
Appendix IX

Simplified version of the European Convention on Human Rights

SUMMARY OF PREAMBLE

The member governments of the Council of Europe work towards peace and greater unity based on human rights and fundamental freedoms. With this Convention they decide to take the first steps to enforce many of the rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

ARTICLE 1 **OBLIGATION TO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS**

States must ensure that everyone has the rights stated in this Convention.

ARTICLE 2 **RIGHTS TO LIFE**

You have the right to life.

ARTICLE 3 **PROHIBITION OF TORTURE**

No one ever has the right to hurt you or torture you. Even in detention your human dignity has to be respected.

ARTICLE 4 **PROHIBITION OF SLAVERY AND FORCED LABOUR**

It is prohibited to treat you as a slave or to impose forced labour on you.

ARTICLE 5 **RIGHT TO LIBERTY AND SECURITY**

You have the right to liberty.

If you are arrested you have the right to know why.

If you are arrested you have the right to stand trial soon, or to be released until the trial takes place.

ARTICLE 6 **RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL**

You have the right to a fair trial before an unbiased and independent judge. If you are accused of having committed a crime, you are innocent until proved guilty. You have the right to be assisted by a lawyer who has to be paid by the state if you are poor.

ARTICLE 7 **NO PUNISHMENT WITHOUT LAW**

You cannot be held guilty of a crime if there was no law against it when you did it.

ARTICLE 8 **RIGHT TO RESPECT FOR PRIVATE AND FAMILY LIFE**

You have the right to respect for your private and family life, your home and correspondence.

ARTICLE 9 **FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION**

You have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. You have the right to practise your religion at home and in public and to change your religion if you want.

ARTICLE 10 **FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

You have the right to responsibly say and write what you think and to give and receive information from others. This includes freedom of the press.

ARTICLE 11 **FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION**

You have the right to take part in peaceful meetings and to set up or join associations – including trade unions.

ARTICLE 12 **RIGHT TO MARRY**

You have the right to marry and to have a family.

ARTICLE 13 **RIGHT TO AN EFFECTIVE REMEDY**

If your rights are violated, you can complain about this officially to the courts or other public bodies.