



LET US CELEBRATE OUR

HUMAN RIGHTS

**THE YEAR OF NELSON RHOHLHLA MANDELA:
PROMOTING AND DEEPENING A HUMAN RIGHTS
CULTURE ACROSS SOCIETY**

South Africa's Constitution contains the Bill of Rights which protects and promotes our human rights.

Our Human Rights are:

UNIVERSAL:

All people are entitled to human rights

INDIVISIBLE:

All human rights are interrelated. One is not more important than the other.

INTERDEPENDENT:

All human rights contribute to the human dignity of a person. The fulfilment of one right often depends upon the fulfilment of another or other rights.

Our Constitution states that everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law. No-one may be unfairly discriminated against based on their race, gender, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, disability, religion, belief, culture, language or birth.

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN (NAP)

The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD) has spearheaded the development of a National Action Plan (NAP) to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, in collaboration with various other role-players which include civil society.

The NAP is a plan to guide and commit South Africa to eradicate the on-going incidents of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all forms of related intolerance (prejudice) for example against people based on their race, ethnic or social origin, people with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons or against any other group of persons based on their religion, culture etc.

THE ANTI-RACISM WEEK 2018

South Africa will mark Anti-Racism week from 14-21 March. The purpose of Anti-Racism Week is to:

- Create broader public awareness of racism and how it affects individuals and the broader South African society;
- Identify, promote and build on good practices and initiatives to prevent, reduce and eradicate racism; and
- Empower communities and individuals to take action to challenge racism and to seek redress where it occurs.

WHAT IS RACISM?

Racism is based on any belief, ideology, attitude or behaviour that assumes that someone is inferior or superior because of their skin colour or race. It can take many forms from attitudes and behaviour or comments that cause offence, to harassment and intimidation or physical abuse and violence.

Racism is a denial of people's basic human rights, dignity and respect. Its expression ranges from small, everyday acts of discrimination, through to barriers and omissions that may be inadvertently established at an institutional level, to acts of threatening behaviour and violence.

WHAT IS RACIAL DISCRIMINATION?

Racial discrimination is any act or omission, including a policy, law, rule, practice, condition or situation which directly or indirectly imposes burdens, obligations or disadvantage on, or withholds benefits, opportunities or advantages from, any person on prohibited grounds of race, ethnic or social origin, colour, culture, language and birth.

HAVE YOU BEEN UNFAIRLY DISCRIMINATED AGAINST?

According to the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act No 4 of 2000 (PEPUDA), unfair discrimination can take place on the following grounds: race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience belief, culture, language and birth. The Act recognises that everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection of the law, and aims to eradicate unfair discrimination and to promote equality.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

If you believe you have been unfairly discriminated against, you can lodge a complaint at the Equality court. The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD) has designated all magistrates' courts to serve as Equality Courts.

WHAT IS AN EQUALITY COURT?

It is a special court designed to hear matters relating to unfair discrimination, hate speech and harassment including on the grounds of race, gender and disability. There is no cost involved when lodging a complaint.

WHERE CAN I FIND AN EQUALITY COURT?

All High Courts are equality courts for their jurisdiction. The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development has designated all magistrates' courts to serve as equality courts in all provinces.



the doj & cd

Department:
Justice and Constitutional Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

