

**Removing Unfreedoms
July 7th Colloquium
London School of Economics**

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**Introduction
Session 2**

One of the privileges of being chair is a to be able to make a few comments at the beginning. And I must say I, as Jane and others know, am still one of the sceptics to some extent in the context of trying to come to terms with the difference between **Freedom as Development**. And indeed some of the other things that we'll be hearing about in a second, particular on **Rights**, although Romi has already mentioned key differences there. And how the whole idea relates to the concepts and I didn't myself, well if Rights aren't about freedoms, what are they about? Yes there may be a re-clustering of things but what is really at the core of the difference?

In the context of the way in which the developed business emerges, I always find it interesting that over the years, it has been very healthy that we have developed a more qualitative way of understanding what we do. In the old days it was housing programmes, water, sanitation and so on. What we've done with rights, livelihoods and now freedoms is cross cutting things. But at the same time, the awkward side is somehow de-materialised the world of development. Something that I think was referred to this morning when one hears about what does this mean on the ground, how do you talk about the concept of **Freedom** to people who are actually living in the places that they are working in.

I also had a discussion the other day with a few colleagues, that was a very honest discussion, about the way in which the word **Freedom** increasingly is featuring in George Bush's discussions. A very ominous concept of the right of the Iraqi people through Political Freedom, which Blair's if you want other people's intervention in that particular country, so the concept then was is development about dismantling buildings or is it as we thought about putting things together.

Anyhow a key part of all that, I think for our discussions here, is that relationship of Sen's work to I think two or three key themes that are part of our business of **Human Rights**, which Jeremy Holland was going to talk about unfortunately he can't be here and Michael will make his presentation for him. And the theme of **Livelihoods** of which Jo Beal will talk about. And the UN Development Programme, which I think Antonio, will give us. The purpose of this is to really put into context the **Freedom Approach** in the other fairly long and important themes. I will ask Mike who you know and Antonio and they will keep to ten minutes, strictly if you could just a couple of words introducing yourself.