

# Role of Civil Society in Protection and Promotion of Human Rights

**HUMSEC Summer Academy**

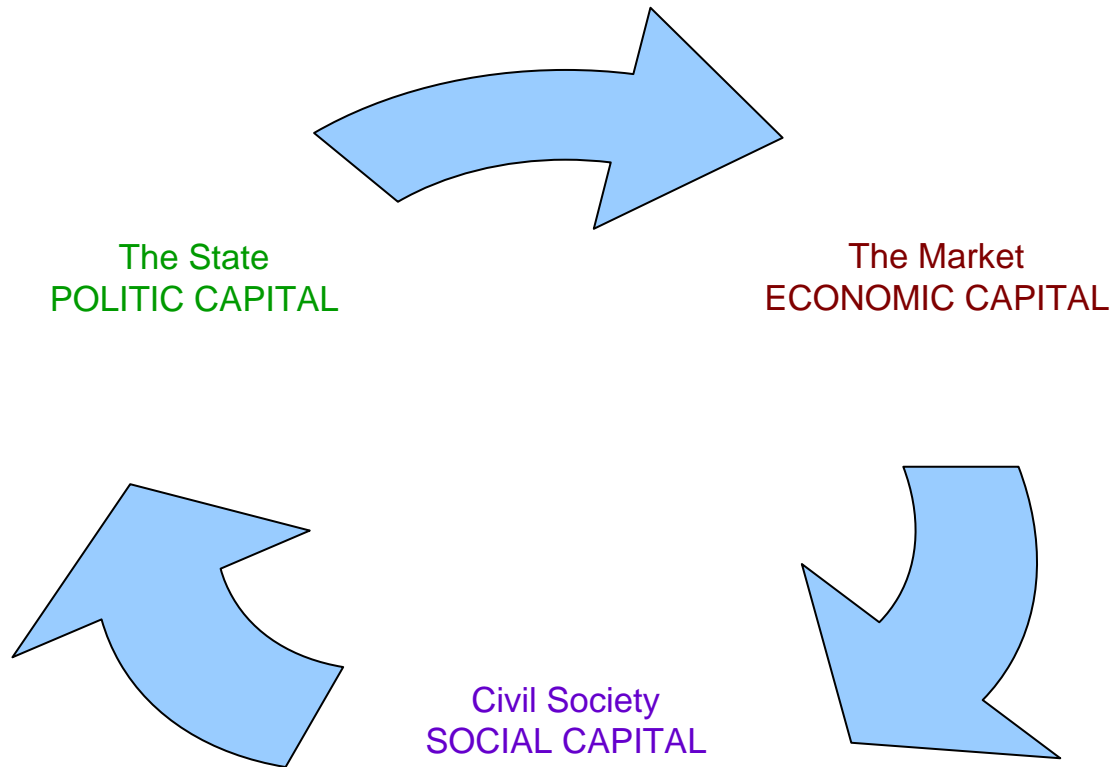
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# Definition of Civil Society

- the set of institutions, organisations and behaviour situated between the state, the business world, and the family
- includes voluntary and non-profit organisations of many different kinds, philanthropic institutions, social and political movements, other forms of social participation and engagement and the values and cultural patterns associated with them

# Triangular model



# Threefold conditions for the existence of civil society

- Determined by the features of political system
- Organizational factors
- Presumptions on the personal level

# Twofold role

- Controlling activities of public administration
- Source of initiatives that result in new social practice and legislature

# Activities

- Advocacy, representation
- Media campaigns
- Assistance providing
- Raising of public awareness, sensibilisation of public for vulnerable social groups
- Monitoring of human rights situation

# Three component parts of civil society

- Associations of Citizens
- Professionalized NGOs
- Politicised NGOs

# Role of NGOs in Promotion of HR at the Global Level

- NGOs have assumed an increasingly important role in promoting international legal principles to further sustainable development.



# Role of NGOs in Promotion of HR at the Global Level

- NGOs play an increasingly vocal role in promoting ethical globalization.
  - Monitoring the World Economic Forum or WTO Ministerial Meetings

# Role of NGOs in Promotion of HR at the Global Level

- the role of NGOs in promoting governance and development of international law can be considerable.
  - NGO's can apply for, and are granted, consultative status and accordingly can make their voice heard directly in the international arena

# Role of NGOs in Promotion of HR at the Global Level

- NGOs promote the use of international legal principles and invoke international or regional human rights standards in international bodies

# Activities at National Level

- stimulating and informing the public debate on human rights issues;
- assisting the government in setting and observing appropriate standards for protecting human rights;

# Activities at National Level

- focusing attention on the needs of particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged groups (e.g. minorities, immigrants, children, the intellectually disadvantaged, the mentally ill, those with physical disabilities and the elderly);
- assuming the role of observer of the government and the parliament in the process of adopting legislation.

# Activities at National Level

- protection of human rights free from biased political propaganda and political overtones;
- tendency to be selective while choosing facts, opinions and aspects to fit pre-determined concepts must be avoided. This is the minimum imperative to establish their credibility.

# Conclusions

- Civil society's focus of public debate on human rights in each particular country is restricted to the most important (political, social) issues for that country
- NGOs have a role to play in advancing welfare of groups they represent
- Contributing to the removal of prejudices and stereotypes