

**AMERICAN DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS
AND DUTIES OF MAN**

(Adopted by the Ninth International Conference of American States,
Bogotá, Colombia, 1948)

WHEREAS:

The American peoples have acknowledged the dignity of the individual, and their national constitutions recognize that judicial and political institutions, which regulate life in human society, have as their principal aim the protection of the essential rights of man and the creation of circumstances that will permit him to achieve spiritual and material progress and attain happiness;

The American States have on repeated occasions recognized that the essential rights of man are not derived from the fact that he is a national of a certain state, but are based upon attributes of his human personality;

The international protection of the rights of man should be the principal guide of an evolving American law;

The affirmation of essential human rights by the American States together with the guarantees given by the internal regimes of the states establish the initial system of protection considered by the American States as being suited to the present social and juridical conditions, not without a recognition on their part that they should increasingly strengthen that system in the international field as conditions become more favorable,

The Ninth International Conference of American States

AGREES:

To adopt the following

**AMERICAN DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS
AND DUTIES OF MAN**

Preamble

All men are born free and equal, in dignity and in rights, and, being endowed by nature with reason and conscience, they should conduct themselves as brothers one to another.

The fulfillment of duty by each individual is a prerequisite to the rights of all. Rights and duties are interrelated in every social and political activity of man. While rights exalt individual liberty, duties express the dignity of that liberty.

Duties of a juridical nature presuppose others of a moral nature which support them in principle and constitute their basis.

Inasmuch as spiritual development is the supreme end of human existence and the highest expression thereof, it is the duty of man to serve that end with all his strength and resources.

Since culture is the highest social and historical expression of that spiritual development, it is the duty of man to preserve, practice and foster culture by every means within his power.

And, since moral conduct constitutes the noblest flowering of culture, it is the duty of every man always to hold it in high respect.

CHAPTER ONE

Rights

Article I. Every human being has the right to life, liberty and personal security.

Article II. All persons are equal before the law and have the rights and duties established in this Declaration, without distinction as to race, sex, language, creed or any other factor.

Article III. Every person has the right freely to profess a religious faith, and to manifest and practice it both in public and in private.

Article IV. Every person has the right to freedom of investigation, of opinion, and of the expression and dissemination of ideas, by any medium whatsoever.

Article V. Every person has the right to the protection of the law against abusive attacks upon his honor, his reputation, and his private and family life.

Article VI. Every person has the right to establish a family, the basic element of society, and to receive protection therefore.

Article VII. All women, during pregnancy and the nursing period, and all children have the right to special protection, care and aid.

Article VIII. Every person has the right to fix his residence within the territory of the state of which he is a national, to move about freely within such territory, and not to leave it except by his own will.

Article IX. Every person has the right to the inviolability of his home.

Article X. Every person has the right to the inviolability and transmission of his correspondence.

Article XI. Every person has the right to the preservation of his health through sanitary and social measures relating to food, clothing, housing and medical care, to the extent permitted by public and community resources.

Article XII. Every person has the right to an education, which should be based on the principles of liberty, morality and human solidarity.

Likewise every person has the right to an education that will prepare him to attain a decent life, to raise his standard of living, and to be a useful member of society.

The right to an education includes the right to equality of opportunity in every case, in accordance with natural talents, merit and the desire to utilize the resources that the state or the community is in a position to provide.

Every person has the right to receive, free, at least a primary education.

Article XIII. Every person has the right to take part in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts, and to participate in the benefits that result from intellectual progress, especially scientific discoveries.

He likewise has the right to the protection of his moral and material interests as regards his inventions or any literary, scientific or artistic works of which he is the author.

Article XIV. Every person has the right to work, under proper conditions, and to follow his vocation freely, insofar as existing conditions of employment permit.

Every person who works has the right to receive such remuneration as will, in proportion to his capacity and skill, assure him a standard of living suitable for himself and for his family.

Article XV. Every person has the right to leisure time, to wholesome recreation, and to the opportunity for advantageous use of his free time to his spiritual, cultural and physical benefit.

Article XVI. Every person has the right to social security which will protect him from the consequences of unemployment, old age, and any disabilities arising from causes beyond his control that make it physically or mentally impossible for him to earn a living.

Article XVII. Every person has the right to be recognized everywhere as a person having rights and obligations, and to enjoy the basic civil rights.

Article XVIII. Every person may resort to the courts to ensure respect for his legal rights. There should likewise be available to him a simple, brief procedure whereby the courts will protect him from acts of authority that, to his prejudice, violate any fundamental constitutional rights.

Article XIX. Every person has the right to nationality to which he is entitled by law and to change it, if he so wishes, for the nationality of any other country that is willing to grant it to him.

Article XX. Every person having legal capacity is entitled to participate in the government of his country, directly or through his representatives, and to take part in popular elections, which shall be by secret ballot, and shall be honest, periodic and free.

Article XXI. Every person has the right to assemble peacefully with others in a formal public meeting or an informal gathering, in connection with matters of common interest of any nature.

Article XXII. Every person has the right to associate with others to promote, exercise and protect his legitimate interests of a political, economic, religious, social, cultural, professional, labor union or other nature.

Article XXIII. Every person has the right to own such private property as meets the essential needs of decent living and helps to maintain the dignity of the individual and of the home.

Article XXIV. Every person has the right to submit respectful petitions to any competent authority, for reasons of general or particular interest, thereon the right to obtain a prompt decision thereon.

Article XXV. No person may be deprived of liberty except in established cases and according to the procedures established by pre-existing law.

No person may be deprived of liberty for nonfulfilment of or obligations or for character.

His liberty is individual right who has been lawfully detained or otherwise restricted without delay and to the right to be treated during the time he is in custody.

Article XXVI. Every person has the right to work and to fair remuneration.

Article XXVII. Every person has the right to leisure time and to the use thereof.

Article XXVIII. Every person has the right to social security.

Article XXIX. Every person has the right to recognition of juridical personality and civil rights.

Article XXX. Every person has the right to a fair trial.

Article XXXI. Every person has the right to nationality.

Article XXXII. Every person has the right to education.

Article XXXIII. Every person has the right to own such private property as meets the essential needs of decent living and helps to maintain the dignity of the individual and of the home.

Article XXXIV. Every person has the right to submit respectful petitions to any competent authority, for reasons of general or particular interest, thereon the right to obtain a prompt decision thereon.

Article XXXV. Every person has the right to protection from arbitrary arrest.

Article XXXVI. Every person has the right to protection from arbitrary arrest.

Article XXXVII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVIII. Every person has the right to vote.

Article XXXIX. Every person has the right to obey the law.

Article XXXX. Every person has the right to serve the community and the nation.

Article XXXI. Every person has the right to work.

Article XXXII. Every person has the right to pay taxes.

Article XXXIII. Every person has the right to foreign country.

Article XXXIV. Every person has the right to political activities in a foreign country.

Article XXXV. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVI. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVIII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIX. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXX. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXI. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIV. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXV. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVI. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVIII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIX. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXX. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXI. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIV. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXV. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVI. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVIII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIX. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXX. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXI. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIV. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXV. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVI. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVIII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIX. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXX. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXI. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIV. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXV. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVI. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVIII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIX. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXX. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXI. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIV. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXV. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVI. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVIII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIX. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXX. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXI. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIV. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXV. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVI. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVIII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIX. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXX. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXI. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIV. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXV. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVI. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXVIII. Every person has the right to receive instruction.

Article XXXIX. Every person has the right to receive