

## PRINCIPLES

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1. Universal human rights are fundamental and must be respected and protected in all countries and for all people.
2. Economic, social, cultural, environmental, civil and political rights are universal, interdependent, and indivisible.
3. Cultural, religious, gender and other differences often give rise to specific needs and circumstances that must be taken into account in order to ensure equal rights for all.
4. Greater equality is both a cause and effect of ensuring human rights are respected.
5. The Victorian Government respecting, protecting and promoting human rights in all of its legislative, administrative and other functions.
6. A Victorian society that protects and values the rights of all people, with particular protections for the most vulnerable.
7. The elimination of discrimination against people on the basis of gender, sexuality, marital status, disability, age, physical appearance, religious or political belief or any other grounds from all public policy administration and public institutions, including all schools and organisations that receive public funding.
8. Non-government entities, including individuals and corporations, should respect human rights and be held accountable for human rights violations.
9. Raising community awareness of services available to assist individuals subject to exploitation or abuse, and increasing resourcing to ensure the improvement of the range and quality of such services.
10. A coordinated effort by national, state and local authorities to prevent the trafficking of people, prosecute the traffickers and protect the victims.
11. The protection of the right to democratic protest and the elimination of laws which restrict this right.
12. The removal of religious exemptions under the Equal Opportunity Act.

## AIMS

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1. Supporting and strengthening the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities, and its extension to include economic, social and cultural rights.
2. Ensuring that any decisions affecting human rights in Victoria are necessary, reasonable, proportionate, and consistent with international human rights law and imposed in a transparent and accountable manner.
3. The publication of a statement of compatibility for Bills and subordinate legislation to allow for public comment. Bills should not be debated before the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee report is tabled in parliament.
4. Regular auditing of public authorities to assess compliance with human rights, and provisions to allow individuals to seek compensation or damages against a public authority for a breach of human rights under the Victorian Charter.
5. The role of the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission expanded to encompass the full range of Victoria's international human rights obligations, as well as having the power to determine complaints and conduct its own inquiries into human rights issues in Victoria.
6. Human rights education being included in the Victorian school curriculum.