

CIVIC KNOWLEDGE

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COLLECTION OF TERMS

Activist

An activist is someone who participates in or commits themselves to promoting a particular social cause or supporting a movement to draw attention to a particular problem and encourage change.

Activists usually fight for a political, social, civic, environmental or human rights cause and may express their commitment in a variety of ways, including demonstrations, organizing campaigns, petitions, education and raising awareness about the cause.

Activism

Activism is an activity aimed at achieving social, political, environmental, or economic change.

(Social) activism is aimed at achieving a specific social goal, such as combating racism, sexism, homophobia or other discrimination, protecting the environment or implementing other political reforms. Activist groups and even movements work not only to support progressive goals, but also to represent opposing causes, such as a complete ban on abortion, the reinstatement of the death penalty or the social exclusion of different sexual groups. (Social activism) is a group activity in which people (activists) from diverse backgrounds unite for a common goal. Activists typically use demonstrations, petitions, boycotts, or public speaking, and occasionally civil disobedience, to influence decision-makers and public opinion.

Advocacy

Advocacy is the act of speaking out on behalf of an individual, group, or cause. The goal of advocacy is to influence decision-makers, politicians, or shape public opinion in favor of a given political or public goal. Advocacy groups or individuals strive to ensure that those who are not sufficiently heard receive adequate attention and support. Advocacy can be applied to a wide range of social issues, including human rights, environmental protection, health care, and education.

Anti-corruption framework

The anti-corruption framework is a set of legal and institutional measures aimed at preventing, reducing and eliminating corruption.

An effective anti-corruption framework promotes the rule of law and transparency in the use of public funds. The framework generally includes anti-corruption legislation to prevent and punish corruption, specific anti-corruption institutions and organizations, the establishment of transparent systems in public administration, anti-corruption awareness-raising, and effective monitoring mechanisms. An effectively functioning system can play an important role in the social development and economic stability of a given country.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) developed an “integrity” (anti-corruption) framework in 2009 and made recommendations to the public sector.

Autocracy

A transitional political-ruling-governmental system between democracy and dictatorship. In contrast to dictatorships, autocracies formally have democratic institutions, but due to the undermining of the rule of law and fundamental rights, in practice one person or a ruling group exercises decisive influence over every aspect of political and state life.

In autocracy, there is usually no open, bloody violence against the political opposition; the government rather makes its opponents impossible by eliminating checks and balances, civil society, and media freedom. Nearly three-quarters of the world's population lives in an autocratic system.

Binding/ imperative mandate

A binding mandate is a contractual directive that obligates the involved parties to fulfill specific, defined terms without the ability to unilaterally back out without legal or financial consequences. It strips away the flexibility of open or non-binding agreements to ensure transaction certainty, accountability, and legal enforcement.

The first key aspect involves the legal core elements. For any mandate to be recognized as legally binding, it must meet strict contractual criteria. This includes offer and acceptance, which means clear, unambiguous terms proposed by one party and fully accepted by the other. It also requires lawful consideration, which is an exchange of real value, such as monetary fees, commissions, or specific services. Furthermore, there must be capacity and consent, meaning both parties must be legally competent, of sound mind and legal age, and agree freely without

coercion. Finally, there must be a lawful object, meaning the objective of the mandate must fully comply with local laws and public policy.

It usually includes financial penalties, which outline strict breach-of-contract terms, such as double commissions or termination fees if a party defaults.

Based on the established rules of the constraints, prior consultation or subsequent confirmation of the voters' opinion may be necessary for the performance of legislative and other representative tasks.

Case allocation order

Case allocation in courts refers to the administrative and procedural rules used to assign incoming lawsuits, criminal charges, or appeals to specific judges, panels, or procedural tracks. Its primary goal is to ensure transparency, operational efficiency, and judicial independence by preventing arbitrary judge selection.

Assignment should rely on predefined, neutral rules (such as chronological filing order, alphabetical distribution, or automated electronic rotation) rather than human discretion.

Important for transparency and accountability, that courts should publish case allocation schemes or orders outlining the allocation system, panel compositions, presiding leaders, and substitution rules for absent judges.

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (CFR) enshrines certain political, social, and economic rights for European Union (EU) citizens and residents into EU law.

Following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009 the fundamental rights charter has the same legal value as the European Union treaties. The Charter referred to in the Treaty is an amended version of the 2000 document which was solemnly declared by the same three institutions a day before the signing of the Lisbon Treaty itself.

The fundamental rights that can be found in the Charter are presented in educational form on the Fundamental rights cards available under the kozerdekes.org Document Library menu.

Civil organizations

Civil organizations, or civil society organizations (CSOs), are independent groups that operate outside of government and business. They are formed by volunteers or members of a community to promote social, cultural, environmental, or humanitarian goals for the common good.

Key Types of Civil Organizations:

- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs): Groups focused on specific issues like human rights or the environment.
- Charities and Foundations: Non-profit groups that raise money to help people in need.
- Community Groups: Local clubs, neighborhood associations, and grassroots movements.
- Trade Unions and Professional Associations: Groups that protect worker rights and support specific jobs.
- Religious and Faith-Based Groups: Institutions that offer spiritual and community support

Main Roles and Goals:

- Advocacy: Speak up for the public or vulnerable groups.
- Support: Provide aid, food, education, and health care.
- Watchdog: Keep governments and businesses accountable.

Community Building: Bring people together through shared values or sports.

Constitutional Court

A constitutional court is a judicial or quasi-judicial body responsible for constitutional review, which ensures that laws, government actions, and state policies comply with the nation's supreme law (the constitution). It serves as the ultimate guardian of constitutional integrity, resolves institutional conflicts between branches of government, and protects fundamental citizens' rights from state infringement.

There are three main types of constitutional courts.

- a. A **Centralized Constitutional Court** is a single, highly specialized judicial body that exists entirely outside the ordinary court system and holds the exclusive authority to declare a law unconstitutional. It can review legislation both abstractly (before or independent of a legal dispute) and concretely (when referred by a regular court), completely striking down invalid laws to ensure they no longer apply to anyone in the state.
- b. A **Decentralized Constitutional Court** is a system of review where the authority to interpret the constitution is spread across all regular, ordinary courts rather than a single specialized tribunal. In this model, any judge can review the constitutionality of a law during an active, concrete lawsuit, but the nation's general supreme court serves as the final authority whose rulings create binding legal precedents for the entire country.
- c. A **Mixed Constitutional Court** is a system that intentionally blends elements of both centralized and decentralized review to fit a state's unique legal traditions. In this model, ordinary courts are usually empowered to handle routine constitutional questions or screen cases, while a specialized constitutional court or council retains exclusive control over high-stakes matters, such as vetting laws before they are enacted or deciding major disputes between government branches.

Constitutionalism

Constitutionalism is a fundamental principle of the legal order and functioning of the state, which is based on the provisions of the constitution. It is both a fundamental principle and a procedural order for the functioning of the state.

A state that is governed by the rule of law constitutionalism ensures the legality of the exercise of power, the protection of civil liberties, and the separation and balancing of powers. The essence of constitutionalism is that state power operates within the limits of the law, and the protection of fundamental human rights plays an important role in this. Rule of law is threatened by unlimited power, for example by passing laws that violate the constitution or by weakening the constitutional court. In such a situation, the constitution becomes formal and state bodies do not actually adhere to the basic principles. A formal constitution is therefore a necessary, but not sufficient, condition for the constitutional functioning of the state.

Constitutionalism can only be interpreted in terms of content, and is realized where the functioning of the state, the constitution, and the laws comply with fundamental principles such as popular the separation of powers, the rule of law, human rights, or judicial independence.

In many countries, a referendum is required to adopt a constitution.

Court (or court of law)

A court (or court of law) is an institution, often a government entity, with the authority to adjudicate legal disputes between parties and administer justice in civil, criminal, and administrative matters in accordance with the rule of law.

Courts generally consist of judges or other judicial officers, and are usually established and dissolved through legislation enacted by a legislature. Courts may also be established by constitution or an equivalent constituting instrument.

The practical authority given to the court is known as its jurisdiction, which describes the court's power to decide certain kinds of questions, or petitions put to it. There are various kinds of courts, including trial courts, appellate courts, administrative courts, international courts, and tribunals.

Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)

Court of Justice of the European Union is ensuring EU law is interpreted and applied the same in every EU country; ensuring countries and EU institutions abide by EU law. The CJEU has been established in 1952 and located in Luxembourg. It has a *sui generis*¹ court system and is a supranational institution.

The CJEU is the chief judicial authority of the EU, it has four main types of function:

a.interpretation of European Union law.

If a national court is in doubt about the interpretation or validity of an EU law, it can ask the Court for clarification. The same mechanism can be used to determine whether a national law or practice is compatible with EU law.

¹ *Sui generis* is a Latin phrase meaning "of its own kind" or "in a class by itself," which translates to unique. It describes a person, object, or legal concept that has no direct parallel or equivalent and does not fit neatly into a standard category. [1, 2]

b.enforcing the EU law. Enforcement can be taken against a national government for failing to comply with EU law. Can be started by the European Commission or an EU country. If the country is found to be at fault, it must put things right at once, or risk a second case being brought, which may result in a fine.

The effectiveness of the Court's enforcement function is questioned by some EU members and analysts focusing on international institutional enforcing strategies. The actual effective step which can hold any deterrent effect with real punitive function able to be considered as avoidable threat by a country which has no other individual interest in complying with some EU law can be taking even longer than 7 years to put into actual operation. The longest enforcement action delay happened in the landmark case *Commission v. Italy* (Case C-196/13), it took 7 years and 7 months from the date of the first declaratory judgment for the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) to finally issue financial fines under the Article 260 procedure. The case and the fine were related to Italy for its systematic mismanagement of illegal landfills, contrary to EU regulations.

If the system delay punishment too long it can end as a result which is practically allows the violation of the relevant -theoretically binding -EU law(s). A more than 7 years long case is the most extreme, but to continue cases for years without any punishment addressed to the violator is not uncommon. The violation alone not ideal if it is not forced to be stopped as soon as possible, which can be fasten up with the elimination of the warranty giving option for violator. If the Court decides the violation happened it can immediately can result in a fine. A violation is easier and more effectively can be deterred from taking action if the violation comes with punishment without exception. If some know they have to pay in case of violation is more likely to avoid it, than in a situation when the complete avoidance of the punishment still exists. If avoidance is an existing option the

If avoiding consequences are not eliminated, the prevention of the violation is not maximised and the system inherently weakening the members' compliance with the EU law. If the system delays punishment too long it can end as a result which is practically allows and in some cases possibly it could even facilitate the violation of the relevant -theoretically binding - EU law(s). A more than 7 year long delay before enforcing

punishment is extreme, but to continue cases for years without any punishment addressed to the violator is not as uncommon as it should be. It is not ideal if the violation is not forced to be stopped as soon as possible. Forced stop can be fasten up with the elimination of the non-punishing warning assignement. If the Court decides the violation has happened it can have only one possible outcome which immediately assigns fine. Easier and more effectively deterred from taking violating actions, if it is proclaimed that violations comes with punishment without exception. If someone knows they have to pay in case of violation it is more likely to avoid it, than in a situation when the complete avoidance of the punishment still exists. If the possibility of avoiding consequences are not eliminated completely, the prevention of the violating actions have not been maximized. In the latter case it can be stated that the system inherently weakening the potential to maximalise the members' compliance with the EU law.

c. Annuling EU legal act,

d. ensuring the EU takes action,

e. sanctioning EU institutions.

The Court are divided into two separate courts, under names of:

1. Court of Justice and
2. General Court .

The Court of Justice has one judge from each EU country, plus 11 advocates general member, while the General Court has two judges from each EU country.

1. The Court of Justice has the competence to hear applications from national courts for preliminary rulings on the interpretation of EU law, direct actions against EU member states for failure to fulfil an obligation, direct actions against EU institutions for annulment and for failure to act, as well as to hear appeals on points of law in rulings and orders of the General Court.

2. The General Court has the competence to hear actions brought by natural or legal persons against acts of EU institutions and agencies, actions brought by EU member states against the Commission or Council, actions for damages caused by EU institutions or agencies, actions relating to intellectual property, actions relating to employment and social security disputes

between EU institutions and their staff, as well as limited applications from national courts for preliminary rulings.

Crime

A crime is an unlawful act or omission that is declared punishable by criminal law because it threatens social order, the safety of individuals, or other fundamental values.

A bűncselekmény súlya alapján lehet büntett vagy vétség. Büntett az a szándékosan elkövetett bűncselekmény, amelyre a törvény kétévi szabadságvesztésnél súlyosabb büntetés kiszabását rendeli, minden más bűncselekmény vétség.

Crimes may be war, military, data protection, corruption, official, against an official person, as well as acts against humanity, the person (life, physical integrity, health, human freedom, sexual freedom and sexual morality, children and family, human dignity), traffic order, property, public order, public safety, public peace, public administration order, the state, the order of the judiciary or the environment, which the perpetrator commits intentionally or negligently. The purpose of the justice system is to impose proportionate punishment for crimes, provide victims with redress and protection, and deter potential future offenders from committing crimes.

Crimes against humanity

Crimes committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack against a civilian population, targeting all or a large part of the civilian population, and not indiscriminately but deliberately.

Crimes against humanity are particularly serious violations of human dignity, specifically attacking what is important to people, such as life, liberty or health. Such crimes are usually committed as part of some discriminatory political plan. Crimes against humanity include genocide, enslavement, apartheid, deportation and racial or religious persecution. They are not subject to a statute of limitations, as are war crimes.

Criminal justice

Criminal justice is the delivery of justice when a crime is committed. The criminal justice system is a series of government agencies and institutions. Goals include retribution, reformation and rehabilitation of offenders, preventing other crimes, and support for victims.

The criminal justice system in most constitutional states consists of four main parts. 1. The investigative authorities (e.g. police, tax authorities, national security services, special prosecutorial bodies), which investigate based on well-founded suspicion. 2. The prosecution is usually carried out by the prosecutor's office, which can also investigate and supervise the investigation. 3. The court, which judges, decides on guilt and imposes punishment. It also orders or refuses, extends or terminates the arrest of persons under investigation, decides on coercive measures (e.g. house searches, wiretapping) and conditional release, and monitors the implementation of imprisonment. 4. The penitentiary system, which executes the imposed sentences.

Democracy

Democracy is a system of government by the people, for the people. The word has ancient Greek roots and originally referred to a form of government or state in which the will of the people (demos) is directly exercised by majority rule.

There are three main types of democracy: participatory, representative, and supervisory democracy.

In ancient Greece, participatory democracy was direct, meaning that all citizens participated in making laws and government policies. In most modern representative democracies, the people exercise their power indirectly through elections, meaning that elected representatives make laws on behalf of the citizens who elected them, but this does not mean that direct democracy cannot be established in our present or in the future. In both cases, laws and policies are made on the basis of the principle of majority rule.

The most important characteristics of a well-functioning democracy include respect for human and fundamental rights, the holding of free and fair elections, the separation of powers, the independence of the branches of power, freedom of speech and the press, and the constitutional subordination of all state institutions to the legally established civilian authority.

Democratic

The term democracy refers to a system, principle, or procedure in which the people exercise power directly or through elected representatives, ensuring equality of rights. The decisive decisions are collective.

In everyday life, we can say that situations or communities are democratic where everyone's opinion counts and decisions are made collectively, for example, in a democratic school, teachers, parents and students discuss together what programs to organize, or in a trade union, they act on behalf of and in the interests of the union members. In a democratic atmosphere, people are free to express their thoughts, respect each other's rights and strive for just solutions. In democratic systems (not only political ones), leaders and the led bear the consequences of their decisions collectively, but there is a possibility for feedback and correction.

Democratic state

The democratic requirements imposed on the Member States and candidate countries of the European Union are essentially defined by Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and the 1993 Copenhagen criteria, which together form a strict system of political, legal and human rights values. The basis of democratic functioning is a stable institutional system that guarantees regular, free and fair elections and a parliament with real legislative and government oversight powers. This system is inconceivable without a clear separation of powers, which separates the legislative, executive and judicial functions.

This institutional framework is closely intertwined with the strict requirements of the Rule of Law, which ensure that the exercise of public power is limited and subject to control, excluding arbitrary application of the law. The key to the functioning of the rule of law is an independent and impartial judiciary system, completely free from political influence, which guarantees equality before the law and legal certainty through clear, predictable legislation. In addition, the rule of law requires effective institutional guarantees for the protection of public funds and a systematic, decisive action against corruption.

Within the framework of democracy and the rule of law, the EU pays special attention to the protection of fundamental rights and minorities, stating that democracy cannot mean the tyranny of the majority over the minority. The functioning of the EU requires full respect for the personal, civil and political freedoms enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and the prohibition of discrimination against national, ethnic, religious or sexual minorities. Social control and freedom of expression are ensured by a press independent of the

government, media pluralism and civil society organisations (NGOs) operating freely in public life.

As the European Union is a true community of values, Member States are obliged to uphold these principles not only upon accession but throughout their membership, which the EU regularly monitors and, if necessary, sanctions. The European Commission continuously monitors the situation in Member States through its annual rule of law reports, and tools are available to deal with flagrant violations, such as the Article 7 procedure, which allows for the suspension of EU voting rights, or the budgetary conditionality mechanism, which can directly freeze the payment of EU funds if democratic deficiencies jeopardise common financial interests.

Democratic public life

In democratic societies, power comes from the people, the election and recall of leaders is in the hands of the people, and society and politics can be influenced through active participation in public life and self-organization.

The minority can engage in oppositional activities, criticize and judge the decisions and actions of the majority in public. In democratic public life, no actor or group can have a hegemonic position, nor can it strive for such a position, but if it did, well-functioning democratic institutions – and thus democratic public life itself – should prevent it from this anti-democratic endeavor.

Equality

The principle of equality is a foundational legal, political, and moral concept stating that all individuals are equal in worth and must be treated with equal respect and fairness under the

Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that all people are born free and equal in rights and dignity. Adopted by the United Nations in 1948, this text forms the core base for global human rights

Equal treatment requirement

The equal treatment requirement is a legal principle that prohibits discrimination and ensures that individuals or groups are not treated less favorably based on protected characteristics like

gender, race, age, disability, religion, or sexual orientation. It applies broadly to employment, public services, housing, and access to goods.

The requirement of equal treatment applies primarily to state, local government, public service bodies, institutions and employers, and secondarily, with restrictions, to activities between private individuals or to religious and associational communities.

European Convention on Human Rights (or ECHR)

The Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (commonly known as the European Convention on Human Rights or ECHR) is a supranational international treaty designed in 1950 to protect human rights and political freedoms throughout Europe.

All Council of Europe member states are parties to the Convention, and any new member is required to ratify it at the earliest opportunity.

The ECHR was directly inspired by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. Its main difference lies in the existence of an international court, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), whose judgments are legally binding on states parties.

Simplified version of the European Convention on Human Rights and its protocols²:

Article 1 - Obligation to respect human rights

States must ensure that everyone has the rights stated in this Convention.

Article 2 - Right to life

You have the right to life.

Article 3 - Prohibition of torture

No one ever has the right to hurt you or torture you. Even in detention your human dignity has to be respected.

Article 4 - Prohibition of slavery and forced labour

It is prohibited to treat you as a slave or to impose forced labour on you.

Article 5 - Right to liberty and security

²The simplified version was prepared by the Directorate of Communication. Please note that this simplified version is included for educational purposes only and takes its inspiration from the simplified version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights produced by Amnesty International and others. The only texts which have a legal basis are to be found in the official published versions of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its protocols.

You have the right to liberty.

If you are arrested you have the right to know why. If you are arrested you have the right to stand trial soon, or to be released until the trial takes place.

Article 6 - Right to a fair trial

You have the right to a fair trial before an unbiased and independent judge. If you are accused of having committed a crime, you are innocent until proved guilty. You have the right to be assisted by a lawyer who has to be paid by the state if you are poor.

Article 7 - No punishment without law

You cannot be held guilty of a crime if there was no law against it when you did it.

Article 8 - Right to respect for private and family life

You have the right to respect for your private and family life, your home and correspondence.

Article 9 - Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

You have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. You have the right to practise your religion at home and in public and to change your religion if you want.

Article 10 - Freedom of expression

You have the right to responsibly say and write what you think and to give and receive information from others. This includes freedom of the press.

Article 11 - Freedom of assembly and association

You have the right to take part in peaceful meetings and to set up or join associations - including trade unions.

Article 12 - Right to marry

You have the right to marry and to have a family.

Article 13 - Right to an effective remedy

If your rights are violated, you can complain about this officially to the courts or other public bodies.

Article 14 - Prohibition of discrimination

You have these rights regardless of your skin colour, sex, language, political or religious beliefs, or origins.

Article 15 - Derogation in time of emergency

In time of war or other public emergency, a government may do things which go against your rights, but only when strictly necessary. Even then, governments are not allowed, for example, to torture you or to kill you arbitrarily.

Article 16 - Restrictions on political activity of aliens

Governments may restrict the political activity of foreigners, even if this would be in conflict with Articles 10, 11 or 14.

Article 17 - Prohibition of abuse of rights

Nothing in this Convention can be used to damage the rights and freedoms in the Convention.

Article 18 - Limitation on use of restrictions of rights

Most of the rights in this Convention can be restricted by a general law which is applied to everyone. Such restrictions are only allowed if they are strictly necessary.

Articles 19 to 51

These articles explain how the European Court of Human Rights works.

Article 34 - Individual applications

If your rights contained in the Convention have been violated in one of the member states you should first appeal to all competent national authorities. If that does not work out for you, then you may appeal directly to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Article 52 - Inquiries by the Secretary General

If the Secretary General of the Council of Europe requests it, a government must explain how its national law protects the rights of this Convention.

Protocols to the Convention

Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 - Protection of property

You have the right to own property and use your possessions.

Article 2 of Protocol No. 1 - Right to education

You have the right to go to school.

Article 3 of Protocol No. 1 - Right to free elections

You have the right to elect the government of your country by secret vote.

Article 2 of Protocol No. 4 - Freedom of movement

If you are lawfully within a country, you have the right to go where you want and to live where you want within it.

Article 1 of Protocol No. 6 - Abolition of the death penalty

You cannot be condemned to death or executed by the state.

Article 2 of Protocol No. 7 - Right of appeal in criminal matters

You may appeal to a higher court if you have been convicted for committing a crime.

Article 3 of Protocol No. 7 - Compensation for wrongful conviction

You have the right to compensation if you have been convicted for committing a crime and it turns out that you were innocent.

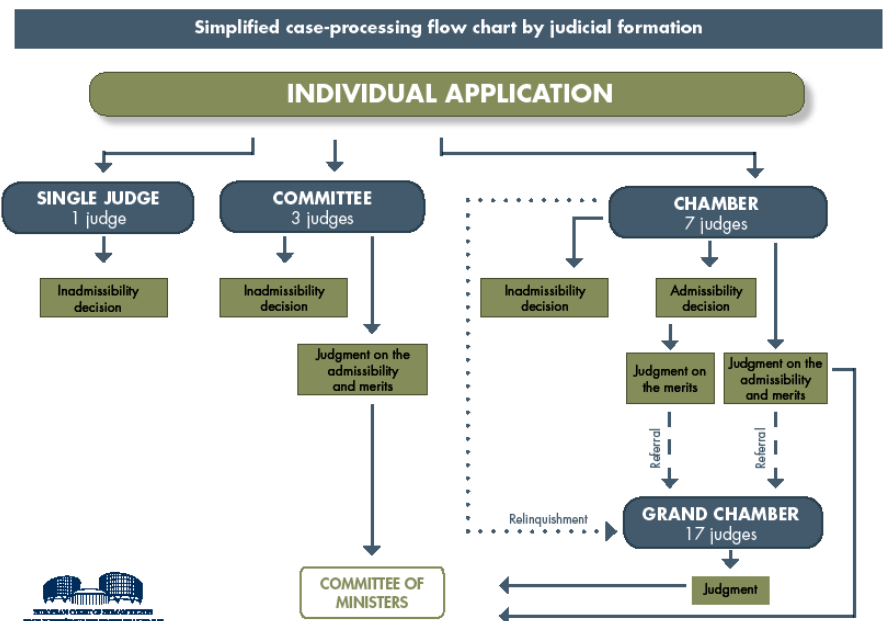
Article 1 of Protocol No. 12 - General prohibition of discrimination

You cannot be discriminated against by public authorities for reasons of, for example, your skin colour, sex, language, political or religious beliefs, or origins.

European Court of Human Rights

The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), also known as the Strasbourg Court, is an international court of the Council of Europe which interprets the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The court hears applications alleging that a contracting state has breached one or more of the human rights enumerated in the convention or its optional protocols to which a member state is a party.

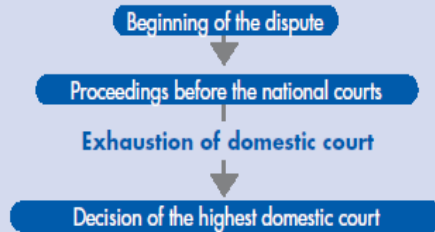
European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) processes two primary types of applications: individual applications brought by persons or groups against a state, and inter-State applications brought by one member state against another.



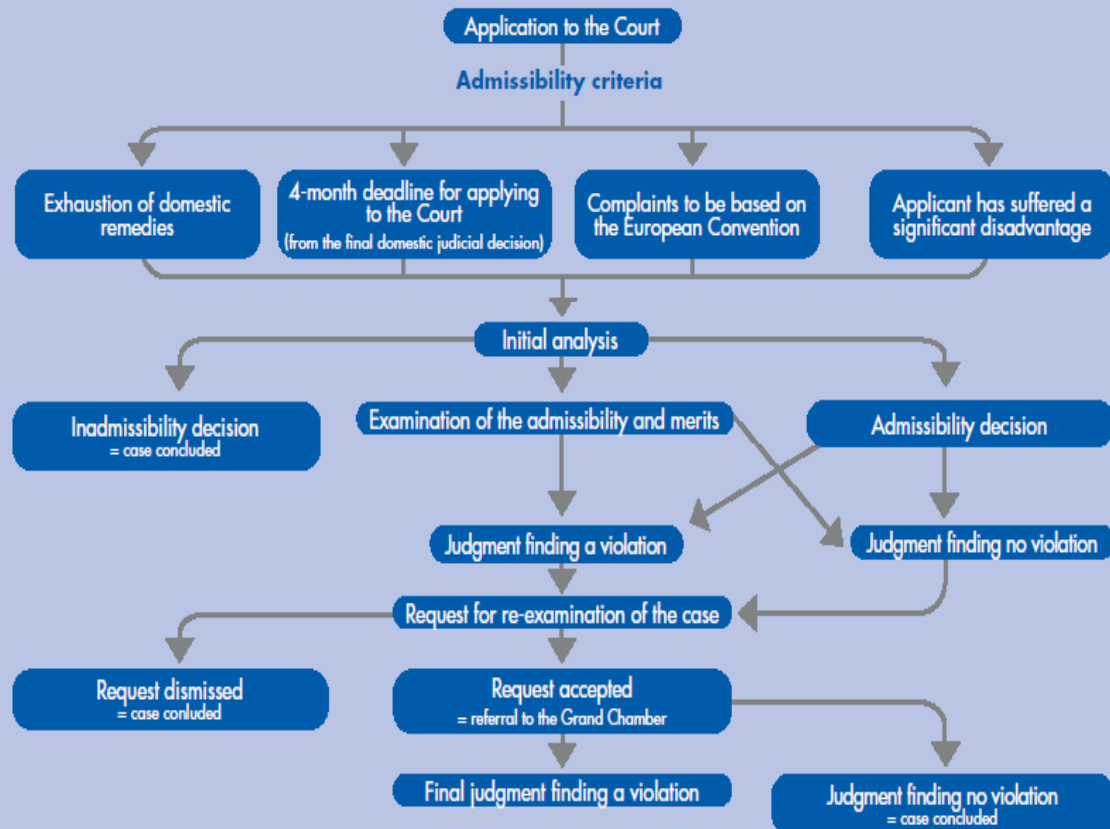
If you decide to apply to the Court as an individual, please ensure that your application complies with Rule 47 of the Rules of Court, which sets out the information and documents that must be provided.

More information: <https://www.echr.coe.int/apply-to-the-court>

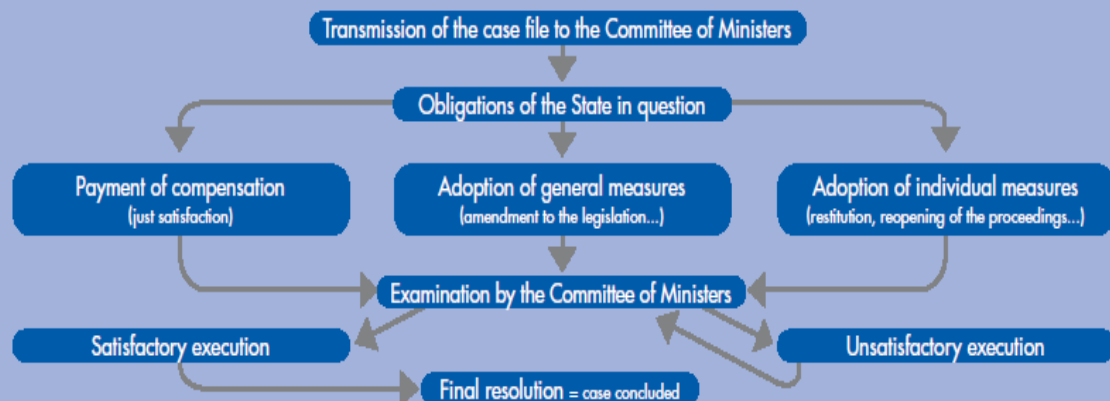
Proceedings at national level



Proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights



Execution of judgment



Freedom/right of association

Freedom of association encompasses both an individual's right to join or leave groups voluntarily, the right of the group to take collective action to pursue the interests of its members, and the right of an association to accept or decline membership based on certain criteria. It can be described as the right of a person coming together with other individuals to collectively express, promote, pursue and/or defend common interests.

Freedom of association is both an individual right and a collective right, guaranteed in democratic legal systems, including e.g. article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and international law, including articles 20 and 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 22 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work by the International Labour Organization also ensures these rights.

Freedom of association is manifested also through the right to join a trade union, to engage in free speech or to participate in debating societies, political parties, or any other club or association, including religious denominations and organizations, fraternities, and sport clubs and not to be compelled to belong to an association.

The courts and delegated officers of local jurisdictions may impose restrictions on any of the rights of a convicted criminal as a condition of a legal stipulation. Rights to freedom of association and freedom of assembly are waived under certain circumstances, such as a guilty plea or conviction, restraining orders and probationer's search and seizure procedures.

Freedom of expression

Freedom of expression means that everyone has the right to express their opinions freely. A fundamental right that is part of the political freedoms.

Freedom of expression encompasses several freedoms, and is therefore considered as a 'mother right'. These include freedom of speech and the press, the right to be informed, the freedom to obtain information, the freedom of artistic and literary creation, the freedom to disseminate artistic creation, the freedom of scientific creation, the freedom to teach scientific knowledge, freedom of conscience and religion, and the right to assembly. The essence of freedom of expression is that an individual can freely communicate with others, thereby

shaping their opinions. This contributes to the social dialogue on public issues, the expression of different views, and thus the activation and information of citizens.

Freedom of information

We have a fundamental right to freely access, collect, create, disseminate and share information. Freedom of information, as a fundamental right, concerns the knowledge and dissemination of data of public interest. Its aim is to strengthen democratic control over the exercise of public power, the transparency of public institutions and to enable citizens to make informed decisions.

We have the right to express our opinions freely and to have access to different points of view. This includes the freedom of the media, which has the task of reporting on events and providing the public with a wide range of information. From the perspective of civil freedom, in addition to freedom of information, the state must also ensure another fundamental right, the protection of personal data. We have the right to have our personal data respected and protected from unauthorized use.

Freedom of information lawsuit

It is a legal procedure in which individuals or organizations apply to a court with the aim of forcing public authorities to hand over and publish information that is important to society.

In such lawsuits, the applicants claim that public authorities have unlawfully denied or restricted access to the information they have requested, or to public data. Public data lawsuits allow the court to decide whether the information in question should indeed be made public, whether it is considered public data or public data in the public interest, i.e. whether interested parties can be granted the right to access it. These procedures serve transparency and the protection of the public interest.

Free mandate

In today's terminology, a mandate (or representative mandate) generally means the mandate given by the voters to represent them through an election, the authorization to act and its legal framework.

A representative's mandate (mandate, authorization) can be binding or free.

The free mandate usually means that a representative cannot be instructed and, after being elected, is not bound by the will of the voters.

Freedom of speech

Freedom of speech is a fundamental human right that allows individuals and groups to express their ideas, information, and opinions without government censorship, interference, or punishment. It covers spoken and written words, art, media, and symbolic actions like peaceful protests.

This right is recognized in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in numerous other international and national legal documents. It is an important part of democratic societies, as it allows citizens to actively participate in public affairs and to critically examine the actions of their government.

Habeas corpus

Habeas corpus is generally enforced via writ, and accordingly referred to as a writ of *habeas corpus*. The writ of *habeas corpus* is one of what are called the "extraordinary", "common law", or "prerogative writs", which were historically issued by the English courts in the name of the monarch to control inferior courts and public authorities within the kingdom. The writ was a legal mechanism that allowed a court to exercise jurisdiction and guarantee the rights of all the Crown's subjects against arbitrary arrest and detention.

Humanitarian intervention

Forcible intervention by states in the affairs of another state to prevent or deter widespread deprivation of human rights in the target state, which the state in question is either unable or unwilling to protect.

Hugo Grotius stated in the 17th century that law precedes the state. If law precedes the state and citizens are not considered the property of a given country, then it is also legitimate for one or more states to use force to stop another state from acting in a way that is contrary to natural law. Since humanitarian intervention is also the launching of a war, that is, killing people in order to protect other people, there are many questions and debates about how interventions relate to other international rules, such as state sovereignty, non-intervention, or the principle of non-violence.

Impartiality

Impartiality means being unbiased, not favoring or disfavoring different interests or parties. Impartiality is a fundamental principle of justice, decision-making, dispute resolution, and fair treatment.

Impartiality contributes to the rule of law by ensuring that people are treated fairly and equally and that institutions are unbiased towards different interests. Judges should not judge cases in a biased and partisan manner.

Independence of courts

The fundamental principle of a democratic state governed by the rule of law is the separation of powers. The independence of courts and judges, at least from the legislative and executive branches, is a guarantee that the activities of the courts are subordinated exclusively to the law.

Judges may not engage in political activities, be members of political parties, or engage in any activity that may result in bias. In the absence of judicial independence, judges may be arbitrarily appointed, transferred, or dismissed; and the arbitrary appointment, transfer, or dismissal of judges undermines the independence of the judiciary and the citizens' right to a fair trial and a lawful judge.

Judicial accountability can reinforce judicial independence as it could show that judges have proper reasons and rationales for arriving at a particular decision.

Judges are directly elected in some cases, including Mexican judicial elections, Bolivian judicial elections and judicial elections in the U.S. states.

Infringement procedure

The infringement procedure is a legal mechanism of the European Union that the European Commission uses against Member States when a Member State fails to fulfil its obligations under EU law. The procedure aims to ensure equality of rights between Member States and the uniform application of EU law.

If a Member State fails to fulfil its obligations under EU law, infringes an EU regulation or decision, or fails to transpose EU directives, the European Commission will issue a letter of

formal notice to the Member State. In this letter, it draws attention to the alleged infringement and asks the Member State to remedy the situation. If the Member State fails to take the necessary measures, the European Commission will send a letter of formal notice to the Member State.

It sets out in detail the breach of EU law and requests that the situation be remedied. If the Member State continues to fail to fulfil its obligations, the European Commission may refer the case to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). The CJEU examines it and, if it finds that there has been a breach, decides on the correct application of the law. Hundreds of infringement proceedings are launched each year, but only a fraction of them reach the CJEU.

Jury

Jury is legal institution in which a group of laypersons participate in deciding cases brought to trial. Its exact characteristics and powers depend on the laws and practices of the countries, provinces, or states in which it is found, and there is considerable variation. Basically, however, it recruits laypersons at random from the widest population for the trial of a particular case and allows them to deliberate in secrecy, to reach a decision by a vote, and to present its verdict without giving reasons. At present most jurisdictions exempt some groups from jury service (e.g., police officers, lawyers, doctors, etc.) and jurisdictions excuse jurors if the service imposes undue hardship.

Historically, there were requirements of property and competence for jury service. The genuine random selection of jurors from the general population (to achieve a cross section of the community) gained ground and became the principle of selection in the federal courts and most state courts. Regardless of the prevalence of the above mentioned general practice present day formation of competence criteria besides or instead of the general selection has no reason to be an excluded option. Basic reasoning skills, specified knowledge of required laws or selected knowledge material from e.g. criminal psychology, crime statistics and / or general criminology can be required to be presented with test results above the predetermined expected value.

The set can be created by automatically selecting individuals who meet the criteria, or by using a jury selection method that is based on volunteer applicants. The latter option either allows a trial without a jury to be held in the absence of a sufficient number of volunteer jurors, or, in

the absence of a sufficient number of volunteer jurors, creates a jury using automatic, non-volunteer selection from a specified group or from the general public.

Advisory jury

An advisory jury is a non-binding jury empaneled by a judge to provide an opinion on factual issues during a trial. Unlike ordinary juries, whose verdicts are binding, an advisory jury's findings serve only to inform the judge, who remains the final arbiter of fact and law. In the United States federal courts, advisory juries may be used in actions "not triable of right by a jury" under Rule 39(c)(1).

Policy jury

Citizens' assembly is a group of people selected by lottery from the general population to deliberate on important public questions so as to exert an influence. Other names and variations of deliberative mini-publics include citizens' jury, citizens' panel, people's panel, people's jury, policy jury, consensus conference and citizens' convention.

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A citizens' assembly uses elements of a jury to create public policy. Usually the members are from a representative cross-section of the public, and are provided with time, resources and a broad range of viewpoints to learn deeply about an issue. Through skilled facilitation, the assembly members weigh trade-offs and work to find common ground on a shared set of recommendations.

Citizens' assemblies can function at a higher quality, be more representative and deliberative than public engagement, polls, legislatures or ballot initiatives.

They also have added advantages in issues where politicians have a conflict of interest, such as initiatives that will not show benefits before the next election or decisions that impact the types of income politicians can receive. They also are particularly well-suited to complex issues with trade-offs and values-driven dilemmas.

Kleptocracy

Kleptocracy is a political system in which those in power focus primarily on increasing their own wealth, even though this is done at the expense of the institutional system and common resources.

The word was coined in the early 19th century by combining the ancient Greek words *kleptes*, meaning thief, and *kratos*, meaning power, rule. The word itself means “thief rule.” Kleptocracy is the highest level of political corruption – there is no higher, or rather lower, than this. In a kleptocracy, the primary goal of those in power is theft, the plundering of others, and most notably the embezzlement and embezzlement of public property using the state.

Kleptocracy usually tries to hide its essence and present itself as something else, recently, for example, as some kind of (e.g. real, controlled, Christian, sometimes illiberal) democracy or even a people's state. Kleptocracy is associated with autocratic or dictatorial exercise of power. The lack of democratic checks and balances under the rule of law makes it easier for those in power to commit a series of thefts, as well as to cover up crimes and ensure that they remain without consequences (impunity).

Lawsuit

A lawsuit is the initiation of a legal proceeding in which the plaintiff applies to the court to enforce his or her claim or rights.

In the statement of claim, the plaintiff details the facts, events, and circumstances of the case. It states what the plaintiff is seeking from the court. This may be compensation, a legal order, recognition, restitution, or other legal claim. It identifies the legal rules, principles, or precedents on which the plaintiff bases his or her legal claim. It includes evidence or documents that support his or her claims and help the court consider the case.

By filing a lawsuit, the plaintiff officially initiates legal proceedings, and the court then hears the parties and decides the case.

Legal certainty

One of the requirements of the rule of law. Legal certainty is a fundamental principle of international and national law, which requires that the law be clear, precise and unambiguous, and that its legal consequences be foreseeable.

Legal certainty is based on the principle of legitimate expectations, which means that the law must be formulated in such a way that it is clear to legal subjects. This requires that the public be provided with sufficient information to enable parties to understand the provisions of the law and to comply with it. Legal certainty is also linked to the prohibition of retroactive effect, which prohibits the application of the law to events that occurred before the law was introduced. Legal certainty is linked to transparency, fairness and the reasonable management of the expectations of all members of society.

Mandate

In today's terminology, a mandate (or representative mandate) generally means the mandate given by the voters to represent them through an election, the authorization to act and its legal framework.

A representative's mandate (mandate, authorization) can be binding or free. In the former case, he is obliged to seek and represent the will of the voters in decisions, in the latter he has no such obligation.

Media pluralism

The principle of media pluralism is intended to ensure that the media is diverse and not concentrated in the hands of a single owner or interest group. Media pluralism supports social diversity by presenting different perspectives, opinions and using different sources of information.

Media pluralism is an important element of democratic societies, as diverse media helps the free and balanced flow of information and thus enables voters to make informed decisions, including in elections and referendums.

If the media becomes too concentrated, it can lead to filtering and distortion of information and reduce the possibility of expressing different opinions and points of view.

NGO

An NGO, or non-governmental organization, is considered a civil organization independent of the state that was established to support the common good and works for social welfare and the benefit of the community.

Although NGOs operate independently of government influence, they may receive government funding if they perform a public function. They are typically non-profit organizations that operate at the local, national or international level in areas such as community organizing, humanitarian, social, health assistance, legal and political advocacy, community empowerment, sustainable development or education and capacity building.

NGOs are critical parts of modern society, often filling gaps that governments and the private sector cannot effectively address. One of the defining roles of NGOs is to act as advocates for social change. Through advocacy work, NGOs raise awareness of issues such as human rights, the environment and social justice, and strive for systemic change that can improve people's lives more broadly. NGOs can be based on purely voluntary (unpaid) work, but also on professional (paid) activity, or a combination of both.

NGOs, as civilian monitors of power, can also play a key role.

Ombudsman

It is a constitutional institution widespread throughout Europe and plays a significant role in national fundamental rights protection systems.

It has many variants. Its primary function is to initiate investigations based on complaints against state bodies – independently of them – to draw the attention of the body concerned to unlawful practices, to initiate the correction of errors and to represent the rights of the complainant. In most countries, its decisions do not have legally binding force, but it can formulate recommendations.

President of the Republic

In countries with a republican system, not a monarchical one, the head of state. In all cases, it is an elected position, not hereditary. It can be directly or indirectly elected. In some

presidential systems, the president of the republic is also the head of the executive branch (for example, in the United States or Argentina).

Prosecutor's Office

A prosecutor's office is a government legal department responsible for investigating criminal acts, deciding whether to charge suspects, and trying cases against accused individuals on behalf of the public or the state.

Its primary duties are investigation, prosecution and execution of sentences. In addition, it may have public law duties, such as protecting the public interest and inspecting prisons.

There are several types of prosecution office models:

- a. **subordinate prosecutorial model**, in which the prosecution is subordinate to the executive branch, with the government controlling the prosecution through the Department of Justice (e.g. United States);
- b. **Independent prosecutorial model**, in which there is no hierarchical relationship between the prosecutor's office and the government, and the prosecutor's office is at least organizationally an independent judicial institution (e.g. Russia).
- c. In the **judicial prosecutorial model**, the office operates as an independent part of the court system and is theoretically completely separate from politicians to prevent political interference in criminal cases, this structure can be found in Italy, Spain and Colombia.

Protection of personal data

Every individual has the right to have the personal information they provide or that is recorded about them respected and handled appropriately. This human right is fundamental to the protection of privacy and the guarantee of individual freedoms.

Personal data can only belong to a living natural person, so legal entities are not entitled to the protection of personal data. Information processed, collected, and used for an impermissible purpose can become arbitrary, severely restricting an individual's privacy. Unlimited informational power (whether that of the state or a large corporation) poses a threat not only to the individual, but also to society. Data protection law or data protection limits informational

power. Internationally, this right is protected by numerous conventions and laws, and individual countries have also developed data protection laws. The aim of personal data protection is to prevent the misuse of information and to ensure people's trust in organizations that process data by setting strict limits.

The European Union's data protection framework centers on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which went into effect on May 25, 2018. It sets a global benchmark for privacy rights, granting EU residents strict control over personal data with enforcement penalties reaching up to €20 million or 4% of annual global turnover.

The subject of data protection law is the person concerned (data subject), to whom the data can be linked, and whose right to information is restricted by data processing. The object of data protection law is personal data, which can be linked to the data subject. A narrower range of personal data affects the deeper sphere of an individual's private life, such as their health, political opinions, and party affiliation; these are called special, sensitive or sensitive data.

Data controller and data processor are legally distinct. The data controller is a natural or legal person, public authority, agency, or other body which alone or jointly determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data, while the data processor is a natural or legal person, public authority, agency, or other body which processes personal data on behalf of the controller.

Public

Jürgen Habermas defines the public (*Öffentlichkeit* or the "public sphere") as a realm of social life where private individuals assemble as a public to engage in open, rational-critical debate over matters of general interest, functioning independently of state authority to shape public opinion. Publicity refers to communication and relationships that exist separately from the state, the economy, and family privacy. According to Habermas, the ability of citizens to talk to each other, express their opinions, and create a space for common debate enables the emergence of opinions critical of the state. The key to publicness is truth, clarity, relevance, and honesty.

The public sphere is essential to any democracy because it serves as a forum for deliberation and exchange of ideas about how government and politics should best serve the people. Today, the public sphere operates primarily through the media and social media, creating public

opinion. Therefore, free and independent media are essential to ensuring a healthy, thriving public sphere.

Furthermore, public court hearings and oversight bodies can be important democratic elements that work with/by the public.

Public interest data

All unprotected personal data that is generated and processed during the activities of a state, local government or other public body, person or organization.

uch tasks of public interest should be considered to include: protecting the given political system, ensuring the organizational function related to public order and public security, and promoting the enforcement of fundamental rights. It is a fundamental constitutional right that everyone has the right to view and disseminate data of public interest. Anyone can request unpublished data of public interest (in other words, public data); the responsible body must justify the refusal of the request; in the event of a court case, it must prove the legality of the refusal. In the case of protecting certain interests defined by law (such as national security), it may be lawful to restrict access to data.

Public service media

Public media includes news agencies, radio, television and other digital media that aim to provide their audiences with important, credible, diverse and impartial news, entertainment and educational programs, funded and maintained by the state.

Public service media are essential in true democracies because they provide access to relevant, credible and impartial information. All citizens must have access to them. True public media also help citizens to form informed opinions in political debates and make decisions in elections.

Recallability

In political science and constitutional law, recallability refers to the legal mechanism and democratic principle that allows voters to remove an elected representative from office before their official term expires. Often executed via a popular referendum or recall election, it serves as a tool for direct public accountability, shifting power back to the constituency between standard election cycles.

Recalls appear in the constitution in ancient Athenian democracy. Recall is a legal option in many places, for example:

- a. Japan. Japanese voters “routinely” use this tool at the municipal level. If a petition receives the signatures of one-third of the city’s registered voters, a local referendum is held. A simple majority successfully removes the local leader or dissolves the entire city council.
- b. Switzerland. Switzerland does not have a nationwide recall system. However, seven of the 26 cantons (states) – including Bern, Ticino, Uri, and more recently Aargau and Geneva – have specifically defined, individual recall forms. Unlike the American system, which targets specific individuals, Swiss cantonal recalls are impersonal, collective withdrawals. Citizens collect signatures (ranging from 2% to 30% of the electorate) to demand a vote on the immediate dissolution of the entire cantonal parliament or executive cabinet.
- c. Mexico. Mexico offers a unique, modern case study in executive-level recalls. In 2019, the country amended its constitution to allow for a referendum on presidential recall halfway through a president’s six-year term.
- d. Peru. Peru has allowed the direct recall of regional governors, provincial mayors and district councilors. Organizers must collect valid signatures and fingerprints from at least 25% of registered voters in the municipality or region. These are strictly verified and authenticated by RENIEC (National Registry of Identity and Civil Status).

Referendum

A referendum is the enforcement of the will of the voters, a direct instrument of democracy (people's rule) and the general and "strongest" form of exercising power. It plays the most significant role of checks and balances against the arbitrariness of public power.

Representative democracy

A violation of rights is when someone's legally guaranteed rights are violated or restricted.

In such a system, eligible citizens participate in elections to select representatives who then make decisions on public matters for them. According to the Scottish Lord Henry Brougham

(1778–1868), the essence of representation is “that the people may delegate their power for a limited time to representatives of their own choosing, who may effectively perform the functions of government which would otherwise be performed by the people themselves.”

In a representative democracy, elected representatives are accountable to their constituents, and new elections must be held at regular intervals, where the people can decide whether to continue to support them or not. This political system, typical of modern, large-populated states, was more effective than its predecessor, participatory democracy, where all decisions were directly in the hands of those with political rights. Representative democracy ensures popular representation in larger territorial units, and is more effective in preventing strife and warfare between political opponents.

The principle of representation is not only enforced at the parliamentary level, but in democracies it also plays a role in the operation of local authorities, public institutions (e.g. schools), professional and employee interest groups, and sometimes even some churches.

Request for mercy

A request for clemency (pardon application) may be submitted for the termination of criminal proceedings, the remission or reduction of a sentence or measure that has not yet been executed, and exemption from the disadvantages associated with a criminal record.

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Right of assembly

Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association at all levels, in particular in political, trade union and civic matters, which implies the right of everyone to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his or her interests.

This also includes political parties at Union level contribute to expressing the political will of the citizens of the Union.

Freedom of assembly is included in, among others, the following human rights instruments:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights – Article 20

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – Article 21
- European Convention on Human Rights – Article 11

American Convention on Human Rights – Article 15

Right to petition

Everyone has the right to address state bodies and authorities with a written proposal or complaint, either alone or together. This is the right to petition.

The right to petition applies to everyone, not just citizens of a given country. The more people who sign a petition, the more likely it is to be successful.

The right to petition is a first-generation human right. It is a tool of direct democracy. It helps even unorganized individuals to express their grievances and opinions to the state. The right to petition is closely linked to other civil and political rights that are essential to direct democracy, such as the right to association and freedom of expression. The right to petition is often associated with the right to assembly, as petitions are often associated with demonstrations and protests.

Right to vote

In the sense of state organization, the right to vote is one of the instruments of democratic representative power exercise. In the sense of fundamental rights, the right to vote is a fundamental right, the right to political participation, and ensures the participation of citizens in power.

The right to vote provides citizens with the opportunity to express their political preferences and to choose the individuals or parties that will represent them in decision-making bodies. An important element of democratic suffrage is that voting is based on free choice, free from any intimidation or influence, and that the vote cast is secret. The condition for exercising the right to vote is the holding of regular elections, where citizens can exercise their fundamental right to vote at a predetermined time. A truly democratic election exists when the people were able to freely designate the election forms and issues and freely choose from them what they wanted to vote on in the future.

It was not considered a fundamental right until the 20th century, or even a privilege. And although it is considered a fundamental right in democracies today, it does not belong to the classic group of human rights (the right to life, human dignity, and protection of personality).

In democratic systems, the voting right is usually exercised by universal, equal, direct and secret ballot. Interestingly, the short-lived Corsican Republic, which existed between 1755 and 1769, was the first to grant limited universal suffrage to all its citizens over the age of 25. New Zealand was the first nation to extend universal suffrage to women in 1893.

Rule of law

According to the European Commission's interpretation, in states governed by the rule of law, all public powers are exercised only within legal limits, in accordance with democratic values and fundamental rights, and under the supervision of independent and impartial courts.

The rule of law includes the following principles and practices, meaning that without their enforcement, the state does not operate in a manner that is based on the rule of law:

- legality, which entails a transparent, accountable, democratic and pluralistic legislative process;
- legal certainty;
- the executive power, the prohibition of arbitrariness of the government;
- effective judicial protection by independent and impartial courts, including respect for fundamental rights;
- separation of powers; and
- equality before the law.

The Council of Europe's constitutional advisory body, the European Commission for Democracy and Law (better known as the Venice Commission), expects states to meet six criteria from a rule of law perspective. These are:

The Council of Europe's constitutional advisory body, the European Commission for Democracy and Law (better known as the Venice Commission), expects states to meet six criteria from a rule of law perspective. These are:

- legality, • legal certainty, • prohibition of arbitrariness, • independence of the judiciary, • enforcement of human rights, and • prohibition of discrimination.

Rule of law conditions

The conditionality mechanism is a legal instrument of the European Union that allows the suspension or restriction of the payment of EU funds if a Member State violates the EU's fundamental values, in particular the rule of law.

The EU regulation establishing the mechanism was adopted in 2020 by the European Parliament and the Council, consisting of the top leaders of the member states. This was a response to the systematic violations of EU principles (such as the independent judiciary or the fight against corruption) in some member states (most notably Hungary and then Poland). Thanks to the Rule of Law Conditionality Regulation, since 2021 the EU budget has enjoyed increased protection in cases where breaches of the rule of law principles adversely affect or threaten the EU's financial interests. The main objective of the mechanism is to protect the EU budget and sound financial management.

State

The state is an institution of power that exercises complete and exclusive authority over a given geographical area and the population living there.

The state has a monopoly on the use of legal force within its own territory. In addition to population and territory, sovereignty, i.e. the possession of supreme power, was also considered a defining conceptual element of the state. It has been known since ancient times that we cannot speak of a state without supreme power, and a fundamental question is who owns this supreme power.

A specific form of community, political association of people, which creates the order of social coexistence. Its two factors are power and law, from which the concepts of the state of power and the state of law can be explained. States primarily have a constitution, human rights are mostly operated by the state, they can be enforced mostly through the state.

Strike, right to strike

The right to strike is a fundamental collective labor action that allows employees to stop work to press for better pay, safety, or terms. On May 21, 2026, the International Court of Justice issued a landmark advisory opinion ruling that the right to strike is protected under the International Labour Organization's Convention No. 87.

A strike can be a labor struggle, a collective temporary work stoppage, by which employees exert pressure on the employer to enforce the fulfillment of specific demands in order to ensure their common economic and social interests. A strike is a necessary part of a social constitutional state. It can be initiated by employee groups and trade unions alike.

They also often strike to support the goals of other workers, even those in remote work areas. A general strike may very rarely take place to achieve some general labor or political goal.

The right to strike is a second-generation human right, i.e. it belongs to the family of economic, social and cultural fundamental rights, although its constitutional protection also follows from first-generation fundamental rights such as the right to association, assembly or expression.

The right to strike or industrial action is generally granted to all employees, but may be restricted in the case of certain groups if the obstruction of access to services endangers the life, health or safety of the population. The guarantee of the right to strike is that the employer cannot force anyone not to strike against their will, cannot sanction the employee for participating in the strike, and cannot terminate the employment relationship.

Industrial action, a collective temporary work stoppage, whereby employees exert pressure on the employer to enforce the fulfillment of specific demands in order to secure their common economic and social interests. A strike is a necessary part of a social constitutional state. It can be initiated by employee groups and trade unions alike.

Violation of rights

A human rights violation occurs when a state or non-state actor breaches, ignores, or actively denies the basic freedoms and protections to which every person is entitled under international frameworks like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

A violation of rights is when someone's legally guaranteed rights are violated or restricted.

A violation or disadvantage affecting fundamental rights is, for example, a violation of personal freedom, discrimination, violation of freedom of speech, etc. A violation can be committed by anyone, including individuals, businesses, government agencies, institutions and other legal entities. Depending on the specific case, a violation may have civil, criminal and/or administrative consequences in order to compensate the victim and restore their rights.

War crimes, crimes

War crimes are acts that violate international humanitarian law (the law applicable in war). War crimes include acts such as the targeted killing of civilians and the wounded, torture, sexual violence, ethnic cleansing, and other serious violations committed in times of war. Legal responsibility for war crimes is not limited to individuals, as a state can also be held responsible for war crimes.

In recent decades, two major international criminal tribunals have operated, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). The ICTY investigated war crimes committed in Yugoslavia, while the ICTR dealt with crimes committed during the Rwandan genocide. One of the most significant contemporary institutions is the International Criminal Court (ICC), established in 2002 under the Rome Statute. The ICC operates as a permanent international criminal court and has jurisdiction over war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. The establishment and operation of these institutions symbolizes the international community's commitment to combating war crimes and ensuring that perpetrators do not go unpunished for violations of international law. These institutions not only provide legal proceedings, but also contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.



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