

What are my rights?

A simplified summary of the ACT Human Rights Act 2004.

Human Rights are things everyone has or is able to do. They recognise your individual dignity and value. The ACT Human Rights Act 2004 explains which human rights are protected in the ACT. You have lots of special rights that apply in different parts of your life, like during your education, when you start working, and in your family. Some of these rights are summarised here.

You have the right to equality without discrimination.

No matter your race, colour, sex, sexuality orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or disability.

You have the right to be alive from the moment you are born.

You have the right not to be tortured or humiliated or treated in a way that hurts your body or mind.

As a child or young person, you have the right to extra protection because of your age. All children and young people have this right, no matter who they are.

You have the right for your family to be protected. All different kinds of families are important and should be treated equally.

You have the right to privacy and reputation.

You have the right to move freely around the ACT, as well as go in and out of the ACT, and can choose to live here.

You have the right to your own beliefs. You can choose your own religion and what you believe in. You can express your beliefs in the ways you choose as long as you don't harm others.

You have the right to meet with other people who share your beliefs or interests. You can start or join groups and you have the right to join other people for a common purpose, such as a peaceful protest or cultural practice.

You have the right to discover and hold an opinion. You also have the right to find information and express what you think in the ways you choose.

You have the right to take part in public life. When you are 18 or older you can vote in elections, have your say on community issues, be elected into the Government, be considered for a job in the Government.

You have the right to be free and safe. If you are arrested, you must be told the reason for your arrest immediately.

You have the right to be treated fairly if you are in jail.

This is true when you are forced to stay in other places, like hospitals or detention. You must always be treated with dignity and respect even if you are not free to leave.

If you are a child and are accused of a crime, you should have special treatment because you are a child.

You have the right to a fair trial if you are accused of a crime.

If you are charged with a crime you are not guilty until you are proved guilty in court.

If you are punished for a crime, but it is then proven you did not commit the crime, you have the right to be compensated.

You have the right not to go to court or be punished more than once for the same crime.

If a law is changed, you cannot be found guilty of doing something that was not a crime before it changed.

You have the right not to be forced to work or be treated like a slave.

You have the right to enjoy your culture speak your own language and practice your own religion.

If you are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander you have special cultural rights: You have the right to culture, spiritual beliefs and teachings, language, knowledge and kinship ties. You also have the right to have your cultural connection with land, waters, seas valued and protected.

You have the right to free education.

You have the right to work. You have the right to choose your own profession and have fair conditions while working, without discrimination.