

Name _____

Guardians of Our Rights: How International Treaties Protect Individuals

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. A country that does not ratify any international human rights treaties may not have legal mechanisms in place to protect the rights of its citizens. This could result in widespread human rights abuses, such as lack of access to education, freedom of speech, or fair trial, without any international oversight or accountability.
2. One real-world example is the international attention drawn to the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar. The United Nations and international organizations used human rights conventions and treaties to highlight the persecution and violence against the Rohingya population, leading to diplomatic pressure on Myanmar to address the issue and provide protection to the affected individuals.
3. Answers may vary. Some students may argue that international human rights treaties are effective in promoting and protecting individual rights by providing a framework for countries to follow. Others may argue that enforcement and accountability mechanisms need improvement, and violations still occur in some parts of the world despite these treaties.
4. Accountability in the context of human rights treaties means that countries are responsible for upholding the rights outlined in the treaties and can be held responsible if they violate these rights. Accountability is crucial because it ensures that countries take their commitments seriously and work to protect the rights of their citizens and others. This accountability can lead to improved human rights conditions and justice for victims of rights violations.

