

Learn about your rights

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS



COLOURING BOOK

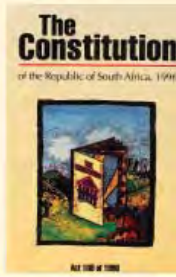


SOUTH AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION COLOURING BOOK

LEARN ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS – *Children's Rights are Human Rights*

Section 28 of the Constitution has additional children's rights

The highest law in South Africa



1 I have a right to a name and a nationality from birth.

2 I have a right to be cared for.

3 I have a right to food.

4 I have a right to a home and a safe place to live.

5 I have a right to health care.

6 I have a right to a grant and other social support.

Children's Rights are Human Rights

Polokwane 018 291 3800
Durban 031 204 7323
East London 043 722 7828
Johannesburg 011 877 3750
Bloemfontein 051 447 1130
Cape Town 021 426 2277
Fristenberg 014 592 0694
Uptington 084 332 3995/4
Nelspruit 013 752 8292

Children can report complaints on their own, or with the help of a parent, a friend, or someone they trust.



The SAHRC puts children's best interests first. We will always try to do what is best for you.



All the SAHRC offices have special rooms just for children, where children can feel safe.

7 I have a right to be protected from neglect and abuse.

Children can report human rights abuses at any of the SAHRC's 9 Provincial Offices.

Children can report complaints on the phone, in writing, via email or letter.

Children can also write to us: Complaints at SAHRC Private Bag X2700, Houghton, Johannesburg, 2014

All information shared with the Commission by a child will be kept confidential.

The Commission will listen to you, talk you to about your complaint, and keep you informed of progress.

The SAHRC has a special Human Rights Commissioner just for children.

8 I have a right to be protected from work that is bad for my health, that stops me from going to school, or that harms me in any way.

Equality
Everyone is equal before the law, even children

0 - 17
Everyone younger than 17 years old is a child in the eyes of the law.

10
I have a right to education and to go to school.

9
I have a right to get legal help if I am in trouble with the law.



The SAHRC is concerned about the violation of children's human rights and is committed to protecting children and to investigating human rights violations lodged by children. The SAHRC has adopted special measures and guidelines for complaints lodged by children.



You can download this poster from www.sahrc.org.za

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- Department of Justice, Directorate for Promotion of Rights of the Vulnerable Groups (Child Justice and Family Law)
- National Prosecuting Authority
- Save the Children
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- Centre for Child Law at the University of Pretoria
- ChildLine South Africa
- Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA), for use of a selection of illustrations

Introduction

The South African Human Rights Commission develops public educational materials targeting a variety of audiences. The materials are intended to raise awareness about human rights so that members of the public can learn about human rights, learn to recognise violations of human rights, and to be able to access support for protection of their rights, including to institutions such as the Commission.

The Commission launched a Child Friendly Human Rights Commission Campaign (the Campaign), in May 2017, to improve the protection of children's constitutional rights. The need for a campaign sought to address the Commission's concerns for the rights of children in South Africa and found form in recommendations by the Committee on the Rights of Children for the promotion of the rights of children. Broadly, the Campaign aims to re-emphasise the Commission's commitment to child rights and to make the Commission more accessible to children. Major actions in advancing these objectives were to create child friendly spaces within the Commission's nine provincial offices, and to develop special procedures for complaints from children.

Integral to the Campaign is the recognition that adults who care for and engage children must know and understand the rights of children. And that their actions should always be informed by children's rights and by the child's best interests. This Colouring Book is intended to be used with children to stimulate awareness of children's human rights. It further aims to focus children's attention on their rights as enshrined in the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and to draw attention to Section 28, in an engaging, informative and fun manner.

This Colouring Book is intended to increase awareness of children's human rights for both children and the adults who care for and engage them, in order to provide information that facilitates peoples' ability to assert their rights. In this way the Commission aims to simplify access to the SAHRC for children, and in so doing to improve the plight of children in South Africa.

The Campaign includes the Child Friendly Complaints Handling Procedure, a simple version of the procedures in poster format and a fact sheet on children's rights and the SAHRC. It is recommended that all of these materials are engaged with in the school community and that educators in particular integrate this information in their life orientation teaching.

The Commission's Child Friendly Complaints Handling Procedure, is a guideline for Commission staff who handle human rights complaints lodged by children and comes into effect from the minute any child complainant reports a complaint to any of the Commission's provincial offices, up to the conclusion of such complaints.

In terms of this procedure, communication with the child will be kept simple and all reasonable measures will be taken to communicate with the child in the child's home language. All communication with the child will be kept confidential and not disclosed, unless the law requires.

All material related to the Child Friendly Campaign, including the Guidelines on the Child Friendly Complaints Handling Procedure, a fact sheet with more details on accompanies this colouring book, together with a poster simplifying the process, will be made available on the SAHRC website. (www.sahrc.org.za)

1. What are Human Rights?

Definition

HUMAN RIGHTS
ARE RIGHTS THAT
BELONG TO
EVERY HUMAN BEING
EVEN CHILDREN

Human Rights are rights all humans have, simply because we are human beings

The Constitution

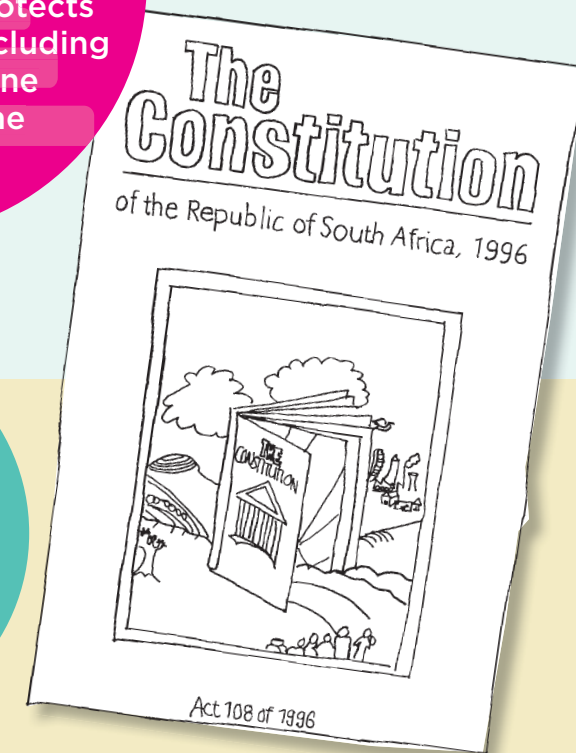
THE HIGHEST LAW
IN SOUTH AFRICA
THE CONSTITUTION
The Constitution protects everyone's rights, including children. Everyone must respect the Constitution.

The Bill of Rights

- I have a right to be respected as a human being and I must respect others;
- I have a right to be treated fairly like everyone else and I must treat others the way I want to be treated;
- I have a right to life;
- I have a right to attend any church or follow any religious belief of my choice;
- I have a right to speak or express myself as long as what I say does not hurt others;
- I have a right to a clean and safe environment;

The Bill of Rights is the foundation of our democracy. The Bill of Rights protects the right to human dignity, equality and freedom for everyone, including children.

- I have a right to have clean drinkable water;
- I have a right to be protected from abuse and harm and I should not harm others;
- I have a right to be proud of my culture and I should respect the culture and beliefs of others;
- I have a right to food;
- I have a right to receive education;
- I have a right to belong to my country and to call it my home.



Section 28 of the Constitution

Children are protected by all the rights in the Constitution, and also to all the rights in Section 28.

Section 28 of
the Constitution,
says

1. Every child has the right

- a. To a name and a nationality from birth;
- b. To family care or parental care, or to appropriate alternative care when removed the family environment;
- c. To basic nutrition, shelter, basic health care services and social services;
- d. To be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation;
- e. To be protected from exploitative labour practices;
- f. Not to be required or permitted to perform work or provide services that:
 - i. Are appropriate for a person of that child's age; or
 - ii. Place at risk the child's well-being, education, physical or mental health or spiritual, moral or social development;
- g. Not to be detained except as a measure of last resort, in which case in addition to the rights a child enjoys under sections 12 and 35, the child may be detained only for the shortest appropriate period of time, and has the right to be –
 - i. Kept separately from detained persons over the age of 18 years; and
 - ii. Treated in a manner, and kept in conditions, that take into account of the child's age;
- h. To have a legal practitioner assigned to the child by the state, and at state expense, in civil proceedings affecting the child, if substantial injustice would otherwise result; and
 - i. Not to be used in armed conflict, and to be protected in times of armed conflict.

2.

A child's best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child.

3.

Anyone who is younger than 18 years old is a child in the eyes of the law.

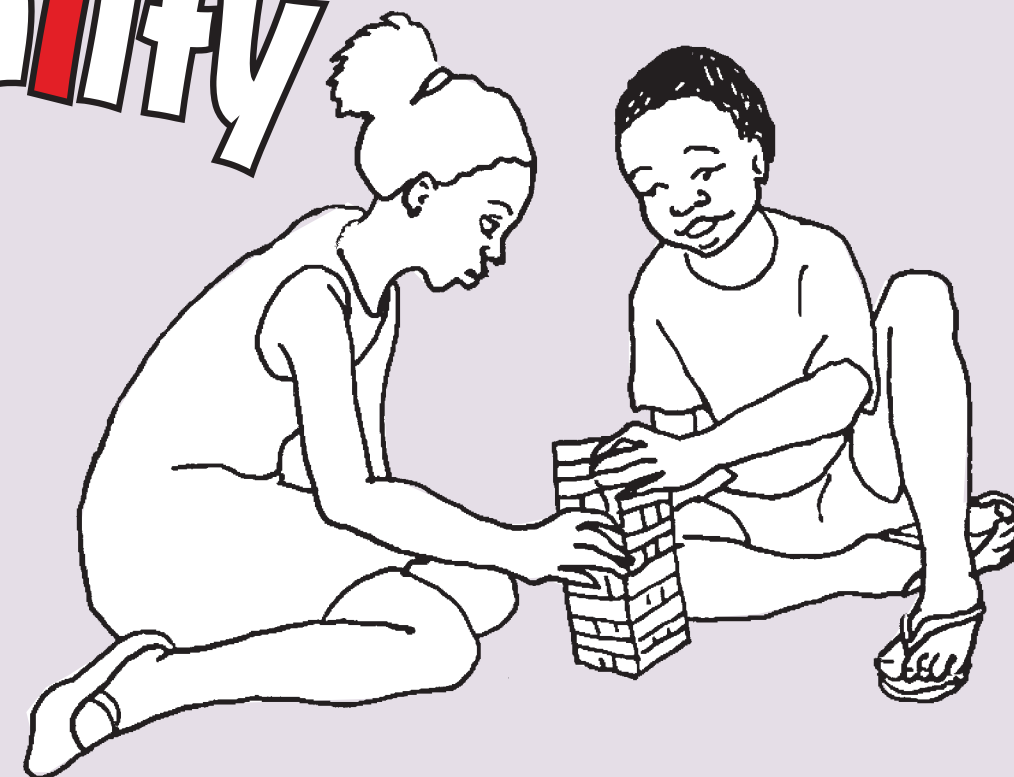
2. Ready, steady, colour

1 Right to: **equality**



We are all
equal

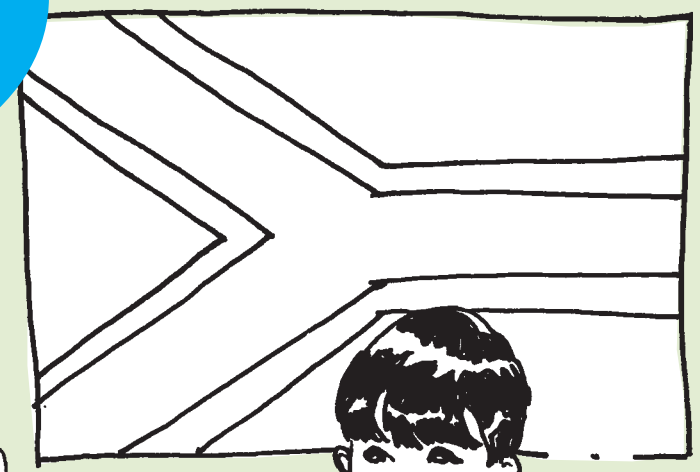
equality



2 Right to: **name & nationality**

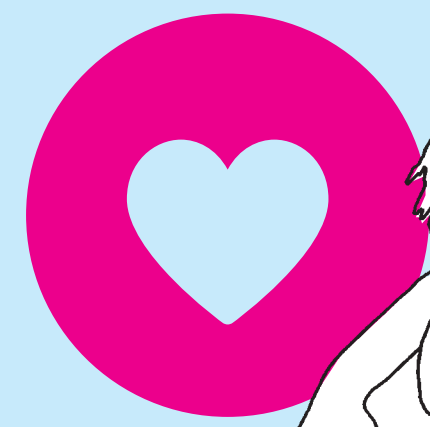
I have a right to a name & nationality at birth.

Nationality



NAME

3 Right to: **care**



care

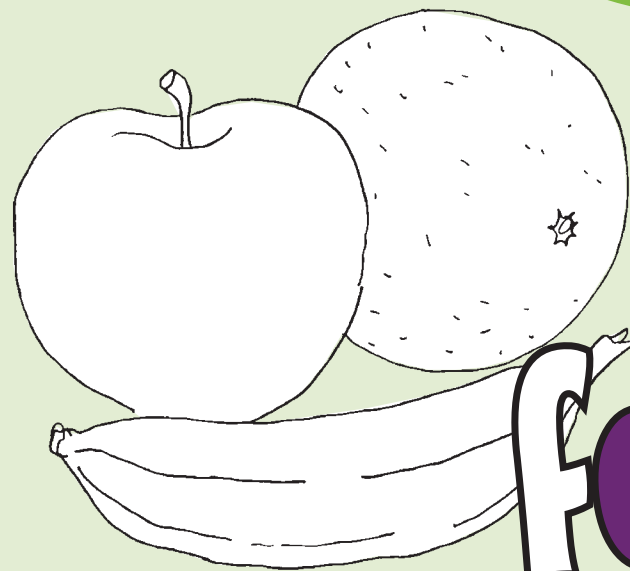


I have a right to **care**. And if my family are unable to care for me, I have a right to be cared for by others.

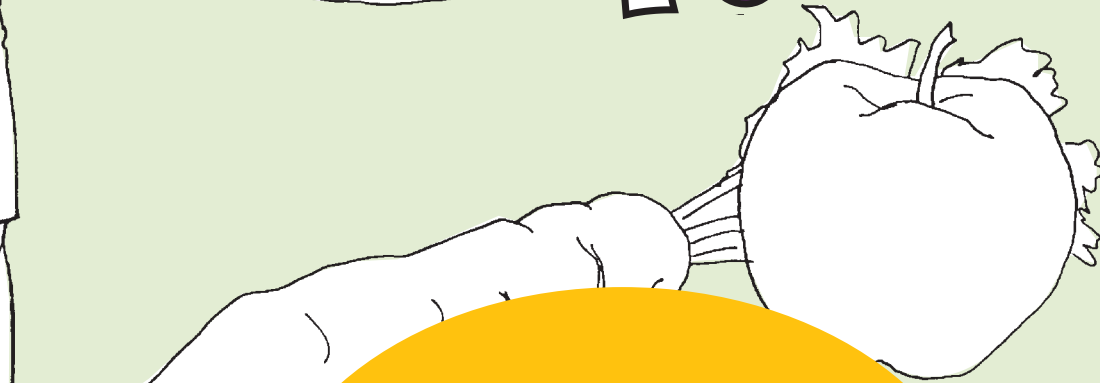
4 Right to: **basic nutrition**

healthy

I have
a right to
food



food

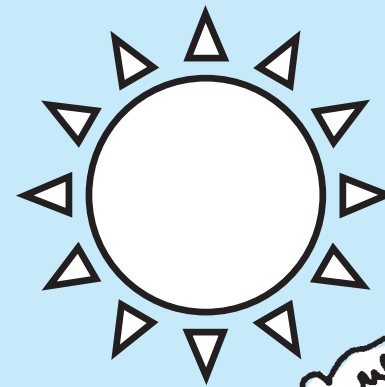


MY FAVOURITE FOOD
IS...

5 Right to: **shelter**

HOME

I have a right to a
home, and a safe
place to live.



This is my home!
I live in a town
called



safety

6 Right to: **health**

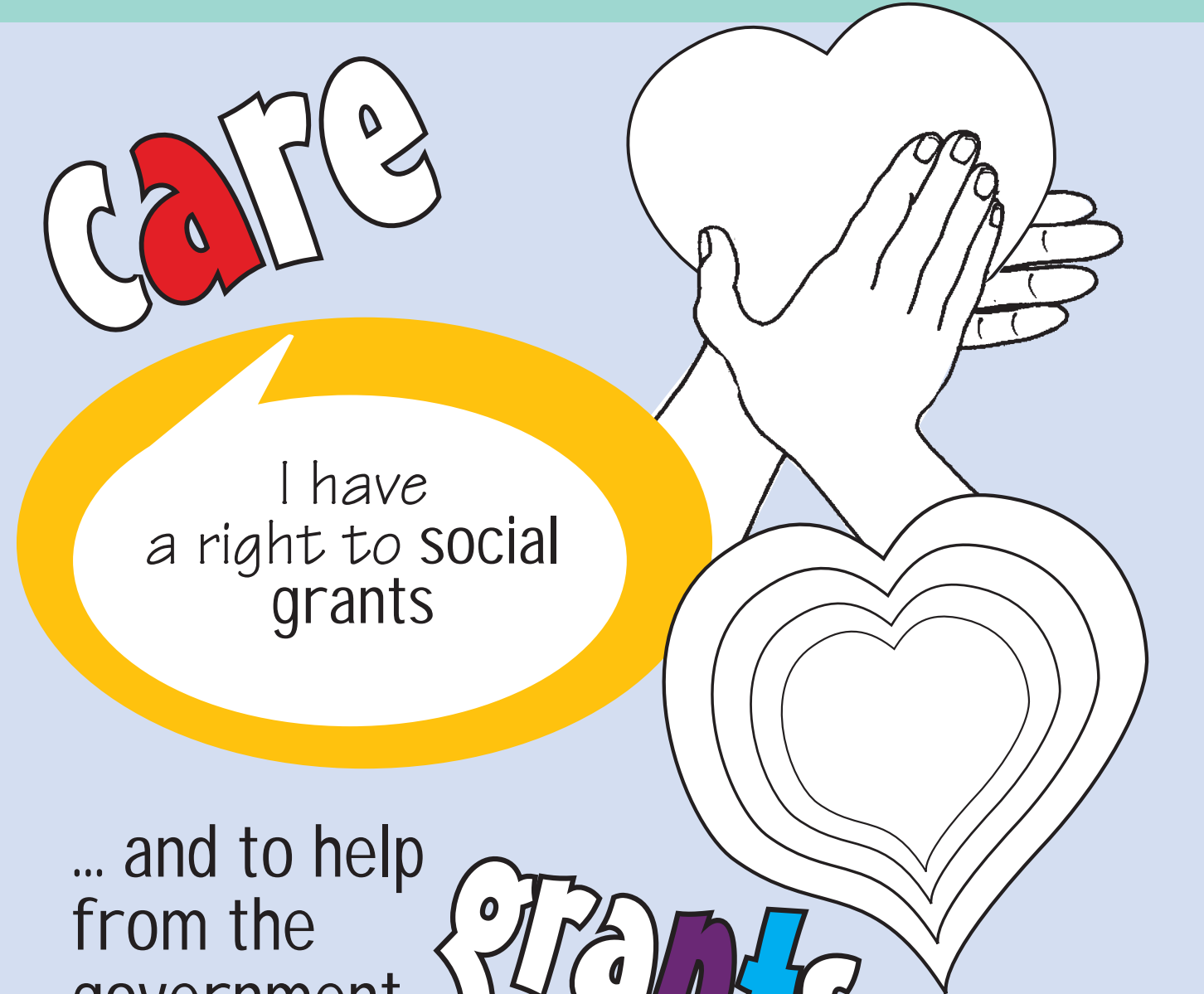


I have a right to health care

... and to medical help when I need it.

health

7 Right to: **social services**



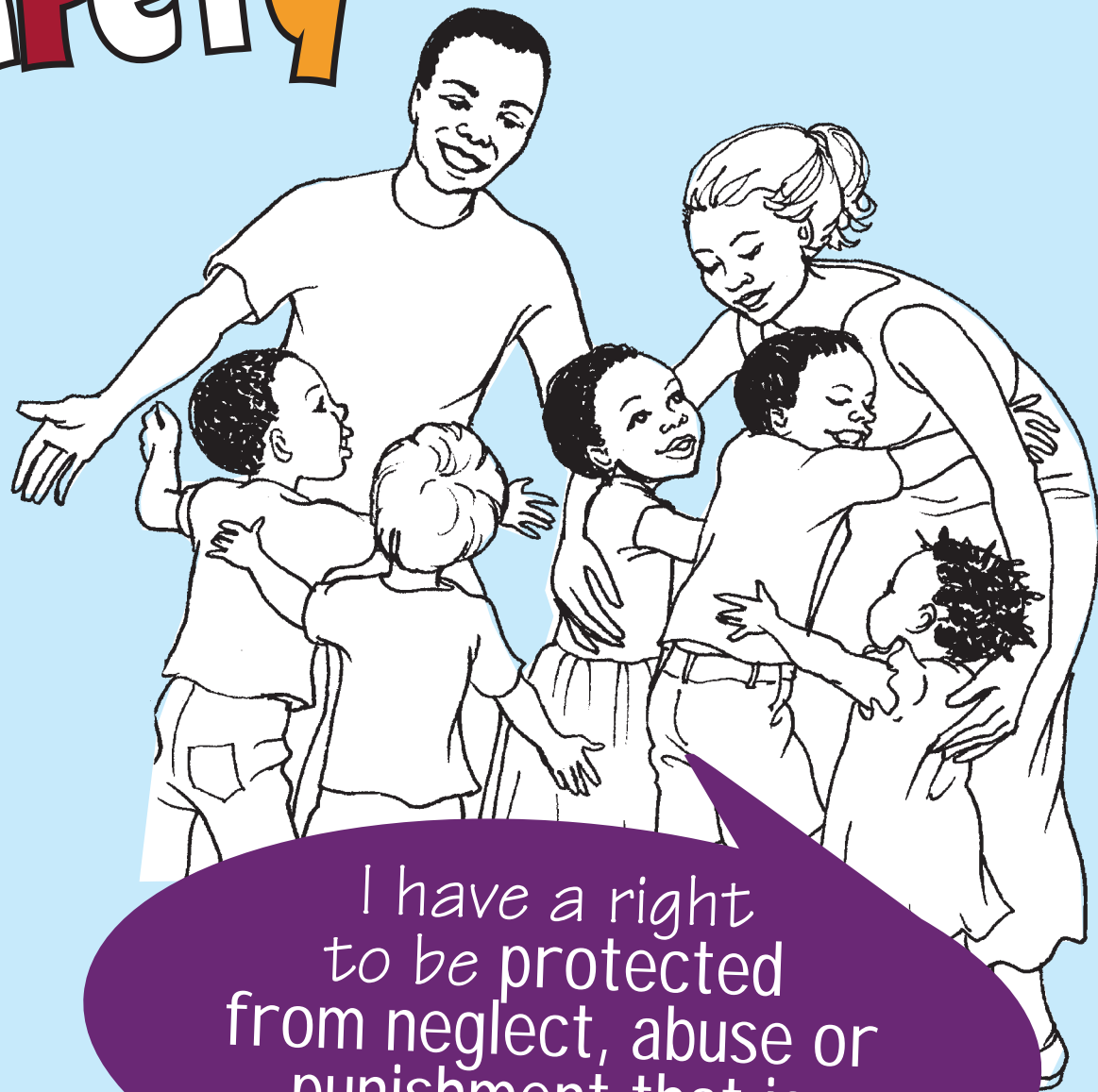
... and to help from the government.

grants



8 Right to: **protection**

safety



I have a right to be protected from neglect, abuse or punishment that is cruel.

protection

9 Right to: **education**



I have a right to education and to go to school.

SCHOOL





3. Some other things to know

Who is a child?

Everyone, who is 17 and younger, is a child in the eyes of the law.



Looking after my best interests

Adults must always do what is best for me



4. Help with Human Rights

The South African Human Rights Commission

The South African Human Rights Commission is an organisation that is here to serve all people including children. The Commission's job is to promote human rights by teaching people about their rights and making sure that everyone respects each other. If you feel that your rights have not been respected, you can approach any of the South African Human Rights Commission's provincial offices for help.

Where else can children get help with their rights?

Children, parents and care givers can also visit other organisations that will help them, such as:

- **Centre for Child Law** at the University of Pretoria which promotes the best interest of children in the community. **(012 420 4502)**
- **Save the Children** as it promotes the rights of children
- **ChildLine South Africa** which is a 24-hour contact center that assists children and their families who have been victims of violence and provides social services and advice over the phone. **(080 005 5555)**
- **UNICEF** which is an international organisation with offices in Pretoria that promotes the rights and wellbeing of all children.
- **The Department of Social Development** as it provides social services to children and their families. **(012 312 7980)**
- **Office of the Family Advocate** which provides court officials to assist children during adoption and divorce proceedings. **(012 315 1111)**
- **Thuthuzela Care Centers** are part of the National Prosecuting Authority that assists children when children have to give evidence in court during cases of sexual abuse. **(012 845 6136).**

The Equality Court

The Commission will assist you with your complaint and can also assist you by taking your complaint to the Equality Court. The Equality Court is free.

Children's Court

The Children's Court is a special court which deals with issues affecting children. Every Magistrates Court in South Africa is a Children's Court. The Children's Court also takes care of children who are in need of care and protection and makes decisions about children who are abandoned, neglected or abused, but it does not deal with criminal matters. Any person may approach the Children's Court to report any matter of child abuse.

Other laws to protect children

South Africa has accepted and follows the following international treaties on children:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948
- The International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination of 1969
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 and
- The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child of 1989

In addition, the country has made these international laws into national laws, to assist children and promote the best interests of the child principle:

- Children's Act 38 of 2005
- Child Justice Act 75 of 2008
- Maintenance Act 99 of 1998
- South African Schools Act 84 of 1996

Contact the South African Human Rights Commission

HEAD OFFICE

Forum 3, Braampark Office Park,
Braamfontein
Johannesburg
Tel No: 011 877 3600

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E-mail: info@sahrc.org.za

complaints@sahrc.org.za

Twitter: @SAHRCommission

Facebook: SA Human Rights Commission



south african
human
rights
commission

PROVINCIAL OFFICES

Eastern Cape

Address: 4th Floor Oxford house,
86 Oxford Street, East London, 5200
Tel: 043 722 7828/21/25

Free State

18 Keller Street, Bloemfontein
Tel: 051 447 1130

Gauteng

2nd Floor, Braampark Forum 3,
33 Hoofd Street, Braamfontein
Tel: 011 877 3750

KwaZulu-Natal

First Floor, 136 Margaret Mncadi, Durban
Tel: 031 304 7323/4/5

Limpopo

First Floor, Office 102,
Library Garden Square,
Corner of Schoeman and Grobler Streets,
Polokwane
Tel: 015 291 3500

Mpumalanga

4th Floor Carltex Building,
32 Bell Street, Nelspruit
Tel: 013 752 8292

Northern Cape

45 Mark and Scott Road,
Ancorley Building, Upington
Tel: 054 332 3993/4

North West

25 Heystek Street, Rustenburg
Tel: 014 592 0694

Western Cape

7th Floor ABSA building, 132 Adderley
Street, Cape Town
Tel: 021 426 2277