

# Why *human rights justifications* matter for law and policy today



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# Influence on legal decisions



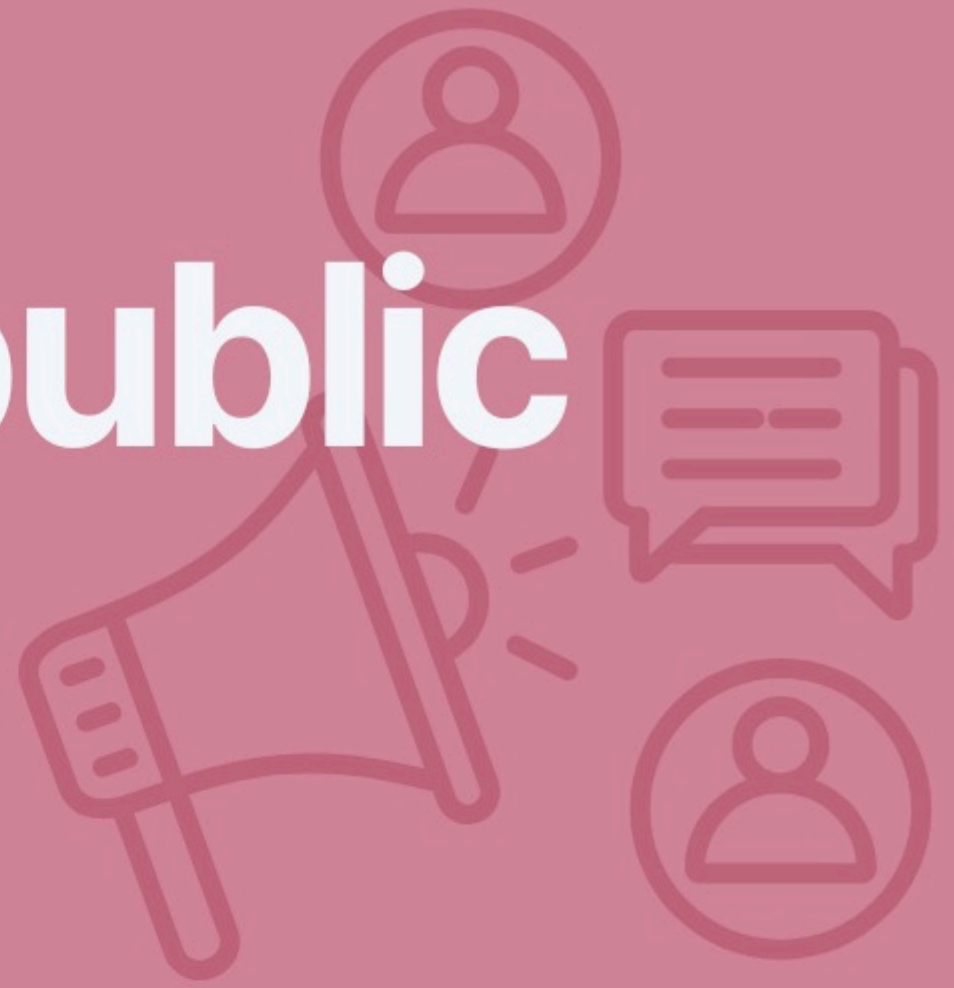
Human rights provide lawmakers with a framework to evaluate whether new laws respect fundamental freedoms.

They act as a safeguard, ensuring that legal decisions follow human rights.





# Shaping public values



Human rights arguments help shape what we as a society deem as fair and just.

Over time, this framing contributes to shaping norms, guiding how communities understand justice and equality.



# Legitimizing policies



Governments often rely on human rights language to justify new policies.

When policies are framed as protecting or balancing rights, they gain stronger legitimacy.

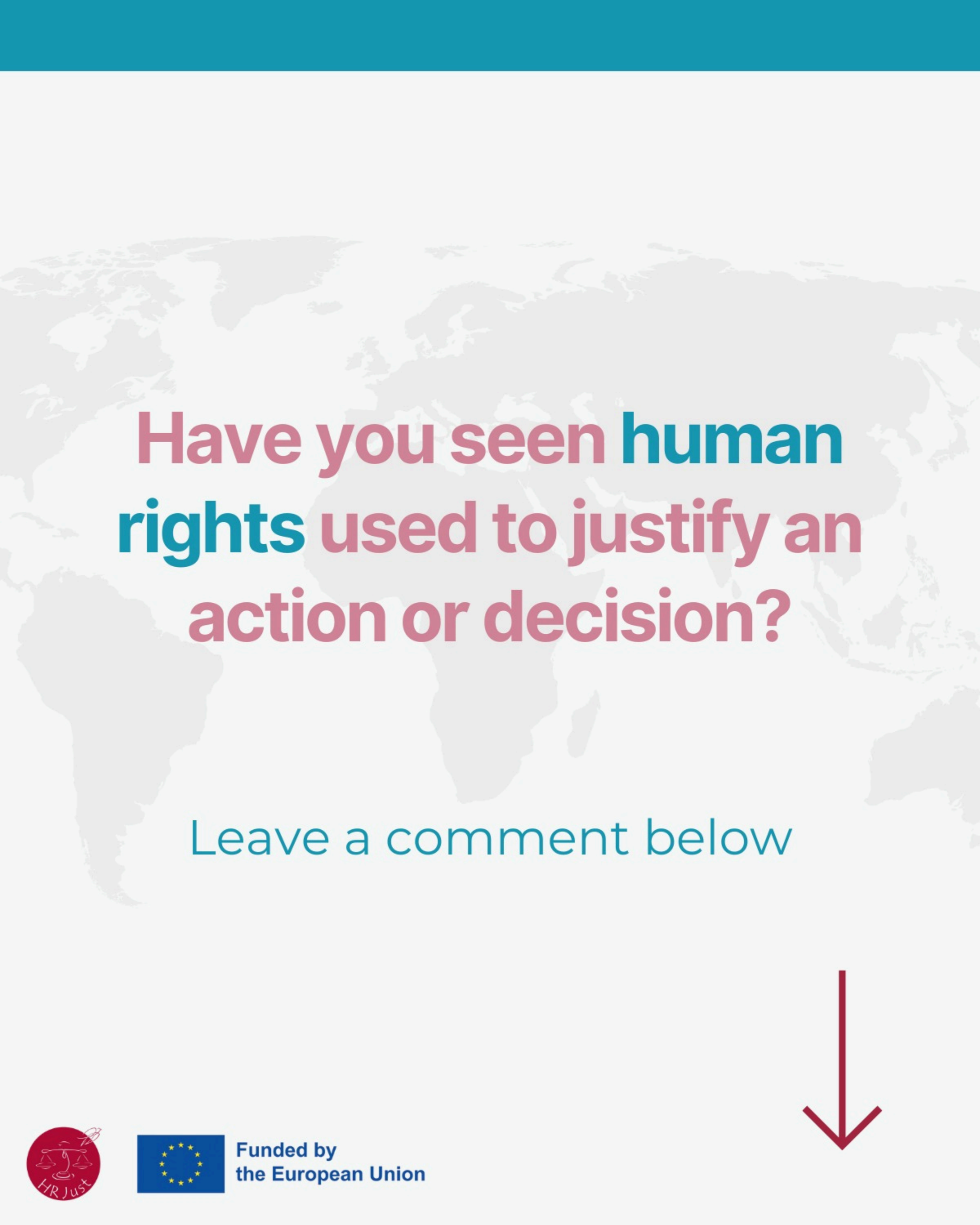


**The risk arises when governments occupy the space where NGOs would normally invoke human rights — using them to strengthen certain policies that, in practice, limit the freedoms of others.**

The HRJust project examines the consequences when states use human rights as a governing tool.







**Have you seen human  
rights used to justify an  
action or decision?**

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