



Human Rights An Interdisciplinary Approach

Second edition

Michael Freeman
University of Essex

‘A comprehensive, well-informed and intelligent discussion of the contemporary theoretical and philosophical debates in human rights. Freeman manages to be both even-handed and incisive in his commentary and this textbook will appeal to novices and experts alike.’

**Richard A. Wilson, University of
Connecticut**

By tracing the history of the concept of human rights, Freeman shows that there is a fundamental tension between the philosophy of human rights and the way in which it is understood in the social sciences. This analysis throws light on some of the most controversial issues in the field: Is the idea of the universality of human rights consistent with respect for cultural difference? Are there collective human rights? Should feminists embrace, revise or reject the idea of human rights? Does the idea of human rights distract our attention from the structural causes of oppression and exploitation? What are the underlying causes of human rights violations; and why do some countries have much worse human rights records than others?

The book will appeal to students in the social sciences, as well as students of human rights law who want an introduction to the non-legal aspects of their subject. It will also be read by scholars interested in ethics and the social sciences, as well as the general reader. This is a substantially revised edition that takes account of recent events such as the ‘war on terror’ and the global economic crisis of 2008.

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