



These are special courts which are there to help people who have been unfairly discriminated against.

All High Courts and many Magistrates' Courts serve as Equality Courts. Equality Courts are different from other courts because:

- They are free of charge.
- They deal with your matters quickly and informally.
- You can be represented by anyone even if that person is not a lawyer.
- They have Equality Court clerks who will assist you with your complaint and

## How can the SAHRC help you?

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) is a national institution that works independently to promote, protect and monitor human rights in South Africa.

If you want to know more about your right to equality, contact the South African Human Rights Commission.

If you feel you are a victim of unfair discrimination, contact the SAHRC's Legal Services Department, which will investigate your complaint.

Tel: (011) 484 8300

For further information contact any of the SAHRC offices:

### Head Office

Forum 3, Braampark, 33 Hoofd Street

BRAAMFONTEIN

☎ (011) 877 3600 • Fax: (011) 403 0684

### Eastern Cape

84-88 Oxford Street, Oxford House

EAST LONDON

☎ (041) 582 2611/4094 • Fax (041) 582 2204

### Free State

1st Floor, NBS Building, 2 Elizabeth Street,

BLOEMFONTEIN

☎ (051) 447 1133 • Fax: (051) 447 1128

### KwaZulu-Natal

First Floor, 136 Victoria Embankment, DURBAN

☎ (031) 304 7323/4/5 • Fax: (031) 304 7323

### Limpopo

1st Floor, Office 102, Library Garden Square, Corner of Schoeman and Grobler Streets, POLOKWANE

☎ (015) 291 3500 • Fax: (015) 291 3505

### Mpumalanga

4th Floor Carltex Building, 32 Bell Street, Nelspruit  
PO Box 6574, NELSPRUIT

☎ (013) 752 5870/8292/5890

Fax: (013) 752 6890

### Northern Cape

45 Mark and Scott Road,  
Ancorley Building, UPINGTON

☎ (054) 332 3993/4 • Fax: (054) 332 7750

### North West

17 Klopper Street, RUSTENBURG

☎ Tel: (014) 592 0694 • Fax: (014) 594 1089

### Western Cape

7th Floor, ABSA Building,  
132 Adderley Street, CAPE TOWN

☎ (021) 426 2277 • Fax: (021) 426 2875

[www.sahrc.org.za](http://www.sahrc.org.za) [info@sahrc.org.za](mailto:info@sahrc.org.za)



## Equality for all!

# It is our right



The Promotion of Equality and  
Prevention of Unfair Discrimination  
Act 4 of 2000



People of South Africa, do you know that the Constitution treats everyone equally?  
Yes, even though we are different, the Constitution guarantees the **right to equality** for all

The right to equality is provided for in Section 9 of our Constitution. This right recognises that we are all different and that we should not be disadvantaged because of our differences. This means that everyone has the right to be treated with respect and dignity by any person and the government.

The Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act was passed in 2000 to make sure that equality is achieved. It also aims to prevent unfair discrimination based on one or more grounds, including gender, race and disability.



In a democracy, we all have a duty and responsibility to respect the rights of others. Let us work together to promote equality and fight unfair discrimination.

## The Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act, 2000



What is the purpose of the Act?

### The Act is there to:

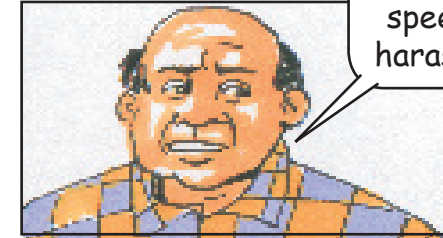
- promote equality;
- protect human dignity;
- prevent unfair discrimination and the use of hate speech and harassment; and
- promote a culture of democracy.



What is discrimination?

Discrimination is an act or practice that differentiates between individuals or groups and in the process disadvantages some and advantages others.

Sometimes discrimination can be fair. Fair discrimination is an acceptable act that denies persons opportunities or benefits, for example not employing a blind person as a driver. Unfair discrimination, on the other hand, is unacceptable: for example, not employing a person because of his/her HIV/Aids status.



What is hate speech and harassment?

Hate speech is any form of communication which is intended to be hurtful, harmful or to promote hatred.

Harassment is any unwanted continuous behaviour that creates a feeling of humiliation or intimidation related to a person's gender, sexual orientation or membership.



Where can I go if I think I'm being discriminated against?

Any person who feels that he/she has been discriminated against may approach the South African Human Rights Commission, the Commission on Gender Equality or any of the the Equality Courts in their area.