

# Grade 8 Life Orientation Worksheet

## What are Human Rights violations?

Describe violations of any 10 of the human rights

### **What are human rights?**

Human rights are the basic rights that everyone has, simply because they are human. The list of human rights protected in South Africa is contained in the Bill of Rights, Chapter 2 of the South African Constitution, the highest law in our country.

### **What are human rights violations?**

If someone ignores or abuses your rights, it is called a violation of those rights. For example, if someone treats a person differently because of his or her race, gender, age or ethnic group, that person's right to equality is being abused or violated.

### **Summary of the South African Bill of Rights**

- **Equality:** You cannot be discriminated against. But affirmative action and fair discrimination are allowed.
- **Human Dignity:** Your dignity must be respected and protected.
- **Life:** You have the right to life.
- **Freedom and security of the person:** You cannot be detained without trial, tortured or punished cruelly. Domestic violence is not allowed.
- **Slavery, servitude and forced labour:** Slavery and forced labour are not allowed.
- **Privacy:** You cannot be searched or have your home or possessions searched.
- **Freedom of religion, belief and opinion:** You can believe and think whatever you want and can follow the religion of your choice.
- **Freedom of expression:** All people (including the press) can say whatever they want.
- **Assembly, demonstration, picket and petition:** You can hold a demonstration, picket and present a petition. But you must do this peacefully.
- **Freedom of association:** You can associate with whomever you want to.
- **Political rights:** You can support the political party of your choice. If you are a citizen, and at least 18 years old, you can vote.
- **Citizenship:** Your citizenship cannot be taken away from you.
- **Freedom of movement and residence:** You can go and live anywhere in South Africa.
- **Freedom of trade, occupation and profession:** You can do whatever work you choose.
- **Labour relations:** You may join trade unions and go on strike.
- **Environment:** You have the right to a healthy environment.
- **Property:** Your property can only be taken away from you if the proper rules are

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followed.

- **Housing:** The government must make sure people get access to proper housing.
- **Health care, food, water and social security:** The government must make sure you have access to food and water; health care and social security.
- **Children:** Children under the age of 18 have special rights, like the right not to be abused.
- **Education:** You have the right to basic education, including adult basic education, in your own language (if this is possible).
- **Language and culture:** You can use the language you want to and follow the culture that you choose.
- **Cultural, religious and linguistic communities:** Communities can enjoy their own culture;
- practice their own religion; and use their own language.
- **Access to information:** You have the right to any information, which the government has.
- **Just administrative action:** Actions by the government must be fair.
- **Access to courts:** You can have a legal problem decided by a court, or a similar structure.
- **Arrested, detained and accused persons:** This right protects people who have been arrested, imprisoned or accused.

**NOTE: ALL THESE RIGHTS CAN BE LIMITED IF IT WOULD BE FAIR TO DO SO.**

Choose any ten human rights from the list provided above.

First name the human right and then give one short example of a violation of that particular human right.

Here is one example:

**Human right: Slavery, servitude and forced labour:** Slavery and forced labour are not allowed.

Example of a violation: A poor family 'sells' their ten-year-old daughter to a rich family, who treat her as their servant and force her to work for them.

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### Suggested Solutions

Question number	Possible marks	Solution
1	20	No answers given. Learners should name a human right and give any valid example of violation of that human right. Marker's discretion. 2 marks per answer.