Human Rights Speech

# Introduction

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights defines human rights as rights that are inherited to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.

Essentially Human Rights are a set of moral and legal guidelines that promote and protect the recognition of our values, our identities and the ability to ensure an adequate standard of living. In Australia these rights are defined by the Australian Human Rights Commission act of 1986

# Examples of Human Rights

The most basic of Human Rights are listed by the United Nations, which are divided into two categories; Civil and Political, as well as Economic, Social and Cultural, these include, the right to life, equality before the law, to freedom of expression, the right to work, social security and education. It’s important to note that these rights are revoked when a person is suspected of a criminal offence.

# Overview

Now in many regards Australia is at the forefront of human rights, being one of the first countries to allow women to vote, abolition of the White Australia Policy, the stolen generations, the recognition of Aboriginal political and land rights, universal health care, and freedom of speech . Despite this there is still a lot left to be desired, especially in the regards of refugees, Aboriginals and our homeless citizens. Furthermore Australians continue to be prejudiced based on gender, weight, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and disability, on a daily basis, such prejudice is unacceptable for a developed country.

# Actions at a Federal level

The Australian Federal Government has played a huge role in spreading awareness of Human Rights in Australia, by introducing new legislation such as the racial discrimination act of 1975. The Federal Government is responsible for establishing and maintaining human rights treaties in Australia, as they are expected to publicly report the results of these treaties to the UN. The Australian Human Rights Commission a subsidiary of the Federal Government developed a Human Rights Framework a series of guidelines that regulates any laws passed that relate to Human Rights.

# Actions at a State Level

Like the Federal Government, the NSW State Government is active in the promotion of human rights, examples include campaigns such as Don’t Dis My Ability, designed to change common misconceptions of disabilities, as well as introducing new modern legislation to replace outdated laws such as The Disability Inclusion Act of 2014.

# Actions at a Local Level

Actions at a local level vary from suburb to suburb, in areas such as Botany Bay, Randwick and Waverly local governments are making an effort to raise awareness of human rights, this is done by a host of local government activities that include, fundraising, and events. Local Government Authorities have the ability to address issues that relate to the quality and decency of shared spaces such as parks, community participation and the unemployment level.

# Treaties and Agreements

In terms of Treaties and Agreements Australia has an extensive history of supporting international human rights laws, in 1948 Australia helped to develop the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a declaration that is followed to this day.

Australia partakes in 7 human rights treaties:

* The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
* The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
* Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
* Convention on the Rights of the Child
* The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
* Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
* Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

# The Importance of Groups, Individuals, and NGOs

NGO’s such as Amnesty International strive to highlight flaws in current legislation in an attempt to help those that are affected by this legislation. Other NGOs include the Human Rights Council of Australia, who monitors government actions regarding human rights. On a more personal level individuals are also capable of spreading awareness.