

# Human Rights Principles



## Equality

The equality concept expresses the notion of respect for the inherent dignity of all human beings. As specified in Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the basis of human rights, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights."

## Human Dignity

The principles of human rights are founded on the notion that each individual, regardless of age, culture, disability, ethnicity, faith, gender, language, race, sexual orientation or social class, deserves to be honored or esteemed.

## Inalienability

The human rights that individuals have cannot be taken away, surrendered, or transferred.

## Indivisibility

Human rights should be addressed as an indivisible body, including civil, political, social, economic, cultural, and collective rights.

## Interdependency

Human rights concerns appear in all spheres of life - home, school, workplace, courts, markets - everywhere! Human rights violations are interconnected; loss of one right detracts from other rights. Similarly, promotion of human rights in one area supports other human rights.

## Non-Discrimination

Non-discrimination is integral to the concept of equality. It ensures that no one is denied the protection of their human rights based on some external factors. Reference to some factors that contribute to discrimination contained in international human rights treaties include: birth, color, language, nationality, race, religion, property, political or other opinion, social origin, sex. The criteria identified in the treaties, however, are only examples, it does not mean that discrimination is allowed on other grounds.

## Justice

Justice is fairness, equity, and morality in action or attitude in order to promote and protect human rights and responsibilities.

## Responsibility

**Government responsibility:** human rights are not gifts bestowed at the pleasure of governments. Nor should governments withhold them or apply them to some people but not to others. When they do so, they must be held accountable.

**Individual responsibility:** Every individual has a responsibility to teach human rights, to respect human rights, and to challenge institutions and individuals that abuse them.

**Other responsible entities:** Every organ of society, including corporations, non-governmental organizations, foundations, and educational institutions, also shares responsibility for the promotion and protection of human rights.

## Universality

Certain moral and ethical values are shared in all regions of the world, and governments and communities should recognize and uphold them. The universality of rights does not mean, however, that the rights cannot change or that they are experienced in the same manner by all people.