

# Civil Rights

## What's the definition of a civil right?

A civil right is a right that ensures equal social opportunities and equal protection under the law. If someone faces discrimination based on their race, age, gender, religion, or other personal characteristics, their civil rights have been violated. Governments are responsible for protecting people from discrimination, which means enforcing laws and holding individuals and institutions accountable for civil rights violations.

Where did civil rights come from? They're like human rights and natural rights, but what's considered a civil right varies significantly by time and place. The phrase itself – “civil rights” – comes from the Latin *jus civis*, which means “right of the citizen.” While every person had some rights in ancient times, “civil rights” were meant for citizens.

What is discrimination? Discrimination is the practice of unfairly treating a person or group of people differently from other people or groups of people. Life Message prohibits discrimination based on these things:

- Race
- Color
- National origin
- Sex
- Disability
- Age
- Reprisal or retaliation for civil rights activity