

HUMAN RIGHTS ARE YOUR RIGHTS

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) recognizes that “the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world” and that Member States of the United Nations have pledged “to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms”.

SOME OF YOUR RIGHTS UNDER UDHR

- ✓ You have the right not to be subjected to torture or to other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Article 5)
- ✓ You have the right not to be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile (Article 9)
- ✓ You have the right to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal (Article 10)
- ✓ You have to right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Article 18)
- ✓ You have the right to freedom of opinion and expression (Article 19)
- ✓ You have the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association (Article 20)

The principles of the UDHR have inspired human rights treaties and standards at the international and regional level. Saudi Arabia has acceded to three such international treaties and is therefore legally bound by the provisions within them.

DID YOU KNOW?

Saudi Arabia has acceded to the following international human rights treaties:

- ✓ The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
Acceded to by Saudi Arabia on 26 January 1996
- ✓ The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
Acceded to by Saudi Arabia on 23 September 1997
- ✓ The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
Acceded to by Saudi Arabia on 23 September 1997

Below are some of the specific legal obligations of Saudi Arabia under the treaties it has acceded to. These rights belong to everyone, and they are not the only rights you have. Other rights are embodied in other human rights treaties, but states are only legally bound to protect them if they

have acceded to or ratified them. These legal obligations apply to everyone living within that state's territory.

Convention Against Torture

★ **118 STATES HAVE RATIFIED OR ACCEDED TO THIS CONVENTION**

(As of 9 December 1999)

- ✓ Everyone has the right not to be tortured or subject to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in any circumstances (Articles 2 + 16)
- ✓ If you allege that you have been tortured you have *the right to complain to, and to have your case promptly and impartially examined by, the competent authorities* (Article 13)
- ✓ If you have made a complaint you and your witnesses have the right to be protected against all ill-treatment or intimidation as a consequence of your complaint or any evidence given (Article 13)
- ✓ If you have been tortured you have the right to fair and adequate compensation and to the means for as full rehabilitation as possible (Article 14)
- ✓ If you are a dependent of someone who has died as a result of torture you have the right to compensation (Article 14)
- ✓ If you have been tortured you have the right to expect that any statement you made under torture be excluded as evidence in court, except against the person accused of torture as evidence that the statement was made (Article 15)
- ✓ Saudi Arabia is obliged to make torture, attempts to commit torture and complicity or participation in torture criminal offences under its criminal law. (Article 4)
- ✓ Saudi Arabia is obliged to make such offences punishable by appropriate penalties (Article 4)
- ✓ Saudi Arabia is obliged to include education and information regarding the prohibition of torture in the training of law enforcement personnel, civil or military, medical personnel, public officials and anyone else who may be involved in the custody, interrogation or treatment of any individual subjected to any form of arrest, detention or imprisonment. (Article 10)
- ✓ Saudi Arabia is obliged to systematically review interrogation and detention rules and methods with a view to preventing any cases of torture (Article 11)

Convention on the Rights of the Child

(applying to anyone below the age of 18)

★ **191 STATES HAVE RATIFIED OR ACCEDED TO THIS CONVENTION**

(As of 9 December 1999)

- ✓ The rights in this Convention should apply to every child without discrimination of any kind (Article 2)
- ✓ Every child has the right to freedom of expression and the right to have his or her freedom of thought, conscience and religion respected (Articles 13 + 14)
- ✓ Every child has the right to access to information and material from a diversity of national and international sources (Article 17)
- ✓ Every child has the right to be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse (Article 19)
- ✓ Every child has the right to education on the basis of equal opportunity (Article 28)
- ✓ Every child belonging to an ethnic, religious or linguistic minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her culture, to profess and practise his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language (Article 30)
- ✓ Every child has the right to be protected against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Article 34)
- ✓ Children should only be arrested and detained as a last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time (Article 37)
- ✓ If arrested, children should not be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment under any circumstances (Article 37)
- ✓ If arrested, children must never be subjected to capital punishment or sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of release (Article 37)
- ✓ If arrested, children should be allowed contact with their families and should have prompt access to legal and other appropriate assistance (Article 37)
- ✓ If arrested, children should be separated from adults in detention unless it is considered to be against the best interests of the child not to do so (Article 37)

Convention On Elimination of Racial Discrimination

- ★ **155 STATES HAVE RATIFIED OR ACCEDED TO THIS CONVENTION**
(As of 9 December 1999)
- ✓ States must condemn racial discrimination and undertake to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating it (Article 2)
- ✓ States must undertake not to sponsor, defend or support racial discrimination by any persons or organizations (Article 2)
- ✓ You have the right to equal treatment before the law regardless of your race (Article 5)

- ✓ You have the right to protection by the state against violence or bodily harm regardless of your race (Article 5)
- ✓ You have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion regardless of your race (Article 5)
- ✓ You have the right to equal participation in cultural activities regardless of your race (Article 5)
- ✓ You have the right to equal pay for equal work and just and favourable remuneration and conditions of work (Article 5)
- ✓ You have the right to form and join trade unions (Article 5)
- ✓ If you have been the subject of racial discrimination contrary to this convention, you have the right to seek reparation (Article 6)

If you would like to obtain copies of these and other international standards (which are available in the different UN official languages, including Arabic), you can write to:

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

You can also find this information on the Internet:

<http://www.unhchr.ch>

DID YOU KNOW?

The following international human rights treaties are among those that Saudi Arabia has not acceded to. The rights contained in these treaties belong to everyone. However, if Saudi Arabia were to accede to these treaties, the government would be legally bound to protect these rights.

- ✗ The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- ✗ The International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- ✗ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Women's Convention)
- ✗ International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

Some of the rights set out in these treaties are also set out in the treaties Saudi Arabia has already acceded to.

Has been ratified or acceded to by **ICCPR** 114 states
(As of 9 December 1999)

Women's Convention Everyone has the right to freedom of thought,
Has been ratified or acceded to by **ICCPR** 114 states
(As of 9 December 1999) assembly

Under the Women's Convention states should undertake: If you are arrested you have the right to be immediately informed of the reasons why

- ➔ To establish legal protection of the rights of women on an equal basis with men If you are arrested you have the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law
- ➔ To repeal all national or local laws which constitute discrimination against women If you are charged with a criminal offence you have the right to choose your own defence lawyer and to examine the prosecution witnesses

Take all appropriate measures to: If you are arrested you have the right to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal

- ➔ Ensure women's participation in public life, in particular in decision-making and in non-governmental organizations and associations If you are a victim of a crime you have the right to have your conviction and sentence reviewed by a higher tribunal
- ➔ Ensure women's equality of education and employment opportunities If you are sentenced to death you have the right to seek pardon or commutation of the sentence
- ➔ Ensure women's rights to participate in cultural activities
- ➔ Ensure women's rights to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent

Has been **MIGRANT WORKERS CONVENTION**
INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
RIGHTS (December 1999)

Under this Convention migrant workers and members of their families have the right:

- To free determination of political status for economic, social and cultural development
 - To equally enjoy your economic, social and cultural rights regardless of whether you are a man or a woman
 - To manifest their religion or belief in worship, teaching, practice and discipline
 - To gain your living by work which is freely chosen and accepted
 - To fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value and particular women have the right to be granted conditions of work not less favorable than those enjoyed by men, with equal pay for work of equal value
 - To form trade unions and to join them for the protection of their interests, subject only to the rules of the organization
 - To an adequate standard of living for you and your family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, taking into account the continuing improvement of living conditions
 - To the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
 - To education
 - To have the free assistance of an interpreter if they cannot understand or speak the language used
 - To have the freedom of peaceful assembly and creative activity respected
- If arrested, the right to request that the diplomatic authorities of his or her State of origin be informed of the arrest and the reasons therefor and the right to communicate with such authorities
 - The right to equality with Saudi Arabian nationals before the courts and tribunals

**JOIN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S CALL FOR SAUDI ARABIA TO RATIFY THE
ICCPR, WOMEN'S CONVENTION, ICESCR AND THE MIGRANT WORKERS
CONVENTION**

To find out more information about the work of Amnesty International, please write to:

Program of Action Team
Amnesty International
International Secretariat
1 Easton Street
London
WC1X ODW
United Kingdom

Email: rights@amnesty.org
Fax: 0171 413 5719

Or visit our website: <http://www.amnesty.org.uk>

AI Index: MDE 23/03/00

February 2000

