

HUMR5502 – Home Assignment due 26 November

Choose one -1- of the following two questions:

1

Human Rights and Ethnic Conflict

Choose one case of violent conflict in today's world and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of understanding this conflict as 'ethnic' as opposed to other categorisations. In media, expert observers and commentators will frequently say that 'increasing respect for human rights' will help defuse and resolve the conflict. By using this phrase, they may refer to different paths of action, direct or indirect, that the international human rights system allows for. Describe at least two different possible options and discuss advantages and disadvantages.

2

Human Rights and Ethnic Diversity

Almost all contemporary states contain two or more groups commonly thought of as belonging to different ethnic groups. From the reading list and during the course you have become familiar with different ways of accommodating such differences through e.g. constitution-making and legislation. Discuss the strengths and limitations that legal instruments offer for accommodating ethnic diversity. Feel free to choose any set of specific countries to drive the argument and illustrate your points.