



HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

Transparency | Clarity | Accountability

What are your Human Rights?

Human rights are very important and apply to everyone. For example, your rights include:

- the right to life, on land and at sea,
- the right to be free from torture,
- the right to liberty, security, and freedom from slavery.

Never forget; your human rights and fundamental freedoms are guaranteed and cannot be taken away.



Human rights apply to everyone

Human rights apply to everyone, wherever you live, whatever your nationality, ethnic origin, colour, your sex, religion, language, or any other status.



Your human rights apply anywhere: on land or at sea

A ship is like a floating island, protected by the laws of the country whose flag it flies.

Your ship must comply with the laws of its flag state. This includes living and working conditions and the lawful operation of the ship by the Master and other crew members.



We all have the right to life

We all have the right to life and to live in freedom. This right is protected by international and national law. Your government should take appropriate measures to safeguard your life by creating laws to protect you. Your government should also provide an effective remedy if your rights are abused.



We all have freedom from torture

Torture occurs when someone deliberately inflicts severe physical or mental suffering on another person. Torture is unacceptable. Torture is unlawful.



We are all free from slavery

You cannot be owned like a piece of property. For example, if you work on a ship, the ship owner does not own you and you cannot be forced to stay on board.

Modern slavery at sea

The new global economy has created working opportunities for many, but also a new form of slavery. It has created a demand for workers at a reduced cost. One way some employers reduce costs is by not looking after their employees' working conditions.

Employment in shipping is complicated; it is not always easy to know what kind of working conditions you should have. But your rights always apply; remember you are not a piece of property.



We all have the right to liberty

We have a right to personal freedom, meaning we cannot be imprisoned or detained without good reason. If your freedom is removed, you must be informed why. Remember, you are still entitled to other fundamental protections such as a right to a fair trial and access to legal representation.



Remember that human rights apply to everyone and that they can never be taken away from you.

“Human rights apply at sea as equally as they do on land”