



## The Right to be free from Discrimination

The right to be free from discrimination is one of the 16 human rights (also called Articles) in the Human Rights Act. It is Article 14.



This is your right not to be treated worse than others for **any reason** such as age, race, gender, disability, or hair colour, or for **combined reasons**, such as being a young, black, disabled person.



This right also protects you if staff in public services do not treat you differently when you are in a different situation to others, or you are asked to follow rules which have a worse impact on you.



This right has to be joined onto another one of your rights in the Human Rights Act, such as your right to life or your right to liberty.

## **When could the right to be free from discrimination matter to you?**



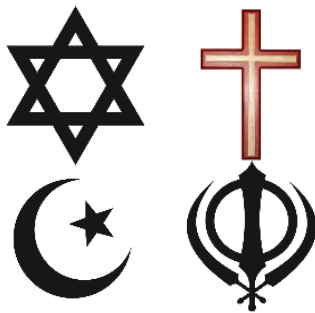
If a doctor decides not to treat your physical health problem because you have mental health issues or a learning disability.



If you are being bullied.



If a health or care professional decides you should live somewhere, like a care home or a mental health unit, just because of your disability or age.



When rules about school uniform do not respect everyone's different religions.

## Can your right to be free from discrimination be restricted?

**Yes**, sometimes.



Staff in public services can treat people differently as long as they can show that it is **right and fair for everyone**.



You can talk to staff in a public body about what they decided or did. You can ask them to tell you how this was **right and fair for everyone**.



If you think changes could be made, then you can tell staff in a public body.

## What do staff in public bodies have to do to protect my right?

They have to **RESPECT** your right.



This means staff in public bodies should not treat you worse than others for any reason.

They have to **PROTECT** your right.



This means if staff in public bodies know you are being treated worse for some reason, they must try to stop this from happening.

They have to **FULFIL** your right.



This means that if something goes wrong, staff need to find out why and try to stop things going wrong again.

## What about the Equality Act?



The Equality Act is another law which protects you from being treated unfairly.



The Equality Act applies to public bodies AND private bodies, such as shops and restaurants. The Human Rights Act applies only to public bodies.



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The Equality Act protects you from unfair treatment for nine specific reasons, including disability and sexual orientation. The Human Rights Act protects you from unfair treatment for **any reason or combined reasons.**



You might be able to use the Human Rights Act or the Equality Act or both of these laws to ask questions when you think you have been treated unfairly.

## Robert's story

Robert has a learning disability. He gets support from the local authority, and his support worker helps him and other people to do the social activities they want to do.



Robert is gay, and he asked his support worker to help him go to a gay pub.



Robert's support worker said no, even though other people using the service were supported to go to pubs of their choice.



Robert knew he could challenge the decision by talking to staff about his right to private life and his right to be free from discrimination.



You can read more about your right to private life [here](#).