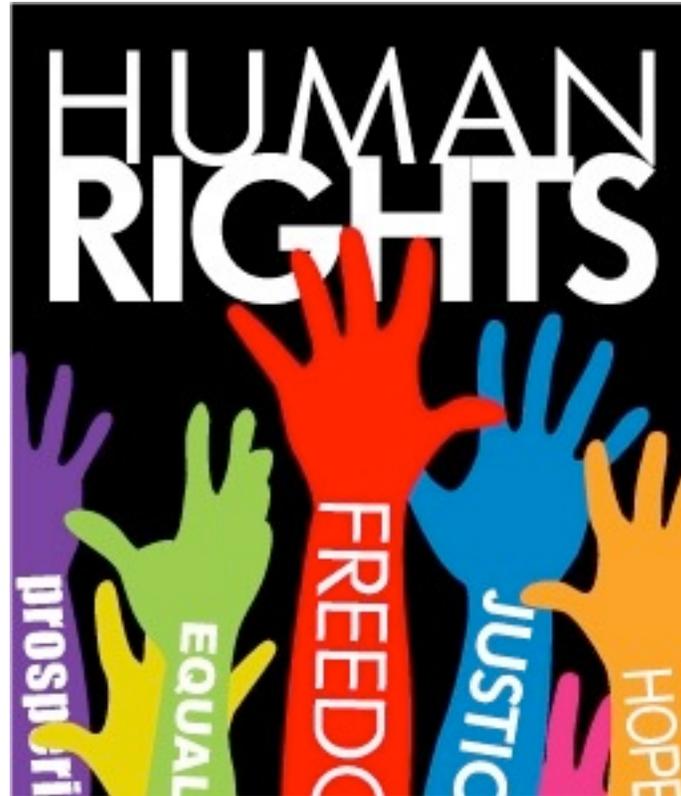


HUMAN RIGHTS

MOST SURVIVORS OF TORTURE COME TO CANADA AS REFUGEES



Torture and other human rights violations continue to take place in many countries all over the world. Victims and survivors of torture include women and men, the young and the elderly, the wealthy and the poor, the educated and the less educated in short, those who have experienced torture and other human rights abuses are from all social classes, denominations, cultures, groups, and ages.

Human rights are said to be universal in three ways:

All humans, as humans, possess them No one is entitled to violate them

All humans, as humans, should be able to exercise them

The right to live in one's homeland is a universally guaranteed right under the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. Refugees are denied this right. Human rights violations, such as torture, have existed for thousands of years and have impacted on all members of society,

including society's vulnerable: women, children, the elderly, the poor, and the disadvantaged.

The United Nations Convention Against Torture defines torture as

Any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted by or at the investigation of a public official on a person it constitutes an aggravated and deliberate form of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

There are a number of measures that if taken, would ensure that all members of the world's population are protected against torture and other human rights abuses. These measures include:

Making sure the Canadian government takes a clear stand on human rights abuses
Upholding international law prohibiting any violation of human rights
Establishing education on human rights issues
Exposing the perpetrators of human rights abuses
Holding the perpetrators accountable for their actions

Making human rights everyone's responsibility