

Globalising Rights? Constructing Health Rights in a Shrinking World

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The ethical consensus implied by international declarations and standards is often taken for granted. At the 33rd session of its General Conference held in Paris in October 2005, UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, adopted a new *Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights*. The scope of the Declaration is set out in Art 1 which indicates that the Declaration addresses “ethical issues related to medicine, life sciences and associated technologies as applied to human beings, taking into account their social, legal and environmental dimension” (Art 1(a)).

The aims of the Declaration include:

- the provision of a universal framework of principles and procedures that States can use as a guide when formulating their legislation, policies and other bio-ethical instruments;
- providing guidance for the actions of individuals, groups, communities, institutions and corporations, both in the public and private sectors; and
- the promotion of respect for human dignity and protection of human rights, (Art 2 (a)-(c)).

This focus in the Declaration, of providing a universal framework for the protection of human dignity and human rights,

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