What are your Human Rights?

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

- the right to life, liberty, and security
- 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, sex, religion, language, or any other status.

Your human rights apply anywhere—on land or at sea

A ship is a floating state, protected by the law of the flag state. Your ship must comply with the laws of its flag state. The inclusion of working conditions is the responsibility of the ship's master and other crew members.

We all have the right to life

We all have the right to the life we live in freedom. The 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 a crime.

We are all free from slavery

You cannot be owned like a piece of property. For example, if you were 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 rise in the trade in human beings. The system of slavery is not new, and it endures today. One way some employers reduce costs is by not allowing their employees to work the hours they should. But your right to always work and always be paid is a fundamental right that cannot be taken away.

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.”