

Redefining Human Rights in the Age of Globalization: Perspectives and Challenges

Yuyu Zheng^{1*} 

¹ School of International Relations, University of St Andrews, St Andrews, London, United Kingdom

* Corresponding author email address: yuyuzheng@gmail.com

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The age of globalization has brought unparalleled changes to how societies operate, affecting everything from economic systems to individual identities. This transformative era necessitates a critical reevaluation of human rights—a concept that, while universally proclaimed, faces diverse and complex challenges across different global contexts. In this letter, I wish to explore the multifaceted nature of human rights in the age of globalization, drawing upon various scholarly insights to highlight the pressing need for a redefined understanding that caters to contemporary global dynamics. As we navigate these complexities, it becomes apparent that a redefined approach to human rights must embrace economic justice, digital inclusivity, mental health, and the protection of vulnerable populations against the backdrop of changing global power dynamics and technological advancements. Such an approach should be rooted in a multifaceted understanding that respects cultural diversity while striving for universal human rights standards that address the realities of our globalized world. In conclusion, redefining human rights in the age of globalization is not merely an academic exercise but a crucial endeavor to ensure that all individuals can live with dignity, justice, and equity in a rapidly changing world. It is a call to action for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to engage in a constructive dialogue that bridges gaps, addresses emerging challenges, and forges a path towards a more inclusive and equitable global society.

Keywords: Human Rights, Globalization, Redefining Human Rights, Challenges of Globalization.

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The age of globalization has brought unparalleled changes to how societies operate, affecting everything from economic systems to individual identities. This transformative era necessitates a critical reevaluation of human rights—a concept that, while universally proclaimed, faces diverse and complex challenges across different global contexts. In this letter, I wish to explore the multifaceted nature of human rights in the age of globalization, drawing upon various scholarly insights to highlight the pressing need for a redefined understanding that caters to contemporary global dynamics.

The globalization of trade and communication networks has indeed made the world more interconnected than

ever before, altering the landscape of human rights enforcement and advocacy. Gereffi's (2013) discussion on global value chains post-Washington consensus world emphasizes the economic shifts that have redistributed global power structures, directly impacting labor rights and economic equality (Gereffi, 2013). This economic restructuring demands a reevaluation of human rights from a lens that considers economic disparities and the right to equitable labor conditions as central to the human rights discourse. Moreover, the digital age has ushered in a new frontier for human rights, with the internet becoming a pivotal arena for the expression, assembly, and dissemination of information. Pettrachin's (2018) advocacy for a universal declaration on internet rights and freedoms



underscores the necessity of integrating digital rights within the broader human rights framework, recognizing access to information and freedom of expression online as fundamental rights (Pettrachin, 2018).

The global mental health crisis further illustrates the urgent need to expand our understanding of human rights to include mental health and wellbeing. Caldas-de-Almeida (2019) and Cohen and Minas (2016) both highlight the new global mental health priorities and the challenges psychiatric institutions face in the 21st century, pointing towards the necessity of integrating mental health rights into the global human rights agenda (Caldas-de-Almeida, 2019; Cohen & Minas, 2016).

Child marriage laws, as examined by Arthur et al. (2017), offer a stark example of how legal frameworks can either protect or violate human rights, especially concerning gender disparities and the rights of children (Arthur et al., 2017). These laws not only reflect the need for gender-sensitive human rights policies but also highlight the broader challenge of harmonizing local customs with global human rights standards.

Furthermore, the populist nationalism highlighted by Williams, Kestenbaum, and Meier (2020) during the COVID-19 response illuminates how political ideologies can threaten the very fabric of human rights, emphasizing the need for global solidarity and cooperation in defending human rights principles against such threats (Williams et al., 2020).

The history of social work as a human rights profession, as discussed by Healy (2008), serves as a reminder of the profession's foundational commitment to human rights, urging current and future practitioners to advocate for policies that address both new and longstanding human rights issues (Healy, 2008).

In this context, it is clear that the age of globalization presents both challenges and opportunities for redefining human rights. The proliferation of human rights in global health governance, as outlined by Gable (2007), suggests that health and well-being are increasingly recognized as global issues that transcend national borders, requiring coordinated efforts to ensure equitable access to health care and protections against health-related human rights violations (Gable, 2007).

As we navigate these complexities, it becomes apparent that a redefined approach to human rights must embrace economic justice, digital inclusivity, mental health, and

the protection of vulnerable populations against the backdrop of changing global power dynamics and technological advancements. Such an approach should be rooted in a multifaceted understanding that respects cultural diversity while striving for universal human rights standards that address the realities of our globalized world.

In conclusion, redefining human rights in the age of globalization is not merely an academic exercise but a crucial endeavor to ensure that all individuals can live with dignity, justice, and equity in a rapidly changing world. It is a call to action for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to engage in a constructive dialogue that bridges gaps, addresses emerging challenges, and forges a path towards a more inclusive and equitable global society.

Authors' Contributions

Authors contributed equally to this article.

Declaration

In order to correct and improve the academic writing of our paper, we have used the language model ChatGPT.

Transparency Statement

Data are available for research purposes upon reasonable request to the corresponding author.

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Declaration of Interest

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