

Human Rights: Reflections

A collection of selected research papers and articles presented in the National Seminar on 'Human Rights in the 21st Century' on 20th June, 2016 organized by Department of Political Science, Nowgong Girls' College, and published by the Principal, Nowgong Girls' College

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Human Rights in Indian Philosophical Tradition

✓ Dr Sanchita Bora

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

– United States Declaration of Independence, 1776

Introduction

Each individual in society needs to be respected and treated in a certain way. He or she possesses some inherent and undeniable rights by virtue of his/her being a human being. These are the rights which every human being is entitled to enjoy and to have protected. In other words, such rights are necessary to ensure the dignity of every person as a human being irrespective of one's caste, religion, race, colour, language, sex, nationality or any other factor. Scholars and philosophers in both domestic and international level accepted that human beings possess some basic rights. These rights originate with the very birth of the individuals. "To have human rights, one need not do anything special than be born a human being."¹ These rights are called Human Rights and are essential for the development of the