

1. INTRODUCTION

The **Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO)** is an independent, nongovernmental, non-profit making, non-partisan and non-political organization established on October 10, 1991. The founding members are Ethiopians from all walks of life- academics, professionals and businesspersons who are committed to the cause of *human rights, the rule of law and democracy*. EHRCO has several members and support committees in the major cities of Europe, the U.S.A and Canada.

2. OBJECTIVES

EHRCO has three *fundamental and inseparable* objectives:

- To *strive* for the establishment of a democratic system;
- To *promote* the rule of law and due process;
- To *encourage* and *monitor* the respect for human rights in Ethiopia.

The **democratic system** includes:

- The recognition of *the people as sovereign* and as the ultimate source of any political authority;
- *Freedom to form associations and organizations* for all interest groups and unhampered advancement of their causes by all peaceful means;
- Freedom of all political parties *to operate in every part of the country*;
- *Freedom of the press*;
- *Free and fair elections* through which the people elect their representatives and administrators; and
- *The total rejection of violence or war as a means of acquiring or maintaining power.*

The **rule of law** includes:

- The concept that *no man is above the law*;
- That any legal issue shall be resolved with *due process of law*;

- That every accused person has the *right to proper defense*; and
- That *the judiciary shall be totally independent from the executive and respect for judicial independence.*

Human are **freedoms from** and **freedoms for**.

They are *freedoms from*

- Oppression and exploitation, bigotry and intolerance, discrimination and abuse, arbitrary rule and injustice, intimidation and fear.

They are also *freedoms for*

- *The enjoyment of life, peace and security, justice and equality:*
- *The unfettered expression of everyone's capacity to create, to work and make a decent living;*
- *Movement within the country and abroad;*
- *Exercising commensurate share of power in the affairs of the government;*

The members of EHRCO believe that that these freedoms are the rights of every human being.

To realize its objectives EHRCO performs the following activities:

- *Encourages* Ethiopia's acceptance of all international conventions, covenants, charters and declarations that are concerned with human rights;
- *Organizes* seminars, workshops, panel discussions and lectures and *publishes* and *disseminates* periodicals, newsletters and books so as to promote the basic principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law;
- *Monitors* and *exposes* violations of human rights committed by groups or government institutions;
- *Campaigns* for free and fair elections at all levels;
- *Coordinates* its activities with national and international human rights organizations;

- * EHRCO does not have a political program and does not aspire for political power. It does not support any political program or group in opposition to others. EHRCO is not partial to persons or groups but to *principles*. It is *partial only to equality, to justice, to freedom, to democracy, to the rule of law and due process and to human rights and dignity*.
- * Conversely, it **opposes** *inequality, injustice, oppression, subjugation, suppression, dictatorship, war, violence, blind hatred, humiliation, arbitrariness and violation of human rights*. It also condemns and exposes *atrocities committed by government officials and groups who, directly or indirectly exercise state power. It monitors and reports on human rights violations, such as extra-judicial killings, arbitrary detention, torture, forced disappearances, unlawful confiscation of property, violation of privacy, arbitrary dismissal of employees, denial of the freedom of conscience, religion, expression and association, etc. EHRCO cannot be impartial and indifferent when human rights are violated. It shall cry out.*
- * EHRCO is the **only** human rights organization in Ethiopia, which *monitors* human rights violations. Since its establishment it has issued reports concerning the democratic process, the rule of law and the human rights situation in Ethiopia. It has also published books titled Democracy, Rule of Law and Human Rights in Ethiopia: Rhetoric and Practice, Basic Human Rights (in Amharic) and Compiled Reports of EHRCO. It has also translated Universal Declaration of Human Rights into Amharic and Oromifa and disseminated to the public.

3. Leadership Organs

EHRCO has a General Assembly, an Executive Committee and a Secretariat. The **General Assembly**, which is the general meeting of the members of EHRCO, is the highest decision-

making body. It is this body which elects and dismisses the members of the Executive Committee (EC) .The term of office of the members of the (EC) is 3 years, but they may be re-elected.

The EC, among other things, implements policies and decisions of the General Assembly; admits new members; and examines and approves all EHRCO's reports before they are released to the public. None of the EC members of EHRCO are members of political organizations; because a member of a political organization is not eligible for election to the EC. Likewise, the Secretary General and EHRCO's employees may not be members of political organizations.

The *Secretariat*, among other things,

- Monitors human rights violations;
- Receives, collects and files documents which disclose clear violations of human rights;
- Prepares periodic reports on human rights, the democratic process, the rule of law and due process and disseminates the result;
- Conducts studies and prepares seminars and lectures on topics related to human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

4. **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in EHRCO is open to all human beings (nationals and non-nationals) residing in and outside Ethiopia, provided they are committed to human rights and believe in *peaceful struggle*. An individual may join EHRCO as a regular or as an associate member. Non-governmental and non-political organizations that support and promote human rights, the rule of law and democracy may also be members. However, individuals who have had participatory roles in organizations and institutions known for human rights violations cannot be members.

5. MEMBERSHIP FEE

The annual membership dues that regular members of EHRCO shall be required to pay are:

- 60 birr for individuals residing in Ethiopia;
 - 500 birr for individuals residing outside Ethiopia;
 - 2000 birr for organizations based in Ethiopia;
 - 5000 birr for organizations based outside Ethiopia.
- * An individual who pays a sum of at least 5000 birr at one time or donate its equivalent can become a **life** member.
- **Associate members** can volunteer their services, and, if they afford, make material and financial contributions at any time.

6. By joining EHRCO :

- You will strengthen EHRCO's efforts to ensure respect for the rights of Ethiopians;
- You will derive spiritual satisfaction from doing your best for the respect of human rights;
- You will forge solidarity with individuals and organizations around the world who are struggling for the respect of human rights.

7. HOW TO BE A MEMBER

It is simple. Come to EHRCO,s office and fill in the application form. Or write to EHRCO and order the application form. Or contact the nearest support committee of EHRCO.

8. EHRCO' s ADDRESS

EHRCO's office is situated near Addis Ababa Stadium, next to Lalibela Restaurant, Sahle Selassie Bldg, 8th floor, Room #19.

**☎ (251-1) 11 10 30, 51 44 89, 51 77 04,
55 28 14, 56 92 25,
Telefax: (251-1) 56 92 27**

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STATUTES OF THE ETHIOPIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

PREAMBLE

The Ethiopian people have immensely suffered under different oppressive and exploitive regimes. A popular uprising against one oppressive and exploitive regime has too often and repeatedly placed the people under yet another more brutal and oppressive regime. Due to this fact peace could not prevail for a longer duration in Ethiopia and the country has been unable to make advances along the path of development. This predicament has subjected the Ethiopian people to dire poverty, famine and humiliation.

We believe that all well-meaning Ethiopians with deep concerns about the plight of their kinsmen, the degradation of their country and the utter humiliation of themselves would agree on the necessity of replacing the oppressive and exploitive systems of governance, which have characterized Ethiopia for many hundreds of years, by a democratic one. In a democratic system individual freedoms and human rights will be respected. The source of any political power will be the will of the people. Individuals and political parties will hold political power only through the ballot box, and will be accountable to the people. All eligible citizens shall have the right to vote in elections and to be elected for various offices without any discrimination based on ethnic origins, languages, beliefs and gender. Members of all cross sections of the society shall have the right to be represented at every level of government without discrimination. There shall be independence of the judiciary. The rule of law and due process shall prevail. All citizens shall be equal before the law and shall be judged strictly in accordance with the law. Freedom of expression without fear of

persecution and with due respect to the rights of others, including freedom of association and activity shall be granted. All citizens shall have the right to move freely from place to place and to be engaged in any work they see fit and to own property. Respect for the ideas of others, tolerance and transparency shall be cultivated and nurtured. The Ethiopian Human Rights Council is established to encourage, foster and nurture the respect of these and similar other human rights in our country. And the following provisions shall govern its activities.

SECTION ONE GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1- Name

The Association shall be known as the “Ethiopian Human Rights Council”, hereafter abbreviated as “EHRCO”

Article 2- Head Office

The head office of EHRCO shall be in Addis Ababa and it may also have branch offices at other places.

Article 3- Date of Establishment

EHRCO is established on October 10, 1991 in accordance with Article 1(a) of the Transitional Period Charter of Ethiopia and Articles 404-482 of the Ethiopian Civil Code.

Article 4- Objectives

4.1 EHRCO is a non-governmental, non-political, non-partisan and non-profit making organization established to strive for the establishment of a democratic system, the rule of law, and due process and to encourage and promote the respect for human rights.

4.2 EHRCO shall have the following objectives:

4.2.1 to *strive* toward making the conditions in Ethiopia favorable for a democratic

system, the rule of law and respect for human rights:

- 4.2.2 to *monitor* and *expose* violations of human rights by groups or government institutions in Ethiopia and demand corrective measures;
- 4.2.3 to *encourage* Ethiopia's acceptance of all international conventions, covenants, Charters and declarations that are concerned with human rights;
- 4.2.4. to *organize* seminars, workshops, panel discussions and lectures in order to promote democracy, the respect of human rights and the rule of law;
- 4.2.5. to publish and disseminate periodicals, newsletters and books in order to elucidate and advance the cause of human rights and the democratic process.
- 4.2.6 to *establish* close links and to co-operate with organizations concerned with human rights and the democratic process;
- 4.2.7 to *campaign* for the legislation of a bill of law that will make it possible to conduct free and fair elections, and for the establishment of an impartial election body and to monitor election processes, and to report to the people.
- 4.2.8 to undertake other related tasks.

SECTION TWO MEMBERSHIP AND INCOME SOURCES

Article 5-Membership

- 5.1 Regular membership is open to all individuals residing in and outside Ethiopia, including non-governmental and non-political organizations that support and promote human rights, the rule of law and the democratic process.
- 5.2 Regular members may become life members when they so wish.

- 5.3** Individuals or organizations that qualify membership but who, for various reasons, are unable to join EHRCO, as regular members may become associate members.
- 5.4** Notwithstanding sub-article 5.1 of this article, individuals who have participatory roles in organizations and institutions known for human rights violations cannot become members.
- 5.5** EHRCO staff can become members of the council. However, they shall not become members of its executive committee.

Article 6- Rights and Duties of Members

- 6.1 Regular members of EHRCO shall have the following rights and duties:
- 6.1.1 to participate in all meetings of the General Assembly and to cast their votes;
 - 6.1.2 To compete, elect and be elected for any office of EHRCO;
 - 6.1.3 To receive free of charge any and all of EHRCO's publications;
 - 6.1.4 To promote the cause of human rights whether in their places of work or elsewhere;
 - 6.1.5 To intervene positively whenever and wherever human rights violations occur and to take the necessary steps for their corrections;
 - 6.1.6 to pay their annual membership dues.
- 6.2 The *annual* membership dues *regular* members of EHRCO shall be required to pay are:
- 6.2.1 Birr 60 for individuals residing in Ethiopia;
 - 6.2.2 Birr 500 for individuals residing outside Ethiopia.
 - 6.2.3 Birr 2000 for organizations based in Ethiopia;
 - 6.2.4 Birr 5000 for organizations based outside Ethiopia.

6.3. Associate members shall have the rights and responsibilities stated in sub-article 6.3 through 6.5 of this Article. Moreover, associate members can volunteer their services and make material and financial contributions at any time.

Article 7- Life Members

Life members shall pay a sum of at least Birr 5000 (five thousand) or its equivalent at a time.

Article 8- Sources of Income

The sources of EHRCO's income shall comprise membership dues, gifts collected from individual donors and organizations, as well as various income generating activities.

**SECTION THREE
ORGANS OF EHRCO AND MEETINGS**

Article 9- Organs

EHRCO shall have

- 9.1 A General Assembly
- 9.2 An Executive Committee
- 9.3 A Secretariat, and
- 9.4 An auditor.

Article 10- The General Assembly

- 10.1 The General Assembly is the general meeting of the members of EHRCO.
- 10.2 The General Assembly is the highest decision making body of EHRCO.
- 10.3 The General Assembly shall have the following powers and duties;
 - 10.3.1 Issues policies and guidelines and makes major decisions;
 - 10.3.2 Elects and dismisses members of the Executive Committee;
 - 10.3.3 Evaluates and supervises the activities of the Executive Committee;
 - 10.3.4 Appoints and dismisses auditors;

- 10.3.5 Examines and approves EHRCO's annual work plan and budget;
- 10.3.6 Examines and acts upon the reports of the Executive Committee and that of the auditors.
- 10.3.7 Presents awards to individuals and organizations that have had exemplary and praiseworthy contributions towards the attainment of EHRCO's objectives.
- 10.3.8 Makes decisions on all matters concerning EHRCO.
- 10.3.9 Approves new members which the Executive Committee has recommended and dismisses those individuals in accordance with Article 5(4) above when it has ascertained that they have provided false information in becoming members or have committed acts punishable by dismissal.
- 10.4 The General Assembly may delegate, in accordance with the law, portions of its authority to the Executive Committee.

Article 11- Meetings and Quorums

- 11.1 The General Assembly shall meet at least twice in a year.
- 11.2 Extraordinary meetings may be called by the Executive Committee or Chairperson or by written request of one-third (1/3) of the regular members who have paid their annual membership dues.
- 11.3 The annual meeting of the General Assembly shall be held not later than three months after the end of the fiscal year.
- 11.4 The date and venue of the meeting shall be announced by the secretariat fifteen (15) days prior to the designated date of the meeting.
- 11.5 The regular members of EHRCO who have paid up their annual membership dues shall

conduct the meeting of the General Assembly.

Regular members who have not paid their annual membership dues may neither participate nor cast their votes in the meetings of the General Assembly.

- 11.6 A simple majority shall be sufficient for the General Assembly to adopt a decision. However, in case of a tie, the decision that is supported by the chairperson shall prevail.
- 11.7 Associate members of ERCHO have the right to attend and express their views at the meetings of the General Assembly. However, they cannot cast their votes.

Article 12- The Executive Committee

12.1 The Executive Committee shall have seven (7) regular and four (4) alternate members. They are

12.1.1 the Chairperson of EHRCO,

12.1.2 the vice chairperson of EHRCO,

12.1.3 the Treasure of EHRCO,

12.1.4 Four (4) regular and four (4) alternate members to be elected by the General Assembly from among the members.

12.2. The terms of office of the members of the Executive Committee shall be three (3) years. *Members of the Executive Committee who have completed their terms of office are eligible for reelection.*

12.3 Any member of a political party or the Secretary General of EHRCO shall not become a member of the Executive Committee of the Council.

Article 13- Powers and Duties of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

- 13.1 Implementing policies and decisions of the General Assembly;
- 13.2 Establishes special committees for specific activities of EHRCO and determines their responsibilities;
- 13.3 Calls annual and extra-ordinary meetings of the General Assembly and reports to the same on the annual activities of EHRCO;
- 13.4 Submits annual work plan and budget for the approval of the General Assembly;
- 13.5 Authorizes the signing of agreements and contracts on behalf of EHRCO;
- 13.6 Assigns and authorizes individuals to operate EHRCO, s accounts;
- 13.7 Appoints and dismisses the Secretary General of EHRCO;
- 13.8 In accordance with the authority delegated to it by the General Assembly, admits new members of EHRCO and gets it approved by the General Assembly. It nullifies the membership of those individuals mentioned in Article 5 (4) of these statutes if it finds out that they have supplied false information in becoming members or have committed acts punishable by dismissal;
- 13.9 Examines and approves all ERCHO's reports before they are released to the public;
 - 13.10 Authorizes auditors to audit the annual accounts of EHRCO;
 - 13.11 Supervises the activities of the Secretariat;
 - 13.12 Oversees the preparation of the annual report for presentation to the General Assembly;
 - 13.13 In the event of a vacancy in the Executive Committee, it nominates and assigns replacements from regular EHRCO members until the next meeting of the General Assembly and presents the case to for approval by the Assembly.

- 13.14 Recommends to the General Assembly individuals and organizations who have made exemplary contributions to EHRCO to be awarded;
- 13.15 Carries out other activities that will promote the objectives of EHRCO;

Article 14- Meetings

- 14.1 The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a week. However, it may meet in less than a week whenever necessary.
- 14.2 The attendance of four (4) members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- 14.3 In the absence of the Chairperson or that of the Vice Chairperson, the members of the Executive Committee present at the meeting shall elect their chairperson to chair that day's meeting.
- 14.4 A simple majority shall be adequate for all decisions of the Executive Committee. In case of a tie, the decision supported by the chairperson shall prevail.

Article 15- The Secretariat

The Secretariat shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- 15.1 Monitors human rights violations;
- 15.2 Receives and records petitions from victims of human rights violations
- 15.3 Receives, collects and files documents which disclose clear violations of human rights;
- 15.4 Prepares periodic reports on human rights and publicises them when approved by the Executive Committee;
- 15.5 Conducts research on human rights, the democratic process, the rule of law and due process and disseminates the results;

- 15.6 Establishes close links and co-operates with national and international human rights organizations;
- 15.7 Conducts studies and prepares seminars and lectures on topics relevant to human rights, the rule of law and the democratic process;
- 15.8 Seeks and receives funds for carrying out its activities from individuals and donor organizations;
- 15.9 Hires and dismisses personnel when the Executive Committee so decides;
- 15.10 Establishes branch offices;
- 15.11 Carries out other activities that will advance the objectives of EHRCO.

SECTION FOUR OFFICERS

Article 16- The Chairperson

The Chairperson, who shall be elected by the General Assembly, shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- 16.1 Presides over the meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee;
- 16.2 Represents EHRCO at any law court, organization and official business, or may delegate his responsibility to another person;
- 16.3 Enters into contract and signs agreements on behalf of EHRCO with the approval of the Executive Committee;
- 16.4 Performs other tasks assigned to him by the Executive Committee;

Article 17-The vice-chairperson

The vice chair person of EHRCO, who shall be elected by the General Assembly, shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- 17.1 Co-ordinates, supervises and monitors the activities of sub-committees;
- 17.2 Assists the Chairperson.

- 17.3 Acts on behalf of the chairperson whenever the latter is absent;
- 17.4 Performs other tasks assigned to him by the Executive Committee;

Article 18- The Treasurer

The Treasurer of EHRCO, who shall be appointed by the General Assembly, shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- 18.1 Endeavors to secure sources of income for EHRCO and assists the secretariat in ensuring that the accounts and properties of EHRCO are kept in good order;
- 18.2 Ensures that EHRCO, s financial and other properties are put in proper use and seeks ways and means of improving EHRCO, s accounting system;
- 18.3 Ensures that EHRCO' s accounting system is in keeping with established procedures;
- 18.4 Prepares necessary financial reports regularly and presents them to the General Assembly and the Executive Committee;
- 18.5 Prepares annual financial reports and presents them to the Auditor;
- 18.6 Supervises EHRCO' s accounting staff and ensures that they carry out their duties properly;
- 18.7 Operates EHRCO's accounts along with those officials of EHRCO so authorized
- 18.8 Undertakes other activities that are assigned to him by the Executive Committee.

Article 19- The Secretary General

- 19.1 The Secretary General shall be in charge of the Secretariat.
- 19.2 Without prejudice to the generality of sub-article 19.1 of this article, the Secretary General shall also carry out the following tasks:

- 19.2.1 Takes over responsibility for and performs the day- to-day Activities of the Secretariat;
 - 19.2.2 Handles all correspondences of the Secretariat and ensures that all documents of the Secretariat are kept in good order;
 - 19.2.3 Serves as Secretary of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee;
 - 19.2.4 Hires and supervises temporary and permanent staff and; supervises their work in accordance with the directives of the Executive Committee;
 - 19.2.5 Disseminates written information periodically in accordance with instructions given to him by the Executive Committee;
 - 19.2.6 Receives EHRCO, s visitors:
 - 19.2.7 Prepares and presents annual reports on the activities of the Secretariat to the General Assembly;
 - 19.2.8 Supervises the activities of branch offices as necessary;
 - 19.2.9 Carries out other duties assigned to him by the Chairperson or the Executive Committee.
- 19.3 *A member of a political organization may not serve as Secretary General of EHRCO.***

SECTION FIVE AUDITOR

Article 20- Auditor

- 20.1 The General Assembly shall appoint an auditor to audit EHRCO's accounts and examine the management of its property.
- 20.2 The auditor shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- 20.2.1 ensures that EHRCO's accounts are kept in accordance with established Practices;
- 20.2.2 ensures that EHRCO's property is utilized as planned;
- 20.2.3 suggests, when necessary, ways and means of improving EHRCO's accounting and property management practices to the Executive Committee and the General Assembly;
- 20.2.4 prepares and submits an audit report to the General Assembly;
- 20.2.5 carries out any other activity related to this work.

SECTION SIX
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 21- Fiscal Year

EHRCO's fiscal year shall cover the period from January 1 to December 31.

Article 22- Minutes

- 22.1 The minutes of the Executive Committee shall be signed by the Secretary General and all the members present at the meeting.
- 22.2 The minutes of the General Assembly shall be signed by the Chairperson and the Secretary.

Article 23- Dissolution of EHRCO

- 23.1 The dissolution of EHRCO shall be affected if seventy five percent (75%) of the regular members of EHRCO vote for its dissolution.
- 23.2 In case of dissolution of EHRCO, its movable and immovable property shall be given to other humanitarian organizations with aims and objectives similar to those of EHRCO.

Article 24- Amendment of the Statutes

These Statutes can be amended by the General Assembly at the recommendation of the Executive Committee or other regular members of EHRCO and when two-thirds (2/3) of the regular members present at the meeting vote in favor of the amendment. Nevertheless, the provisions of Article 23 can only be amended when seventy-five percent (75%) of the total regular membership of EHRCO votes in favor of its amendment.

Article 25- Duration of EHRCO's Existence

EHRCO has been established for an unlimited duration.

Article 26- Entry into Force

- 26.1 These Statutes shall enter into force as of October 13, 2002, the date of this amendment by the General Assembly.
- 26.2 The former Statutes, which had hitherto been in use up to October 2002 have been replaced by these amended Statutes.

THE SOLEMN OATH OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ETHIOPIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Henceforth, the Ethiopian people shall not submit to any tyrannical regime.

Henceforth, no regime, whether it feigns to trace the source of its power from God or from the masses, will be established to hold the monopoly of power and to subjugate the Ethiopian people.

Henceforth, Ethiopia shall be a state in which the people bound to get identical rights and duties shall be sovereign.

Henceforth, government shall not mean a burden that the Ethiopian people must bear; but an institution set up with the consent of the people and directed by law; for the purpose serving the people.

Henceforth, government officials do not mean persons possessing dictatorial powers and demanding homage from the Ethiopian people, but servants of the people working under the control of the people.

Therefore, all of us declare our solemn oath to do everything we can in order to found a new social order for all Ethiopians on the principles enumerated above.

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly Resolution 217A (1111) of 10 December 1948.

Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people;

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights

should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between Nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in a larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of great importance for the full realization of this pledge.

Now, therefore, the General Assembly, proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it is independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligation and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11

1. Everyone charged with a penal offense has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary to his defense.
2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offense on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offense under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offense was committed.

Article 12

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.
2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14

1. Everyone has the right to seek and to and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15

1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17

1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 20

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
2. Everyone has the rights to equal access to public service in his country.
3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each state, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of this personality.

Article 23

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
4. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24

Everyone has the right to rest leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holiday with pay.

Article 25

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living.
2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory stages. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.
2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.
3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the culture life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.
2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.



Article 29

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.
2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.
3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 30

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

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it can help the
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