

THE ATLAS OF  
**HUMAN  
RIGHTS**

Mapping Violations of Freedom Around the Globe

Andrew Fagan



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS

*Berkeley Los Angeles*

# Contents

	Foreword by Clive Stafford Smith	5
	Acknowledgements	7
	Introduction	9
	<b>Major Human Rights Conventions</b>	14
<b>Part</b>	<b>STATE, IDENTITY &amp; CITIZENSHIP</b>	16
	<b>Political Rights</b>	18
	<i>Genuine democracy entails civil and political rights protected by an independent judiciary capable of holding the government to account.</i>	
	<b>Citizenship</b>	20
	<i>The opportunity to vote is fundamental to the enjoyment of citizenship rights.</i>	
	<b>Wealth &amp; Inequality</b>	22
	<i>Nearly half the world's population continue to suffer from the effects of severe poverty.</i>	
	<b>Quality of Life</b>	24
	<i>Quality of life is based on a range of economic and social rights consistent with leading a dignified life.</i>	
	<b>Health</b>	26
	<i>A right to health imposes an obligation on states to promote the conditions under which all citizens can enjoy physical and mental health.</i>	
<b>Part</b>	<b>JUDICIAL VIOLATIONS &amp; LEGAL RESTRICTIONS</b>	28
	<b>Torture</b>	30
	<i>Although expressly forbidden in all circumstances, torture remains widespread.</i>	
	<b>Arbitrary Detention</b>	32
	<i>Some states use unfair and arbitrary detention as a means of political control.</i>	
	<b>Capital Punishment</b>	34
	<i>Punishment by death is a long-established feature of many religious traditions, and also unites otherwise quite different societies, such as the USA and China.</i>	
	<b>Policing</b>	36
	<i>Governments have a fundamental duty to protect the security of their citizens, but far too often police officers become violators, rather than protectors, of citizens' human rights.</i>	
<b>Part</b>	<b>FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION &amp; CENSORSHIP</b>	38
	<b>Freedom of Speech</b>	40
	<i>The expression of opinions and views is widely considered a fundamental attribute of individual freedom.</i>	
	<b>Communications Censorship</b>	42
	<i>The capacity to seek, receive and impart information is central to the exercise of individual liberty, and is an essential attribute of a genuinely open society.</i>	
	<b>Assembly &amp; Association</b>	44
	<i>Restrictions on the right to assemble remain a central tool by which notional "democracies" and overtly authoritarian regimes thwart and distort the will of the people.</i>	

<b>Part</b>	<b>CONFLICT &amp; MIGRATION</b>	46
	<b>Genocide</b>	48
	<i>The urge to prevent genocide is one of the central elements of the modern human rights movement.</i>	
	<b>War &amp; Armed Conflict</b>	50
	<i>War and armed conflict have a devastating impact on human rights.</i>	
	<b>Arms Trade</b>	52
	<i>Access to arms continues to affect people's human rights even after a conflict has ended.</i>	
	<b>Terrorism</b>	54
	<i>Terrorism is fundamentally incompatible with respect for human rights.</i>	
	<b>UN Peacekeeping</b>	56
	<i>UN peacekeeping missions make an important contribution to the protection of human rights.</i>	
	<b>Refugees, IDPs &amp; Stateless</b>	58
	<i>Refugees and IDPs are a barometer of political instability and continuing systematic persecution.</i>	

<b>Part</b>	<b>DISCRIMINATION</b>	60
	<b>Religious Freedom</b>	62
	<i>Religious faith is a central feature of human life, with around 80 percent of people in the world professing allegiance to a religion.</i>	
	<b>Minorities</b>	64
	<i>Minorities exist in almost all countries, and many suffer persecution, oppression and systematic discrimination.</i>	
	<b>Racism</b>	66
	<i>Real progress has been made in the area of racial equality, but racist attitudes and overt forms of discrimination continue in many parts of the world today.</i>	
	<b>Disabilities &amp; Mental Health</b>	68
	<i>People with physical and mental disabilities have been abused and discriminated against for centuries, and this continues across the world today.</i>	
	<b>Sexual Freedom</b>	70
	<i>A right to sexual freedom is yet to be formally recognized as a fundamental human right.</i>	

<b>Part</b>	<b>WOMEN'S RIGHTS</b>	72
	<b>Women's Civil Rights</b>	74
	<i>The systematic denial and restriction of women's civil rights across the world remains one of the central challenges to the human rights movement.</i>	
	<b>Domestic Violence</b>	76
	<i>The stark reality for many women is that their right to life and security is most at risk within the home and from their intimate partners.</i>	
	<b>Rape</b>	78
	<i>Rape constitutes a fundamental violation of the victim's human right to personal security, and is a truly global phenomenon.</i>	
	<b>Right to Choose</b>	80
	<i>A woman's right to choose whether to continue with a pregnancy remains embroiled in political and moral controversy throughout the world.</i>	
	<b>Female Genital Mutilation</b>	82
	<i>From a human rights perspective, FGM is a violent act with significant and long-lasting consequences for its victims.</i>	
	<b>Sex Slavery</b>	84
	<i>The human rights doctrine is founded on the notion that no human being should be reduced to the status of a mere commodity.</i>	
<b>Part</b>	<b>CHILDREN'S RIGHTS</b>	86
	<b>Child Labour</b>	88
	<i>Over 190 million children aged between 5 and 14 years are estimated to be employed in some form of economic activity.</i>	
	<b>Child Soldiers</b>	90
	<i>There are an estimated 300,000 soldiers under the age of 18, waging war across the world.</i>	
	<b>Education</b>	92
	<i>Education is a core right and the basis for obtaining a wide range of other human rights.</i>	
	<b>Child Mortality &amp; Health</b>	94
	<i>Of all of the human rights children possess, their rights to life and to the enjoyment of health are most at threat around the globe.</i>	
<b>Part</b>	<b>COUNTRY PROFILES &amp; WORLD DATA</b>	96
	Country Profiles	98
	World Data	114
	Sources	122
	Index	127