

Department of Political Science
BA (Major) 6th Semester
Topic: Human Rights Watch response on Covid 19 (Corona virus) pandemic

Human Rights Watch is committed to reporting on the human rights dimensions of the COVID-19 pandemic. The research undertaken by HRW has identified 40 questions to guide a rights-respecting response to this crisis that addresses the needs of groups most at risk, including people living in poverty, ethnic and religious minorities, women, people with disabilities, older people, migrants, refugees, and children. The organisation has also identified a large variety of responses to the crisis. Governments should respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by prioritizing the right to health for all and respect for human rights. Human Rights Watch staff discusses key human rights dimensions of the pandemic and make recommendations to governments regarding the pandemic. Human rights checklists undertaken by the HRW organisation related to the Covid 19 pandemic are:

- Prevention and Care
- Providing Testing and Treatment
- Protecting Doctors and Frontline Workers
- Reducing Risks in Detention Facilities and Jails
- Boosting Access to Water and Sanitation
- Helping Across Borders
- Rights-Respecting Crisis Management
- Avoiding Sacrificing Other Rights
- Addressing the Economic Fallout
- Responding to the Harms of “Social Distancing”
- Keeping Kids Learning
- Tackling Violence in the Home and Against Minorities

In its 40-question checklist on the Covid-19 crisis, Human Rights Watch seeks to guide governments as they respond to the challenges presented by the pandemic. The spread of the novel coronavirus, first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, China, has affected peoples’ health, freedoms, and livelihoods, triggering a global human rights crisis. The checklist provides a framework for policy responses that recognize the need to mitigate the harm of lockdowns and other “social distancing” measures and addresses the economic fallout of the pandemic for people in greatest need.
