

What is international human rights law?



What are human rights?



Everyone has human rights.
They are part of your life
from birth until death.



They cannot be taken away.
Rights can sometimes be
limited to keep people in a
country safe.



Human rights are found and
protected in law.

This includes:

- international law – law that applies to all countries.
- national law – law for the country you live in.



What is international human rights law?



International human rights law says the ways that countries should protect human rights.



Countries agree to using human rights by signing and ratifying an international human rights treaty.

A treaty is an agreement in law.



The United Nations is an organisation that supports countries to work together to be peaceful and safe.



The United Nations makes human rights treaties.

These are human rights laws.

What does ratifying a treaty mean?



When a country ratifies a treaty it has signed it and agrees to do what it says.



Countries have time before ratifying a treaty so they can change their own national laws.



There are different kinds of human rights.

- Environmental rights.
- Economic, social and cultural rights.



These include the right to:

- education
- housing
- a reasonable standard of living
- health
- science and culture
- and victim's rights



- Civil and political.

They all need each other to work properly.

Checking if countries respect human rights.



All United Nations human rights treaties have groups that check if countries are respecting human rights.

These groups are called treaty bodies.



Countries make reports to the treaty body every few years to say how they are respecting human rights.



The treaty body then gives the country recommendations about:

- what they are doing well
- where they need to protect human rights in a better way.

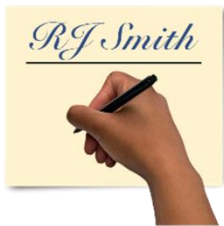


The United Nations Human Rights Council is a group that also checks that human rights are being respected.

International Human Rights Day



10 December is international human rights day.



This was the day the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed by the United Nations in 1948.