**Topic 5: MIL: A Human Right**

**Definition of Human right :**Human rights describe basic, internationally agreed upon standards that are essential for people to survive and live in dignity.

**Human Right approach to MIl**

A human rights approach to MIL must address three parties: the government, the individual citizen, and the media.

1. **Government:** The government is to be considered a duty-bearer. It must respect the right to freedom of expression in all its aspects, including a free press; it must protect journalists as well as citizens from acts against freedom of expression; and it must implement the rights to education and freedom of expression, including freedom of information rights by fostering free and independent media.
2. **Citizens:** Citizens themselves, in contrast, are human rights holders.
3. **Media:** Media are important mediators. Journalists are rights holders with privileged access to media channels for information and opinion dissemination. Media users therefore have to be enabled to access and use journalists’ reporting as sources of information and opinion formation, but also to the demand for and the defense of quality media.

**Introduction:**

Governments are called upon to respect, defend, advance, and ethically frame freedom of opinion and expression on Internet-based platforms and to endorse new forms of education and digital cultures necessary for people to be able to gain technical access, assess sources, use public information, form opinions, and take part in public discourse on the various new platforms. In this context, media freedom has a new connotation: It is no longer the case that only classic media can receive, verify, and make information publicly available. Today every individual along with networks of individuals can act as media. They can also contribute to a public sphere, put issues on the agenda, bridge gaps, and enable exchange between the different segments of society. To sum up: From a human rights-based perspective, Media and Information Literacy is a composite set of knowledge, skills, and attitudes that enables and empowers citizens to competently and critically engage with media and information, in order for them to increase their individual autonomy and collective solidarity in society.

Media and information literacy (MIL) is considered a crucial competence in today’s society. MIL equips citizens with the competencies they need to fully benefit from media and information channels and to enjoy fundamental human rights, such as the right to freedom of opinion and expression stated in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

­­­