

The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

The essential document guaranteeing our economic, political and social rights in the EU



Why do we need it?

It **enshrines into EU law** certain political, social and economic rights for citizens and residents of the EU.



Origin of the Charter

1999: Charter first drawn up in to consolidate fundamental rights at EU level in one text.

2009: Charter included in the Lisbon Treaty, becomes a binding Bill of Rights for the EU.

IMPORTANT!



The Charter **applies directly at national level**. When a national government is implementing an EU law, it must comply with the rights in the Charter.



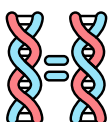
What is in it?

The Charter is divided into 6 chapters:

- Dignity
- Freedoms
- Equality
- Solidarity
- Citizen's rights
- Justice



Some examples



The Charter covers **many rights that are not covered by national constitutions**, like biotechnology and cloning.

It also enshrines the **rights of the child**. It makes sure that EU policies which directly or indirectly affect children must be designed, implemented and monitored taking into account the principle of the **best interests of the child**.

