

International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

Summary: This instrument recognizes that the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of **all members of the human family** to self-determination is at the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world. The treaty prohibits violations of international law, such as **child labor** and addressees the economic, social and cultural, civil and political rights that all nations must endeavor to protect for all people without regard to **race, color, national origin, sex, or nationality**. The treaty applies to all State Parties.

Article 1 provides that all peoples have the right of self-determination, which includes: the right to freely determine political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development; the right to dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.

Article 2 provides that each State Party to the present Covenant agrees to undertake, “by all appropriate means, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures, to reach the objectives of the treaty, specifically noting the prohibition of discrimination based on national or social origin, and birth or other status. It also notes that developing countries, with due regard to human rights and their national economy, may determine to what extent they would guarantee the economic rights recognized in the present Covenant to non-nationals.”

Article 6 provides that The States Parties recognize that everyone has the right to work, which includes “technical and vocational guidance and training programmes, policies and techniques to achieve steady economic, social and cultural development and full and productive employment under conditions safeguarding fundamental political and economic freedoms to the individual.” Article 7 provides that everyone has a right to the enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work which ensure remuneration of fair wages, equal wages for work of equal value, a decent living for workers and their families, safe and healthy conditions, equal opportunity for everyone subject to no conditions other than seniority and competence, and rest and leisure time.

Article 8 provides that the State Parties undertake to ensure: the right of everyone to form trade unions and join the trade union of his choice, subject to some restrictions; the rights of trade unions in formation and function; the right to strike in conformity with the laws of the particular country.

Article 9 provides that the States Parties recognize the right of everyone to social security, including social insurance.

Article 10 provides for rights regarding the family, marriage, special protection for mothers and maternity leave, and special protection for children against economic and social exploitation, dangerous or harmful employment.

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Entry into force: 3 January 1976

Access status [here](#).

Access full text [here](#).

Article 11 provides that States Parties recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, freedom from hunger, and the duties of State Parties to take steps to end ensure these rights.

Articles 12 provides that the State Parties agree to ensure everyone the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and includes steps to be taken to realize that goal.

Article 23 provides that the States Parties recognize the right of everyone to education so that all persons can participate effectively in a free society, promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic or religious groups, and further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace. Primary education shall be compulsory and available free to all; secondary education shall be made generally available and accessible to all by every appropriate means, and higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education;

Article 15 provides the cultural rights of every person.