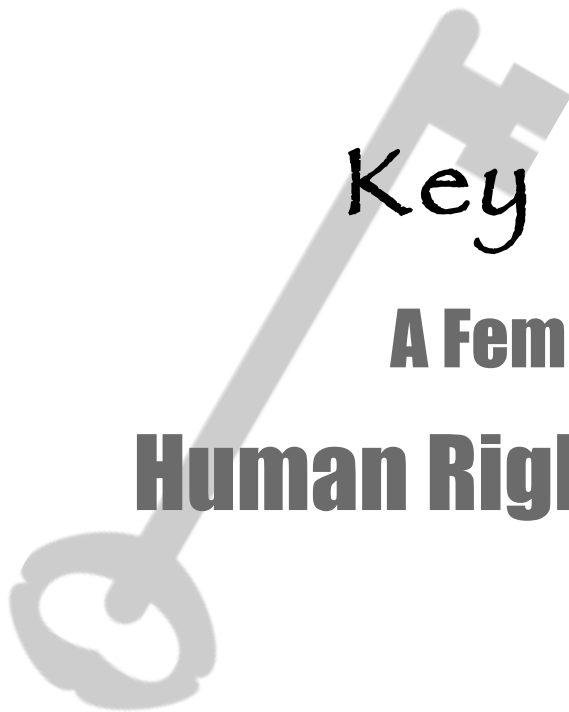


Appendix

Resources

Key Concepts:

**A Feminist Approach to
Human Rights Education**



SUGGESTED READINGS

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GLOSSARY

Civic Engagement: To participate in public life and to join in common work that promotes the well-being of everyone.

Convention: A legally binding agreement between nations designed to protect human rights (used interchangeably with treaty and covenant). Conventions have more legal force than declarations because governments agree to enforce a convention once it has been ratified. Governments that have ratified a convention can be censured by the UN if they violate its standards.

Covenant: A legally binding agreement between nations. While a covenant has the same legal force as a convention or a treaty, the word *covenant* connotes an especially intense promise to honor and uphold agreements. Two major international human rights covenants were adopted in 1966 and entered into force in 1976: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

Declaration: A document comprising standards that nations agree upon as a statement of aspirations and goals. Unlike a *treaty* or *convention*, a declaration is not legally binding. Nevertheless, declarations issued by the UN General Assembly are highly influential as statements of internationally accepted standards.

Generations of Rights: A system for classifying human rights into three categories (also called dimensions of rights). The first generation includes civil and political rights; the second generation includes economic, social, and cultural rights; the third generation includes environmental rights, the rights of cultural groups and the rights of people to sustainable development.

International Bill of Human Rights: The combination of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and its Optional Protocols, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

Protocol: A treaty that modifies another treaty by adding additional procedures or substantive provisions.

Signing and Ratification: The process by which a government formally adopts a treaty. The head of State first signs the treaty, after which the representative government body (such as the parliament or congress) confirms agreement to become legally bound by the treaty.

Reservation: The exceptions that State Parties make to a treaty (i.e., provisions that they do not agree to follow). Reservations, however, may not undermine the fundamental objective and purpose of the treaty.

Rule of Law: The principle that all members of society—both citizens and rulers—are bound by a set of clearly defined and universally accepted laws. In a democracy, the rule of law is manifested through an independent judiciary, a free press, and a system of checks and balances on leaders through separation of powers among the branches of government and through free elections.

Treaty: A formal agreement between nations, which defines and modifies their mutual duties and obligations (a treaty which may be ratified by more than two States Parties is a multilateral treaty, sometimes known as a convention). When conventions are adopted by the UN General Assembly, they create legally binding international obligations for the Member States that have ratified the treaty.

Treaty Body: A committee of independent experts that monitors the implementation of the provisions contained in international human rights documents. Currently, there are six treaty bodies: The Human Rights Committee, The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, The Committee against Torture, The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and The Committee on the Rights of the Child.

—Adapted from *Close the Gap: An Educator Guide* by the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center and *First Steps—A Manual for Starting Human Rights Education* by Amnesty International UK

