



ADRA New Zealand Policies and Procedures		No.
Document Name		Page 1 of 3
Human Rights		
Department	Sections (inc. All sections where this document is located.)	
Corporate Services/PPU	Core Documents/PPU	
Modified By	Document Version	Effective Date
ADRA Staff	2018/1.1	25 September 2018
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ADRA Board of Directors		

HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

Introduction

ADRA New Zealand believes that all people are equal, and as such we seek to ensure that human rights of all people are fulfilled. Our work will support each person to reach their full potential and this can only happen when their human rights are exercised.

Community Development can only truly be sustainable when people's Human Rights are satisfied. ADRA New Zealand fully endorses that "Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world" from the Preamble of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* adopted by the UN General Assembly, December 1948.

Guiding Principles

The concept of human rights emphasises the worth of the individual and recognises his or her rights as against their society. The term 'human rights' covers the series of often disparate rights and freedoms asserted by many to be universally accepted and essential prerequisites for people's enjoyment of a life based on the centrality of human dignity.

From a contemporary international law perspective, the concept of human rights can more precisely be defined as those fundamental rights and freedoms incorporated into the body of international law, by having been acknowledged by states as being universal in nature.

Human rights are regarded as being inherent, inalienable, indivisible and universal.

- **inherent** in that they are the birth right of all human beings
- **inalienable** in that people cannot give them up or have them taken away
- **indivisible** – there is no distinction or hierarchy of rights
- **universal** in that they apply to all persons regardless of their nationality, status, gender or race.

The *Universal Declaration* and the two Covenants, the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* and the *International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights* are collectively referred to as the *International Bill of Human Rights*.

We accord a high priority to the promotion and protection of human rights and furthermore, recognise that New Zealand is signatory to all the major human rights instruments (listed below).

We are committed to a human rights approach to development that views poverty as a violation of human rights. We see development as the process by which the enjoyment of human rights is realised



ADRA New Zealand Policies and Procedures		No.
Document Name		Page 2 of 3
Human Rights		
Department	Sections (inc. All sections where this document is located.)	
Corporate Services/PPU	Core Documents/PPU	
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ADRA Staff	2018/1.1	25 September 2018
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ADRA Board of Directors		

– both socio-economic and civil and political rights. We promote respect for and the implementation of universally accepted human rights standards.

Guidelines

ADRA New Zealand will work to ensure the following guidelines are incorporated into our community development work, providing a more comprehensive human rights based approach to development by:

- focusing on working with the poor, marginalised and disadvantaged
- endeavouring to work to address the fundamental causes of poverty and inequality
- making sure that need provides the rationale for our actions without regard to other factors
- acknowledging that by helping others less fortunate we are in a position of power and we will not abuse that dynamic for exploitation in any way
- recognising the interdependence of human rights
- recognising and respecting the cultural, practices and religious activities of those who we assist
- adopting a participatory and an inclusive approach in designing and developing strategies, programs, monitoring and evaluation which includes all stakeholders
- analysing development issues from a human rights perspective and identifying systemic barriers to human development and the realisation of all human rights
- promoting transparency and accountability and the rule of law to strengthen the capacity of people living in poverty to claim and enforce their rights

List of Human Rights Treaties to which New Zealand is a party

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
 - The First Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (complaints mechanism)
 - The Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (abolition of capital punishment)
- International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- International Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (CERD)
- International Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- The Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CROC)
- The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
- The Convention on the Political rights of Women
- The convention on the Nationality of Married Women
- The Slavery Convention of 1926 (as amended) and the 1953 Protocol amending the 1926 Convention
- The Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery
- The Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness



ADRA New Zealand Policies and Procedures		No.
Document Name		Page 3 of 3
Human Rights		
Department		Sections (inc. All sections where this document is located.)
Corporate Services/PPU		Core Documents/PPU
Modified By	Document Version	Effective Date
ADRA Staff	2018/1.1	25 September 2018
Approving Committee	Previous 20060317	Revision Date
ADRA Board of Directors		

- The Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons
- The Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and related 1968 Protocol

Relevant Declarations

- 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development
- UN Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples