



HUMAN RIGHTS

Hadassah Foundation online advocacy poster on Human Rights

CAMEROON

Highlights

- Human Rights situation in Cameroon attracts a lot of concern. According to Human Rights Watch, violence has been rife in Cameroon's North-West and South-West regions since late 2016, as separatist seek independence for the country's minority Anglophone (English speaking) regions.
- Civilians, aid workers, students and teachers have been targets in the fight between the separatist and the Cameroonian army as separatist continue to enforce boycott on children's education.
- It is reported that security forces have also committed litany of abuses including the killing of civilians, sexual violence and torture of suspected collaborators with separatist groups.
- In the Far North of Cameroon, the Boko Haram attacks are a persistent threat. The is also reported limitation of freedom of expression and association.

The Human Rights Issues in Cameroon 2021

- ✚ In 2021, many human rights issues were found and reported on in Cameroon by the U.S. Department of State.
- ✚ Some of those issues found included gender-based violence, trafficking and issues surrounding internally displaced persons (including children).
- ✚ Regarding gender-based violence in Cameroon, although there is criminal punishment for convicted rapists, it is rare that the courts do investigate such charges. On top of that, there is nothing that specifically punished spousal domestic violence, just some small fines and minor imprisonment. Without these protections in place, it is hard to produce a peaceful and respectful community. To tackle the issues of gender-based violence, many non-profit organizations were formed with the specific task of creating and implementing anti-domestic violence and anti-gender-based violence support groups.
- ✚ Trafficking in Cameroon is a legal gray area, there is no minimum age set for legal consent, so often children as young as 15 are brought into sex trafficking. Cameroon does prohibit sexual exploitation of children, but requires heavy proof for a conviction, and therefore does not criminalize all sex trafficking.
- ✚ Displaced children in Cameroon are a human rights issue, since these kids are dealing with education issues, substance issues, and multitudes of health and protection issues. Cameroon's government has not provided these kids any form of protection from violent groups, and health crises.

Given the human rights situation in Cameroon *Hadassah Foundation's* goal is working to build an all-inclusive society and to strengthen social cohesion. Hence, we work towards building equality in the society as we reach the underserved communities to educate and empower them on human rights issues as people are not able to act is they lack the knowledge about their rights.

"Knowledge makes a man unfit to be a slave."

"To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity."