

# Your Rights During Investigation (with Constitutional Articles)

## Right 1: Right to Freedom (Article 19)

Article 19 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression, freedom of movement, and the right to practice any lawful occupation. During a police investigation, this means you may ask questions, request clarifications, and express dissent respectfully without being treated as suspicious. No officer may restrict your movement unless supported by lawful grounds such as arrest following proper Criminal Procedure Code norms.

## Right 2: Right to Freedom of Religion (Article 25)

Article 25 ensures freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice, and propagate religion. During investigations, officers must not interfere with your religious practices or use coercive language targeting your faith. Scheduling of questioning must reasonably accommodate essential religious observances unless unavoidable.

## Right 3: Right to Equality (Article 14 & Article 15)

Article 14 guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the laws. Article 15 prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth. During an investigation, this means every citizen—regardless of identity—must be treated uniformly, given equal access to legal representation, and cannot be subjected to harsher treatment due to personal background. Police actions, including arrest, search, and interrogation, must comply with non-discriminatory legal standards.

## Right 4: Right to Education & Cultural Protection (Article 21A & Article 29)

Article 21A ensures compulsory education for children, and Article 29 protects cultural and linguistic rights. When minors are involved in an investigation, officers must ensure that educational routines are disrupted as little as possible. Culturally sensitive handling is required, meaning officers must avoid prejudice based on language, attire, or community customs.

## Right 5: Right Against Exploitation (Article 23 & Article 24)

Article 23 prohibits any form of forced labour, trafficking, or exploitation. Article 24 prohibits child labour in hazardous environments. During an investigation, no citizen—adult or minor—may be coerced, threatened, or subjected to physical or psychological pressure to give a statement. This includes any form of torture, intimidation, or forced confession. These protections align with international standards such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Article 5.

## **Right 6: Right to Constitutional Remedies (Article 32 & Article 226)**

Article 32 empowers citizens to directly approach the Supreme Court for enforcement of fundamental rights. Article 226 grants High Courts authority to issue writs for protection against unlawful state action. During an investigation, if you face illegal detention, denial of legal counsel, custodial violence, or violation of any fundamental right, you may immediately seek judicial intervention. Courts have upheld compensation and accountability in landmark cases such as D.K. Basu v. State of West Bengal and Rudul Shah v. State of Bihar.