



BOLETIM SOBRE DIREITOS HUMANOS

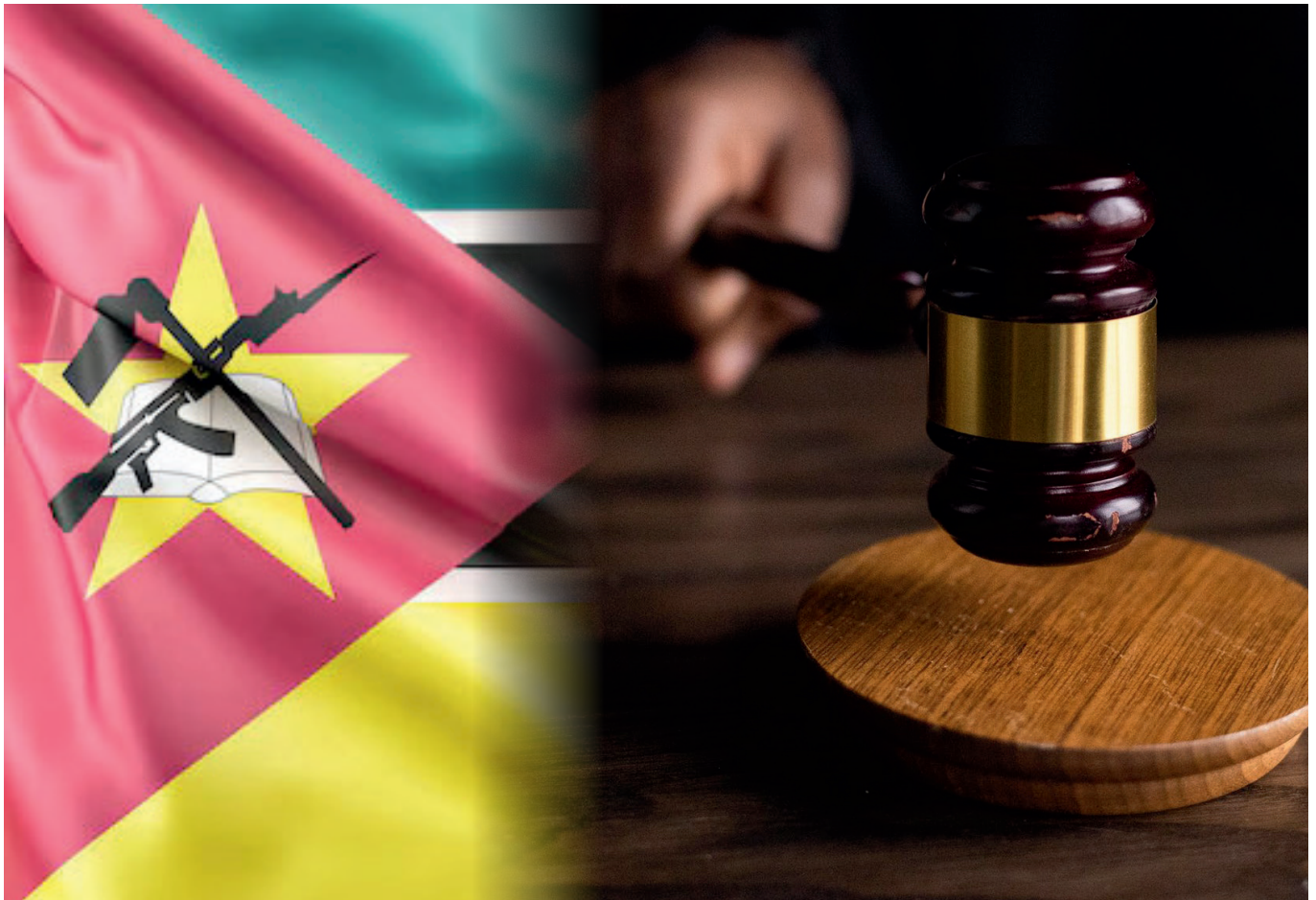


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Justice and Human Rights: Pillars of Fairness, Dignity, and Equality in Society



Understanding the distinction between Justice and Human Rights is essential for anyone working to promote fairness, equality, and dignity in society. While these concepts are deeply interconnected—human rights often serving as the foundation for justice—they operate in distinct ways,

addressing different aspects of societal well-being. Clarifying these differences allows us to better advocate for effective systems that both protect individual freedoms and ensure fairness for all. Below is an overview of their unique roles and how they complement each other.

1. DEFINITION

- **Justice**

Justice refers to the principle of fairness, moral rightness, and the equitable treatment of individuals within a society. It focuses on ensuring that laws, actions, and systems operate in a way that promotes fairness and holds wrongdoers accountable.

Human Rights Human rights are inherent, universal rights that every individual is entitled to simply by being human. These rights are protected by international laws and norms and aim to guarantee dignity, freedom, and equality for all.

2. SCOPE

- **Justice**

Justice is broader and encompasses the systems, processes, and principles used to resolve disputes, address wrongdoing, and ensure fairness in society. It can include legal justice, social justice, economic justice, and distributive justice.

- **Human Rights**

Human rights are specific entitlements, such as the right to life, freedom of speech, education, and protection from torture. They set minimum standards for how individuals should be treated.

3. Purpose

- **Justice**

The purpose of justice is to create a fair and equitable society by holding individuals and institutions accountable for their actions. Justice is both a goal (an ideal society) and a process (laws, courts, and policies).

- **Human Rights**

The purpose of human rights is to protect individuals from abuses, ensure equality, and promote dignity and freedom. They act as a safeguard against oppression and are foundational for building just societies.

4. MECHANISMS

- **Justice**

Justice is implemented through judicial systems, laws, enforcement agencies, and institutions that interpret and apply legal and social norms.

- **Human Rights**

Human rights are enforced through international agreements (e.g., the Universal Declaration of Human Rights), treaties, organizations (e.g., the United Nations), and advocacy groups.

5. INTERCONNECTION

- **Justice depends on human rights:** A just society ensures that human rights are respected, protected, and fulfilled. Without the recognition of human rights, justice becomes unattainable.

- **Human rights rely on justice:** Justice systems are necessary to uphold and enforce human rights, ensuring accountability for violations.

6. EXAMPLES

- **Justice**

A court ruling that holds someone accountable for a crime or ensures fair distribution of resources in a community.

- **Human Rights**

Protecting individuals from torture, ensuring access to education, or advocating for freedom of expression.

IN SUMMARY

- **Justice** is the process and principle of ensuring fairness, equity, and accountability within society. It is the mechanism through which fairness is actualized, holding individuals and institutions responsible for their actions and striving to create systems that operate equitably for all. As Mahatma Gandhi once said, *“Justice that love gives is a surrender, justice that law gives is a punishment.”* This highlights justice as both a moral pursuit and a legal necessity in addressing societal inequities and ensuring accountability.
- **Human Rights** are the foundational entitlements inherent to every individual, safeguarding dignity, equality, and freedom. These rights set universal standards for how individuals should be treated, irrespective of their background or circumstances. Eleanor Roosevelt, a key architect of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, famously remarked, *“Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home.”* This emphasizes that human rights are the cornerstone of human dignity and equality, starting at the most personal and communal levels.






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