



CIVIL & POLITICAL RIGHTS: KEY TERMS

- **affirmative action:** the practice or policy of favoring groups that have previously been discriminated against. Affirmative action policies are most often used in education and employment.
- **civil:** occurring between or among citizens of the State.
- **civil rights:** rights which guarantee equal social opportunities and equal protection of the law, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or other characteristic.
- **discrimination:** prejudicial or unjust treatment of a person or group of people based on a group or category that they belong to (e.g. race, class, gender, etc.).
- **disenfranchisement:** the state of being deprived of a right or privilege, especially the right to vote.
- **due process:** requirement that legal matters be resolved through established rules and procedures, including the fair treatment of individuals in the judicial system.
- **equality before the law:** the right to equal protection of the law (i.e. the law applies the same to everyone, regardless of their race, gender, profession, etc.).
- **oppression:** treating people in an unjust manner.
- **political rights:** rights to political participation, including the right to vote and the right to join a political party.
- **prejudice:** a negative attitude towards a person or group of people.
- **repression:** subduing, restraining, or limiting someone, often by force.
- **rights:** a legal entitlement to obtain something, to be protected from something, or to act in a certain way.
- **self-determination:** the process by which a person, group, or country controls their own affairs.