



# Human rights of specific groups

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## HUMAN RIGHTS OF SPECIFIC GROUPS

As has been previously mentioned, all people without distinction are protected by the same human rights. However, certain persons, given the barriers that society imposes due to their inherent characteristics, have been seen overtime to face greater difficulties to access and exercise their rights. Therefore, international human rights treaties particularly aimed at certain groups of people have been created. Those treaties, apart from recognising the established human rights, take into account the special discrimination and disadvantages of the groups that they address, and set up other rights and mechanisms to face those disadvantages.

### Women

Women's human rights are protected by two international treaties. The first is the 1979 [United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#). This Convention requires the States to take specific measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the enjoyment of different rights, and is monitored by a [Committee](#) (more at "Guaranteeing your human rights"). Spain ratified it in 1983. The other and much more recent treaty is the [Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence](#), known as the Istanbul Convention. The Convention was adopted in 2011 and Spain ratified it in 2014. It specifically considers the measures that the countries must take to combat gender-based violence against women and to assist the victims of that violence, including their children. This treaty also set up a [Committee](#) of Experts to oversee the fulfilment by the States.

### Children and adolescents

[The 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), ratified by Spain in 1990, aims to safeguard the human rights of everyone under 18 years of age and provide them with the special protection that they need. Its essential aspects are the obligation to preferentially take into account the best interest of the child in any decision of a public authority concerning a person under 18 years old, and the right of children and adolescents to be heard and for their opinion to be considered in all matters that affect them. As in the previous cases, a [Committee](#) of experts oversees the fulfilment of the Treaty, which has been ratified by all the countries of the world bar one. In Europe, there is also the [Lanzarote Convention](#), aimed at protecting children and adolescents against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. It was adopted in 2007 and Spain ratified it in 2010.

## Persons with disabilities

[The 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) protects the rights of those people who cannot participate fully and on an equal basis in society due to the barriers that they find given their physical, mental, intellectual or sensory functional diversity. The Convention requires countries to take the necessary measures so that those persons can fully enjoy all their human rights. One of its key concepts is reasonable accommodation, involving the special adaptations that a person with a disability needs to be able to exercise their human rights on an equal basis. The public authorities of the countries have the obligation to make those adjustments when necessary. Spain ratified the Convention in 2007, which also has a monitoring [Committee](#).

## Racial, ethnic, national or linguistic minorities

[The 1965 United Nations International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](#) requires the ratifying countries to take specific measures against racial discrimination and to guarantee the human rights of everyone, without distinction as to race, national or ethnic origin, on an equal footing, with special attention to those rights that have traditionally been denied to those persons. Spain ratified it in 1969 and it also has a [Committee](#) to oversee compliance of the Treaty. In Europe, there are also the [Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities](#) and [European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages](#), which likewise have Committees of Experts who oversee compliance (the Committee for National Minorities [here](#) and the Committee for Regional or Minority Languages [here](#)). Spain ratified them in 1998 and 2001 respectively.

## Other treaties

In the sphere of the United Nations, there are other treaties that seek to guarantee human rights regarding specific situations or people. They are the Conventions [against Torture](#), [against Enforced Disappearances](#) and regarding the [rights of migrant workers and their families](#). You can learn more about them [here](#).