

GLOSSARY

Boal, Augusto (1931-2009): Legendary Brazilian theatre director author of *Theater of the Oppressed*, and founder of the "Theater of the Oppressed" movement.

Collective rights: The rights of groups to protect their interests and identities.

Convention: Binding agreement between states; used synonymously with **treaty** and **covenant**. Conventions are stronger than **declarations** because they are legally binding for governments that have signed them. When the UN General Assembly adopts a convention, it creates international norms and standards. Once UN General Assembly adopts a convention, Member States can then **ratify** the convention, promising to uphold it. The UN can then censure governments that violate the standards set forth in a convention.

Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Women's Convention, CEDAW): Adopted 1979; entered into force 1981. The first legally binding international document prohibiting discrimination against women and obligating governments to take affirmative steps to advance the equality of women

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide: Adopted 1948; entered into force 1951. Defines **genocide** and obligates countries that **ratify** the **Convention** to prevent and punish acts of genocide in both war and peacetime.

Convention on the Rights of the Child (Children's Convention, CRC): Adopted 1989; entered into force 1990. Convention setting forth a full spectrum of civil, cultural, economic, social, and political rights for children.

Covenant: Binding agreement between states; used synonymously with **convention** and **treaty**. The major international human rights covenants, both passed in 1966, are the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)** and the **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)**.

Declaration: Document stating agreed upon standards but which is not legally binding. UN conferences, like the 1993 UN Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, usually produce two sets of declarations: one written by government representatives and one by **Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs)**. The UN General Assembly often issues influential but legally nonbinding declarations.

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP): See **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC): A UN council of 54 members primarily concerned with population, economic development, human rights, and criminal justice. This high-ranking body receives and issues human rights reports in a variety of circumstances.

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Established in 2007 by the **UN Human Rights Council** with a mandate to provide studies and research on the rights of Indigenous peoples. It may also suggest proposals to the Council for its consideration and approval. It is made up of five independent experts appointed by the Human Rights Council, which is to give due regard to experts of indigenous origin as well as to gender balance and geographic representation. It replaces the **Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP)**.

Forum Theater, forum play: Enactment of a scene in which the protagonist tries unsuccessfully to overcome oppression. The joker then invites “spect-actors” (audience members who join the action of the play) to replace the protagonist at any point in the scene and offer an alternative action that could lead to a different ending or solution.

FPIC: An acronym for “free, prior and informed consent,” the principle that a community has the right to give or withhold its consent to proposed projects that may affect the lands they customarily own, occupy or otherwise use. FPIC is a key principle recognized by the **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**.

Freire, Paulo (1921-1997): Brazilian educator and philosopher; best known for his *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, a foundational text of the critical pedagogy movement.

Geneva Conventions: Four **treaties** that establish standards of international law for the humanitarian conduct of war. Updated in 1949 following World War II, the Conventions deal with the rights of civilian and military prisoners, protection of the wounded, and protection of non-combatants in war zones.

Genocide: The systematic killing of people because of their race or ethnicity.

Image Theater: A series of silent exercises in which participants create embodiments of their feelings and experiences.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR): Adopted in 1966; entered into force in 1976. The ICCPR declares that all people have a broad range of civil and political rights. One component of the International Bill of Human Rights.

International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR): Adopted 1966; entered into force 1976. The ICESCR declares that all people have a broad range of economic, social, and cultural rights. One of the components of the International Bill of Human Rights.

International Day of the World's Indigenous People: August 9, established by the UN General Assembly in 1994.

Joker, the: A character who may both facilitate and/or act as a character in a performance, jumping in and out of scenes, adding information that helps raise consciousness, or changing the direction of the action. Augusto Boal describes the Joker as a "difficultator," one who reveals just how difficult it is to solve a social issue.

Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs): Organizations formed by people outside of government. NGOs monitor the proceedings of human rights bodies such as the **UN Human Rights Council** and are the "watchdogs" of the human rights that fall within their mandate. Some are large and international (e.g., the Red Cross, Amnesty International, the Girl Scouts); others may be small and local (e.g., an organization for the rights of particular Indigenous Nation; a coalition to promote women's rights in one refugee camp). NGOs play a major role in influencing UN policy, and many of them have official consultative status at the UN.

Ratification, Ratify: Process by which the legislative body of a state confirms a government's action in signing a treaty; formal procedure by which a state becomes bound to a treaty after acceptance.

Self-determination: The right of a cohesive national group ("peoples") living in a territory to choose for themselves a form of political and legal organization for that territory.

Special Rapporteur: An expert entrusted by the UN with a special human rights mandate, acting in his or her personal capacity.

"Spect-actors": Audience members who join the action of the play.

Theater of the Oppressed (TO): A set of collective and creative techniques, games, and practices invented by Augusto Boal to promote social and political change. Also the title of his influential book *Theater of the Oppressed* (1975).

Treaty: Formal agreement between states that defines and modifies their mutual duties and obligations; used synonymously with **convention** and **covenant**. When conventions are adopted by the UN General Assembly, they create legally binding international obligations for the Member States who have signed the treaty. When a national government **ratifies** a treaty, the articles of that treaty become part of its domestic legal obligations.

UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP): Adopted by the UN National Assembly on September 13, 2007. While not a legally binding instrument, the UN describes it as setting "an important standard for the treatment of indigenous peoples that will undoubtedly be a significant tool towards eliminating human rights violations against the planet's 370 million indigenous people and assisting them in combating discrimination and marginalization."

UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC): A UN council of 54 members primarily concerned with population, economic development, human rights, and criminal justice. This high-ranking body receives and issues human rights reports in a variety of circumstances.

UN Human Rights Council: Established in 2006 to replace the Human Rights Commission, which had been heavily criticized for allowing countries with poor human rights records to be members. Among the Council's functions is the Universal Periodic Review, an assessment of the human rights situations in all 193 UN Member States. The Council also oversees a complain procedure, which allows individuals and organizations to bring complaints about human rights violations to the attention of the Council.

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: An advisory body to the **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** established in 2000 with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health, and human rights. The Forum provides expert advice and recommendations to the Council, raises awareness of Indigenous issues within the UN system, and prepares and disseminates information on Indigenous issues.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): Adopted by the general assembly on December 10, 1948. Primary UN document establishing human rights standards and norms. All member states have agreed to uphold the UDHR. Although the declaration was intended to be nonbinding, through time its various provisions have become so respected by States that it can now be said to be customary international law.

Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP): The first UN body focused exclusively on matters concerning the human rights of Indigenous Peoples. It reviewed national developments concerning the promotion and protection of Indigenous Peoples' human rights and developed international standards for Indigenous Peoples' human rights and freedoms. The Working Group also undertook studies on a variety of issues affecting Indigenous Peoples and was instrumental in the drafting of the **Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)**. After the adoption of **UNDRIP** in 2007, the working group was discontinued and replaced by the **Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**.