



BILL OF RIGHTS

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF FREEDOM

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 was signed into law by His Excellency President Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela on 10 December 1996 in Sharpeville and came into operation on 4 February 1997.



EQUALITY

Everyone is equal before the law and may not be unfairly discriminated against.

HUMAN DIGNITY

Everyone has inherent human dignity which must be respected.

LIFE

Everyone has the right to life.

FREEDOM AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON

You have a right to be free from all forms of violence and not be detained without trial.

SLAVERY, SERVITUDE AND FORCED LABOUR

You may not be subjected to slavery or forced labour.

PRIVACY

Your right to privacy includes your body, home and possessions.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION, BELIEF AND OPINION

You have the right to think, believe in and belong to a religion of your choice.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

You have the right to speak or express yourself on whatever you choose but hate speech is not allowed.

ASSEMBLY, DEMONSTRATION, PICKET AND PETITION

You have the right to peacefully assemble, demonstrate and protest.

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

You have the right to associate with anyone.

POLITICAL RIGHTS

You may form a political party, run for office and vote for any party in free and fair elections.

CITIZENSHIP

No citizen may be deprived of citizenship.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND RESIDENCE

You have the right to enter and leave the Republic at will.

FREEDOM OF TRADE, OCCUPATION AND PROFESSION

You have the right to choose any legal trade or occupation freely.

LABOUR RELATIONS

Every worker and employer has the right to organise and negotiate to further their aims.

ENVIRONMENT

You have the right to live in a safe, healthy environment.

PROPERTY

No-one may be deprived of property, except in terms of law of general application.

HOUSING

You have the right to have access to adequate housing.

HEALTH CARE, FOOD, WATER AND SOCIAL SECURITY

You have the right to have access to health care, adequate food, water and social security.

CHILDREN

Every child has the right to a name, nationality and protection from abuse and exploitation.

EDUCATION

You have the right to receive basic education in the official language of your choice where that education is reasonably practicable.

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

You have the right to use the language of your choice and practise your own culture.

CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC COMMUNITIES

You have the right to form, join and maintain cultural, linguistic and/or religious groupings of your own choice.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

You may access any information held by the state for the protection of your rights.

JUST ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

You have the right to administrative action that is lawful, reasonable and procedurally fair.

ACCESS TO COURTS

You have the right to resolve your legal disputes in a court or another impartial tribunal.

ARRESTED, DETAINED AND ACCUSED PERSONS

When arrested for allegedly committing an offence, you have the right to remain silent, to be brought before a court within 48 hours and the right to legal representation.

LIMITATION OF RIGHTS

Everyone's rights may be limited. The limitation should apply to everyone to the extent that it is reasonable and justifiable in an open and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.

RESPONSIBILITIES

All citizens are equally subject to the duties and responsibilities of citizenship.



the doj & cd

Department:
Justice and Constitutional Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA