

DECLARATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1. The 1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* asks Member States to 'strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance'.

Article 2 makes it plain that the Declaration is intended to have universal application. Rights are enumerated in Articles 3-28, and the ones which are of particular relevance to this inquiry are: the right to equality before the law, and to equal protection from discrimination (defined as a violation of the Declaration), article 7, the right to freedom of movement and residence (article 13), the right of equal access to public service (article 21), the right to social security and to the economic, social, and cultural rights indispensable for . . . dignity and the free development of . . . personality (article 22), the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment, to equal pay for equal work, to just and favourable remuneration, the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of (personal) interests (article 23), the right to a standard of living adequate for health and well-being (article 25), the right to education, to the full development of the human personality (article 26).

2. The 1971 *Declaration of the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons* calls for 'national and international action to ensure that it will be used as a common basis and frame of reference for the protection of these rights . . .'. Of the statements which are then enumerated in the Declaration, the ones which are most relevant to the subject of this inquiry are those which assert that: 'the mentally retarded person has, to the maximum degree of feasibility, the same rights as other human beings', the 'mentally retarded' person has the right 'to such education, training, rehabilitation and guidance as will enable him to develop his ability and maximum potential', the mentally retarded have a right to 'economic security and a decent standard of living', and to 'protection from exploitation, abuse and degrading treatment'.
3. The 1975 *Declaration of the Rights of Disabled Persons* calls for 'national and international action' to ensure that the Declaration will be used as a common basis and frame of reference for the protection of the rights listed. These rights include: the 'inherent right to human dignity', to 'enjoy a decent life, as full and normal as possible', the entitlement to measures 'designed to enable them (the disabled) to become as self-reliant as possible', the right to all services to 'enable them to develop their capabilities and skills to the maximum and [to] hasten the process of their social integration or reintegration', 'the right, according to capabilities, to secure and retain employment or to engage in a useful, productive and remunerative occupation

and to join trade unions'. The Declaration asserts that disabled people are entitled to various other rights, but the most relevant ones to mention here are those concerning 'protection against all exploitation, all regulations and all treatment of a discriminatory, abusive or degrading nature'.