Governments should adopt a free basic education policy, to ensure that those living in poverty are also able to access this human right. Civil society should also promote access to education and skills training by funding some of the activities. Economic empowerment especially skills training for employability and self- employment will provide the vulnerable with means of survival and hence ensure the reduction of poverty, gender based violence and social inequalities. Parents have the responsibility to ensure that their children attend compulsory education.

Governments and policy makers should give more attention to vulnerable groups such as women and children in addressing human rights challenges. Though there is existence of laws and policies that promote and uphold human rights, there has been a failure to translate these into practice. Therefore, there is need for an enabling environment which allows young people to voice their concerns, innovate and contribute towards coming up with solutions to the challenges they face.

Women who are among the most vulnerable groups of people will benefit from a joint promotion of legal and policy reforms which advocate for gender equality and upholding of women’s rights. In addition, laws should be enacted which stop violence against women and ensure that both women and men enjoy the same opportunities, rights, and obligations in all spheres of life.

**What commitments and actions can young people take towards advancing human rights in the future?**

Activism can be one way of reaching out to societies, institutions and individuals and encouraging them to recognise and uphold human rights. Young people can use their voices to advocate for human rights through campaigns and raising awareness on different platforms. Youth can hold peaceful protests against abuse of human rights. Community engagements with other young people can be very effective therefore, youth can commit themselves to educate and empower those who are not aware of their rights.

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