

## Rights

If you watch or read the news, you have probably come across the term “rights”. All around the world, people fight injustice by demanding or upholding their rights, but what are they exactly? There are many kinds of rights one can have, but rights can be vaguely described as something you are entitled to, or something you should have access to. Basically, your rights ensure that you are treated morally and fairly by your society. As a human, as a citizen, and as an individual, you have rights.

There is a Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which supposedly covers and protects the fundamental rights of all humans, regardless of nationality. This means that according to the United Nations, you, as a human, are entitled to these rights. The UDHR was the first of its kind, and was adapted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. It is said to be the foundation of many declarations and bills of human rights used by individual countries and states today.

As a citizen of a nation or state, there are many kinds of rights that one possesses, and it is often the government’s job to protect these rights. The government often protects your rights by implementing laws and policies that are meant to either protect or support said rights. An example of this is how murder is against the law. The existence of this law allows the government to protect our right to live. Another example is the right to religious freedom. It is against the law to force someone to subscribe to a certain religion, it should be up to the individual to choose what religion they believe in and practice. Nobody, not even the government, can tell you to be Catholic, or Muslim, or any other religion, and your right to religious freedom supports your right to make that choice and to practice your religion of choice.

It is important to know what your rights are so you know when they are being compromised. Your rights are your first layer of protection against abuse, and under no circumstance should they be infringed upon. Like we said earlier, rights can be described as something you are entitled to, and as a citizen of the Philippines, you have your own set of rights that should be upheld.

You can learn more about the rights you are entitled to as a Filipino citizen by clicking these links:

<https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/constitutions/the-1987-constitution-of-the-republic-of-the-philippines/the-1987-constitution-of-the-republic-of-the-philippines-article-iii/#:~:text=No%20law%20shall%20be%20passed,prohibiting%20the%20free%20exercise%20thereof.>  
(ENGLISH)

<https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/constitutions/ang-konstitusyon-ng-republika-ng-pilipinas-1987/>  
(TAGALOG, ARTIKULO III)

<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet2Rev.1en.pdf> (Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

Authors: Nuria Benitez and Samantha Merida