HUMAN RIGHTS: THE ARGUMENT

Everyone has a right to life and to health

Governments have a duty to enforce those rights

Governments therefore have a duty to protect their citizens from the tobacco industry and harms from tobacco

Legal remedies are available at the international, regional, and national levels.
What do you say?

Protect = Protect citizens from tobacco industry

Respect = Industry should respect human rights norms

Remedy = Mechanisms and processes to request reparation when industry infringes on human rights
Success story: Using human rights to benefit public health
USING HUMAN RIGHTS’ REPORTING PROCESSES TO ADVANCE DOMESTIC TOBACCO CONTROL

What can YOU do?
National Level

- Find out when your country is due to report through the UPR process
- Find out which human right treaties your country has ratified (CRC, CEDAW etc.)
- Find out when they are due to report
- Use international treaties to achieve local change
The U.S. has not ratified:

- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ECOSOC) (signed)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (signed)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (signed)
The U.S. has ratified:

- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
The U.S. submitted its report in February.
What do you do?

Varies a bit from treaty to treaty, but the basics are the same

• Submit a report
• Create an advocacy campaign
• Make an oral statement
• Follow up
Success story: Argentina

“...The Committee urges the State party to ratify and implement the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control...”
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Success story: Using human rights at the local level

Local use of international environmental law in the United States
Success story: Using human rights at the local level
TOBACCO AND HUMAN RIGHTS HUB

Visit: ash.org/hrhub
SIGN UP TO GET INVOLVED

Action Alerts’ sign up form: ash.org/hrhub

Human Rights and Tobacco Control Network (HRTCN) listserv: email romeo-stuppyK@ash.org to join
Tobacco infringes on

- right to life
- right to health
- right to education
- children’s rights
- women’s rights
- and many others

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Stay Involved

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@AATCLC

Instagram
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Email
Info@ash.org

Recordings from previous webinars and Live Chats on social media, under “Resources from ASH” here:
ash.org/coronavirus-update

Next Webinar:
Thursday, May 28th
with Co-host

Public Health Law Center
(PhLC)

Details coming soon...

Toolkit for Advocates
Talking with government and media about the COVID-19 and tobacco use co-morbidity and policies to protect the health of everyone during the pandemic.

ash.org/covid19