



# The human rights of every person

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## THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF EVERY PERSON

The [European Convention on Human Rights](#) contains 13 political and civil rights (including the right to life, prohibition of torture, right to a fair trial, freedom of religion and of expression). There is likewise a series of [Protocols](#) with further rights. It is the most influential treaty as apart from recognising the rights, it establishes a [Court](#) where you can report their violation (more at “Guaranteeing your human rights”). The European Convention is valid in 47 European countries, which are the members of the Council of Europe. It dates back to 1950 and has been amended several times since then. It has been in force in Spain since 1977.

The [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#) includes rights not listed in the European Convention and is more detailed in its content. It was prepared at the United Nations during the 1960s and came into force in 1976. Spain ratified it in 1977 and, currently, practically all the countries of the world have done so. It has a [Committee](#) made up of international experts which oversees compliance of the Covenant in each country (more at “Guaranteeing your human rights”).

The [European Social Charter](#) covers employment and social rights: the right to work, to fair and safe working conditions, to adequate remuneration, to collective bargaining, to vocational training, to social security and social assistance or to health, to the protection of mothers, children and people with disabilities. It is a very comprehensive treaty that, apart from listing the rights, includes a list of specific obligations for each of them to ensure their compliance. The first version of the Charter was in 1961. Subsequently, in 1996, it was revised and new rights added, such as the right to housing, to protection against poverty and social exclusion, workers’ consultation rights, and protection in the case of dismissal or insolvency of the employer. A [Committee of Experts](#) oversees its fulfilment (more at “Guaranteeing your human rights”). Spain ratified the first version of the Charter in 1980 and the revised version in 2021. Further information is available in this information leaflet published by the Ararteko when the revised Charter came into force in Spain.

The [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) was prepared at the United Nations at the same time as the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and also came into force in 1976. It contains rights such as the right to work, trade union rights, the right to an adequate standard of living, to health, to education or participation in cultural life. Spain ratified it in 1977. In the same way as the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, it has a [Committee](#) made up of international experts who oversee compliance of the Covenant in each country (more at “Guaranteeing your human rights”).

The [European Union Charter on Fundamental Rights](#) is the most recent and modern of all the international texts. It came into force in 2009 for all EU countries, as part of an amendment to the founding treaties of the European Union. It includes many different types of rights: civil, political, economic, social and cultural. It also includes more recently created rights, such as the right to personal data protection or rights related to the use of biotechnology. This Charter first requires the institutions of the European Union ([European Parliament](#), [European Commission](#), [Council](#), [Court of Justice](#)) to respect the rights. It is also binding for the institutions of the member countries of the EU, but only when they are applying or implementing EU legislation and regulations.