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*Statement of*  
**ESSENTIAL  
HUMAN RIGHTS**

Drafted by a  
Committee representing principal  
cultures of the world, appointed  
by the American Law Institute

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JOHN R. ELLINGSTON, *Editor*

## FOREWORD

MEN cannot have peace without an organization to adjust their changing relations with one another in an orderly manner. This is true of any community, whether it be one village or one world. Also, no organization can keep the peace without force to curb the vicious and those who refuse to cooperate for the common good.

On these primary facts public opinion in the United Nations seems agreed (regardless of what action the governments may take) and so supports the Dumbarton Oaks proposal for a Security Council with power to use armed force to prevent war. So far so good. This support represents a big step forward. Yet there remains a danger that can cancel it out: the danger that public opinion in the United States and in other lands will think that joining an international organization with police power is all that is required to keep the peace.

Police power can be abused—to exploit, to uphold the dead hand of the past, to give effect to intolerance and ignorance. An international organization, no less than a national organization, can serve destructive ends—power politics, the welfare of limited groups in the population, the status quo. The temptation to uphold the status quo seems to be the particular danger of international organizations, for example, the Holy Alliance of 1815.

Clearly, to join an international organization with power to keep the peace by force is only the beginning of our responsibility. An international organization—for what purpose? That is the crucial question we must ask and answer. First, the purpose must be new. If we really want peace and prosperity we cannot go back to the past because the past had not found these blessings. An international organization must break new ground, just as the American Constitution and government in 1789 broke new ground. The situation of the uncertain, suspicious, but unself-sufficient nations of the world today finds perhaps its most instructive parallel in the situation of the uncertain, suspicious,

but unself-sufficient American Colonies immediately after the Revolution.

Secondly, the purpose of the world organization must be specific and practical enough to mean something in the daily life of every human being so that men everywhere will understand and actively support the organization. Thirdly, the purpose must be so compelling as gradually to unite the majority of men in spite of all the differences of nationalism, of color, of creed, of economic system, or of custom and tradition that divide them. In short, the purpose of a successful international organization can be nothing less than a common aim for mankind.

What purpose can satisfy these requirements? Certainly not the negative purpose of keeping the peace by force. Certainly not the exclusive interest of any one power or group of powers, the United States, Great Britain, Russia, China, or the small nations as such. The one objective that is big enough and specific enough to be common to all men is the welfare, the dignity, the inviolability of the individual human being.

Any world organization or any society that hopes to survive in this age of the buzz bomb, of the B-29 Superfortress, of industrial chemistry, of electronics, of practically unlimited destructive power, will have to recognize the individual human being as its supreme value. This is not idealism or Utopianism. Hitler's extermination of peoples has demonstrated to all who can read that a world society with so much power as ours must be organized to serve the dignity and welfare of the individual human being or it will destroy itself. Only as the world organization fixes its eyes on the welfare of the individual and on the increase of his freedom and responsibility will it find the means and the popular support to carry it through the political, economic, and ideological storms ahead.

From this point of view, the most encouraging feature of the Dumbarton Oaks proposal is that providing for an Economic and Social Council to

"facilitate solutions of international economic, social and other humanitarian problems and promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms." With such a goal and such a tool, and behind the protecting police power of the Security Council, the world organization can hope to enlist mankind in the cooperative action necessary for peace and survival.

The first step is to define the indispensable human rights, if possible in terms that will be acceptable to men of good will in all nations. A most careful attempt to do this has been made by a committee of lawyers and political scientists representing most of the principal cultures of the world, appointed by the American Law Institute. The committee was instructed to see if its members could agree on and draft the rights essential to make effective the freedom of the individual. The committee found a very large measure of agreement which, in view of its multi-national makeup, was most encouraging. Over a period of eighteen months it drafted the Statement of Essential Human Rights. This is not a statement made by the American Law Institute, which is composed exclusively of United States citizens. It is a statement by a committee representing many different nations. The Institute neither approves nor disapproves of the document.

The Statement differs from the Bill of Rights in the United States Constitution because and to the extent that the conditions of human existence in our interdependent, mass-production society differ from those under which self-sufficient farmers and craftsmen lived in Colonial America. Perhaps one of the most useful achievements of the Statement is that it throws additional safeguards around the traditional freedoms of speech, religion and assembly while providing for the indispensable minimum of economic security. One of the greatest dangers immediately ahead of us is that the groups concerned with security will lose sight of civil liberties and vice versa.

The Statement of Essential Human Rights is not a statement of means. It does not blueprint the varied steps, international and national, political and economic, essential to reach the goal. But it does blueprint the goal and by so doing it gives the citizens a yardstick by which to test any institution or action, for example a foreign policy. To understand that the ultimate purpose of international relations is to secure peace, freedom, food, and education for all men is to strip them of their mystery. It gives every man a stake in the success of those relations.

Because the Statement of Essential Human Rights is the work of responsible men from many nations; and because it has been drafted in clear and unambiguous language, it seems especially suitable to stimulate the discussion necessary to enable the peoples of the world to make up their minds on what rights they consider indispensable and so what they want the goal of their international organization to be. Americans United for World Organization, while not taking a position in respect to all details of the document, considers it to be directly in line with its purposes and function to submit the Statement to the forum of public debate.

AMERICANS UNITED FOR WORLD  
ORGANIZATION, INC.

## DRAFTING COMMITTEE

The cultures or countries represented, besides the United States, are the Arabic, British, Canadian, Chinese, French, pre-Nazi German, Italian, Indian, Latin American, Polish, Soviet Russian and Spanish.

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JOHN R. ELLINGSTON—Sociologist. Special Adviser on Criminal Justice-Youth, American Law Institute.

HU SHIH—Diplomatist and philosopher. Chinese Ambassador to the United States 1938-41.

\*MANLEY O. HUDSON—Jurist and educator. Judge, Permanent Court of International Justice since 1936.

C. WILFRED JENKS—Barrister-at-law of Gray's Inn, London. Legal adviser of the International Labor Office.

CHARLES E. KENWORTHY—Lawyer. Judge, Superior Court of Pennsylvania, 1941-44.

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ERNST RABEL—Jurist and legal writer. Founder and director, Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Foreign and International Private Law in Berlin; formerly Judge, Permanent Court of International Justice.

LUDWIK RAJCHMAN—Doctor of Medicine. Director, Health Section, League of Nations 1921-39; director, State Institute and School of Hygiene, Warsaw, Poland 1919-21.

DAVID RIESMAN, JR.—Lawyer and educator. Formerly, professor of law, University of Buffalo.

\*WARREN A. SEAVEY—Professor of law, Harvard University since 1927; head of Law School, Pei Yang University, China 1906-11.

ANGELO P. SERENI—Lawyer and educator. Formerly, professor of law, University of Ferrara, Italy.

PAUL WEILL—Lawyer. Vice-president, France Forever; counsel to the Ministry of the Interior, France, 1936.

QUINCY WRIGHT—Professor of International Law, University of Chicago.

GEORGE M. WUNDERLICH—Lawyer and educator. Associate-in-law, University of Pennsylvania Law School; prior to 1936 in private practice in Berlin, Germany.

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\*Judge Hudson is doubtful about the phrasing in some places, and Warren A. Seavey is not in agreement with the essential character of the rights stated in Articles 11 to 15, relating to social rights.



## THE EIGHTEEN ARTICLES OF ESSENTIAL HUMAN RIGHTS

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### Article 1. FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Freedom of belief and of worship is the right of every one.

The state has a duty to protect this freedom.

### Article 2. FREEDOM OF OPINION

Freedom to form and hold opinions and to receive opinions and information is the right of every one.

The state has a duty to protect this freedom.

### Article 3. FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Freedom of expression is the right of every one.

The state has a duty to refrain from arbitrary limitation of this freedom and to prevent denial of reasonable access to channels of communication.

### Article 4. FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

Freedom to assemble peaceably with others is the right of every one.

The state has a duty to protect this freedom.

### Article 5.

#### FREEDOM TO FORM ASSOCIATIONS

Freedom to form with others associations of a political, economic, religious, social, cultural, or any other character for purposes not inconsistent with these articles is the right of every one.

The state has a duty to protect this freedom.

### Article 6.

#### FREEDOM FROM WRONGFUL INTERFERENCE

Freedom from unreasonable interference with

his person, home, reputation, privacy, activities, and property is the right of every one.

The state has a duty to protect this freedom.

#### Article 7. FAIR TRIAL

Every one has the right to have his criminal and civil liabilities and his rights determined without undue delay by fair public trial by a competent tribunal before which he has had opportunity for a full hearing.

The state has a duty to maintain adequate tribunals and procedures to make this right effective.

#### Article 8.

##### FREEDOM FROM ARBITRARY DETENTION

Every one who is detained has the right to immediate judicial determination of the legality of his detention.

The state has a duty to provide adequate procedures to make this right effective.

#### Article 9. RETROACTIVE LAWS

No one shall be convicted of crime except for violation of a law in effect at the time of the commission of the act charged as an offense, nor be subjected to a penalty greater than that applicable at the time of the commission of the offense.

#### Article 10. PROPERTY RIGHTS

Every one has the right to own property under general law. The state shall not deprive any one of his property except for a public purpose and with just compensation.

#### Article 11. EDUCATION

Every one has the right to education.

The state has a duty to require that every child within its jurisdiction receive education of the

primary standard; to maintain or insure that there are maintained facilities for such education which are adequate and free; and to promote the development of facilities for further education which are adequate and effectively available to all its residents.

#### Article 12. WORK

Every one has the right to work.

The state has a duty to take such measures as may be necessary to insure that all its residents have an opportunity for useful work.

#### Article 13. CONDITIONS OF WORK

Every one has the right to reasonable conditions of work.

The state has a duty to take such measures as may be necessary to insure reasonable wages, hours, and other conditions of work.

#### Article 14. FOOD AND HOUSING

Every one has the right to adequate food and housing.

The state has a duty to take such measures as may be necessary to insure that all its residents have an opportunity to obtain these essentials.

#### Article 15. SOCIAL SECURITY

Every one has the right to social security.

The state has a duty to maintain or insure that there are maintained comprehensive arrangements for the promotion of health, for the prevention of sickness and accident, and for the provision of medical care and of compensation for loss of livelihood.

#### Article 16.

##### PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT

Every one has the right to take part in the government of his state.

The state has a duty to conform to the will of the people as manifested by democratic elections.

**Article 17. EQUAL PROTECTION**

Every one has the right to protection against arbitrary discrimination in the provisions and application of the law because of race, religion, sex, or any other reason.

**Article 18.**

**LIMITATIONS ON EXERCISE OF RIGHTS**

In the exercise of his rights every one is limited by the rights of others and by the just requirements of the democratic state.

*Complete text of the Statement of*  
**ESSENTIAL HUMAN RIGHTS**  
*with Comment*

**PREAMBLE**

Upon the freedom of the individual depends the welfare of the people, the safety of the state and the peace of the world.

In society complete freedom cannot be attained; the liberties of the one are limited by the liberties of others, and the preservation of freedom requires the fulfillment by individuals of their duties as members of society.

The function of the state is to promote conditions under which the individual can be most free.

To express those freedoms to which every human being is entitled and to assure that all shall live under a government of the people, by the people, for the people, this declaration is made.

Article 1.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Freedom of belief and of worship is the right of every one.

The state has a duty to protect this freedom.

*Comment*

Provisions for establishing a right comparable to that in this Article are contained in the current or recent constitutions of fifty-two countries.

This Article on belief and worship covers not only organized religion but also individual religious opinions and philosophic systems.

"Freedom of worship" covers religious services under the leadership of a minister or without it, and individual worship. It does not include all practices claimed to be of a religious nature—such, for example, as run counter to hygienic regulations.

Article 5 expresses the right "to form with others associations of a . . . religious . . . character." Articles 1 and 5 together, therefore, imply the right of the individual to join and leave religious organizations. Article 3 states the right to "freedom of expression." Consequently, Articles 1 and 3 together imply the right of free communication among religious authorities, and between religious authorities and the faithful.

The duty of the State expressed in this Article and in succeeding articles involves some or all of the following steps:

- (1) to abstain from enacting laws which impair the right,
- (2) to prevent its governmental agencies and officials from performing acts which impair the right,
- (3) to enact laws and provide suitable procedures, if necessary, to prevent persons within its jurisdiction from impairing the right, and
- (4) to maintain such judicial, regulatory and operative agencies as may be necessary to give practical effect to the right.

With respect to this Article the duty of the state involves the protection, for example, of churches and other establishments devoted to religious purposes. It restrains the state from forcing the individual to participate in religious ceremonies or rites or to join any religious sect, communion, or organization.

Article 2.

FREEDOM OF OPINION

Freedom to form and hold opinions and to receive opinions and information is the right of every one.

The state has a duty to protect this freedom.

*Comment*

Provisions for establishing freedom to hold opinions are contained in the current or recent constitutions of seven countries. Moreover this freedom is implied in the freedom of expression, for which see Article 3.

The term "opinion" is used in its widest sense. In order that the freedom to form and hold opinions may be enjoyed, the individual must be free to receive opinions expressed by others by any means of communication such as books, newspapers, pamphlets, or radio.

Article 3.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Freedom of expression is the right of every one.

The state has a duty to refrain from arbitrary limitation of this freedom and to prevent denial of reasonable access to channels of communication.

*Comment*

Provisions for establishing a right comparable to that in this Article are contained in conjunction with the right to freedom of opinion in current or recent constitutions of fifty-five countries.

This Article protects freedom of expression, whatsoever may be the means employed. The term "expression" is used as of wider coverage than "speech." It includes the freedom of the individual

to speak, write, use the graphic arts, the theatre, or any other art form to present his ideas. In this sense freedom of expression embraces the basic "freedom of the press" in its classic meaning of the right of the individual to print and distribute his ideas.

In conjunction with Article 2, which protects the individual's right to receive information and opinions, this Article protects the freedom of the press as an institution for gathering and disseminating information and opinions.

The duty of the state "to refrain from arbitrary limitation on this freedom" restrains the state from the use of arbitrary censorship on expression in any of the forms listed above. The duty of the state "to prevent denial of reasonable access to channels of communication" means that if, through physical limitations or other circumstances, the ordinary channels—such as the mails, the telephone, the telegraph, the radio—are limited, the state where necessary must exercise its controlling or regulatory power to insure to the individual such opportunity of use as is practicable.

#### Article 4.

#### FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY<sup>0</sup>

Freedom to assemble peaceably with others is the right of every one.

The state has a duty to protect this freedom.

#### *Comment*

Provisions for establishing a right comparable to that in this Article are contained in the current or recent constitutions of forty-seven countries.

This Article protects assemblies for political, economic, religious, social, cultural and other purposes. It includes indoor and outdoor private and public meetings, as well as parades and processions. In the interests of public safety and convenience, a state may make requirements as to time and place of meetings. In the fulfilment of its duty the state may have to make provisions for police at meetings and against the breaking up of public meetings.



Article 5.

FREEDOM TO FORM ASSOCIATIONS

Freedom to form with others associations of a political, economic, religious, social, cultural, or any other character for purposes not inconsistent with these articles is the right of every one.

The state has a duty to protect this freedom.

*Comment*

Provisions for establishing a right comparable to that in this Article are contained in the current or recent constitutions of thirty-nine countries.

This Article recognizes man's fundamental instinct for and protects his vital need for group activity. It expresses the right to exercise in association with others the essential freedoms stated in the other articles and such other rights as are recognized by law.

Only such association as does not infringe the essential rights of others is "not inconsistent with these articles." Thus, political association that involves the attainment of ends by free elections and by the democratic principle of majority rule is protected, but political association that aims at totalitarianism and the destruction of the political rights of others is prohibited.

The state may prescribe reasonable requirements governing the establishment and supervision of associations. Thus it may require associations to be registered, to declare their purposes, and to register the names of their members and responsible officers.

Article 6.

FREEDOM FROM WRONGFUL  
INTERFERENCE

Freedom from unreasonable interference with his person, home, reputation, privacy, activities, and property is the right of every one.

The state has a duty to protect this freedom.

*Comment*

Provisions for establishing elements of the right defined in this Article are contained in the current

or recent constitutions of forty-nine countries.

This Article imposes a duty upon the state to take measures to prevent the use of force and falsehoods by individuals or groups of individuals which would interfere with the safety, honor, and welfare of others. It sanctions and requires the state to organize such police force and to impose such criminal or civil liability or both, against the offenders, as may be necessary to give to the people within the borders of the state a reasonable degree of security against the aggressions and frauds of others.

#### Article 7.

#### FAIR TRIAL

Every one has the right to have his criminal and civil liabilities and his rights determined without undue delay by fair public trial by a competent tribunal before which he has had opportunity for a full hearing.

The state has a duty to maintain adequate tribunals and procedures to make this right effective.

#### *Comment*

Provisions, in varying degrees of fullness, for establishing a right comparable to that in this Article are contained in the current or recent constitutions of fifty countries.

The Article states the basic requirements for orderly and just procedure not only for the protection of individuals against arbitrary action by government or by public officials but also for the settlement of disputes among individuals themselves. It implies that in all matters which affect him, any human being is entitled to access to a competent tribunal and a procedure which will insure fairness of determination.

"Public trial" means that there shall be an opportunity for some members of the public to be present and that the proceedings can properly be reported by those who have witnessed them.

A "competent tribunal" is one which, whether a court or an administrative agency, is empowered by the law of the state to entertain an action.

The requirement of a "fair trial" provides protection against trial which, although public and before an otherwise competent tribunal, may proceed under such pressures that justice cannot be done. This would be true for example where public opinion is so hostile that a local tribunal would be unduly affected by the hostility, or where the tribunal itself, although competent, is unduly biased or has been corrupted. It also protects against improper methods of trial, as where rational procedures are not used or where obvious errors have led to an improper result. Customary trial procedures of civilized communities must be used as a standard to discover whether, in view of all the circumstances of the particular case, a fair trial is accorded. No displacement of traditional methods of punishment for contempt is intended.

The requirement for a "full hearing" makes certain that the person whose rights or liabilities are being determined shall have a reasonable opportunity to present his side of the case. It does not mean that a hearing, formal or informal, must necessarily be had; it does mean that either party on demand may have one, the extent of which will depend upon the sound discretion of the tribunal. In a criminal proceeding, a "full hearing" implies that a person must be informed in advance of the charge against him, be permitted the assistance of counsel, and be given a reasonable time to prepare for the hearing.

#### Article 8.

#### FREEDOM FROM ARBITRARY DETENTION

Every one who is detained has the right to immediate judicial determination of the legality of his detention.

The state has a duty to provide adequate procedures to make this right effective.

#### *Comment*

Provisions, in varying degrees of fullness, for establishing a right comparable to that in this Article are contained in the current or recent constitutions of thirty-four countries.

This Article implies that no one can be detained except pursuant to law, and provides a check on arbitrary arrest as well as a release from unlawful detention.

"Immediate" determination means not only that he shall have access without delay to a competent tribunal but also that the tribunal shall promptly decide the question. Whatever the character of the tribunal may be, it is indispensable that the determination be "judicial" in the sense of the judicial tradition of responsibility, independence, and impartiality.

The statement of the right does not include a statement of the grounds on which a person may be taken into custody and held for trial; that will depend upon the laws and legal system in the particular state.

#### Article 9.

##### RETROACTIVE LAWS

No one shall be convicted of crime except for violation of a law in effect at the time of the commission of the act charged as an offense, nor be subjected to a penalty greater than that applicable at the time of the commission of the offense.

##### *Comment*

Provisions, in varying degrees of fullness, for establishing a right comparable to that in this Article are contained in the current or recent constitutions of thirty countries

This Article assumes that the law has defined certain acts or omissions to be crimes with sufficient particularity so that the definition can be used as a standard to determine guilt. The Article prohibits *ex post facto* or retroactive laws.

#### Article 10.

##### PROPERTY RIGHTS

Every one has the right to own property under general law. The state shall not deprive any one of his property except for a public purpose and with just compensation.

### *Comment*

Provisions in varying degrees of fullness for establishing a right comparable to that in this article are contained in the current or recent constitutions of fifty countries.

This Article recognizes that to be free, man must have the right to acquire, use, and dispose of a large variety of things. It would violate the Article for the state to curtail unreasonably, in view of conditions existing at any given time, the number and variety of things which could be the subject of private ownership.

The second sentence preserves the protections traditionally granted to rights in specific property in connection with the state's exercise of its power of eminent domain.

### Article 11.

#### EDUCATION

Every one has the right to education.

The state has a duty to require that every child within its jurisdiction receive education of the primary standard; to maintain or insure that there are maintained facilities for such education which are adequate and free; and to promote the development of facilities for further education which are adequate and effectively available to all its residents.

### *Comment*

Provisions, in varying degrees of fullness, for establishing a right comparable to that in this Article are contained in the current or recent constitutions of forty countries.

This Article makes primary education compulsory for "every child" within the jurisdiction of a state. The age limits within which the individual is to be considered a "child" are left to reasonable interpretation in the light of local physiological and other conditions. Existing constitutions usually fix the lower limits at six or seven, and the upper limits variously at twelve, fourteen, sixteen, and eighteen. The Article does not make attendance at

school compulsory although the great majority of children will be able to meet the requirements only by attendance at a public or private school.

The phrase "to maintain or insure that there are maintained facilities for such (primary) education which are adequate and free" does not prohibit education at home and permits special arrangements necessary to meet special conditions, as for the mentally and physically incapacitated. The expression "adequate and free" does not prohibit private schools from charging tuition or other fees. It does, however, impose upon the state the duty of insuring that there are maintained schools at which each child has the opportunity to receive a primary education free.

The Article does not prescribe the extent to which schools and other educational facilities for "further education" may be provided by the state or by churches, endowed institutions, or other voluntary bodies; the nature of the public control, if any, exercised over privately provided schools; the conditions under which privately provided schools may receive financial assistance from the state; or the status of universities. It does impose on the state the responsibility of insuring that adequate educational facilities are provided by either public or private action, a responsibility which would include the duty of providing such facilities itself whenever they are not effectively provided in some other manner. Thus the Article, while affirming the responsibility of the state, allows unlimited variety in the means by which the responsibility is discharged.

The phrase "to promote the development of facilities" recognizes the inevitability of gradualness in the implementation of the right to education; the interpretation of the phrase "adequate and effectively available" will vary with local conditions from either a quantitative or qualitative standpoint. Facilities adequate at one stage of social and economic development will cease to be adequate as further progress becomes possible.

Article 12.

WORK

Every one has the right to work.

The state has a duty to take such measures as may be necessary to insure that all its residents have an opportunity for useful work.

*Comment*

Provisions for establishing this right are contained in current or recent constitutions of nine countries.

This Article does not require the state to furnish work to the individual unless private enterprise fails to provide him the opportunity to work and unless he has no opportunity to earn a living as an independent worker, for example, an artisan, farmer, shop-keeper, or member of a profession.

The phrase "useful work" excludes mere relief work which has no positive social value from being regarded as an adequate fulfillment of the duty of the state.

Article 13.

CONDITIONS OF WORK

Every one has the right to reasonable conditions of work.

The state has a duty to take such measures as may be necessary to insure reasonable wages, hours, and other conditions of work.

*Comment*

Provisions for establishing a right comparable to that in this Article are found in the current or recent constitutions of eighteen countries. Comprehensive international labor standards have been evolved by representatives of governments, management and labor at the annual meetings of the International Labor Conference and are contained in the 67 international Conventions and 66 Recommendations embodied in the International Labor Code.

This Article applies particularly, though not exclusively, to persons employed by others. Standards to determine what are "reasonable wages, hours, and other conditions" necessarily depend on pre-

vailing economic conditions. Wages to an adult insufficient to maintain a family of average size at a level essential to health as determined by objective statistical studies are not reasonable.

The phrase "other conditions of work" includes such matters as rest periods, holidays, and protection against accident and disease incidental to the work.

#### Article 14.

#### FOOD AND HOUSING

Every one has the right to adequate food and housing.

The state has a duty to take such measures as may be necessary to insure that all its residents have an opportunity to obtain these essentials.

#### *Comment*

Food has not been dealt with in constitutional instruments hitherto. Nutrition policies have developed very rapidly since 1936. The United Nations Conference on Food and Nutrition, at which 44 States were represented, recommended that governments should recognize and embody in a formal declaration or agreement their obligation to their respective peoples and to one another to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to improve the efficiency of agricultural production and distribution, and to cooperate, so far as may be possible, with other nations for the achievement of these ends. An Interim Commission of representatives of 44 nations, meeting at Washington, D.C., has been entrusted with the preparation of a plan for a permanent international organization for the furtherance of these objects.

The current or recent constitutional instruments of eleven countries state or imply a right to adequate housing.

This Article insures the individual the "opportunity to obtain" food and housing. The state is not required to provide food or housing unless the individual cannot under existing conditions obtain them by his own efforts.

It may be sufficient for the state to protect its



residents against diseased or unwholesome food and to insure a continuous flow of food at prices within his reach. With respect to housing, it may be sufficient for the state by the exercise of its regulatory power to insure that adequate housing shall be available at prices within the reach of all its residents.

What is "adequate food and housing" must be determined at any given time in the light of developing knowledge and of the material and technical resources within a country. Like Article II on education, this Article recognizes the inevitability of gradualness in the implementation of the right to adequate food and housing.

Should conditions make it physically impossible for the time being for an individual to be insured or supplied with adequate food and housing, he would be entitled only to what is reasonable under the circumstances.

#### Article 15.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

Every one has the right to social security.

The state has a duty to maintain or insure that there are maintained comprehensive arrangements for the promotion of health, for the prevention of sickness and accident, and for the provision of medical care and of compensation for loss of livelihood.

#### *Comment*

Provisions concerning social security are contained, generally in the form of provisions concerning social insurance, in the current or recent constitutions of twenty-seven countries. A further precedent for the provisions of this Article is afforded by the Declaration of Santiago de Chile, 1942, adopted by representatives of the twenty-one American Republics and of Canada at an official conference organized by cooperation between the Chilean Government and the International Organization.

The duties imposed upon the state by this Article are to see that resources of society are organized:

- (1) to raise standards of health
- (2) to prevent sickness and accident
- (3) to provide medical care wherever needed, including maternity cases
- (4) to provide for the financial support of persons deprived of earnings who lack means of livelihood, including the involuntarily unemployed and their dependents, the aged, widows and orphans.

The wording of the Article leaves full scope to private initiative, in countries where this is considered desirable, to accept as much of the responsibility as it can and will. The Article allows diversity of types of organization and of standards of protection provided the essential right stated in the Article is reasonably secured.

#### Article 16.

#### PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT

Every one has the right to take part in the government of his state.

The state has a duty to conform to the will of the people as manifested by democratic elections.

#### *Comment*

The right stated in this Article is embodied in the constitutions of all countries having a democratic constitutional form of government. All such constitutions provide for an elected representative body to determine national policies.

This Article requires the government of the state to be a government of the people, by the people, for the people. It defines one procedure as indispensable to secure such government, namely "democratic elections." Except for requiring this procedure, the Article leaves the state free to mold its political order in conformity with such standards, techniques, or institutions as may correspond with its national traditions and requirements. Every known variety of democratic government satisfies the requirements of this Article. No authoritarian or dictatorial form of government does satisfy them.

"The right to take part in the government" in-

cludes specifically the right to vote in "democratic elections" and by implication the right to be a candidate for and to hold office. The exercise of the right is, therefore, limited to "his state"—the state of which the individual is a citizen. However, the experience of all organized communities and particularly of free self-governing communities shows that the right to take part in government includes the right to express support of and opposition to office holders and policies, and to form political associations. These rights are guaranteed by Articles 3 and 5 to every one, alien as well as citizen. The use of the word "his" state in this Article does not by implication deny these rights to any one.

"Democratic elections" means electoral procedures and practices that guarantee the honest translation of "the will of the people" into representative institutions. Since the will of the people changes and evolves, elections must be recurrent. The specification of elections does not exclude the use of supplementary means of determining the will of the people such as the initiative, recall and referendum, town meetings, and popular polls.

#### Article 17.

#### EQUAL PROTECTION

Every one has the right to protection against arbitrary discrimination in the provisions and application of the law because of race, religion, sex, or any other reason.

#### *Comment*

Provisions for establishing a right comparable to that in this Article are contained in the current or recent constitutions of forty-seven countries.

This Article protects the right of every one to equal treatment by the state. The protection from "arbitrary discrimination" applies to the substantive provisions of the law and also to their administration by executive or judicial authority. The Article accomplishes what is partially achieved in the United States Constitution by the statement that no person shall be denied "the equal protection of the laws."

The determination of what is "arbitrary discrimination" depends to some extent on the national traditions and the sense of justice of the public in the particular country. Barring an individual or group from the exercise of any right stated in the preceding articles on the grounds of who they are (e.g. women, negroes, Catholics) as distinguished from what they have done (e.g. criminals or mental incompetents), would constitute "arbitrary discrimination."

Article 18.

**LIMITATIONS ON EXERCISE OF RIGHTS**

In the exercise of his rights every one is limited by the rights of others and by the just requirements of the democratic state.

*Comment*

No general article in this form is contained in existing constitutions. Limitations on the exercise of rights are included in the statement of each right in practically all constitutions except that of the United States. The limitations on all rights granted in the preceding articles are expressed in this supplementary Article.

The Article forbids any person from abusing his rights, whether because of hereditary status, official position, economic power, or other condition.

The Article recognizes the general relativity of rights. Any right can be abused by so exercising it that it deprives another individual or the state of important rights. Thus, freedom of religion does not permit practices such as human sacrifice, nor in countries where the prevailing standards profoundly disapprove, of practices such as polygamy. Freedom of speech does not forbid the state from adopting reasonable laws forbidding libel and slander; nor does it permit blasphemy or utterances tending to promote panic, mob violence, insurrection, or war. The organization of parties seeking to establish a dictatorship is not consistent with freedom of assembly or association because it would tend to destroy the rights of others.

## Appendix

### THE BILL OF RIGHTS IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

In order that the Statement of Essential Human Rights may be compared with the individual rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, the first ten amendments to the Constitution and all or the pertinent sections of the 13th, 14th, 15th and 19th amendments as well as sections from the body of the Constitution are here reproduced.

ARTICLE I. Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or, prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

ARTICLE II. A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

ARTICLE III. No soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

ARTICLE IV. The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

ARTICLE V. No person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service, in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

ARTICLE VI. In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defence.

ARTICLE VII. In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

ARTICLE VIII. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

ARTICLE IX. The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

ARTICLE X. The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

ARTICLE XIII. Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

ARTICLE XIV. Section 1. . . . No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

. . . . . Section 5. The Congress shall have power to enforce by appropriate legislation the provisions of this article.

ARTICLE XV. Section 1. The right of the citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce the provisions of this article by appropriate legislation.

ARTICLE XIX. Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Section 2. Congress shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to enforce the provisions of this article.

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While most of the specific protections of individual rights are found in the amendments, the Constitution proper contains the following important protections:

ARTICLE I. Section 9—2. The privilege of the writ

of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.

3. No bill of attainder or ex post facto law shall be passed.

ARTICLE III. Section 2-3. The trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury. . . .

ARTICLE VI. 3. . . . but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.



## AMERICANS UNITED for World Organization, INC.

465 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, NEW YORK  
MURRAY HILL 5-3585

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