

ABSTRACT

The Protection and Implementation of
International Human Rights Standards
at the National Level. A Case Study
of Trinidad and Tobago.

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This thesis examines the theoretical and historical development of international standards for the protection of civil and political rights, as well as social, economic and cultural rights, and attempts to see to what extent these standards have been protected and implemented at the national level.

The major contention of the study is that human rights promotion, that is, the promotion of the inter-related social, cultural, economic and political welfare/interests of people, should be the raison d'être of all human activity at the national and international levels, in short of international relations itself.

In view of the gross violation of human rights in many parts of the contemporary world, it is argued that efforts to achieve development must place the individual at the centre of such development. Only in this way can human dignity be secured and advanced.

The study also seeks to determine the extent to which international human rights standards are incorporated into the Constitution and Laws of Trinidad and Tobago. Using documentary sources, the paper also scrutinises government policies and programmes, institutional machinery and procedures in terms of content and effectiveness, so as to determine the actual level of implementation and enjoyment of these rights. Suggestions for improving on shortcomings in the above areas, have also been made. Dr. Herb Addo, lecturer in Theory and Methodology of International Relations, Institute of International Relations, for his guidance through the early uncertainties of the study and his assistance in defining the scope of my research.

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