

EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER

COUNCIL OF EUROPE, 1961

SUMMARY

The European Convention on Human Rights is an international agreement to protect civil and political rights in Europe. Adopted in 1950 by the Council of Europe* following the destruction of World War II, the convention was modeled on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Like the UDHR, the European Convention protects the right to life and liberty, as well as freedom of expression and religion. Additionally, the Convention prohibits torture and discrimination.

The European Social Charter was established by the Council of Europe in 1961 (and revised in 1996) to broaden the scope of the European Convention on Human Rights, particularly in the areas of social and economic rights (e.g. housing, labor rights, employment, protection from social exclusion, etc.).

**The Council of Europe, founded in 1949, is an international organization whose goal is to protect human rights, democracy, and rule of law in Europe. There are currently 47 member states in the organization. The Council of Europe cannot make binding laws but can enforce existing human rights laws.*

SOURCE

“European Social Charter (Revised),” Council of Europe, <https://rm.coe.int/168007cf93>.



Emblem of the Council of Europe
(Wikimedia Commons)

DOCUMENT TEXT

Note: Parts of this document have been removed for length. [...] indicates that text has been removed.

[...] Part I

The Parties accept as the aim of their policy, to be pursued by all appropriate means both national and international in character, the attainment of conditions in which the following rights and principles may be effectively realised:

1. Everyone shall have the opportunity to earn his living in an occupation freely entered upon.
2. All workers have the right to just conditions of work.
3. All workers have the right to safe and healthy working conditions.
4. All workers have the right to a fair remuneration sufficient for a decent standard of living for themselves and their families.
5. All workers and employers have the right to freedom of association in national or international organisations for the protection of their economic and social interests.
6. All workers and employers have the right to bargain collectively.
7. Children and young persons have the right to a special protection against the physical and moral hazards to which they are exposed.
8. Employed women, in case of maternity, have the right to a special protection.

9. Everyone has the right to appropriate facilities for vocational guidance with a view to helping him choose an occupation suited to his personal aptitude and interests.
10. Everyone has the right to appropriate facilities for vocational training.
11. Everyone has the right to benefit from any measures enabling him to enjoy the highest possible standard of health attainable.
12. All workers and their dependents have the right to social security.
13. Anyone without adequate resources has the right to social and medical assistance.
14. Everyone has the right to benefit from social welfare services.
15. Disabled persons have the right to independence, social integration and participation in the life of the community.
16. The family as a fundamental unit of society has the right to appropriate social, legal and economic protection to ensure its full development.
17. Children and young persons have the right to appropriate social, legal and economic protection.
18. The nationals of any one of the Parties have the right to engage in any gainful occupation in the territory of any one of the others on a footing of equality with the nationals of the latter, subject to restrictions based on cogent economic or social reasons.
19. Migrant workers who are nationals of a Party and their families have the right to protection and assistance in the territory of any other Party.
20. All workers have the right to equal opportunities and equal treatment in matters of employment and occupation without discrimination on the grounds of sex.
21. Workers have the right to be informed and to be consulted within the undertaking.
22. Workers have the right to take part in the determination and improvement of the working conditions and working environment in the undertaking.
23. Every elderly person has the right to social protection.
24. All workers have the right to protection in cases of termination of employment.
25. All workers have the right to protection of their claims in the event of the insolvency of their employer.
26. All workers have the right to dignity at work.
27. All persons with family responsibilities and who are engaged or wish to engage in employment have a right to do so without being subject to discrimination and as far as possible without conflict between their employment and family responsibilities.
28. Workers' representatives in undertakings have the right to protection against acts prejudicial to them and should be afforded appropriate facilities to carry out their functions.
29. All workers have the right to be informed and consulted in collective redundancy procedures.
30. Everyone has the right to protection against poverty and social exclusion.
31. Everyone has the right to housing. [...]