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# **HUMAN RIGHTS IN A GLOBALISED WORLD: IMPACTS, INEQUALITIES AND THE ROLE OF THE JUDICIARY**

## **Abstract**

This study provides an in-depth analysis of the complex interplay between globalization and human rights, examining its transformative effects on political, cultural, and economic rights, with a specific focus on India. As a catalyst for substantial economic development, globalization has unlocked vast opportunities for millions within the nation. However, this economic progress concurrently gives rise to significant societal pressures. These include the widening of socio-economic divides, the emergence of precarious labour conditions, and inequitable access to essential services. Moreover, the increased integration with the global economy presents a threat to cultural sovereignty, as the safeguarding of India's unique cultural heritage and local traditions is challenged by the pervasive reach of Western influences and multinational corporations. The research investigates the contemporary influence of globalization on several key human rights areas, including worker's rights, environmental sustainability, cultural preservation, and healthcare access. A central focus is the pivotal role of the Indian judiciary as a key mediating institution. Through its progressive interpretation of unenumerated rights, the judiciary has been instrumental in aligning the Indian Constitution with international human rights norms and enshrining these principles as fundamental protections. The study concludes that navigating the complexities of a globalized world necessitates a carefully calibrated balance. It emphasizes the need for a comprehensive strategy that harnesses the economic advantages of globalization while implementing robust safeguards for fundamental rights, cultural diversity, and individual liberties. By successfully addressing these inherent tensions, India can secure the benefits of global integration while

upholding the dignity and rights of all its citizens.

**Keywords:-** Globalization, Human Rights, India, Judiciary, Cultural Sovereignty, Economic Inequality, Labor Rights.

## **Introduction**

Globalization is one of the most significant developments of the 21st century. It is changing the political, social, cultural, and economic settings of countries all over the world. It means that countries are becoming more linked and dependent on each other by allowing more goods, services, capital, technology, information, and people move between them<sup>1</sup>. In today's globalized world, national borders have shrunk as compared to before. This makes it easier than ever for ideas and resources to move around. As a result, globalization has affected almost every part of life, changing how societies work and how people connect with the world around them.

Globalization has made a big difference in the economy and technology, but its effects on human rights are still very complicated and debated. On the one hand, globalization has made it easier for democratic ideas to spread, improved international cooperation, and raised awareness about human rights problems around the world. As digital communication, social media, and global civil society networks have grown, news about violations of human rights can spread quickly, leading to actions around the world that would not have been possible in the past. Human rights institutions, foreign organizations, and non-state actors have also become more important in global governance. These groups often put pressure on states to follow international human rights standards<sup>2</sup>.

But on the other hand, globalization has also made new places where people can break the law. Multinational companies (MNCs) are becoming more powerful, free-market policies are becoming more popular, and making money is more important than people. This has caused many violations of workers' rights, environmental rights, cultural rights, and socio-economic rights. Because everyone wants cheap labor, many industries have moved to developing countries with laxer labor laws. This has led to unsafe working conditions, low wages, child labor, and a lack of accountability in global supply lines. Also, economic globalization has made the gap between rich and poor bigger, both within countries and between the Global North and the Global South. This has led to structural inequality that makes it harder to exercise basic human rights.

When it comes to culture, globalization has have created a dual impact. It has made it easier for people from different cultures to meet and share ideas, but it has also sped up the homogenization of societies and the loss of traditional identities. Indigenous cultures have been pushed to the edges by Western values, languages, and media, which has led to cultural breakdown and raised worries about the right to cultural identity, which is protected by international human rights law. Globalization has put nation-states' sovereignty to the test politically by forcing them to match their domestic policies with global economic expectations. This often means sacrificing social welfare, environmental protection, and the

rights of vulnerable groups. Environmental degradation is another major effect of globalization that has -<sup>1</sup> United Nations. (1948). Universal Declaration of Human Rights

<sup>2</sup> Alston, P. (2005). Ships Passing in the Night: The Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the Global Trading Regime. *European Journal of International Law*, 16(5), 947-980.

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serious human rights implications. The worldwide need for natural resources has caused widespread deforestation, pollution, resource loss, and climate change, which mostly affects indigenous people, rural communities, and groups that are already struggling economically.

The relationship between globalization and human rights is even more complicated in places like India, where the economy has grown quickly while there is a lot of social and cultural variety. India's access to global markets has created many growth, job, and technological possibilities, but it has also shown serious problems like the abuse of workers, damage to the environment, loss of culture, and unfair distribution of wealth. India's courts have been very important in figuring out how to interpret and increase basic rights in order to deal with the new problems that globalization has brought about. The Indian judiciary has taken the initiative to recognize rights that haven't been listed before, such as the right to a safe environment, the right to clean water, the right to an income, and the right to health. This has strengthened protections for human rights in a world that is becoming more globalized quickly. This means that the connection between globalization and human rights is not necessarily good or bad. Instead, it is complex, changing all the time, and has many aspects. Thus it is very important to understand this complex relationship in order for it to be advantageous to human rights and rather than having a negative impact .

### **I. The Dual Nature of Globalisation**

Globalisation is often considered as a double edged sword because of its advantages and disadvantages. On the positive side, it makes it possible for economies to grow, technologies to improve, and people to share their ideas quickly across countries. Communication technologies like the internet, satellite media, and social networking sites have made it possible for human rights issues to be shared instantly. This has enabled international organizations, civil society groups, and human rights activists work together. This raised awareness around

the world has made democratic ideals stronger and helped reveal abuses that might have stayed hidden otherwise. Globalization has also made it more feasible for countries to work together, which has helped international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) do their jobs better in protecting human rights, providing emergency aid, and holding governments accountable. By linking people and groups to global networks and resources, these changes have given them more power.

However at the same time, globalization has caused a number of major concerns with human rights. Multinational companies have moved production to countries with weak or poorly

enforced labor laws in order to meet the needs of the global economy for cheap labor. This generally leads to long hours, low pay, dangerous jobs, forced labor, child labor, and the taking away of trade union rights<sup>3</sup>. It is extremely difficult to find out who is responsible when human rights are violated because multinational companies have very long and complex supply lines. States, especially developing ones, are also under a lot of pressure to make policies that encourage foreign investment, privatization, and less government oversight. This can make it harder for them to protect workers, keep businesses in check, and provide basic public services. Technology is the force that makes globalization possible, but it also introduces challenges like invasions of privacy, digital surveillance, unequal access to digital resources, and growing gaps between those who benefit from technology and those who are left behind. Some people might benefit from these changes in technology, but they may leave out or degrade vulnerable groups.

It also has a huge impact on culture, society, and the environment because of globalization that show how dual it is. As Western culture, consumer lifestyles, and media have spread around the world, local customs, languages, and identities have become less important. This raises concern as to how to protect cultural rights and keep native and minority cultures intact. Groups that are already vulnerable, like women, migrant workers, and indigenous peoples, often face most consequences. Women who work in global supply lines or as housekeepers often have to deal with discrimination, exploitation, violence, or being alone. The land, culture, and ways of life of indigenous people are in danger because of global market-driven growth projects and resource extraction<sup>4</sup>. The global culture of consumerism also promotes overconsumption and

<sup>3</sup>International Labour Organization (ILO). (2014). Global Supply Chains: Fact and Figures. International Labour Office. [Link: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_protect/---protrav/---travail/documents/publication/wcms\\_364124.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---travail/documents/publication/wcms_364124.pdf)]

<sup>4</sup>United Nations. (2007). United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. *Article 29 addresses environmental protection of traditional lands.*

business profit-seeking, which doesn't always take environmental sustainability into account. Global economic activity makes problems like deforestation, pollution, resource loss, and climate change worse. These problems directly threaten basic human rights like the right to health, water, food, and a safe environment. Due to this, globalization cannot be completely seen as either beneficial or detrimental. Instead, how it affects things depends on how much governments, international organizations, and businesses value human dignity, justice, and sustainability along with economic progress.

## **II. Economic Dimensions: Labour Rights and Inequality**

Economic globalisation has had a strong impact on labour rights, especially in developing countries where industries commonly relocate to reduce production costs. Multinational corporations often move their factories to places with weak labour laws, limited inspections and low wages, which makes these areas attractive for global business. This shift has led to serious problems such as long working hours, unsafe workplaces, low pay, and a lack of basic

benefits like job security or healthcare. In many industries including textiles, garments, electronics and agriculture workers face harsh conditions that they cannot protest because trade unions are restricted or discouraged. Child labour and forced labour also continue in some regions as part of global supply chains<sup>5</sup>. Since multinational companies work through several layers of contractors and subcontractors, it becomes extremely difficult to identify where violations occur or who should be held responsible. This lack of transparency allows corporations to distance themselves from abuses even while benefiting from them. As a result, many scholars and human rights groups argue for stronger labour protections, more corporate accountability and clearer international regulations.

Globalisation has also played a major role in increasing economic inequality. Although it has helped many countries grow economically and lifted some people out of poverty, the benefits are far from evenly shared<sup>6</sup>. A small group usually skilled workers, educated urban populations and business owners gain access to global markets, foreign investment and better job opportunities. In contrast, a much larger section of society does not receive these benefits and remains trapped in low-income or informal work. In many developing nations, wealthy elites grow richer while poorer groups struggle to meet basic needs. This widening gap between rich and poor has become a major characteristic of globalisation<sup>7</sup>. It often leads to frustration, social tension and political instability. Inequality also increases between countries: wealthier nations with advanced technology and strong industries gain more from global trade, while poorer nations struggle to compete. Limited access to training, technology and global networks makes it even harder for developing nations to close this gap.

<sup>5</sup> - Anti-Slavery International. (2020). Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage. [Link: <https://www.antislavery.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Global-Estimates-of-Modern-Slavery-Forced-Labour-and-Forced-Marriage-web.pdf>]

<sup>6</sup> Stiglitz, J. E. (2002). Globalization and Its Discontents.

<sup>7</sup> Milanovic, B. (2016). Global Inequality: A New Approach for the Age of Globalization. Harvard University Press.

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Due to globalisation it has become more difficult for countries to protect the rights of their citizens. To attract foreign investment, governments often lower labour regulations, cut social welfare programmes or privatise public services. This competition between countries can create a “race to the bottom,” where governments prioritise economic growth over workers’ rights. At the same time, global corporations can easily move their investments from one country to another, while workers remain tied to local jobs and face the consequences of economic instability. Traditional livelihoods such as small-scale farming, handicrafts and local trades are often disrupted by global industries, pushing people into insecure and low-paying jobs in crowded urban areas without their will. Together, these changes weaken essential rights such as fair wages, safe working conditions and a decent standard of living and pushing people into constant fear of losing their jobs. This shows the need for stronger international labour standards, fairer economic policies and responsible behaviour from global corporations so that the benefits of globalisation reach everyone, not just a privileged few.

### **III. Cultural and Political Impacts of Globalisation**

Cultures and identities all over the world have been influenced by globalization greatly. People are exposed to new ideas, ways of life, and ideals much more quickly than in the past because global media, entertainment, and consumer goods have become readily accessible<sup>8</sup>. This allows people from different cultures to learn about each other and share their experiences, but it is also concerning to the loss of local traditions and cultural practices. Because of the increased prevalence of Western culture, English has become the major language used for commerce, technology, and education around the world. However, this has led to the loss of many native languages and traditional ways of life. People's right to protect their cultural identity and history is at risk in this process, which is sometimes called "cultural homogenization<sup>9</sup>." Many communities are afraid that as young people accept more global and uniform ways of life shaped by global media and markets, they will lose touch with their cultural roots.

At the same time, globalization has opened up new ways for people from different cultures to meet and communicate. People from all over the world can now quickly connect, share their experiences, and learn about other cultures due to the growth of digital platforms and social media. This has made many young people feel like they are part of a global community and has backed movements for justice, equality, and human rights around the world. There are, however, times when these exchanges are not fair because of the way power works. Global platforms are often dominated by cultures from stronger or wealthier countries, while views from smaller or less well-known groups are rarely heard. So, globalization can help people learn about other cultures, but it can also make cultural imbalances worse and support stereotypes.

Globalization has changed the role of nation-states and the idea of sovereignty in politics in a big way. International groups like the UN, the World Trade Organization, and the International

<sup>8</sup> Tomlinson, J. (1999). *Globalization and Culture*. Polity Press.

<sup>9</sup> Kymlicka, W. (2007). *Multicultural Odysseys: Navigating the New International Politics of Diversity*. Oxford University Press.

Monetary Fund now have a say in many areas of national policy, such as trade, economic change, and human rights. This unity between countries around the world has helped bring about peace, progress, and common standards, but it also limits the freedom of each government. Countries sometimes make decisions about their policies not because they are best for their own people, but because they need to in order to meet global economic standards or get foreign investment. This makes it harder for governments to protect weak communities, properly control industries, or make sure people are taken care of. There are also arguments about humanitarian intervention, which is when strong countries get involved in the internal affairs of other countries to protect human rights. These kinds of actions are sometimes needed, but they can also be abused or seen as attacks on a country's freedom. Multinational companies are becoming more powerful, which is another political concern. A lot of the time, these businesses have more economic power than some governments. They can also change national policies by asking for less government control,

tax concessions, or weaker labor laws. Due to this, governments might put the needs of corporations ahead of people's rights, which could mean fewer social benefits, the privatization of basic services, and damage to the environment. When you combine the growing power of global corporations with the fact that states lack much control, result in major concerns regarding who is responsible and how to protect people's rights in a globalized world. Overall, globalization opens up new ways for people to work together and for politics to change, but it also brings new risks that need to be carefully handled to protect human rights, cultural diversity, and national sovereignty.

#### **IV. Globalisation and the Environment**

Globalisation has accelerated industrial expansion and resource extraction on an unprecedented scale, resulting in significant environmental degradation that directly threatens the fundamental rights of individuals<sup>10</sup>. The global demand for natural resources like fuels, minerals, timber, water and agricultural land has increased due to rising consumerism, international trade and large-scale industrial operations due to increased accessibility of goods. This has contributed to deforestation, air and water pollution, soil erosion, biodiversity loss and climate change. The people who are most affected by the environmental degradation are mostly the vulnerable communities whose livelihoods depend on natural resources. The right to clean water, the right to health, the right to food and even the right to life are compromised when ecosystems collapse under the pressure of global economic activity. As global supply chains extend to areas which are environmentally vulnerable, many communities experience displacement, land grabbing and contamination of water sources, often without adequate compensation or rehabilitation. Climate change, one of the most serious by-products of globalisation-driven industrialisation, poses long-term threats to human survival and environmental sustainability. Rising global temperatures, melting glaciers, unpredictable weather patterns and increased frequency of extreme weather events such as floods, droughts and cyclones disproportionately affect developing nations, despite their relatively low historical contribution to greenhouse gas

<sup>10</sup> - United Nations. (2007). United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. *Article 29 addresses environmental protection of traditional lands.*

emissions as compared to the developed nations<sup>11</sup>. The communities which live in the coastal areas face the increased risk of sea level rise while the agricultural regions face crop failures and water scarcity. These changes not only worsen poverty but also create new forms of inequality and insecurity, forcing people to migrate in search of safety and livelihoods. Environmental degradation also affects indigenous groups, whose cultural identity and existence are tied to their ancestral lands<sup>12</sup>. Mining, logging, dam construction and other globalised industrial activities destroy forests, contaminate rivers and disrupt the ecological balance, undermining both environmental rights and cultural survival.

Moreover, globalisation has shown the limitations of existing national and international legal frameworks in addressing environmental challenges. While many nations have enacted

environmental protection laws, these regulations are often weakened by economic pressures, political influence of multinational corporations and inadequate enforcement mechanisms and are not implemented properly. Global institutions and agreements such as the Paris Climate Agreement and various sustainable development frameworks attempt to create collective responsibility, yet their effectiveness depends on political will, equitable burden-sharing and strict compliance, all of which remain inconsistent. Multinational corporations frequently operate across borders, allowing them to evade environmental accountability by shifting operations to countries with weaker regulations<sup>13</sup>. This highlights the urgent need for stronger global governance structures to regulate environmental harms, ensure corporate accountability and promote sustainable development. If globalisation is to support rather than threaten human rights, environmental protection must be treated not merely as an economic or developmental concern, but as an essential component of human dignity and global justice.

<sup>11</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). (2022). Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Working Group II Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report. [Link: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/>]

<sup>12</sup> United Nations. (2007). United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. *Article 29 addresses environmental protection of traditional lands.*

<sup>13</sup> Ruggie, J. G. (2011). United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. United Nations. *The authoritative framework for corporate responsibility.*

## V. International Human Rights Law and Global Governance

The rapid expansion of globalisation has highlighted the growing importance of international human rights law. Traditional methods of protecting human rights that focus on the state are no longer enough as interactions between people, businesses, cultures, and technologies grow. International treaties and declarations most notably the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) seek to provide universal standards that guide state behaviour in a globalised world. These frameworks emphasise dignity, equality and non-discrimination, and they establish obligations for states to respect, protect and fulfil human rights.

However, the challenges presented by globalisation reveal several gaps in enforcement. Many multinational corporations, despite having economic power that rival that are equal to some states, are not bound by direct legal obligations under international human rights law. This creates a legal and moral vacuum, especially in cases involving labour exploitation, environmental harm and cultural displacement. As a result, human rights scholars argue for stronger mechanisms such as binding treaties on business and human rights, enhanced monitoring by UN bodies and more effective transnational litigation<sup>14</sup>. In addition to these international instruments, global governance organisations play a crucial role in shaping human rights outcomes. Institutions such as the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) influence domestic policies related to trade, development, environmental protection and social welfare. Their policies may help the economy grow and bring people together around the world, but they may also make it harder for national governments to protect weaker groups.

For instance, trade liberalisation policies may conflict with labour protections, and structural adjustment programmes can lead to cuts in public services essential for the realisation of socio economic rights<sup>15</sup>. At the same time, global human rights advocacy networks, international NGOs and regional human rights courts have become increasingly important in pushing states and corporations towards accountability. The rise of soft law instruments, voluntary principles and due diligence frameworks demonstrates a growing recognition that human rights protections must be adapted to the realities of global economic power. However, the effectiveness of these tools remains uneven, demanding the need for stronger, enforceable international standards that ensure globalisation serves human dignity rather than undermines it.

<sup>14</sup> Clapham, A. (2015). *Human Rights and the Global Economy*. Oxford University Press. <sup>15</sup> Rodrik, D. (2011). *The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy*. W. W. Norton & Company.

## **VI. Judicial Interventions in the Era of Globalisation**

The judiciary has become a vital player in tackling the human rights fallout of globalisation, particularly in nations where rapid economic growth strains social and environmental systems. Courts are increasingly required to interpret constitutional rights against the backdrop of powerful global economic forces, new technologies, and the expansive reach of multinational corporations (MNCs). In India, the judiciary has proactively prevented the erosion of fundamental rights by these global pressures. Notably, Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to life, has been interpreted broadly to include numerous unenumerated rights directly relevant to a globalised society, such as the rights to livelihood, health, clean

water, and a pollution-free environment<sup>16</sup>. This judicial activism reflects a crucial understanding: courts must step in when legislative or executive action fails to adapt human rights to contemporary challenges.

Judicial intervention has been critical in addressing corporate actions that threaten environmental and community rights. The case of *Perumatty Grama Panchayat v. State of Kerala* is a prime example, where the judiciary challenged the excessive groundwater extraction and pollution by the Coca-Cola plant in Plachimada<sup>17</sup>. The court affirmed that global corporations cannot be allowed to exploit natural resources at the expense of local communities, reinforcing the integral nature of environmental and socio-economic rights. Similarly, in the matter *Orissa Mining Corporation v. Ministry of Environment & Forests*<sup>18</sup>, Supreme Court protected the cultural and religious rights of the Dongria Kondh tribe. These decisions unequivocally demonstrate the judiciary's role as a necessary check on corporate power, ensuring that the pursuit of development remains non-destructive and inclusive.

Furthermore, the judiciary has actively addressed the issue of labour rights within globalised industries. Courts have consistently maintained that economic liberalisation cannot be used to justify exploitative labour practices, unsafe working conditions, or the infringement of workers' constitutional rights. The judiciary's insistence on fair wages, safe work environments, and the prohibition of child labour underscores the principle that human dignity must be upheld throughout global supply chains. Judicial rulings frequently highlight that global competitiveness cannot be achieved by sacrificing the well-being of local populations, a stance that aligns with international standards like the ILO conventions and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which stress corporate responsibility across global production networks.

Finally, the judiciary serves as a crucial link between domestic constitutional law and international human rights norms. Indian courts have increasingly referenced international conventions, declarations, and global legal precedents to interpret and expand fundamental rights, especially in emerging areas. This trend signifies a recognition that human rights challenges in the global era transcend national boundaries and necessitate alignment with

-<sup>16</sup>  
Baxi, U. (2010). *The Future of Human Rights*. Oxford University Press (India). *Discusses the expansion of Article 21 in India*.

<sup>17</sup> *Perumatty Grama Panchayat v. State of Kerala*, AIR 2004 Ker 382

<sup>18</sup> *Orissa Mining Corporation v. Ministry of Environment & Forests*, (2013) 6 SCC 476 (Supreme Court of India).

international standards. While courts can issue progressive judgments, their ultimate enforcement depends on the state's political will and administrative capacity. Nevertheless, judicial action has fundamentally reshaped India's human rights landscape, ensuring that the force of globalisation does not overwhelm the foundational values of justice, equality, and human dignity

## **Conclusion**

The relationship between globalisation and human rights is neither simple nor one dimensional; Instead, it is molded by many distinct layers of political, social, cultural, and

economic forces that work together in different ways in various regions and communities.. Globalisation has undoubtedly facilitated new opportunities by increasing economic connectivity, enabling technological progress and strengthening cross-border communication. These developments have helped raise global awareness of human rights violations and have allowed activists, organisations and individuals to collaborate on a much larger scale .But these opportunities are accompanied by significant challenges. Global supply chains, driven by the pursuit of lower production costs, often rely on weak labour protections and informal economies, exposing workers to exploitation, unsafe conditions and wage inequality. Economic globalisation has also widened disparities between rich and poor nations, as well as within societies, affecting people’s ability to enjoy basic socio-economic rights. The cultural consequences of globalisation, including cultural homogenisation and the erosion of indigenous identities, further illustrate the uneven distribution of its benefits and burdens.It becomes clear, therefore, that globalisation amplifies existing strengths and weaknesses within societies, and without strong governance structures, it can deepen structural inequalities and undermine the dignity and wellbeing of vulnerable communities.

At the same time, globalisation has compelled states and institutions to reconsider how human rights are protected and regulated. National governments increasingly face pressure from international economic bodies, multinational corporations and global financial markets, which sometimes limits their ability to prioritise social welfare, labour protections and environmental sustainability. These constraints show how important international human rights law, soft-law processes, and global governance frameworks are for setting standards that go beyond national borders<sup>19</sup>. The involvement of international organisations, along with global civil society networks, has helped broaden the human rights discourse and extend accountability beyond the state level. However, globalisation’s rapid pace exposes gaps in these frameworks—particularly in regulating corporate behaviour, safeguarding indigenous rights and addressing climate-related displacement. In this context, the judiciary has become an important protector of rights, especially in nations like India where it has actively used the Constitution to safeguard populations affected by global business activity. Judgments concerning environmental degradation, mining activities, labor exploitation, and access to key resources demonstrate the judiciary's role in reconciling developmental imperatives with fundamental

<sup>19</sup> - Bilchitz, D. (2015). The Future of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Towards Binding Standards? *South African Journal on Human Rights*, 31(2), 295-321. [Link: <https://doi.org/10.1080/02587203.2015.11838848>]

rights. However, judicial action alone is inadequate; substantive change necessitates collaboration among governments, companies, the judiciary, and civil society, all striving towards a collective dedication to defend human dignity. Ultimately, the future of human rights in a globalised world depends on how societies choose to tackle the challenges and opportunities that come with globalization<sup>20</sup>. Globalisation itself is not inherently positive or negative—it is a powerful force that can either widen inequalities or promote inclusive growth, depending on the rules, values and institutions that guide it. If states prioritise short-term economic gain over human wellbeing, globalisation will continue to marginalise vulnerable communities and create negative impact on environmental systems. On the other

hand, if globalisation is approached through a rights-based framework that emphasises fairness, accountability and sustainability, it can support the expansion of freedoms and improve quality of life for people across the world. To proceed in this direction, we need to strengthen labor standards, hold corporations accountable, conserve cultural heritage, invest in environmental sustainability, and make it more accessible for people to get justice. As global issues like climate change, digital surveillance, pandemics, and mass migration become more common, globalization needs to be shaped in a way that protects human dignity instead of hurting it. The most significant thing for policymakers, institutions, and communities to do is make sure that globalization is utilized to bring about equality, justice, and shared wealth.

<sup>20</sup> Pogge, T. (2002). *World Poverty and Human Rights*. Polity Press.