

- The right to live in an environment that is safe and adaptable to our changing capacities.

3. Participation:

- The right to work and earn an income and to participate in decisions about retirement;
- The right of access to education and training programs, cultural, spiritual and recreational facilities;
- The right to information and to participate in community life, decision making and consultation on policies that affect our well-being;
- The right to establish associations and share knowledge and skills with younger generations;
- The right to use our own language (including sign language) and participate in the culture of our choice;
- The opportunity to serve the community as volunteers according to our interests and capabilities.

C. RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS LIVING IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

1. Care:

- The right to receive care and assistance depending on need;
- The right to be cared for by trained and compassionate carers;
- The right to treatment by our own physician if we can afford it.

2. Representation:

- The right to be represented on the resident's committee;

- The right to appoint a representative to act on our behalf, if necessary acting voluntarily or pro bono.

3. Participation:

- The right to visits from family and friends;
- The right to be informed about the financial state of the facility and changes in management;
- The right to participate in social, religious and community activities of choice;

4. Respect:

- The right to adequate notice of a proposed transfer or discharge;
- The right to privacy and to keep and use personal possessions;
- The right to be treated with respect by staff and management at all times.

5. Safety and security:

- The right to protection from abuse and violence;
- The right to protection from physical hazards including fire and flood.

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South African Older Persons' Charter

The South African Older Persons' Charter was drawn up by the S.A. Older Persons Forum. It is based on experiences and demands of older people from across the country.



The Charter was launched by the Minister of Social Development on 15 April 2011.



PREAMBLE

- ❖ We, the senior citizens of South Africa, contributed to the drafting of this Charter. We were the worst affected by our troubled past. The object of this Charter is to promote rights and ensure that future generations are spared the division and discrimination we suffered.
- ❖ Under apartheid we were divided by race and tribe. The majority of us were denied a decent education, services and jobs. Many were forcibly removed from their homes. We suffered immeasurable loss and distress.
- ❖ Some of us are ill and some are disabled but all of us are entitled to be treated with respect and not suffer another form of discrimination. We want to share in building a free South Africa. We are the link with a long line of ancestors. We are an important pillar of society.
- ❖ We call upon all South Africans to commit themselves to protect and uphold our fundamental rights as outlined in the Constitution of South Africa. These rights should be observed by all tiers of government, political parties, youth wings and organizations, trade unions, traditional leaders and churches.

A. THE RIGHTS OF ALL OLDER PERSONS

1. Equality:

- The right to equality before the law;
- The right not to be discriminated against solely on the grounds of age;
- The right to achieve our optimal level of well-being.

2. Respect:

- The right to respect and the duty to respect others;
- The right to privacy and to have our homes and possessions safeguarded;
- The right to be treated in a fair and dignified manner by state officials and professionals who serve us;
- The right to respect for our religious and cultural values.

3. Freedom:

- The right to freedom of conscience, language and belief;
- The right to freedom of expression and association;

B. THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY

1. Services:

- The right to social security or social assistance if unable to support ourselves or our dependents :
- The right to comfort and shelter while waiting for a public service;
- The right of access and treatment at health facilities and to rehabilitation to help maintain our optimum physical and mental well-being;

- The provision of a minimum supply of free water and electricity and access to rebates on property rates ;
- The right to a home that can withstand the weather on habitable land;
- The right to an income adequate to provide food, water and shelter ;
- The right to affordable and accessible transport;
- Wheel-chair access to public buildings and provision assistive devices when necessary;
- The right to receive care at home when unable to seek outside care;
- Appropriate residential care when needed, regardless of financial status;
- Access to social and legal services when needed including training programmes and respite care if we care for others.

2. Protection:

- The right to the full protection of the law;
- The right to protection from exploitation, abuse, violence, harassment and victimization;
- The right not to be evicted without an order of court;
- The right to strict safety and security measures at pension pay-points;
- The right not to be deprived of property or assets except in terms of the law;
- The right not to be forced to retire solely on grounds of age;
- The right to have a dispute that can be resolved by a court of law decided in a fair, public hearing or in camera if requested.