

ABSTRACT

The term and meaning of human rights should be simple, that every human being possesses the same basic rights; the right to be free, receive equal treatment, gain access to food, water, and education, and many more that influences a person's well-being. Yet human rights have been the root cause of countless debates, and the struggles to gain those basic rights most of the time were marked with suffering and bloodshed. There are many factors to why the struggle to gaining human rights for some people has been met with resistance, one of the reasons is culture. Traditions, as a part of culture, were fiercely protected by certain groups of people. Even the ones that endanger the well-being of people, such as dowry, selective abortion, child marriage, virginity testing, and female genital mutilation. One of the countries with the highest amount of women and girls going through FGM is in Indonesia. Using two opposing theories of Universal Human Rights and Cultural Relativism, the author would like to understand and explore the efforts from the Indonesian government and international institutions to handle the impacts of FGM in Indonesia and to answer the question of whether human rights should be rejected on the basis of cultural rights.