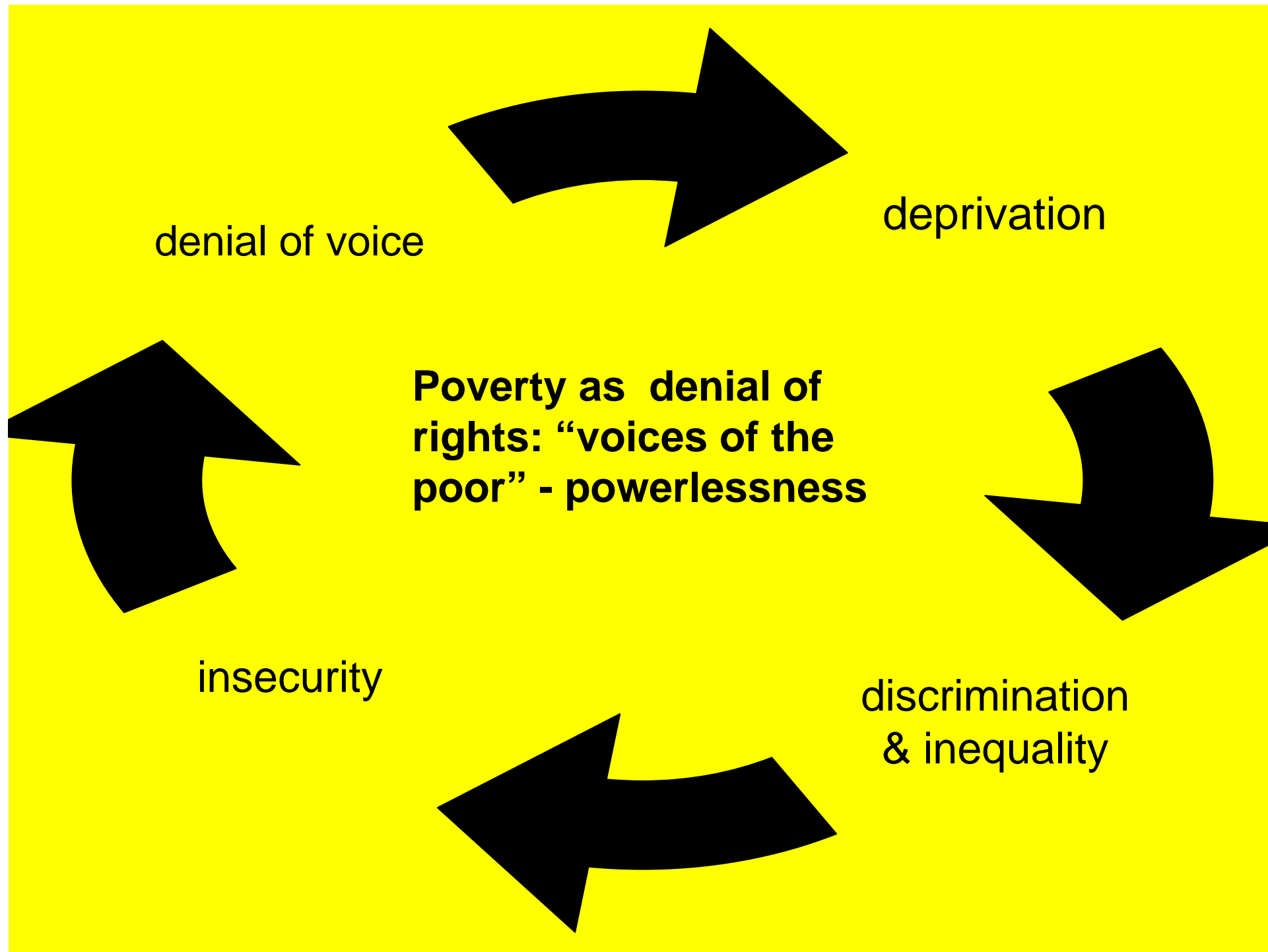


Fighting poverty: do human rights matter?

- Why human rights matter
- Why human rights are ignored
- MDGs & human rights: retrogression, lost opportunity or pragmatic progress?
- Post 2015: integrating development and human rights

Defining poverty in human rights terms

- Widely recognized that poverty is more than income poverty
- But much less understanding of why and how human rights are integral to a multi-dimensional understanding of poverty.



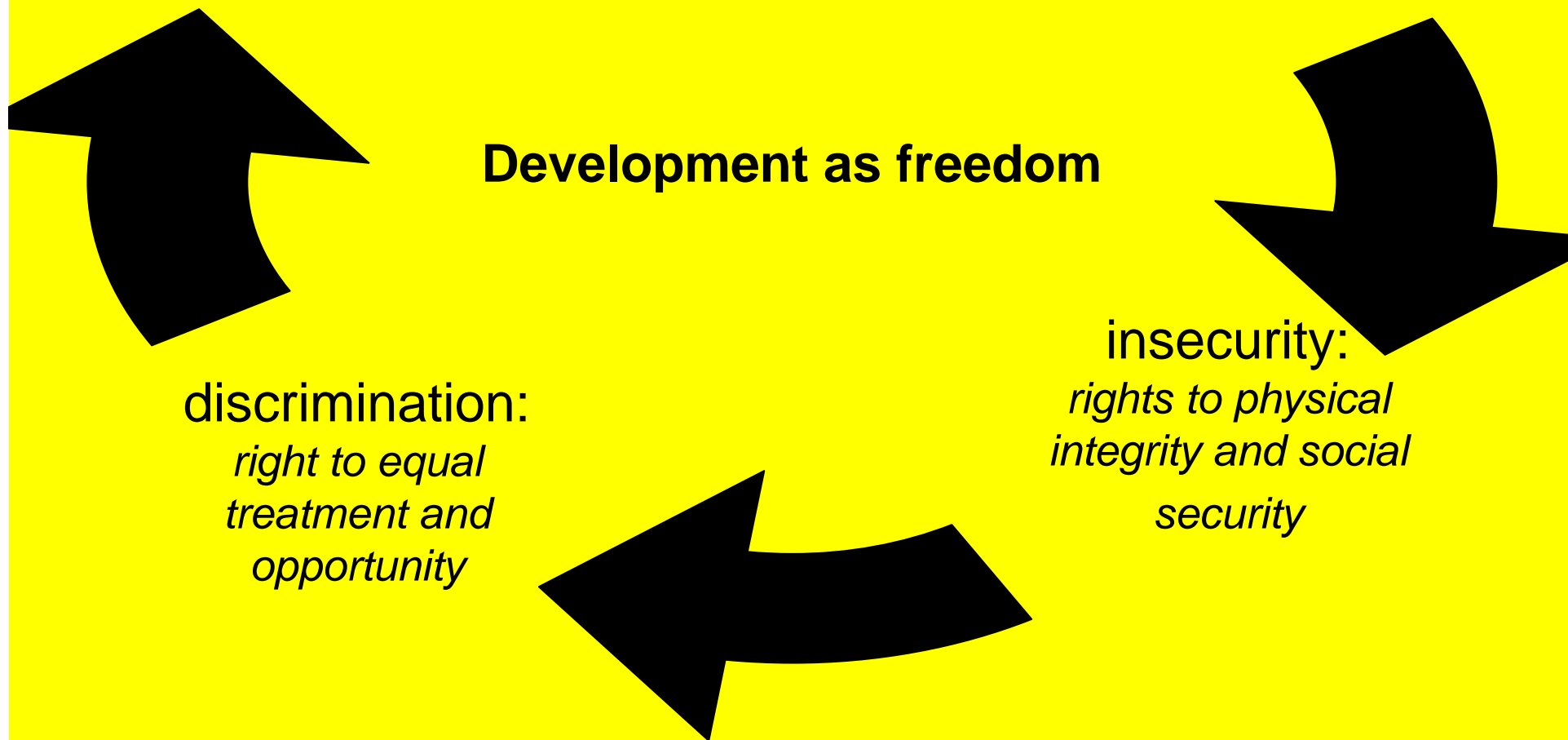
denial of voice:
participatory rights

deprivation:
*economic & social
rights*

Development as freedom

insecurity:
*rights to physical
integrity and social
security*

discrimination:
*right to equal
treatment and
opportunity*



Why human rights matter: bringing value ++

- **Reinforcing multi-dimensional nature**
 - Civil and political as economic and social
- **Legitimacy**
 - e.g. women's rights
- **Focus on human beings**
 - Outcomes for people, not economy
- **Principle of equality**
 - Non-discrimination
 - Vulnerability
- **State responsibility**
 - Basic needs as economic and social rights
 - Protection from non-state actors (e.g. corporations)
- **Accountability**
 - Legal accountability
 - Political accountability
 - Freedom of information
- **Empowerment**
 - Participation/agency
 - Popular mobilization for change
 - Space for citizen engagement

Why rights are ignored

- Growth will tackle poverty
- Economic and social rights are not “real” rights
- Authoritarianism helps development
- Rights lead to aid conditionality
- Let's limit participation project management

Human rights advocates are part of the problem

- Over reliance on law: the law does not work for the poor
- Elitist approach: human rights are remote and western
- Blindness to political & economic systems
- Lack of capacity/expertise
- Lack of measurement/assessment tools

MDGs: retrogressive, realistic or lost opportunity for human rights?

MDGs recognize multi-dimensional nature of poverty but not the relevance of human rights in defining and resolving poverty.

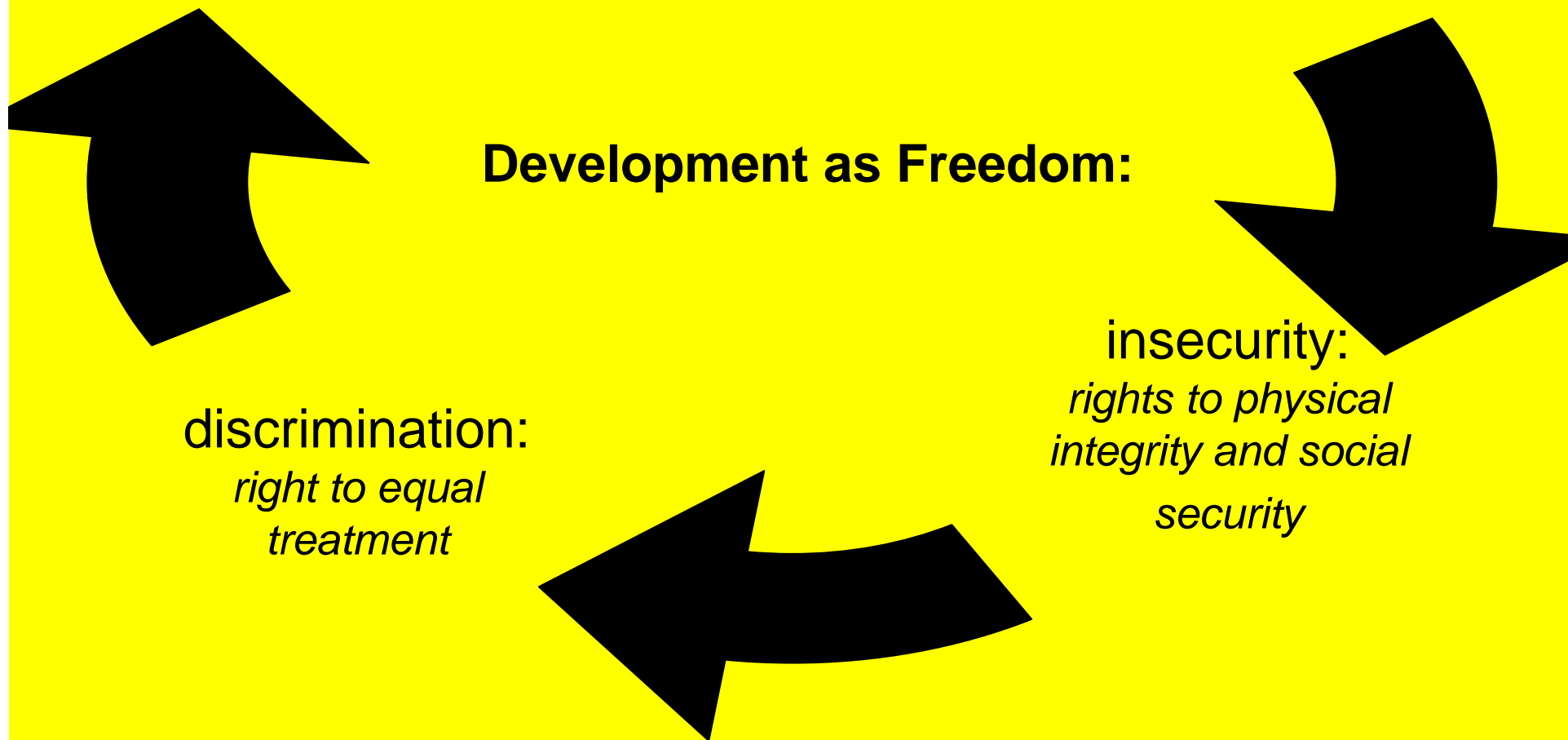
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MDGs: back to basic needs

- Incomplete: recognizes deprivation but ignores discrimination, insecurity & voice
- Retrogressive: sets lower standards re gender equality
- Poor implementation: ignores governance concerns, transparency
- Critical gap: empowerment, accountability, access to justice.

What MDGs have achieved

- Gained consensus – but at the cost of avoiding controversial issues (human rights/resource distribution)
- Built a shared vision of development – but on selective issues
- Focus and concrete targets – but global goals miss out on local specificities
consequences
- Limited implementation
- Limited success in outcomes

Looking ahead – 2010 -2015



Looking ahead: what is needed?

Human rights agenda for MDGs

- Address social exclusion: disadvantaged groups; discrimination and violence against women
- Address issues of poor governance: targets on state accountability and access to justice
- Acknowledge the agency of the poor: goals on empowerment and participation
- Mobilize civil society to work with governments: protect participatory rights
- Bring human rights and development communities together