

## How can the SAHRC help you?

The SAHRC is here to inform, advise and help protect your rights.

- For information and training on human rights contact our Human Rights Advocacy Programme (HuRAP)  
☎ (011) 877 3600 ext 3625
- If you feel your human rights have been violated, contact our Legal Services Programme who will investigate your claim  
☎ (011) 877 3600 ext 3646
- For information on accessing socio-economic rights (housing, water, land, social security, environment, food, education and health care) or your right to equality (PEPUDA), contact our Research and Policy Analysis Programme  
☎ (011) 877 3600 ext 3608
- For queries relating to your right of access to information (PAIA), you may contact our PAIA unit  
☎ (011) 877 3600 ext 3678

## Contact us

### Head Office and Gauteng Office

Forum 3, Braampark Office Park  
Braamfontein, JOHANNESBURG  
☎ (011) 877 3600  
Fax: (011) 877 3600

### Eastern Cape

4th Floor, Oxford House, 86–88 Oxford Street  
EAST LONDON  
☎ (043) 722 7828 • Fax: (043) 722 7830

### Free State

50 East Burger Street, 1st Floor TAB Building  
BLOEMFONTEIN  
☎ (051) 447 1133 • Fax: (051) 447 1128

### Gauteng

2nd Floor, Forum 3, Braampark Office Park, 33 Hoofd Street, Braamfontein, JOHANNESBURG  
☎ (011) 877 3751 • Fax: (011) 403 0668

### KwaZulu-Natal

First Floor, 136 Victoria Embankment, DURBAN  
☎ (031) 304 7323/4/5 • Fax: (031) 304 7323

### Limpopo

1st Floor, Office 102, Library Garden Square, Corner of Schoeman and Grobler Streets, POLOKWANE  
☎ (015) 291 3500 • Fax: (015) 291 3505

### Mpumalanga

4th Floor Carltex Building, 32 Bell Street, NELSPRUIT  
☎ (013) 752 8292 • Fax: (013) 752 6890

### Northern Cape

45 Mark and Scott Road, Ancorley Building, UPINGTON  
☎ (054) 332 3993/4 • Fax: (054) 332 7750

### North West

170 Kloppe Street, RUSTENBURG  
☎ Tel: (014) 592 0694 • Fax: (014) 594 1089

### Western Cape

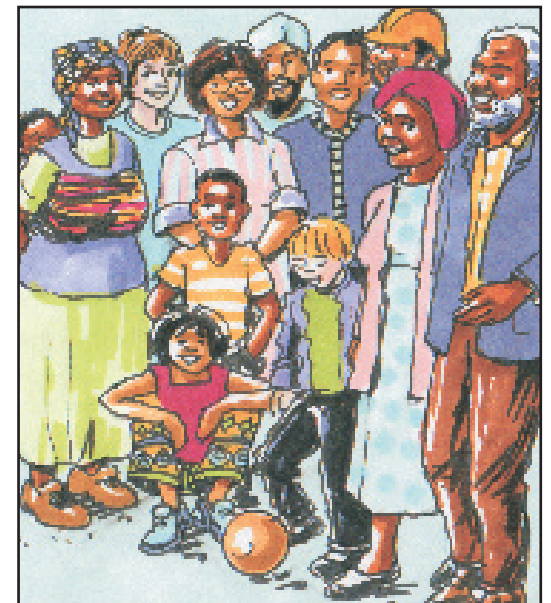
7th Floor, ABSA Building, 32 Adderley Street, CAPE TOWN  
☎ (021) 426 2277 • Fax: (021) 426 2875

Web site: [www.sahrc.org.za](http://www.sahrc.org.za)  
E-mail: [info@sahrc.org.za](mailto:info@sahrc.org.za)



## What is the

# South African Human Rights Commission?



**Transforming society  
Securing rights  
Restoring dignity**

## What are human rights?



Human rights are the foundation of our democracy. Our Constitution and all our laws are based on human rights. These rights are listed in the Bill of Rights, Chapter 2 of the South African Constitution, the highest law in our country.

The Constitution was adopted to heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights.

The Constitution recognises the dignity and the rights of every human being. No matter who you are in South Africa, you are entitled to just and equal treatment.

## The Bill of Rights

- Equality
- Human dignity
- Life
- Freedom and security of the person
- Prohibits slavery, servitude and forced labour
- Privacy
- Freedom of religion, belief and opinion
- Freedom of expression
- Assembly, demonstration, picket and petition
- Freedom of association
- Political rights
- Citizenship
- Freedom of movement and residence
- Freedom of trade, occupation and profession
- Labour relations
- Environment

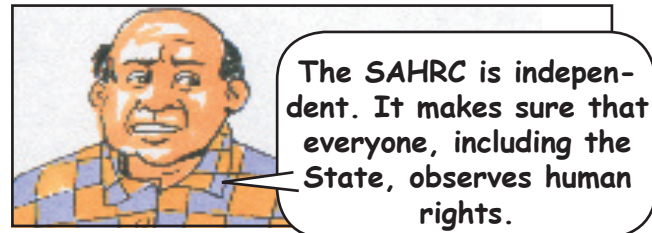
- Property
- Housing
- Health care, food, water and social security
- Children
- Education
- Language and culture
- Cultural, religious and linguistic communities
- Access to information
- Just administrative action
- Access to courts
- Protects the rights of arrested, detained and accused persons

## What are human rights violations?

If someone ignores or abuses your rights, it is called a violation of those rights.

## SAHRC Mission

The Commission, as the independent national human rights institution, is created to support constitutional democracy through promoting, protecting and monitoring the attainment of everyone's human rights in South Africa without fear, favour or prejudice.



## What are the functions of the SAHRC?

- It promotes respect for human rights and a culture of human rights
- It protects human rights
- It monitors human rights in the Republic.

## What does the SAHRC do?

- Develops an awareness of human rights in South Africa
- Investigates complaints of human rights violations
- Monitors serious cases of human rights violations and their progress through the courts
- Monitors and reports annually to Parliament on the State's progress in bringing socio-economic rights to all South Africans
- Conducts workshops, training programmes, public education and community outreach campaigns, seminars, talks and presentations
- Develops and distributes materials and publications
- Integrates human rights into education at all levels
- Monitors and supports the implementation of the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) and the Promotion of Equality and the Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act (PEPUDA)
- Monitors the development of new legislation and interacts with Parliament
- Monitors the media to track human rights issues
- Conducts public inquiries around widespread human rights violations

