

PROTECTION OF MINORITIES, A FUNDAMENTAL VALUE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

¹Arben Cara, Mimoza Margjeka²

¹University of Durres“Aleksander Moisiu”, Lecturer in the Faculty of Political-Juridical Sciences,
Albania

²Magister of Penal Sciences, Judge in the first instance of Durres’ Court, Albania
e-mail:mmargjeka@yahoo.com

Abstract

The promotion and protection of the rights of minorities require particular attention to be paid to issues such as the recognition of minorities’ existence; efforts to guarantee their rights to non-discrimination and equality; the promotion of multicultural and intercultural education, nationally and locally; the promotion of their participation in all aspects of public life. This can be defined as the fundamental value of international law, which constitutes in fact the main aim of this study. Specially, the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the 1992 Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (UN Minorities Declaration) recognize and protect the rights of persons belonging to minorities. The use of a mixed methodology (in this work) such as a descriptive analysis focusing on “International law defining minorities, and scope of minority rights protection such as “Survival and existence”, “Promotion and protection of the identity of minorities”, “Equality and non-discrimination”, “Effective and meaningful participation” combined with the right literature books and papers published by scholars that take part in the debate, as well as on minority rights-related official reports and documents issued by the UN, accomplish the main aim of this study.

Keywords: *international law, minority rights, protection, international instruments, definition of minority.*