

THE BILL OF RIGHTS

All people in South Africa have human rights and are entitled to these rights and to be treated with dignity because they are human. These rights are listed in the South African Constitution as the Bill of Rights. It advises the country's citizens on how to treat one another equally and fairly. Let's explore our Bill of Rights.

EQUALITY



All people in South Africa are equal and must be treated equally.

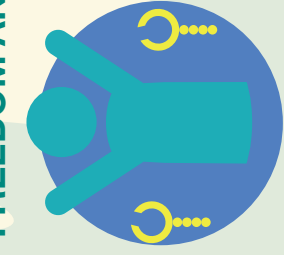
LIFE

Everyone has the right to life. The courts may not sentence people to death.

HUMAN DIGNITY

The government and citizens must respect the dignity of all people.

FREEDOM AND SECURITY

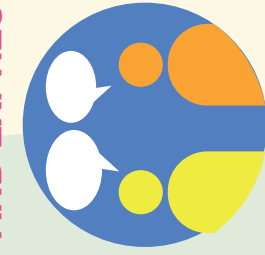


You cannot be put in prison without a valid reason or detained without a court trial. You cannot be tortured or harmed. You have the right to be free of all forms of violence.

SLAVERY, SERVITUDE AND FORCED LABOUR

You cannot be forced to work for someone. You have the right to choose where you work and the type of work you do.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION



You have the right to speak, write and create artwork freely. You may not harm other people by using hate speech such as racist or sexist language.

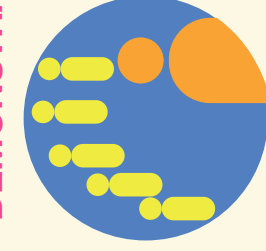
PERSONAL PRIVACY

You cannot be searched or have your home or possessions searched without a valid reason. The government cannot take your possessions or open your mail or listen to your phone calls.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION, BELIEFS AND OPINIONS

You have the right to believe in whatever you want and follow the religion of your choice.

ASSEMBLY AND DEMONSTRATION



You have the right to organise and take part in public meetings and demonstrations, and to put forward a petition as long as it is done peacefully.

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

You have the right to join any group of your choice and to associate with whomever you want to.

POLITICAL RIGHTS



All South African citizens have the right to free, fair and regular elections. You also have the right to start or join a political party, stand for election and vote in secrecy, when you are 18 years and older.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND RESIDENCE

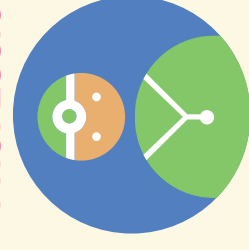
You have the right to go or live anywhere in South Africa. You can leave the country and return at any time. All South Africans have the right to have a passport.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION



You have the right to have access to information that the government or anyone else may have if that information can help you to protect your rights.

FREEDOM OF BUSINESS, OCCUPATION AND PROFESSION



You have the right to do whatever work you want as long as you have the skills, experience or qualifications for the job.

CHILDREN

All children younger than the age of 18 have the right to parental care, shelter, healthy food, not to be neglected or abused, not to be forced to work and legal help if charged with a crime.

CITIZENSHIP



Your citizenship may never be taken away from you.

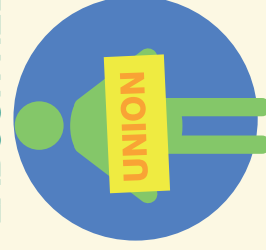
JUST ADMINISTRATION

Actions taken by the government and government departments must be within the limits of the law.

HOUSING

You have the right to have access to adequate housing but the government is not compelled to give everyone a house.

LABOUR RELATIONS



You have the right to seek and find employment and to be treated fairly at work. You can start or join a workers' union and go on a legal strike.

ENVIRONMENT



You have the right to live in a healthy environment. You may also use the natural resources in a responsible way.

PROPERTY



You have the right to own and sell property. Your property can be taken from you only when the government pays a fair price for it for public purpose, such as to build a dam or railway line.

EDUCATION

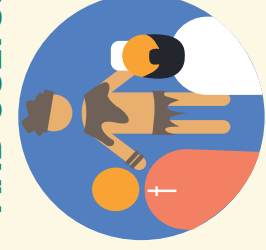
All South African citizens have the right to basic education (up to grade 12). You have the right to choose which language you learn in, provided enough learners want to be taught in this language and a qualified teacher is available.

HEALTHCARE, FOOD, WATER AND SOCIAL SECURITY



The government must ensure that healthcare services, food, water and financial help (pension, social grants and child support grants) are available if you cannot afford to support yourself and those who depend on you.

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE



Every person has the right to choose, practise and develop their culture, language and religion, provided the rights of other people are respected when you do so.

ACCESS TO COURTS

All South African citizens have the right to access the courts of law. You can have legal problems decided by a court.

Organisations that deal with human rights violation

- South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) 011-484-8300
- The Commission for Gender Equality 011-403-7182
- Childline South Africa 0800-055-555

SOURCE: OXFORD SUCCESSFUL LIFE ORIENTATION

HISTORY OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



Human Rights Day is celebrated in South Africa on 21 March and commemorates a violent event in South African history, the massacre at Sharpeville. On 21 March 1960, residents of Sharpeville township in the Vaal Triangle had a peaceful protest against the pass laws of the apartheid government. The pass laws required black South Africans to carry pass books at all times and controlled black people by using hate speech such as racist or sexist language. Those found without a pass were arrested. The police opened fire on the protesters and 69 people were killed and many more were injured. Today, Human Rights Day is a celebration of our rights as humans in South Africa.