



List of Individual Human Rights

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1	Right to life	Right to life. (ICCPR 6, UDHR 3)	The right to life entails the right not to be deprived of life arbitrarily or unlawfully, and the right to have one's life protected. The right not to have one's life taken away by arbitrary killing is a fundamental right and includes a duty on governments to investigate such killings and punish offenders.
2	Right to liberty and security	Right to liberty and security (including freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention or exile). (UDHR 3 and 9; ICCPR 9)	The rights to liberty and security of person prohibit unlawful or arbitrary detention of any kind. 'Arbitrary' (or unreasonable) detention is prohibited even if authorised under a state's domestic laws. This Article recognizes the right to security of people, whether in or out of detention. This part of the Article has the greatest potential relevance for companies. Security of the person encompasses protection from physical attacks, threats of physical attack, or other severe instances of harassment.

3	Right not to be subjected to slavery, servitude or forced labour	Right not to be subjected to slavery, servitude or forced labour. (UDHR 4; ICCPR 8; ILO No. 29; ILO No. 105)	<p>Slavery occurs when one human being effectively owns another. The right to freedom from servitude covers other forms of dominance, egregious economic exploitation, and degradation of human beings, which might arise for example in the context of the trafficking of workers (including sex workers), serfdom and debt bondage. Given the extreme nature of these human rights abuses, the rights to freedom from slavery and servitude are subject to no restrictions or qualifications.</p> <p>Forced or compulsory labour is also prohibited, and is defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO) as ‘all work or service which is exacted from any person under menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily.’</p>
4	Right not to be subjected to torture, cruel, inhuman and/or degrading treatment or punishment	Right not to be subjected to torture, cruel, inhuman and/or degrading treatment or punishment. (UDHR 5; ICCPR 7)	<p>This right has a special status in international human rights law and is subject to no restrictions or provisos in any circumstances. Torture is the most serious of the prohibited acts of ill treatment: it involves a very high degree of pain and suffering that is intentionally inflicted for a particular purpose (e.g. extracting a confession). Cruel and/or inhuman treatment also entails severe suffering of the victim, though of a lesser scale than ‘torture’. Degrading treatment is characterized by extreme humiliation of the victim.</p>
5	Right to recognition as a person before the law	Right to recognition of a person before the law. (UDHR 6; ICCPR 16)	<p>Article 16 guarantees that an individual be endowed with the capacity to be a person before the law. That is, a human being must be recognised as a person with ‘legal personality’. Examples of breaches of this Article are laws that treat married women as the property of their husbands, children as the property of their parents, or the property of a married woman as the property of her husband.</p>

6	Right to equality before the law, equal protection of the law, non-discrimination	Right to equality before the law, equal protection of the law, non-discrimination. (UDHR 7; ICCPR 26; ILO No. 111)	<p>This right guarantees equality before the law, and the equal protection of the law without discrimination. Individuals should be protected from discrimination on different grounds including race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, and birth or other status. The latter ground is open-ended and has been interpreted to include statuses such as health status (e.g. HIV/AIDS), disability, marital status, age and sexual orientation.</p> <p>Discrimination means any distinction, exclusion or preference made on one or more of the grounds listed above that has the effect of reducing or removing altogether equality of opportunity or treatment for the victim.</p>
7	Right to freedom from war propaganda, and freedom from incitement to racial, religious or national hatred	Right to freedom from war propaganda, and freedom from incitement to racial, religious or national hatred. (UDHR 7; ICCPR 20)	<p>This right requires the prohibition of war propaganda and the prohibition of any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that amounts to incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. Therefore, the right carves out an area of speech that is not protected by the right to freedom of expression in Article 19 of the ICCPR.</p>
8	Right to access to effective remedies	Right to access to effective remedies. (UDHR 8; ICCPR2)	<p>This right, and in particular, Article 2 of the ICCPR contains the general obligations for a State to respect and ensure that all individuals within its territory, and subject to its jurisdiction, enjoy the rights recognised in the Convention without discrimination; it also underscores the right to provision of an effective remedy for victims.</p>

9	Right to a fair trial	Right to a fair trial. (UDHR 10; ICCPR 14)	The right to a fair trial and equality before the courts is required in both criminal and civil proceedings to ensure the proper administration of justice. The rights include the entitlement to a public hearing before an impartial court or tribunal. Criminal proceedings demand extra guarantees for the accused such as the presumption of innocence, the right to examine witnesses on an equal basis with the prosecution, the right to an interpreter if the defendant does not understand the language used in the court, and the right to a review of conviction and sentence by a higher tribunal according to law.
10	Right to be free from retroactive criminal law	Right to be free from retroactive criminal law. (UDHR 11; ICCPR 15)	The right to freedom from retroactive criminal law prohibits the State from imposing criminal penalties for an act done that was not illegal at the time it was committed. It also prevents States from imposing heavier penalties for crimes than those that were prescribed at the time the crime was committed.
11	Right to privacy	Right to privacy. (UDHR 12; ICCPR 17)	This right protects people against arbitrary, unreasonable or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence, as well as attacks on their honour and reputation. ‘Arbitrary’, or unreasonable, restrictions on privacy are prohibited even if authorized under a State’s domestic laws. Governments have duties to protect against interferences with privacy by State agents or private bodies such as employers and the media. Arbitrary’, or unreasonable, restrictions on privacy are prohibited even if authorized under a State’s domestic laws. Governments have duties to protect against interferences with privacy by State agents or private bodies such as employers and the media.

12	Right to freedom of movement	Right to freedom of movement. (UDHR 13; ICCPR 12)	This right has four parts. It allows people who are lawfully in a country to move freely throughout the country, to choose where to live within the country, and to leave the country. These three parts of the right may be limited by restrictions on movement that are necessary to protect national security, public order, public health or morals, or the rights and freedoms of others. The right to freedom of movement also gives people the right not to be arbitrarily prevented from entering their own country.
13	Right to seek asylum from persecution in other countries	Right to seek asylum from prosecution in other countries. (UDHR 14)	It is rare that the activities of a company would have any direct or indirect impacts upon this right, though they may be complicit in the abuses of this right by others.
14	Right to have a nationality	Right to have a nationality. (UDHR 15)	It is rare that the activities of a company would have any direct or indirect impacts upon this right, though they may be complicit in the abuses of this right by others.
15	Right of protection for the child	Right of protection for the child. (UDHR 25; ICCPR 24; ILO No. 182)	<p>Children are recognized by this right as being in need of special protection as required by their status as minors.</p> <p>The duty to protect a child attaches to his or her family, community and the State. A child has the right to be registered and given a name immediately after being born, and the right to acquire a nationality.</p> <p>The age at which a child achieves majority and no longer requires the protections of Article 24 of the ICCPR is determined by governments in light of the relevant social and cultural conditions, so long as the age of majority is not unreasonably low or high</p>

16	Right to marry and form a family	Right to marry and form a family. (UDHR 16; ICCPR 23; ICESCR 10)	<p>The right to family life requires protection of the family by society and the State. The concept of a family varies throughout the world; each society's own definition of a family is generally applied. This includes the rights of men and women of marriageable age to marry and start a family, and for marriage to be entered into freely and with full consent. According to this right, the widest possible protection and assistance should be given to the family, particularly during its establishment, and while it is responsible for the care and education of dependent children.</p>
17	Right to own property	Right to own property. (UDHR 17; ICESR 15)	<p>The right to property ensures that everyone is entitled to own property alone as well as in association with others. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.</p>
18	Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion	Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. (UDHR 18; ICCPR 18)	<p>The right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion encompasses a person's freedom to choose, practise and observe his or her chosen religion or belief. The freedom also protects atheists and the right not to profess any religion or belief.</p> <p>The right to manifest a religion or belief includes the right to worship, as well as to teach and observe rituals such as the wearing of particular clothes or headwear.</p>
19	Right to freedom of opinion, information and expression	Right to freedom of opinion, information and expression. (UDHR 19; ICCPR 19)	<p>Article 19 protects the right of each person to hold opinions free from outside interference. This right cannot be restricted in any circumstances.</p> <p>Article 19 also protects the right to freedom of expression, which is the right to seek, receive and impart ideas in whatever media or form. This right can be restricted by measures provided by law and necessary to protect the rights or reputations of others, or to protect national security, public order, public health or morals.</p>

20	Right to freedom of assembly	Right to freedom of assembly. (UDHR 20; ICCPR 21)	The right to assemble and gather together peacefully is protected by Article 21 of the ICCPR. Assembly in this context may refer to a gathering that takes place for a specific purpose, where there is public discussion, or where ideas are proclaimed.
21	Right to freedom of association	Right to freedom of association. (UDHR 20; ICCPR 22; ILO No. 87)	Article 22 of the ICCPR protects the right to form or join all types of association such as political parties, religious societies, sporting and other recreational clubs, non-governmental organisations and trade unions.
22	Right to participate in public life	Right to participate in public life. (UDHR 21; ICCPR 25)	<p>The right to participate in public life concerns the ability of citizens to take part in the conduct of public affairs and to freely choose representatives to perform governmental functions on their behalf.</p> <p>This right also delineates specific aspects of the right to political participation such as the rights to vote and to be elected in free and fair elections, and a right of equal access to positions within the public service.</p> <p>It is important that information and ideas about public and political issues are communicated freely.</p>
23	Right to social security, including social insurance	Right to social security, including social insurance. (UDHR 22; ICESCR 9)	The right to social security encompasses the right to access and maintain benefits without discrimination. Governments are obliged to make available a system of social security. Such systems may involve contributory or insurance-based schemes, which normally entail compulsory contributions from the beneficiary and the beneficiary's employer (and sometimes the State), as well as universal or targeted schemes funded out of the public purpose. The right is essential in combating poverty, given its redistributive character; its realisation can, for example, have a significant impact on the enjoyment of other related rights, such as the right to an adequate standard of living and the right to health.

24	Right to work	Right to work. (UDHR 23; ICESCR 6)	The right to work recognises the right of everyone to the opportunity to make their living by work which they freely choose or accept. This implies that one should not be forced to engage in employment and that States develop a system designed to guarantee all workers access to employment. Workers should not be unfairly deprived of employment. Work as specified in Article 6 of the ICESCR must be ‘decent work’, that is work that respects a person’s human rights including workers’ rights regarding conditions of remuneration and work safety. The right to work includes the prohibition of arbitrary dismissal.
25	Right to enjoy just and favourable conditions of work	Right to enjoy just and favourable conditions of work (including rest and leisure). (UDHR 23 and 24; ICESCR 7)	The right to enjoy just and favourable working conditions has various components, which are all highly relevant to the actions of companies as they concern the treatment of employees. Companies can have a significant impact on the enjoyment of the various rights in Article 7 of the ICESCR in their capacity as employers.
26	Right to form and join trade unions and the right to strike	Right to form trade unions and join trade unions, and the right to strike. (UDHR 23; ICESCR 8; ILO No. 98)	Article 8 of the ICESCR concerns the right of everyone to form trade unions and to join the trade union of his or her choice, subject to the union’s own membership rules. This right may only be restricted by States in circumstances that are set down in law and are necessary to protect national security, public order, or the rights and freedoms of others.

27	Right to an adequate standard of living	Right to an adequate standard of living (Housing, Food, Water & Sanitation). (UDHR 25; ICESCR 11)	<p>Article 11 of the ICESCR guarantees the right to an adequate standard of living including adequate food, clothing, housing and continuous improvement of living conditions. It has also been interpreted as including access to sufficient water and sanitation.</p> <p>Right to adequate housing: The right to adequate housing encompasses more than the provision of basic shelter; it is the right to live somewhere in security, dignity and peace. This means that housing or shelter must fulfil certain basic criteria, such as security of tenure, availability of utilities and other services (e.g. sewage facilities and access to safe drinking water), affordability, habitability, accessibility, location and cultural adequacy of housing. Governments should take progressive steps towards the achievement of all aspects of the right.</p> <p>Right to Food: Food is vital for human survival and also essential as a means to fully enjoy all other rights. The human right to adequate food implies that food should be available and accessible to people in a quantity and of a quality sufficient to satisfy their nutritional needs, free from harmful substances, and acceptable to their culture. The right to food includes the possibilities for individuals to feed themselves and their family directly by productive land and other natural resources (e.g. farming, animal husbandry, fishing, hunting and food gathering), as well as to purchase foods at markets and stores. Various steps should be taken by States to improve methods of production, conservation and distribution of food through, for example, the development of better farming systems, as well as ensuring an equitable distribution of world food supplies in relation to need.</p>
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28	Right to health	Right to health. (UDHR 25; ICESCR 12)	<p>This right recognizes the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States must take measures to prevent, treat and control diseases, reduce infant mortality and provide for the healthy development of children, improve all aspects of industrial and environmental hygiene, and to create conditions that will ensure universal access to appropriate medical services and medical attention in the event of sickness.</p> <p>The right includes the right to control over one's health and body, including reproductive and sexual rights, and freedom from interference, such as freedom from non-consensual medical treatment and experimentation. People must have access to the underlying building blocks of good health, such as adequate nutrition, housing, safe and potable water, adequate sanitation, medical supplies, healthy working conditions and a healthy environment.</p>
29	Right to education	Right to education. (UDHR 26; ICESCR 13 and 14)	<p>The aim of the right to education is "the full development of the human personality and sense of dignity". Articles 13 and 14 of the ICESCR guarantee all children the right to free and compulsory primary education.</p>
30	Right to take part in cultural life, benefit from scientific progress, material and moral rights of authors and inventors	Right to take part in cultural life, benefit from scientific progress, material and moral rights of authors and inventors. (UDHR 27; ICESCR 15)	<p>Article 15 of the ICESCR guarantees the right to take part in the cultural life of society. It also guarantees the rights of all to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress. Its application is designed to ensure that everyone in society can enjoy technological advances, in particular disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>That right includes the right of everyone to seek and receive information about new scientific advancements and to have access to any developments that could enhance their quality of life. Finally, Article 15 guarantees a person protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he or she is the author.</p>

31	Right of self-determination	Right to self-determination. (ICCPR 1, ICESCR 1)	This right allows peoples to determine their political status and their place in the international community. It includes the right of peoples to develop and progress in social, economic and cultural terms, to dispose of their land's natural resources and wealth, and not to be deprived of their own means of subsistence. The right to self-determination is concerned with freedom from domination by an alien power. It is a collective or group right held by 'peoples', often understood as peoples under colonial or comparable rule. The right of self-determination of indigenous peoples has also been recognised by the international community. As a right enjoyed by a group, it differs from most other human rights, which are framed as rights of the individual.
32	Right of detained persons to human treatment	Right of detained persons to humane treatment. (ICCPR 10)	The right of detained persons to human treatment provides special protection for detainees, a group that is highly vulnerable to human rights abuses.
33	Right not to be subjected to imprisonment for inability to fulfill a contract	Right not to be subjected to imprisonment for inability to fulfil a contract. (ICCPR 11)	This right prohibits the imprisonment of people who are unable to pay a debt when the debt in question is a private obligation (rather than a public debt such as the obligation to pay tax) and arises when a person is incapable (as opposed to unwilling) of paying the debt or fulfilling the contract.
34	Right of aliens due process when facing expulsion	Right of aliens due process when facing expulsion. (ICCPR 13)	This right ensures that foreigners ('aliens') who are legally present in a country are not expelled from that country without due process in accordance with the law, including the right for an alien to be given the opportunity to present reasons why he or she should not be expelled and to have any expulsion decision reviewed.

35	Rights of minorities	Rights of minorities. (ICCPR 27)	<p>This right recognizes the rights of members of ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities to enjoy their own culture, to practice their religion, and to speak their language.</p> <p>Indigenous peoples are included within the protection of Article 27 of the ICCPR. Their interests may also be protected under Article 1 (the right to self-determination) of both International Covenants (ICCPR and ICESCR). Article 27 also applies to migrants, including recently arrived migrants.</p>
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