

# A BILL OF RESPONSIBILITIES

## FOR THE YOUTH OF SOUTH AFRICA

### Preamble:

*I accept the call to responsibility that comes with the many rights and freedoms that I have been privileged to inherit from the sacrifice and suffering of those who came before me. I appreciate that the rights enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa are inseparable from my duties and responsibilities to others. Therefore I accept that with every right comes a set of responsibilities.*

### MY RESPONSIBILITY IN ENSURING THE RIGHT...



South Africa is a diverse nation, and equality does not mean uniformity, or that we are all the same.

Our country's motto: *!KE E: /XARRA // KE*, meaning "Diverse people unite", calls on all of us to build a common sense of belonging and national pride, celebrating the very diversity which makes us who we are. It also calls on us to extend our friendship and warmth to all nations and all the peoples of the world in our endeavour to build a better world.

### TO HUMAN DIGNITY

- treat people with reverence, respect and dignity as we all belong to the human race.
- to be kind, compassionate and sensitive to every human being, including greeting them warmly and speaking to them courteously.

### TO EQUALITY

- treat every person equally and fairly.
- not to discriminate unfairly against anyone on the basis of race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, class, language or birth.

### TO WORK

- work hard and do our best in everything we do.
- recognise that living a good and successful life involves hard work, and that anything worthwhile only comes with effort.
- this right must never be used for exploitation by exposing children to child labour.

### TO OWN PROPERTY

- respect the property of others.
- take pride in and protect both private and public property, and not to take what belongs to others.
- give generously to charity and good causes, where I am able to do so.

### TO FREEDOM AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON

- not hurt, bully or intimidate others or allow others to do so.
- solve any conflict in a peaceful manner.
- to take action to protect my safety and the safety of others.

### TO LIVE IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

- promote sustainable development, and the conservation and preservation of the natural environment.
- protect animal and plant-life, as well as the responsibility to prevent pollution.
- not to litter, and to ensure that our homes, schools, streets and other public places are kept neat and tidy.
- in the context of climate change, we are also obliged to ensure we do not waste scarce resources like water and electricity.

### TO FREEDOM OF RELIGION, BELIEF AND OPINION

- allow others to choose and practise the religion of their choice, and to hold their own beliefs and opinions, without fear or prejudice.
- respect the beliefs and opinions of others, and their right to express these, even when we may strongly disagree with these beliefs and opinions. That is what it means to be a free democracy.

### TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

- express views which do not advocate hatred, or are based on prejudices with regard to race, ethnicity, gender or religion.
- we must therefore take responsibility to ensure this right is not abused by ourselves or others, to not tell or spread lies, and to ensure others are not insulted or have their feelings hurt.

### TO CITIZENSHIP

- to participate actively in the activities of the community and affairs of the country.
- obey the laws of our country, ensuring that others do so as well.
- contribute in every possible way to making South Africa a great country.

### TO LIFE

- protect and defend the lives of others.
- not endanger the lives of others by carrying dangerous weapons or by acting recklessly or disobeying our rules and laws.
- live a healthy life, by exercising, eating correctly, by not smoking, taking alcohol, or taking drugs, or indulging in irresponsible behaviour that may result in my being infected or infecting others with diseases such as HIV and AIDS.

### TO FAMILY OR PARENTAL CARE

- honour and respect my parents, and to help them.
- to be kind and loyal to my family, to my brothers and sisters, my grandparents and all my relatives.
- recognise that love means long-term commitment, and the responsibility to establish strong and loving families.

### TO EDUCATION

- attend school regularly, to learn, and to work hard.
- cooperate respectfully with teachers and fellow learners.
- adhere to the rules and the Code of Conduct of the school.

### AND PLACES ON MY TEACHERS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO:

- promote and reflect the culture of learning and teaching in giving effect to this right.
- to eliminate unprofessional behaviour.

### AND CONCURRENTLY PLACES ON MY PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO:

- ensure that I attend school and receive their support.
- ensure that I participate in school activities.
- create a home environment conducive to studying.

**Conclusion:** *I accept the call of this Bill of Responsibilities, and commit to taking my rightful place as an active, responsible citizen of South Africa. By assuming these responsibilities I will contribute to building the kind of society which will make me proud to be a South African.*

**This Bill outlines the responsibilities that flow from each of the rights enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.**



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Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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