MATERIAL 4

CONDITIONS FOR THE SPREAD OF BUDDHISM IN RECENT TIMES AND ITS ATTRACTIVENESS

Art 1:
All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Art. 3:
Everyone has the right to life, liberty and the security of person.

(https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights)(UDHR, 1948)

Art. 18:
Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

(https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights)

Art. 19:
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.

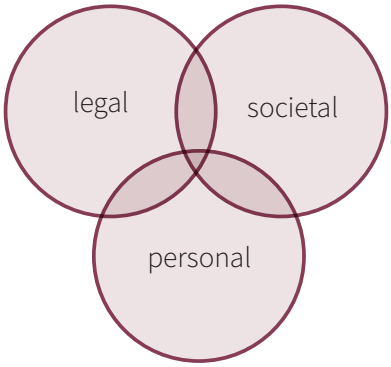
(https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights)

Art. 20:

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

(https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights)



Art. 26: Everyone has the right to education. [...] Education must be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

(https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights)

The hippie era in the 1960s with its search for new levels of consciousness by means of drugs and music with all its extreme manifestations (e.g. the festival in Woodstock) as well as the politicization of everyday life with peace demonstrations, student and civil rights movements brought new wind into society with the urge for individual freedom and a break with the encrusted old traditions.

Many people were looking for a new way of life and tried out new forms of living together. Buddhist teachings became generally accessible in many areas of society and influenced - often not even explicitly declared as "Buddhist" - people's attitude to life. For example, humanistic psychology, which focuses on the potential of human development and is characterized by a free, non-moralizing attitude based on compassion, was inspired by Buddhist teachings.

Also the materialistic/mechanistic world view was broken up by the scientific realizations of quantum physics about entangled particles and their behavior in the space. This new understanding about the reality can be assigned to the statements of the historical Buddha about form and emptiness.