



All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation

Munshi Niketan, Flat No. 16,
2nd Floor, 1/10B, Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi - 110002
Tel : 011-23232801, Tel. fax : 23234831, Mobile : +91 9899067244
E-mail : aipsohq@gmail.com / sengupta.pallab@gmail.com

All India peace and Solidarity Organisation is a civil society organisation that firmly stands for enduring world peace and solidarity among nations and Peoples of the world. It believes that progress and wellbeing of the mankind is possible only in an environment that is free from war and conquests, exploitation and discrimination, communalism and racism, obscurantism and fundamentalism; where all men and women are treated with dignity and as equals; and where bounties of nature are kept in trust for the future generations.

Seeking inspiration from the values of independence movement, in the last seventy years it has tirelessly played pro-active role and done advocacy on a whole range of issues and events concerning democracy, peace, social justice, human dignity and environment protection throughout the world. Its major activities thus far include championing the cause of sovereign state for the people of Palestine; support for the freedom struggle of Vietnam and other countries under the colonial yoke, solidarity with Cuba against ever aggressive designs of the U.S.A. against her; campaign for the end of the apartheid regime in South Africa and so on.

Particularly, relations with Vietnam have been, are, and will continue to be one of the important areas of cooperation for AIPSO. Aware of the democratic developments in Vietnam and its commitment to implementing the ICCPR in letter and spirit, AIPSO presents its independent assessment of the progress made by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

I. Political Rights in Vietnam (Under Articles 9, 21, and 25 of the ICCPR)

As a State Party to the ICCPR, Vietnam has made efforts to uphold political rights under Articles 9, 21, and 25, integrating these into its legal and governance systems to promote liberty, participation, and public order.

Article 9 – Right to Liberty and Security of Person

Vietnam recognizes the right to protection against arbitrary arrest or detention. The 2015 Penal Procedure Code mandates arrest warrants (except in emergencies), guarantees legal counsel, public hearings, and prompt judicial oversight. Legal aid, particularly for vulnerable groups, has expanded to ensure access to justice and due process.

Article 21 – Right of Peaceful Assembly

Peaceful assembly is protected under Article 25 of Vietnam's 2013 Constitution. The legal framework aims to balance this right with public order. Events like national celebrations, cultural festivals, and advocacy gatherings are regularly supported by authorities. Youth and civil society groups actively participate in community and social initiatives.

Article 25 – Right to Participate in Public Affairs, Vote, and Be Elected

Vietnam upholds universal suffrage for citizens aged 18 and above, with regular elections and high voter turnout (over 90%). Women hold over 30% of National Assembly seats, among the highest in Asia. Grassroots Democracy laws empower citizens in local governance, and civic education targets youth and marginalized groups to promote inclusive political participation.

Vietnam has made meaningful progress in aligning with the ICCPR's political rights provisions. While challenges persist, the country continues to strengthen its legal structures and civic participation mechanisms, showing a constructive commitment to civil and political rights.

II. Right to Life in Vietnam (Under Article 6 of the ICCPR)

Article 6 of the ICCPR affirms the inherent, non-derogable right to life. As a State Party, **Vietnam has made significant progress in protecting this right**, improving its legal, institutional, and policy frameworks to ensure safety, dignity, and the preservation of life.

1. Constitutional and Legal Safeguards

Vietnam's 2013 Constitution explicitly guarantees the right to life (Article 19), forming the legal foundation for protecting individuals from arbitrary deprivation of life. The Penal Code criminalizes violent offenses such as murder and assault, with ongoing reforms aimed at strengthening legal penalties and upholding the sanctity of life.

2. Reducing the Application of the Death Penalty

Vietnam has **reduced the number of capital offenses** from 29 to 18 through legal reforms. The death penalty has been abolished for several non-violent crimes, and its application is now limited to the most serious cases. The government also engages in international human rights dialogue, showing openness to further reforms and eventual abolition in line with global human rights standards.

3. Protection of Life through Public Policy

Vietnam protects life through comprehensive **healthcare, public safety, and environmental policies**. Universal healthcare expansion emphasizes maternal and child health, disease control, and outreach to underserved areas. The COVID-19 response demonstrated strong prioritization of life. Public safety measures include stricter traffic laws and emergency services, while environmental policies address pollution, disaster risk, and climate change.

4. Protection of Vulnerable Groups

Vietnam places special focus on **vulnerable populations**, including women, children, ethnic minorities, the elderly, people with disabilities, and victims of violence. Programs target maternal and infant mortality, provide mental health and suicide prevention services, and ensure non-discriminatory access to social protection.

Vietnam's commitment to the right to life is reflected in its constitutional protections, death penalty reforms, inclusive public policies, and support for vulnerable groups. These combined efforts demonstrate a forward-looking, human rights-centered approach that upholds the sanctity and dignity of life in national governance.

III. Non-Discrimination and Protection of Vulnerable Groups in Vietnam

(Under Articles 2, 19, 20, and 26 of the ICCPR)

As a State Party to the ICCPR, **Vietnam is committed to equality, dignity, and non-discrimination**, supported by constitutional guarantees, legal reforms, and inclusive policies.

Article 2 – Respect and Non-Discrimination

Vietnam's **2013 Constitution (Article 16)** guarantees equality before the law and prohibits discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, and more. Programs like **Program 135** and the **National Target Program** focus on the socio-economic development of ethnic minority and disadvantaged areas. The **Gender Equality Strategy (2021–2030)** addresses gender-based disparities across sectors.

Article 19 – Freedom of Expression

Vietnam enshrines **freedom of opinion and expression** in Article 25 of its Constitution. The rise of **digital platforms** has expanded public discourse, especially among youth. Government initiatives include **media literacy**, **journalism training**, and increased public engagement via **online platforms** and citizen feedback channels.

Article 20 – Prohibition of Hatred and Incitement

Vietnam criminalizes **incitement to hatred** based on ethnicity, religion, or social class through its Penal Code. The **2016 Law on Belief and Religion** protects religious freedom and promotes **interfaith harmony**. National education and media promote **cultural diversity** and **tolerance**.

Article 26 – Equality Before the Law

Vietnam implements **affirmative policies** to support vulnerable groups. The **Law on Legal Aid** ensures free legal services for the poor and marginalized. Policies promote equal access to **education**, **employment**, and **political participation**. Women hold over 30% of National Assembly seats. Laws like the **2016 Law on Children** and Vietnam's ratification of the **CRPD** further advance rights protection for children and persons with disabilities.

Protection of Vulnerable Groups: Key Focus Areas

Ethnic Minorities:

- Recognized 54 groups; efforts focus on cultural preservation, education in native languages, and regional development.

Women and Girls:

- National programs work to reduce gender gaps in education, healthcare, leadership, and prevent gender-based violence.

Persons with Disabilities:

- The **National Action Plan on Disability** ensures inclusive access to education, healthcare, employment, and infrastructure.

Children and Youth:

- Stronger child protection laws, anti-child labor measures, and expanded educational access for all backgrounds.

LGBTQ+ Community:

- While challenges remain, same-sex relationships are no longer criminalized. Awareness campaigns and policy dialogue support increased inclusion and rights recognition.

Vietnam's actions under Articles 2, 19, 20, and 26 of the ICCPR reflect a comprehensive commitment to **equality, inclusion, and protection of vulnerable groups**. Through **legal reforms, public policies, education, and international cooperation**, the country continues to strengthen its human rights framework and promote a society where diversity is respected and protected.

IV. Economic Achievements and Human Rights Impacts in Vietnam

Vietnam has made remarkable economic progress over the past three decades, transforming from a centrally planned economy into one of the most dynamic emerging markets in the world. The country's consistent economic growth, poverty reduction, and social development have significantly improved the standard of living and contributed to the fulfillment of a wide range of human rights.

I. Economic Achievements

Sustained Economic Growth

Vietnam has maintained an average GDP growth rate of 6–7% per year over the past two decades. It is now considered one of Asia's fastest-growing economies and has emerged as a global manufacturing hub. The country's ability to maintain economic resilience during global downturns, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, reflects sound macroeconomic management and the strength of its international trade partnerships.

Poverty Reduction and Shared Prosperity

According to the World Bank, Vietnam has reduced its poverty rate from over 70% in the 1990s to less than 5% today, based on the national poverty line. Income growth has been notably inclusive, with significant improvements in living standards, particularly in rural areas and among ethnic minority communities. The government has expanded social protection programs to support vulnerable populations, including the poor, elderly, and persons with disabilities.

Human Capital Development

Vietnam has prioritized human capital development, resulting in universal education and high literacy rates that support a skilled and competitive workforce. The country consistently performs well in international student assessments such as PISA. Public healthcare services, coupled with an expanding health insurance system, have led to improved life expectancy and better health outcomes across the population.

Trade and Foreign Investment

Vietnam has actively pursued global economic integration by joining key trade agreements such as the CPTPP, RCEP, and EVFTA, enhancing its market access and global competitiveness. Foreign direct investment continues to rise, contributing to job creation and technology transfer, further bolstering the country's industrial and technological capacity.

Infrastructure and Digital Transformation

Investment in transportation, energy, and digital infrastructure has played a critical role in modernizing the economy. The rapid growth of the digital economy and the government's e-government initiatives have improved public access to services, increased transparency, and fostered innovation.

II. Human Rights Impacts of Economic Progress

Vietnam's economic transformation has directly supported the realization of numerous human rights, especially economic, social, and cultural rights in accordance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), as well as civil and political rights under the ICCPR.

Right to an Adequate Standard of Living

Rising household incomes, improved housing, and greater food security have lifted millions of people out of poverty. Government initiatives such as affordable housing programs and rural electrification projects have significantly enhanced living conditions, particularly for disadvantaged communities.

Right to Education

Primary education in Vietnam is free and compulsory, ensuring that all children have access to basic schooling. Targeted programs for ethnic minorities, girls, and children with disabilities have increased school enrollment and attendance, helping to reduce disparities in education.

Right to Health

Vietnam has made great strides in achieving universal health coverage, with over 90% of the population now covered by health insurance. Investments in healthcare infrastructure have led to improved public health indicators, including increased life expectancy—now over 75 years—and significantly reduced infant and maternal mortality rates.

Right to Work and Social Security

Labor market reforms in Vietnam have improved workers' rights, workplace safety, and employment opportunities. New labor laws include provisions for collective bargaining and minimum wage protections. The expansion of social insurance schemes and unemployment benefits reinforces the right to social protection and economic security.

Women's Economic Empowerment

Vietnam boasts one of the highest rates of female labor force participation in Asia. The government supports female entrepreneurship and leadership through microfinance programs, business training, and gender equality strategies. Laws ensuring maternity protection and equal pay help safeguard women's rights in the workplace and promote greater gender equity.

III. Inclusive Growth and Protection of Vulnerable Groups

Vietnam has made concerted efforts to ensure that the benefits of economic growth reach all segments of society, especially vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Ethnic Minorities and Rural Communities

The government has directed substantial investments toward ethnic minority regions, supporting economic development, education, healthcare, and cultural preservation. These efforts include infrastructure improvements, agricultural support, and vocational training programs to foster self-sufficiency and community resilience.

Persons with Disabilities

Vietnam promotes economic inclusion for persons with disabilities through initiatives such as vocational rehabilitation, the development of inclusive workplaces, and legal protections provided under the Law on Persons with Disabilities. These measures aim to empower individuals and remove barriers to full participation in society.

Youth and Employment

National programs have been launched to promote youth employment by encouraging entrepreneurship, developing job-relevant skills, and enhancing digital literacy. These initiatives aim to prepare the younger generation for a modern and competitive labor market.

IV. International Cooperation and Sustainable Development

Vietnam is firmly committed to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, integrating economic development with social equity, environmental sustainability, and good governance. The country actively engages in dialogue with international human rights mechanisms and consistently submits reports under UN human rights treaties, reflecting its openness to cooperation and accountability in upholding human rights.

Vietnam's economic achievements have laid a strong foundation for advancing a broad spectrum of human rights. Through inclusive policy-making, strategic social investments, and international cooperation, the country continues to reinforce the connection between economic progress and human dignity. These efforts reflect a deep commitment to balancing economic development with human rights protections, as Vietnam strives to build a just, equitable, and resilient society for current and future generations.

Recommendations from AIPSO in Support of Vietnam

The All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation (AIPSO) commends Vietnam's achievements in economic growth and human rights, and offers key recommendations to support its ongoing progress. These include strengthening legal frameworks in line with international conventions, enhancing grassroots participation in governance, advancing labor rights, and integrating environmental and climate justice into human rights policies. AIPSO also calls for greater social inclusion, particularly for marginalized groups, the promotion of gender equality, support for responsible media and digital rights, and continued cooperation with international human rights mechanisms. These measures aim to promote peace, inclusive development, and the full realization of human rights in Vietnam.

