

ASSIGNMENT 1: OBLIGATION TO HELP AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Develop arguments *for and against* the following two statements:

1. The United States government and/or its citizens (you) have an obligation to help malnourished people in the U.S. and in poor countries.
2. Freedom from hunger should be a “human right” just like freedom of speech and freedom from torture.

Read the following items on the course website:

1. Brief Case Studies (10)
2. Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality.”
3. International Instruments
4. Economist Human Rights article

DISCUSSION - January 22: Form groups of 5 to 10 students, and share your views on the above two issues with your classmates. You will be asked to take the pro or con side of the statements, so be prepared for both. Base your discussion on the above readings. The case studies offer glimpses of the lives of poor, malnourished people in the U.S. and poor countries. The Singer article deals with statement 1. The International Instruments and the Economist article deal with statement 2.

PAPER DUE - January 27: Submit a 3 to 4 page, double-spaced paper, arguing for or against one or both of the above two statements. Support your arguments with the readings and any other information you wish to bring to bear. This is a very short paper for such big topics, therefore, you need to choose your points carefully.