

Access to
information

the Right to health

Access to
health care
services

Lawful, fair
administrative
actions

Access to
adequate
housing

Dignity,
equality and
life

A healthy
environment

Basic
education

Access to
social security

Personal
freedom and
security

Freedom
of religion,
belief and
opinion

Stand Up! · Speak Out! · Do Something!

**Good Health
is your right**

What are human rights?

- Rights are entitlements you have simply because you are human
- They cannot be taken away from you
- Your rights can only be limited if they interfere with someone else's rights.

What is the right to health?

The Right to health means that the state must take steps to ensure that all citizens have an equal chance to live a long and healthy life. This includes:

- the right to a safe, clean living environment, with clean water, adequate housing, adequate nutrition, social security and education.
- the right to expect and demand adequate health care
- The right to health is for everyone, rich and poor, without discrimination.

Why are human rights important?

- So that you can live with respect and dignity
- So that you can respect others' dignity
- So that you can demand your basic needs
- Having a human right is important to protect you from exploitation or discrimination

Why is the right to health important?

If you are not healthy

- You can't work
- You can't play with your children
- You can't breastfeed your baby
- You can't take care of your family
- You can't enjoy other rights. For example, if you are sick, you can't vote or enjoy freedom of movement.

The South African government must respect, protect and, as far as possible, fulfil your human rights

WHY MUST THE GOVERNMENT RESPECT, PROTECT AND FULFIL OUR RIGHTS?

South Africa signed

1. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights agreed upon by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948, in Paris. It has 30 articles outlining the view of the United Nations General Assembly on the human rights guaranteed to all people who live in countries that have signed this agreement.

'Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family...'

2. The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (2000) General Comment No.14, states that:

'Health is a fundamental human right indispensable for the exercise of other human rights. Every human being is entitled to the enjoyment of the highest standard of health conducive to living a life in dignity.'

The South African Constitution applies to all people living in South Africa and states that your human rights must be respected by the courts, parliament, private organisations and individuals.

The Bill of Rights in the Constitution states that:

'Everyone has the right to have access to health care services, including reproductive health care...'

and that the State should

'take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of the right[to health].'

The Bill of Rights also says that:

'Everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures...'



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1. The right to health

2. Community involvement and the right to health
3. The patients' rights charter
4. Individual and collective rights in public health
5. Access to information
6. Rights and resource allocation



People's Health Movement



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