Practical applications of human rights to tobacco control

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Everyone has a right to life and to health

Governments have a duty to enforce those rights

Governments therefore have a duty to protect their citizens from the tobacco industry and harms from tobacco

Legal remedies are available at the international, regional, and national levels.
RUGGIE PRINCIPLES

Protect = Protect citizens from tobacco industry

Respect = Industry should respect human rights norms

Remedy = Mechanisms and processes to request reparation when industry infringes on human rights
We work towards social justice by upholding human rights, tobacco is a barrier to that goal.

Social Justice
Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. We advance social justice when we remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability.

Human Rights
These universal rights are inherent to us all, regardless of nationality, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status.

All human rights are indivisible and interdependent. This means that one set of rights cannot be enjoyed fully without the other.
HOW TO USE HUMAN RIGHTS TO ADVANCE PUBLIC HEALTH

- Support COP decision
- Use Human arguments (with COP decision for support) for advocacy
  - Litigation
  - Country reporting
  - Human Rights Council
  - Other international mechanisms

Tobacco infringes on
- right to life
- right to health
- right to education
- children’s rights
- women’s rights
- and many others
Success story: Argentina

“...The Committee urges the State party to ratify and implement the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control...”
How it comes together: a real life example
Visit: ash.org/hrhub
SIGN UP TO GET INVOLVED

Action Alerts’ sign up form: ash.org/hrhub

Human Rights and Tobacco Control Network (HRTCN) listserv: email romeo-stuppyK@ash.org to join
Thank you!

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