

# The Bill of Rights

## Equality:

*You cannot be discriminated against. But affirmative action and fair discrimination are allowed.*

## Human Dignity:

*Your dignity must be respected and protected.*

## Life:

*You have the right to life.*

## Freedom and security of the person:

*You cannot be detained without trial, tortured or punished cruelly. Domestic violence is not allowed.*

## Slavery, servitude and forced labour:

*Slavery and forced labour are not allowed.*

## Privacy:

*You cannot be searched or have your home or possessions unlawfully searched.*

## Freedom of religion, belief and opinion:

*You can believe and think whatever you want and can follow the religion of your choice.*

## Freedom of expression:

*All people (including the press) can say whatever they want.*

## Assembly, demonstration, picket and petition:

*You can hold a demonstration, picket and present a petition. But you must do this peacefully.*

## Freedom of association:

*You can join organisations and/or associate with whoever you want to.*

## Property:

*Your property can only be taken away from you if the proper rules are followed.*

## Housing:

*The government must make sure that people get access to proper housing.*

## Health care, food, water and social security:

*The government must make sure you have access to food and water; health care and social security.*

## Children:

*Children under the age of 18 have special rights, like the right to be protected from maltreatment, neglect and abuse.*

## Education:

*You have the right to basic education, including adult basic education, in your own language (if this is possible).*

## Language and culture:

*You can use the language you want to and follow the culture that you choose.*

## Cultural, religious and linguistic communities:

*Communities can enjoy their own culture; practice their own religion; and use their own language.*

## Access to information:

*You have the right to obtain any information held by the State; and any information held by another person that is required for the exercise or protection of any rights.*

## Just administrative action:

*Actions by the government must be procedurally fair.*

## Access to courts:

*You can have a legal dispute settled by a court or a similar structure.*



## Know your rights, Accept your Responsibilities

### Political rights:

*You can support the political party of your choice. If you are a citizen, and at least 18 years old, you can vote.*

### Citizenship:

*Your citizenship cannot be taken away from you.*

### Freedom of movement and residence:

*You can go and live anywhere in South Africa.*

### Freedom of trade, occupation and profession:

*You can do whatever work you choose.*

### Labour relations:

*You may join a trade union of your choice and take labour action like going on strike.*

### Environment:

*You have the right to a healthy environment.*

### Arrested, detained and accused persons:

*This right protects people who have been arrested, imprisoned or accused. For example, they have a right to a fair trial.*

### NOTE:

*All these rights can be limited if it would be fair to do so. For more information on your rights, see Chapter 2 of the Constitution.*

We are the South African Human Rights Commission and we are here to inform, advise and help protect your rights.

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**Building a culture of Human Rights**

