

## Student Worksheet #2: FACT PAGE

### Rights in Practice by Region (3 pages)

**How to use this page:** Read each region's description to add to your knowledge about each region.

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#### Region 1: Liberal Democracies (Canada, France, UK, US)

##### What the law says

- Laws ban racial discrimination and protect civil rights and equality.
- Constitutions protect speech, protest, and equal treatment.
- Courts are independent from the government.

##### What happens in practice for the Black community

- Discrimination and inequality still exist towards
- People can speak freely and protest publicly without being arrested just for protesting.
- Media can criticize the government.
- Courts can order changes or penalties.

**Why this region matters:** This is the baseline for comparison. It shows what rights look like when speech and courts are available.

**Sources:** Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2025*; PBS, Civil Rights Movement resources

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#### Region 2: Legal Equality, Weak Enforcement (Brazil, Colombia, Nigeria, South Africa)

##### What the law says

- Laws promise equality and voting rights.
- Free speech and protest are allowed.
- Racism is illegal.

##### What happens in practice for the Black community

- Police abuse or corruption is reported.
- Protests may be allowed, but can turn violent.
- Investigations often do not lead to punishment.
- Daily safety differs greatly by neighborhood.
- Enforcement is uneven and often weak.

**Why this region matters:** It shows how rights can exist on paper but fail in real life.

**Sources:** BBC News, reporting on Brazil and Nigeria; Freedom House, Brazil, South Africa, Nigeria country report

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## ■ Region 3: Citizenship / Status-Based Rights (Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE)

### What the law says

- Some legal protections exist.
- Rights depend heavily on citizenship or worker status.
- Migrant workers often lack protection and are tied to employers under the kafala system.

### What happens in practice for the Black community

- Workers cannot freely change jobs.
- Leaving an employer can lead to arrest or deportation.
- Reporting abuse often results in punishment for the worker, not the employer.
- Many workers are Black migrants from Africa.

### Why this region matters

It shows how status can control who gets protection and who doesn't.

**Sources:** Human Rights Watch, Lebanon kafala system; Freedom House, Lebanon country profile

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## ■ Region 4: Restricted Speech Environments (Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Turkey)

### What the law says

- Some rights exist on paper.
- Governments claim to protect order and security but tightly restrict protest and criticism.
- Media and activists face punishment.

### What happens in practice for the Black community

- Protests require permission or are banned.
- Critics, journalists, and activists are arrested.
- Media is controlled or censored.
- Fear discourages people from speaking out.

### Why this region matters

It shows how lack of free speech weakens all other rights.

**Sources:** DW News, Egypt human rights reporting; Freedom House, Freedom in the World methodology

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## Region 5: Systemic Marginalization & Conflict (Libya, Mauritania, parts of Sudan, Yemen)

### What the law says

- Governments are weak or at war.
- Little or no protection for basic rights.
- Conflict and instability weaken all systems.
- Marginalized groups are most at risk.

### What happens in practice for the Black community

- Police and courts often do not operate.
- Marginalized Black groups face long-standing discrimination.
- Armed conflict makes daily life unsafe.
- Survival matters more than legal rights.

### Why this region matters

It shows what happens when law, enforcement, and safety collapse.

Source: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices>

Political Map of the World, January 2015



Source: Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), *The World Factbook*, via Wikimedia Commons.