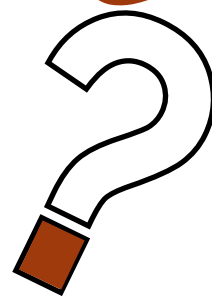


What's the right to health?



The right to health means that **the state must take steps to ensure that all citizens have an equal chance to live a long and healthy life.**

This includes:

- the right to a safe, clean living environment, with clean water, adequate housing, adequate nutrition, social security and education
- the right to expect and demand adequate healthcare.
- the right to health is for everyone, rich and poor, without discrimination.

Why are human rights important?

- So that you can live with respect and dignity
- So that you can respect others' dignity
- So that you can demand your basic needs
- Having a human right is important to protect you from exploitation or discrimination

Why is the right to health important?

If you are not healthy....

- You can't work
- You can't play with your children
- You can't breastfeed your baby
- You can't take care of your family
- You can't enjoy other rights. For example, if you are sick, you can't vote, or go enjoy freedom of movement.

For more information please contact:



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1. What are human rights?
2. **The right to health**
3. Community involvement and the right to health
4. The patients' rights charter
5. Individual and collective rights in public health
6. Access to information
7. Rights and resource allocation

2 THE RIGHT TO HEALTH



The Government of Uganda must **respect, protect, promote** and, as far as, possible **fulfil your human rights**

WHY MUST THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA RESPECT, PROTECT, PROMOTE AND FULFIL OUR RIGHTS?

Uganda is part of the:

- (1) **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights** agreed upon by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948 in Paris. It has 30 articles which outlines the view of the United Nations General Assembly on the human rights guaranteed to all people who live in countries who have signed this agreement.

“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, ...”



- (2) **The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR):** was adopted out of the recognition that the idea of free human beings enjoying freedom from fear and want can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his economic, social and cultural rights, as well as his civil and political rights.

Article 12 of ICESCR:

- 1) The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.
- 2) The steps to be taken by the States Parties to the present Covenant to achieve the full realization of this right shall include those necessary for:
 - a. The provision for the reduction of the stillbirth rate and of infant mortality and for the healthy development of the child;
 - b. The improvement of all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene;
 - c. The prevention, treatment and control of epidemic, endemic, occupational and other diseases;
 - d. The creation of conditions which would assure to all medical service and medical attention in the event of sickness.



- (3) **The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (2000), General Comment No.14, states that**

“Health is a fundamental human right indispensable for the exercise of other human rights. Every human being is entitled to the enjoyment of the highest standard of health conducive to living a life in dignity”

- (4) **The Constitution of Uganda 1995:** Article 2 provides that the constitution is the supreme law of Uganda. This means that if any other law or custom is inconsistent with any of the provisions of the constitution, the constitution prevails

Objective XIV(b) of the Constitution: sets out the State’s duty to ensure that all Ugandans enjoy access to health services;

Objective XX of this Constitution: expresses the State’s commitment to take all practical measures to ensure the provision of basic medical services to the population;

Article 39 of the Constitution: affirms every Ugandan’s right to a clean and healthy environment;

Article 33(3) of the Constitution: calls upon the State to protect women and their rights, taking into account their unique status and natural maternal functions.

Article 34(3) of the Constitution: provides that no child should be deprived by any person of medical treatment, while **Article 34(4)** provides that they are entitled to protection from social or economic exploitation and that they should not be employed in or required to do work that is likely to be harmful to their health;

