



# Why is the Charter of Fundamental Rights so important?

The Charter is the European Union's 'bill of rights'. Its 54 articles enshrine the fundamental rights enjoyed by everyone in the EU. The articles apply to the EU and to all Member States, when they act within EU law.


These fundamental rights belong to everyone, everywhere in the EU. They reflect the founding values of the EU: human dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity. They are enforced by democracy and the rule of law.

The Charter respects the diversity of cultures and traditions across Europe.

The EU founded the Agency, as an independent body, to help make sure the Charter is brought to life for everyone in the EU.

## Contact us

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 [youtube.com/user/EUAgencyFRA](https://youtube.com/user/EUAgencyFRA)

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## FRA: the EU's Rights Agency

## Who is the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)?

We are acknowledged as a unique and independent centre of reference and excellence for promoting and protecting human rights in the EU.

We were created to help make Europe a better place to live and work. We help defend the fundamental rights of all people living in the EU.

Fundamental rights define minimum standards to ensure everyone is treated with dignity. We help promote and protect these rights, including:

- The right to be free from discrimination on the basis of age, disability or ethnic background
- The right to have your personal data protected
- The right to get access to justice

Our staff includes legal experts, political and social scientists, statisticians, and communication specialists. Our aim is to help instil a fundamental rights culture across the EU.

We engage with stakeholders from the local to international level. Our team shares evidence-based insights and advice with policy- and decision-makers.

// Fundamental rights are the life blood of the EU. Our job is to support all EU bodies and Member States in honouring these commitments. Ultimately we exist to help everyone in the EU to live in dignity. //



Michael O'Flaherty  
Director

## What we do

We collect and analyse law and data. We provide independent, evidence-based support and expertise on fundamental rights. These are enshrined in the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights.

We work alongside EU institutions, Member States, National Human Rights Institutions, Equality Bodies and other stakeholders, raising rights awareness and communicating our insights.

We help policy makers understand how they can do more for their citizens.

## What we work on

- Access to justice including judicial cooperation
- Victims of crime, including compensation to victims of crime
- Information society, in particular, respect for private life and protection of personal data
- Roma integration
- Rights of the child
- Discrimination based on sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation
- Immigration and integration of migrants, visa and border control and asylum
- Racism, xenophobia and related intolerance
- Building a culture of fundamental rights in the EU

## Guiding our work

We work in five ways:

- Identifying trends: collecting and analysing comparable data;
- Contributing to better law making and implementation: providing independent advice;
- Supporting rights-compliant policy responses: providing real-time assistance and expertise;
- Effectively promoting rights, values and freedoms;
- Strengthening cooperation with national and local fundamental rights actors: working with communities of support.

