

HUMAN RIGHTS AND CORRUPTION: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF AN INEXTRICABLE RELATIONSHIP*

Abstract

Two global concepts existing in our world today have remained a subject for international discourse, the concept of corruption and human rights. The reason behind their reputation is majorly based on the multi-faceted impact they wield towards the socio-economic growth and development of a State. However, although these concepts are discussed separately, there is a relationship that exists between them- an inextricable relationship. This is because both corruption and human rights address the welfare of a people in a state and where corruption thrives, human rights is hampered and vice versa. The uniqueness of the relationship between corruption and human rights therefore can be likened to light and darkness, both cannot co-exist in the same place at the same time, rather, one must give way for the other to survive, yet both may be essential for certain purposes. It is on this basis that this paper seeks to analyze the relationship between corruption and human rights particularly in third world countries. This paper works for this by firstly examining the concept of corruption and human rights, and then their forms, theories and causes. This paper also examines how human rights can be used as an effective tool in combating corruption and also recommended strategies that can be put in place in order to eradicate corruption and promote human rights in a State

Keywords: Corruption, Human Rights, Government, Human Rights Violations, Africa

1. Introduction

Corruption is an insidious plague that has a wide range of corrosive effects on societies. It undermines democracy and the rule of law, leads to violations of human rights, distorts markets, erodes the quality of life and allows organized crime, terrorism and other threats to human security to flourish.¹ The outbreak of 2 world wars, numerous civil wars and the horrors of colonialism exposed mankind to an era of unimaginable hardship and maltreatment from in some circumstances major world powers. For decades, third-world and second-world citizens experienced innumerable abuse and neglect from first world countries with little or no avenue to air out their concerns and seek protection. In response to this and in a bid to prevent the outbreak of another world war, nations under the umbrella of the United Nations came together in 1948 to draft and adopt a singular document known as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in response to the 'barbarous acts which outraged the conscience of mankind.'² The UDHR is widely renowned for being the first-time countries agreed on the freedoms and rights that deserve universal protection in order for every individual to live their lives freely, equally and in dignity³. With the coming of the document came the birth of numerous international treaties and domestic laws geared towards the protection of human rights worldwide.

Over the years, the subject of corruption has received considerable attention considering the fact that it is no longer seen as a taboo. Corruption is being addressed by financial institutions, government agencies, bilateral donors, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and development professionals. Its causes have been recorded to have affected human development, institutions and administrative procedures. As a result, countries have negotiated and signed international anti-corruption conventions. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Programme against Corruption has acted as a catalyst, helping countries to implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). However, despite these measures in place, corruption is still widely practiced in almost every country of the world, and human rights and its enforcement remains an illusion as individuals majorly women and children are subjected to human rights violations globally. This is more prominent in third world countries where the practice of governance makes it somewhat difficult for human rights to thrive. Moreover, the prevalence of corruption in these countries have denied citizens of their access to their fundamental rights as humans. Hence, a fundamental question perplexing the socio-political world today is 'What is the relationship between human rights and corruption and how can the decline of one lead to the growth of another '.

This article first lays down the concept of corruption by discussing its definition, causes, impact and forms. It then discusses the notion of human rights such as its definition, nature and application. The third section explores the relationship between corruption and human rights with an analysis of the African situation, particularly South Sudan which is recorded as the most corrupt country in the world and also the African country with the most human rights violations. Finally, the fourth section of this paper concludes the discussion by asserting that human rights enforcement

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¹ Kofi A. Annan (UN Secretary-General), Foreword to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (United Nations, New York, 2004) page iii

² Amnesty International 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights' <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/universal-declaration-of-human-rights/#:~:text=The%20UDHR%20was%20adopted%20by,for%20freedom%2C%20justice%20and%20peace>. Accessed 13 March 2024

³ Ibid

is essential to the fight against corruption while recommending feasible strategies that can be put in place in curbing corruption and enforcing human rights.

2. Meaning, Causes and Forms of Corruption

It is an oft-quoted statement of Lord Acton (1834-1902) that ‘power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. There is no worse heresy than that the office sanctifies the holder of it.’ Corruption is a global phenomenon and its degree of severity varies from country to country. Despite its long history, there is no single universally agreed upon definition of corruption. Nevertheless, some scholars have attempted to explain the concept of corruption which shall be tackled below. The etymology of the word ‘corruption’ is from the Latin word *corruptio* which means ‘moral decay, wicked behavior, putridity or rottenness’.⁴ Transparency International defined corruption as ‘misuse of entrusted power for private gain’⁵. The issue with this definition however is that it excluded private sector corruption. On the other hand, the World Bank (WB) defined corruption as ‘an abuse of public authority for the purpose of acquiring personal gain’.⁶ From these definitions, it suffices to say therefore that corruption is when a person in authority (be it in the private or public sector) utilizes their office to amass personal gain. Contrary to popular beliefs, corruption is not only carried out by high-ranking individuals in the society. Even lower-middle ranking individuals can carry out corrupt practices provided that they are in a position of power e.g., a secretary in an office or a security officer by the roadside demanding for bribe. Corruption has also been defined in the economic field using mathematical equations. For example, Robert Klitgaard defined corruption as ‘Corruption = Monopoly Power + Discretion – Accountability.’⁷ Similarly, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) defined corruption as corruption = (Monopoly Power + Discretion) – (Accountability + Integrity + Transparency).⁸ In the legal field, the term corruption is usually used to group certain criminal acts which correspond to the general notion of an abuse of entrusted power.⁹ International conventions against corruption reflect this, they do not define corruption but instead enumerate criminal acts that amount to corruption. According to Paragraph 1 of Resolution 1/18 of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, corruption is a complex phenomenon that affects human rights in their entirety – civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental –, as well as the right to development. It weakens governance and democratic institutions, promotes impunity, undermines the rule of law and exacerbates inequality. The impact and forms of corruption are diverse and multifaceted and like human rights, the definition of corruption is culturally relative. For instance, one man’s bribe may be another man’s gift.¹⁰

Corruption exists in our world today for a myriad of reasons. However, the catalyst for corruption is predominantly the unpredictable human nature. Since human nature is imperfect, corruption will exist in all human endeavors. Selfishness and greed caused by man’s insatiable needs are the constituting elements of corruption. According to Ringera in a speech delivered at the Commonwealth lawyer’s conference, the causes of corruption are economic, institutional, political or societal.¹¹ The economic causes of corruption are related to pecuniary considerations, which is corruption that is need-driven as opposed to greed driven. Hence, poor remuneration, and the desire to satisfy insatiable human needs permeates the practice of corruption by individuals in power. The institutional causes of corruption include monopoly and wide discretionary powers for public officers, poor accountability, lack of effective and efficient enforcement of the law, absence of institutional mechanisms to deal with corruption, existence of a weak civil society, and the absence of press freedom.¹² While the political causes of corruption arise from the structure and functions of political institutions, and the acquisition and exercise of political power.¹³

Corruption manifests itself in different ways and in different circumstances. But there are some forms of corruption which recur in every system. These are grand corruption and petty corruption. Other forms include active corruption, passive

⁴ M. Milic (2001), ‘Endogenous Corruption in Privatized Companies’ (Collegium, Budapest) http://www.cerge.cuni.cz/pdf/gdn/RRCI_17_paper_01.pdf Accessed 12 January 2024

⁵ Transparency International ‘Corruption and Human Rights: Making the Connection’ (2009) http://www.transparency.org/content/download/45306/725785/file/TI_Plain_Language_Guide_280709.pdf accessed 1 February 2024

⁶ D. Kaufmann, ‘Corruption, Governance and Security: Challenges for the Rich Countries and the World’, (World Bank Global Competitiveness Report, 2004/5) http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWBIGOVANTCOR/Resources/Kaufmann_GCR_10190 accessed 21 January 2024

⁷ R. Klitgaard, *Controlling Corruption*, (University of California Press, Berkeley, 1988) <http://www.nacc.go.th/images/journal/kanokkan.pdf> accessed 27 February 2024

⁸ United Nations Development Program ‘Anti-Corruption Practice Note, UNDP’ (2004) http://www.undp.org/governance/docs/AC_PN_English.pdf accessed 22 March 2024.

⁹ BA Gebeye ‘Corruption and Human Rights: Exploring the Relationships (10 October 2012) <http://www.du.edu/korbel/hrhw/workingpapers/2012/70-gebeye-2012.pdf> accessed 1 March 2024

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ A. Ringera, Speech delivered at the Commonwealth Lawyers Conference, Nairobi <http://www.kacc.go.ke/archives/speeches/COMMONWEALTH-CONFERENCE.pdf> accessed 3 March 2024

¹² Ibid

¹³ Ibid

corruption, political corruption and systematic corruption.¹⁴ Grand corruption occurs when a high-level government official carries out acts that distort public policies and enables him/her to benefit at the expense of the public good. On the other hand, Petty corruption is an everyday abuse of entrusted power by low- and mid-level public officials in their interactions with ordinary citizens, who often are trying to access basic goods or services.¹⁵ This kind of corruption is popular among civil/public servants where an individual demands some form of gratification to carry out a responsibility which he/she is ordinarily expected to do. According to the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC), bribery, embezzlement, theft, fraud, extortion, nepotism, favoritism, and clientelism can be grouped under either grand corruption or petty corruption depending on the amount of money lost and the sector where it occurred.¹⁶ Systematic corruption exists where corruption permeates the entire society to the point of being accepted as a means of conducting everyday transactions.¹⁷ It is a situation in which the major institutions and processes of the state are routinely dominated and used by corrupt individuals and groups, and in which many people have few practical alternatives to dealing with corrupt officials.¹⁸ Sadly, this is the situation in Nigeria today – corruption has become a part and parcel of our everyday living that seeking to oppose it earns you more enemies than friends. Majority of Nigerians have acclimatized themselves to the fact that in order for them to get something done, they must be ready to play dirty or bribe their way out.

3. Meaning and Categories of Human Rights

All human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated. The international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis. While the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms¹⁹. Human rights are a global concept that have been constantly evolving throughout human history as their standards change with time according to human needs and interests.²⁰ Any discussion about human rights should distinguish the philosophical, political and legal accounts. Human rights have been described as abstract because not only are they intangible, there is no generally accepted definition of Human rights. Despite the abstractness of human rights, there are some common definitions. The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy defines human rights as basic moral guarantees that people in all countries and cultures allegedly have simply because they are people.²¹ In other words, human rights are the rights a person enjoys simply because he is a human being. Accordingly, human rights do not have to be given, bought, earned, or inherited; they belong to every human in spite of their race, age, gender, color, language, religion or even political opinions. As rightly stated by famous Afro musician Fela Anikulapo Kuti, '*Human rights na our property.*' Hence, human rights are inherent to every individual and exist in spite of the fact that one has the will or capacity to exercise them.

Stemming from the philosophical approach to the study of human rights, rights can be classified into negative, active and positive rights. A negative right is a right not to be subject to interference by others. These constitute the classical liberal rights as articulated in the philosophy of John Lock.²² Active human rights imply the right to participate in the political process as outlined by Jean-Jacques Rousseau.²³ Positive rights on the other hand impose duties on the part of the duty bearer to do positive actions.²⁴ The classification of these rights is based on the duty they impose to the bearer. Moreover, according to the philosophy of Karl Marx, there are economic, social and cultural rights.²⁵ These rights however can be classified into negative, active and positive based on the duty they impose. Karel Vasak, a Czech-French Professor and Jurist developed the notion of generation of rights. According to him there are three generation of human rights. The first generation includes civil and political rights; the second generation includes economic, social and cultural rights; and the third generation includes the right to development, peace and environment.²⁶ This classification brings into cognizance the fact that rights have evolved over the years. For example, there was a time when human rights did not particularly embrace the rights of women, women were treated as second class citizens denied of basic rights such as the right to vote

¹⁴ BA Gabeye *op cit* page 4

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ UNODC (2004), 'The Global Program against Corruption: UN Anti-Corruption Toolkit' http://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/corruption/toolkit/corruption_un_anti_corruption_toolkit_sep04.pdf accessed 10 March 2024

¹⁷ C. Heymans and B. Lipietz, 'Corruption and Development: Some perspectives' (1999), Institute of Security Studies Monograph Series, page 8.

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna on 25 June 1993, <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/pdf/vienna.pdf> accessed 4 April 2024.

²⁰ Z. Ernada, 'Challenges to the Modern Concept of Human Rights', *Jurnal Sosial Politika*, Vol. 6, 2005, 1-12.

²¹ Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Human Rights <http://www.iep.utm.edu/> accessed 10 March 2024

²² BA Gabeye *supra*; Human Rights 'Progress and Pitfalls, the European Evolution of Human Rights, International Relations and Security Network (ISN)' <http://www.isn.ethz.ch/isn/CurrentAffairs/ISN-Insights/Detail?lng=en&ots627=fce62fe0-528d-4884-9cdf283c282cf0b2&id=123881&tabid=123885&contextid734=123881&contextid735=123885> accessed 25 February 2024

²³ Ibid

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ Ibid

²⁶ BA Gabeye, *op cit* page 4

and own property. It is also no news today that human rights have also been extended to include the rights of LGBTIQ+ community thanks to the provisions of international conventions. However, many countries are yet to recognize such rights as human rights.

4. Nexus between Corruption and Human Rights

Corruption deepens poverty, it debases human rights; it degrades the environment; it derails development, including private sector development; it can drive conflict in and between nations; and it destroys confidence in democracy and the legitimacy of governments. It debases human dignity and is universally condemned by the world's major faiths.²⁷ For years, a major part of the discussion on the impacts on corruption focused more on the economic development of a state. However, there is a much larger and more negative impact of corruption which is, its effect on human rights. There is an inextricable linkage between corruption and human rights such that the latter cannot exist where the former is prevalent. Corruption affects the integrity of the political system which in turn inhibits the protection of human rights and the promotion of human freedoms. Under the human rights jurisprudence, it is States which are the principal duty bearers for human rights, hence, human rights obligations apply to all branches of government (executive, legislative and judicial) at all levels (national, regional and local).²⁸ Accordingly, an act (or omission) is attributable to the State when committed, instigated, incited, encouraged or acquiesced in by any public authority or any other person acting in an official capacity.²⁹

It is commonly recognized under international law that States have tripartite obligation in relation to human rights: the obligations 'to respect', 'to protect' and 'to fulfill'. Hence, States are obliged to refrain from any measure that may deprive individuals of the enjoyment of their rights or their ability to satisfy those rights by their efforts.³⁰ The 11th International Conference on Corruption underscored this by not only declaring that large scale corruption should be designated as a crime against humanity, and that all human beings have a basic human right to live in a corruption-free society, but also condemned corruption as immoral, unjust and repugnant to the ideals of humanity enshrined in the UDHR.³¹ In addition to this, the preambles of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, the United Nations Convention against corruption, the Council of Europe Criminal Law and Civil Law Conventions on Corruption have all recognized the linkage between corruption and human rights by conceding to the fact that corruption represents a major threat to human rights'. As earlier mentioned, Resolution 1/18 of the Inter American Commission on Human rights also recognized that corruption is a complex phenomenon that affects human rights in their entirety – civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental. United Nations (UN) treaty bodies and special procedures have concluded that where corruption is widespread, States cannot comply with their human rights obligations. For example, the statements by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that heralds the fact that where States face serious problems of corruption, it has negative effects on the full exercise of rights covered by the Covenant³²

According to Gabeye³³, there are three causal links between corruption and violation of human rights. These are, when corruption is a direct or indirect cause for the violations of human rights. Corruption may be directly linked to a violation of human rights when a corrupt act is deliberately used as a means to violate a right. For example,

Source: Metro News UK

a bribe offered to a judge directly affects the independence and impartiality of that judge and hence violates the right to a fair trial.³⁴ Corruption can also be an indirect cause for the violation of human rights when it is a necessary condition for the violation of the right. In this case, corruption will be an essential factor contributing to a chain of events that eventually leads to violation of human rights.³⁵

In research carried out in 2018 by Transparency International, it was recorded that the most corrupt countries are predominantly found in Africa especially Sub-Sahara Africa while the least corrupt countries were found in Europe.

²⁷CR. Kumar, 'Corruption, Human Rights, And Development: Sovereignty and State Capacity To Promote Good Governance', 99 *Am. Soc'y Int'l L. Proc.* 416, 2005.

²⁸ *Ibid*

²⁹ Transparency International, 'Corruption and Human Rights: Making the Connection', *op. cit.*, page 4

³⁰ J. Bacio Terracino (2008), 'Corruption and Human Rights-Corruption as a Violation of Human Rights' International Council on Human Rights Policy <http://www.ichrp.org/files/papers/150/131_terracino_en_2008.pdf> accessed 11 February 2024

³¹ BA Gabeye *op. cit.* page 4

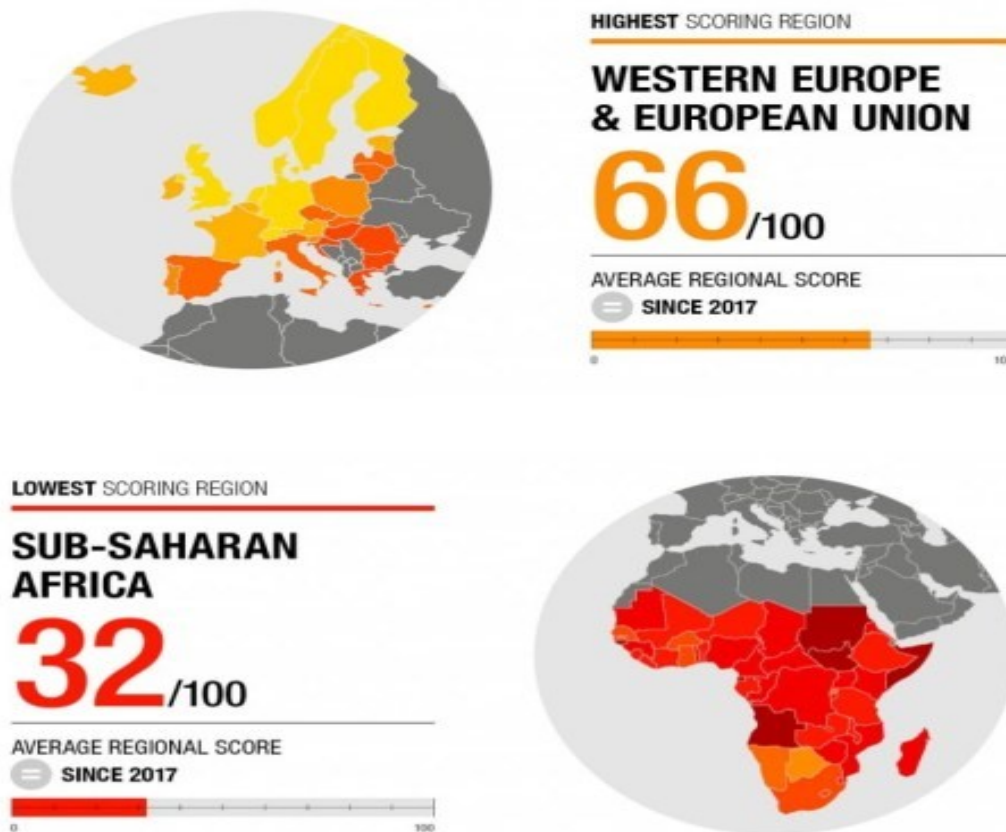
³² ICESCR E/C.12/1/ADD.91 (CESCR, 2003, Para.12

³³ BA Gabeye, *supra* 9

³⁴ *Ibid*

³⁵ *ibid*

Denmark was remarked to be the least corrupt country in the world while Sudan was the most corrupt country in the world.³⁶ The image above illustrates the continents with the most corrupt and least corrupt countries. Interestingly, South Sudan which was ranked as the most corrupt country is also one of the African countries that have been plagued with numerous human rights violations. According to human rights expert appointed by the UN High



Commissioner to monitor Sudan, Radhoune Noucier, everything from basic human rights to the economy and the legal system, have been decimated by the on-going war between rival militaries.³⁷

Out of 45 million people, more than seven million have been displaced, with some seeking refuge in neighbouring nations, and half the total population needs humanitarian assistance, according to the UN aid agency. More than 13,000 people have been killed and another 26,000 injured since the conflict began, according to the UN agency's latest situation report.³⁸ As a result, Sudan is witnessing all sorts of violations of basic rights: extrajudicial killing, indiscriminate shelling of private and public areas, unlawful detention, including over human rights activists and NGO representatives, torture, beatings, looting of private and public properties, mass graves. Most alarming is the prevalence of gender-based violence cases, including sexual violence against women and girls.³⁹

The facts presented above show us therefore that human rights violations thrive in a society ridden by corruption. It is therefore impossible to guarantee and enforce human rights where corruption is yet to be dealt with. All forms of corruption tend either directly, indirectly or remotely to violate human rights. Conversely, wherever human rights are not protected, corruption is likely to flourish. Moreover, in the absence of human rights like freedom of expression and assembly or where access to information and education is restricted, it is extremely difficult to hold government officials

³⁶ R. Hartley-Parkinson 'World's most corrupt countries revealed – and it's not looking good for the U.S.' (Metro News UK, January 30 2019) <https://metro.co.uk/2019/01/30/worlds-corrupt-countries-revealed-not-looking-good-u-s-8412225/amp/> accessed 21 January 2024

³⁷ United Nations 'UN expert says human rights violations rage on in Sudan' (UN News, 22 January 2024) <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/01/1145787#:~:text=Radhouane%20Noucier%3A%20We%20are%20witnessing,and%20public%20properties%2C%20mass%20graves.> Accessed 19 March 2024

³⁸ Ibid

³⁹ Ibid

to account, which allows corruption more room to spread freely.⁴⁰ This is why many international organizations such as the United Nations and African Union took a step further in not only drafting conventions that seeks to promote human rights but also draft conventions that aims at eliminating corruption among member states by imposing a duty on them. Consequently, countries all over the world in enshrining the principles of human rights in their constitution have also created laws and organizations that seek to weed out corrupt practices in the State.

5. Human Rights as a Preventive Tool for Corruption

Corruption as a global pandemic wields multi-faceted problems. As such, there is no one size fit all principle to deal with it. However, having examined the relationship between corruption and human rights, it is pertinent to note that since human rights cannot thrive in a society riddled by corruption, it also means that corruption cannot thrive in a society where human rights are upheld and enforced, hence, human rights can serve as a preventive tool for corruption. According to Ofosu Amaah *et al*⁴¹, there are preventive and curative approaches for combating corruption. The former deals with corruption *ex ante* while the latter deals with corruption *ex post*. The preventive approach consists of upstream rules and norms of good behavior (codes of conduct, manifestos, and declarations) conducive to a corruption free society⁴². The curative approach on the other hand consists of anti-corruption laws proper (general or specific legislative enactments), whose purpose is to provide appropriate remedies, including criminal sanctions and penalties, procedural rules, and institutional mechanisms as needed, to combat acts of corruption that have already occurred.⁴³

It is important to note that implementation of human rights can contribute to the prevention of corruption because human rights address abuses of power against individuals, and corruption is essentially an abuse of power. Moreover, certain human rights such as the right to freedom of expression, assembly and association are vital to fighting corruption.⁴⁴ An example of this can be seen during the military regime in Nigeria, the consequence of the denial of the rights to association and freedom of speech led to innumerable cases of corruption and human rights violations by those in power. However, in a political setting where governments permit information to flow freely, it becomes easier to identify and denounce cases of corruption. As a result, persons in authority will be restrained from engaging in corruption due to fear of public scrutiny.

Furthermore, as rightly stated by Transparency International, there are also some norms and principles of human rights which the anti-corruption campaign shares and guaranteeing these norms and principles will prevent the incidence of corruption. These norms and principles are non-discrimination and participation.⁴⁵ The principle of non-discrimination is fundamental to human rights. Both the international human rights instruments and general comments of the treaty bodies affirmed that the principle of non-discrimination is the basic principle of human rights and as such States are required to implement it without any condition. This can be seen in Art 2 and 3 of the ICESCR and Arts 2, 3, 14, 24, 26, and 27 of the ICCPR⁴⁶ Secondly, the principle of participation is vital to human rights and in the fight against corruption. In a democratic setting, Citizen's participation contributes essentially to political decision-making and the implementation of public policies. This is because citizens act as a watchdog towards their leaders and can either condemn or commend their actions via public opinion and referendum. Where strong control mechanisms are lacking, the oversight that citizens and civil society organizations can exercise becomes particularly important to prevent abuse of power and to detect and denounce corruption.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

The relationship between these two concepts can be likened to that of Siamese twins; complex and multifaceted such that the existence of one depends on the other. Corruption undermines the protection and promotion of human rights by eroding the rule of law, weakening institutions, and perpetuating inequality and injustice. Conversely, the respect for human rights is essential in combating corruption, as it provides the foundation for accountability, transparency, and good

⁴⁰ Transparency International, 'Integrating Human Rights in the Anti-Corruption Agenda: Challenges, opportunities and possibilities', (council on human rights policy, 2010) 2.

⁴¹ WP. Ofosu-Amaah, R. Soopramanien and K. Uprety (1999), 'Combating Corruption: A Comparative Review of Selected Legal Aspects of State and Major International Initiatives', in CN. Ojukwu, 'Legal and Institutional Mechanisms Combating Corruption in Nigeria, Paper presented at 15th International Conference of the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law, Australia, (26-30 August 2001) <http://www.isrcl.org/Papers/Ojukwu.pdf> accessed 11 February 2024.

⁴² Ibid

⁴³ Ibid

⁴⁴ Transparency International, 'Corruption and Human Rights: Making the Connection', op. cit., 11.

⁴⁵ Ibid

⁴⁶ See also United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment No. 3, op. cit; United Nations Committee on Human Rights (HRC) (1989), 'General Comment No. 18: Non-Discrimination', in United Nations Human Rights Instruments, op. cit., pp.146-148; United Nations Committee on Human Rights (HRC) (2000), 'General Comment No. 28: The Equality of Rights Between Men and Women, Article 3 of the ICCPR', in United Nations Human Rights Instruments, op. cit., pp.178-184; United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) (2005), 'General Comment No. 16: The Equal Rights of Men and Women to the Enjoyment of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 3 of the ICESCR'.

governance. To combat corruption and foster the enforcement of human rights, the following strategies are recommended to be put in place by the government and relevant stakeholders.

The legislature can converge to implement measures in ensuring transparency in government processes and decisions. They can also review existing laws and draft new laws that are in line with international standards and provide for effective enforcement mechanisms. Corruption cannot be curbed if the institutions in the state are weak and compromised. There is therefore a need to invest in building strong, independent institutions such as anti-corruption agencies, ombudsman offices, and human rights commissions. Furthermore, there is a need to further strengthen the existing anti-corruption institutions in the state by reviewing their powers, duties and ensuring adequate budgetary allocation and remuneration. There is need to establish mechanisms to protect whistleblowers who report corruption or human rights abuses. This can include legal protections, anonymity, and support services for whistleblowers. Relevant government agencies concerned with information dissemination can launch public awareness campaigns to promote ethical behavior and integrity in both the public and private sectors. Encourage citizens to report corruption and human rights violations. International Cooperation is necessary. The government can collaborate with international organizations and other countries to combat transnational corruption and human rights abuses. This can include sharing information, coordinating investigations, and extraditing suspects. Provision of training and resources to government officials, law enforcement agencies, and the judiciary is important in order to strengthen their capacity to investigate and prosecute corruption and human rights abuses. It is equally important to engage with civil society organizations, including human rights groups and anti-corruption watchdogs, to promote transparency, accountability, and respect for human rights.

Civil societies can also play a crucial role in combating corruption and fostering the enforcement of human right through the following. They should mount awareness campaigns to educate the public about the negative impacts of corruption and human rights violations. This can help create a culture of intolerance towards these issues. Engage with communities to empower them to demand transparency, accountability, and respect for human rights from their governments. This can include organizing community forums, workshops, and campaigns. They should advocate for policy and legislative reforms that strengthen anti-corruption measures and human rights protections. Lobbying efforts can help influence decision-makers to prioritize these issues. They can also advocate for laws and mechanisms that protect whistleblowers who expose corruption and human rights abuses. Additionally, they can support whistleblowers who come forward with information. Civil societies can also act as watchdogs by monitoring government activities and report instances of corruption and human rights abuses. This can include conducting research, gathering evidence, and publishing reports to hold authorities accountable. They can also provide legal aid services and support to victims of corruption and human rights violations. This can include assistance with filing complaints, accessing justice, and seeking redress. They can build coalitions and form alliances and coalitions with other civil society organizations, as well as with government agencies, to strengthen collective efforts in combating corruption and promoting human rights. This will in turn build the capacity of civil society organizations and activists to effectively combat corruption and promote human rights. Civil societies can engage with international organizations and other civil society groups to advocate for global standards and best practices in combating corruption and promoting human rights.