

Our Human Rights

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa was signed into law by former President Nelson Mandela on 10 December 1996. Chapter 2 of the Constitution contains the Bill of Rights which provides for the following rights:



EQUALITY

Everyone is equal before the law and may not be unfairly discriminated against.



HUMAN DIGNITY

Everyone has inherent human dignity which must be respected.



LIFE

Everyone has the right to life.



PRIVACY

Your right to privacy includes your body, home and possessions.



CITIZENSHIP

No citizen may be deprived of citizenship.



LABOUR RELATIONS

Every worker and employer has the right to organise and negotiate to further their aims.



HEALTH CARE, FOOD, WATER AND SOCIAL SECURITY

You have the right to have access to health care, adequate food, water and social security.



CHILDREN

Every child has the right to a name, nationality and protection from abuse and exploitation.



POLITICAL RIGHTS

You may form a political party, run for office and vote for any party in free and fair elections.



SLAVERY, SERVITUDE AND FORCED LABOUR

You may not be subjected to slavery or forced labour.



FREEDOM OF RELIGION, BELIEF AND OPINION

You have the right to think, believe in and belong to a religion of your choice.



FREEDOM OF RELIGION, BELIEF AND OPINION

You have the right to think, believe in and belong to a religion of your choice.



FREEDOM AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON

You have a right to be free from all forms of violence and not be detained without trial.



HOUSING

You have the right to have access to adequate housing.



FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

You have the right to speak or express yourself on whatever you choose but hate speech is not allowed.



PROPERTY

No one may be deprived of property, except in terms of law of general application.



ENVIRONMENT

You have the right to live in a safe, healthy environment.



FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

You have the right to associate with anyone.



ASSEMBLY, DEMONSTRATION, PICKET AND PETITION

You have the right to peacefully assemble, demonstrate and protest.



FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND RESIDENCE

You have the right to enter and leave the Republic at will.



EDUCATION

You have the right to receive basic education in the official language of your choice where that education is reasonably practicable.



LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

You have the right to use the language of your choice and practise your own culture.



ACCESS TO COURTS

You have the right to resolve your legal disputes in a court or another impartial tribunal.



FREEDOM OF TRADE, OCCUPATION AND PROFESSION

You have the right to choose any legal trade or occupation freely.



ARRESTED, DETAINED AND ACCUSED PERSONS

When arrested, you have the right to remain silent, to be brought before a court within 48 hours and the right to legal representation.



ACCESS TO INFORMATION

You may access any information held by the State for the protection of your rights.



JUST ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

You have the right to administrative action that is lawful, reasonable and procedurally fair.



CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC COMMUNITIES

You have the right to form, join and maintain cultural, linguistic and/or religious groupings of your own choice.



the doj & cd

Department:
Justice and Constitutional Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

www.justice.gov.za Follow us on  

Limitation of rights
The rights in the Bill of Rights may be limited.
The limitation must be reasonable and justifiable in an open and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.

