

Democracy and Human Rights



But not everyone in the world today has these opportunities

Why is this the case?

Democracy

demos *common people*
kratos *strength*

A system of government determined by majority of the population, typically through chosen representatives.
A ruling authority elected by the people.

Democracy is one of the most important principles that recognises human rights.

In fact, a nation that has an effective democratic process can provide laws and legal processes which are used to enforce upholding human rights for its citizens.

You could say

Everyone has the human right to be governed by a democracy!

The United Nations proclaimed a universal declaration of human rights in Paris 10 December 1948. It contains 30 articles, each one describing a common standard of achievement for all nations around the world to follow and uphold for the benefit of their citizens.

Use this link to read all about the articles in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#). Think about how they have benefitted you and your family, and how your life in Australia may be very different to someone who does not live in a democracy without human rights.

LET'S TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!



Can you recognise which one of these articles is from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

Every person has the right to:	✓	✗
Be born free and have equal dignity and rights.		
Have life and liberty.		
Have access to full, fair and public hearing by an independent tribunal, when determining their rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against them.		
No one shall be subjected to unlawful arrest or detention.		
Ignore their homework.		
Be protected by the law against arbitrary (random or unpredictable) interference with their privacy, family, or home.		
Own property and not have anyone take their property from them.		
Own a puppy dog.		
Be able to exercise freedom of speech and freedom of thought, including freedom of religion or belief.		
The will of the people shall be able to freely choose representatives to form government through periodic and genuine elections, including universal and equal suffrage. Votes shall be held anonymously or by equivalent free voting procedures.		
Elementary education shall be free and compulsory. Parents have the right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.		
Play football on Sundays.		
Be able to live a good standard of living for their health and well being, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, or old age.		
Go shopping and buy their favourite outfit.		
People should have the right to equal pay for equal work.		
Everyone charged with an offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to the law.		
No one shall be held in slavery.		
Open their birthday present early		
Meet the fair requirements of morality, public order, and the general welfare in a democratic society this means to behave in a proper manner that respects all others who share their community . it is both the government and individuals responsibility to abide by their society's expectations.		