



**edsa**

European Dental  
Students' Association

# FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS

European Dental Students' Association

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# 1. Introduction

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that human rights are fundamental to the social stability and justice of nations. Crucial to a violence-free, discrimination-free life without oppression is granting individuals the capability to achieve their utmost potential in a supportive environment. It is the vision of every nation.

One of the major globally accepted benchmarks is the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which proclaimed that humanity possesses intrinsic dignity and equal rights. Human rights, civil liberties, political freedoms, economic rights, social protections, and cultural rights all aid in building social cohesion and peaceful co-existence.

Ensuring the protection and defence of human rights is becoming more crucial in the era of globalisation. Inequality, marginalisation and social divisions are consistently an ongoing threat, with serious risks to the stability and unity of both communities and nations. To effectively tackle these pressing issues, it is imperative to consciously integrate human rights standards into every dimension of corporate policies and daily operational practices.

EDSA acknowledges that creating an atmosphere based on respect for human rights requires active participation on the part of both individuals and country members. Nevertheless, EDSA is a European Dental Students Association, an area where all member countries can cooperate for their voices to be heard. Establishing a culture that celebrates diversity, encourages inclusivity, and guarantees everyone, particularly the weaker and marginalised groups that frequently experience systemic discrimination and inequality, access to justice and opportunities, is one of the primary goals of our organisation.

## 2. Definitions

- **Human Rights:** The fundamental freedoms and rights to which every individual is entitled only by virtue of their humanity are known as human rights. These rights are basic, universal, and inalienable regardless of a person's race, gender, nationality, ethnicity, religion, or socioeconomic status (United Nations, 1948).
- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR):** The historic UDHR, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948, lays out essential human rights that must be respected everywhere, such as the rights to equality, dignity, liberty, and life (UN, 1948).

- **Inalienable Rights:** Under no circumstances or legal position can these rights be restricted or denied because they are essential to each person's humanity and dignity.
- **Civil and Political Rights:** These protect individual freedoms and civic participation and include the freedom of speech, the right to vote, and the freedom from torture or arbitrary detention.
- **Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights:** These rights guarantee access to necessities like employment, healthcare, education, a decent standard of living, and cultural engagement.
- **Discrimination:** When people or groups are treated unfairly or unequally because of their race, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, disability, socioeconomic status, or other traits, it results in inequality and exclusion.
- **Disadvantaged Groups:** People or societies experiencing systematic injustices, social marginalization, or discrimination—minorities, refugees, indigenous populations, and persons with impairments.
- **Dignity:** The inherent worth and respect that every individual deserves, emphasizing the importance of treating others with compassion and dignity.
- **Right to Equality:** The concept that all people are entitled to equal treatment and legal protections, regardless of bias or arbitrary distinctions.
- **Right to Justice:** The entitlement to equitable and impartial legal processes, safeguarding against infringements, and restitution for harms suffered.
- **Inclusion:** Refers to the practice of ensuring that every individual, regardless of their background, has the same access to and opportunities for full participation in social, economic, and political life.

### 3. Purpose

In dental education, promoting human rights means ensuring fair access to academic and professional opportunities, creating inclusive and supportive learning environments, and working to reduce inequalities in oral health. It also involves standing up for the needs of underserved and marginalized groups, both among students and in the wider communities dentists care for.

Our commitment and duty to respect, defend, and promote human rights in all of our endeavours and interactions are intended to be reflected in this policy. It highlights the universal, inalienable, and indivisible nature of human rights and calls for their protection, observance, and fulfilment without exception or discrimination. With the help of this policy,

EDSA hopes to help create a society in which everyone can live with dignity, equality, and justice, not just as ideals.

## **4. Foundational Principles of Human Rights**

### **1. Universality and inalienability**

Because of their humanity, all people are entitled to all human rights—inherent and ubiquitous. Whether an individual or an institution, nobody can give up or exclude these rights.

### **2. Dignity and regard**

Every individual ought to be honored and treated with dignity in every interaction to ensure fairness and compassion.

### **3. Egalitarianism and nondiscrimination**

Every person should have equal access to their rights irrespective of their race, gender, age, ethnic background, disability, faith, socioeconomic level, sexual orientation, or other condition.

### **4. Inclusion and Participation**

Everyone should have the right to shape their communities and way of life, hence facilitating inclusive development procedures.

### **5. Law of law and accountability**

Governments and companies have to be held responsible for their conduct and make sure that fair and open judicial processes address violations of rights.

### **6. Nonviolence and Torture-Free**

It is vital to shield weak populations from violence, torture, and maltreatment by means of nonviolence and the absence of torture.

### **7. Interrelatedness and interdependence**

Because all rights are connected, ignoring one might have negative effects on other rights. Good human rights protection requires a comprehensive approach.



## 5. Policy Statement

### 1. Commitment to International Standards

EDSA affirms its commitment to adhere to the core human rights frameworks established by international bodies, including:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (UN, 1948)
- International Covenants on Civil, Political, and Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (UN, 1966)
- UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (UN, 2015)
- UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UN, 2011)

### 2. Advancement of Dignity and Rights

All organisational policies and procedures must be created and carried out with human rights in mind, guaranteeing justice, equity, and dignity.

### 3. Safeguarding Vulnerable Populations

Special precautions must be taken to safeguard vulnerable groups, such as minorities, people with disabilities, and others who may be subject to human rights abuses.

### 4. Equality and Nondiscrimination

Inequality, harassment, and discrimination are forbidden. All programs and services must support fairness, access, and equal opportunity.

### 5. Involvement and Participation

All dental students from all countries—members of EDSA, should be included and participate in all activities without discrimination.

## 6. Related Documents

- [Universal Declaration of Human Rights \(UN, 1948\)](#)
- [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights \(UN, 1966\)](#)
- [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(UN, 1966\)](#)

- UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UN, 2011)

## 7. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

If you have any further inquiries regarding this policy, please contact the EDSA Policy Officer at [policy\\_officer@edsaweb.org](mailto:policy_officer@edsaweb.org).

## 8. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the current Policy Officer of EDSA. It will be aligned with global health priorities and will incorporate feedback from professionals, stakeholders, and the community.

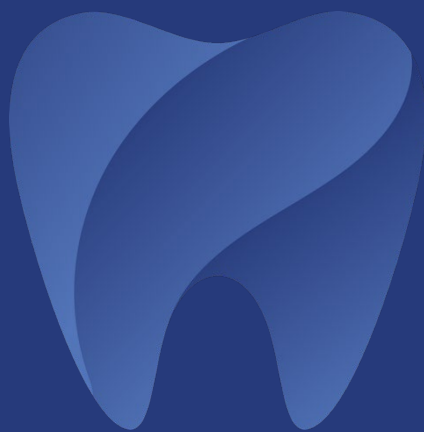
## 9. Legal Framework and References

This policy aligns with and supports adherence to the following key international instruments:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UN, 1948) <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (UN, 1966) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>
- International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (UN, 1966) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cescr.aspx>
- UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UN, 2011) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/guidingprinciplesbusinesshr.aspx>
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN, 1989) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (UN, 1979) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cedaw.aspx>

- Sustainable Development Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (UN, 2015)  
<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal16>





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