



All individuals are valued equally and have equal opportunities. Individuals may not be discriminated against because of their race, religion, ethnicity, language, gender or sexual orientation. The human rights of all citizens are protected. For example:

- Everyone has the right to live and move within their own country.
- Everyone has the right to leave and return to their own country.
- Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
- Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.
- Everyone has the right to organize and take part in peaceful protests.



All are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law without discrimination. No one is above the law – this includes elected officials, the police and members of the military. Laws are enforced equally, fairly and consistently.



Elected representatives are chosen by the people in a free and fair manner. Elections are held regularly, usually every few years. Adult citizens have the right to vote and run for office regardless of gender, background or economic status. There are no obstacles to voting and no intimidation or threats to citizens before or during an election.



Elected and appointed officials are responsible for their actions and are accountable to the people. Officials must make decisions and perform their duties according to the wishes of those they represent, not for themselves. For government to be accountable, people must be aware of the actions their government is taking. A transparent government holds public meetings and allows citizens to attend. The press and the public are kept informed regarding decisions being made.



Citizen participation in government is more than just a right – it is a responsibility. Participation can take the form of running for office, voting in elections, being an informed citizen, debating issues, attending community meetings, paying taxes, serving on a jury and protesting. Citizen participation builds a stronger democracy.



Society is comprised of people with different cultural backgrounds, who practice different religions, form part of different races, who have different gender identities or sexual orientations. The voices of these different groups are valued. Democratic societies strive to be politically tolerant and the rights of minorities are protected. Those who are not in power must be allowed to organize and share their opinions.