

Equality and Human Rights

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY SAINT HELENA EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



OCTOBER 2020

This month in Saint history for human rights.

1st October 1688: Elizabeth Cothorne pleads to Council she cannot pay her debt due to her slaves having died. Council concludes she killed her slaves by overwork and ill-treatment, but then debates only the debt and not her treatment of the slaves.

24th October 1906: Half Tree Hollow's water supply dangerous to health with no finance for improvement.

25th October 1917: The St Helena Guardian is censored so the editor, Benjamin Grant, closes the paper for two years.
<http://sainthelenaisland.info/>

OUR CONSTITUTION

The constitution is seen as the highest legal guarantee of people's well-being and interests, as well as a fundamental tool to shape the life of the society and to organise the State. Gaps in the implementation of human rights at the domestic level, often originate from shortcomings in the area of constitutional law. Therefore, constitutional amendments should appropriately reflect human rights and fundamental freedoms. Constitution-making presents moments of great opportunity to create a common vision of the future of the state, the results of which can have profound and lasting impacts on peace and stability. Our Constitutional reform has to be transparent and inclusive, embrace the essential elements of democracy, and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.



RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Children's rights shall be respected, protected and fulfilled in the digital environment. Innovations in digital technologies impact children's lives and their rights in ways that are wide-ranging, cumulative and interdependent. Meaningful access to digital technologies can support children to realise the full range of their civil, economic, social, cultural, environmental, political and social rights. However, if digital inclusion is not improved, already existing inequalities are likely to be exacerbated.

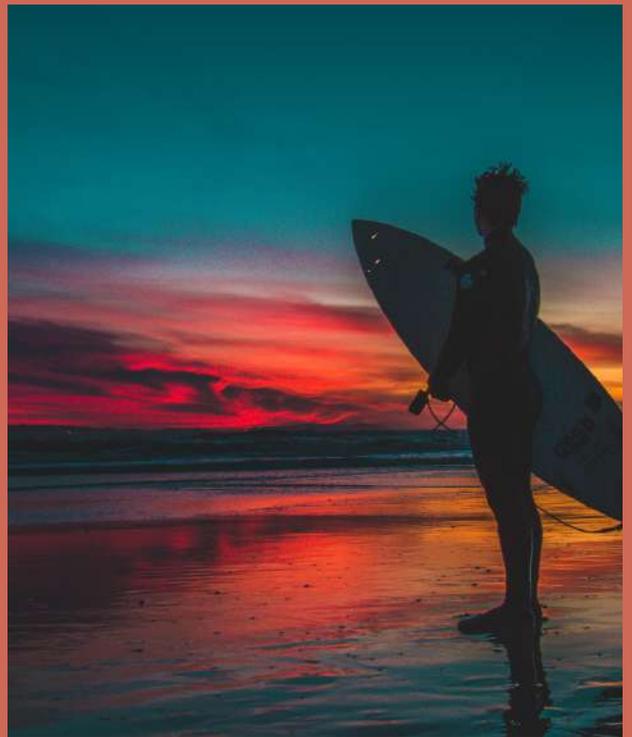


DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship. Domestic violence does not discriminate. Anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender can be a victim – or perpetrator – of domestic violence. It can happen to people who are married, living together or who are dating. It affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels. Domestic violence includes behaviors that physically harm, arouse fear, prevent a partner from doing what they wish or force them to behave in ways they do not want. It includes the use of physical and sexual violence, threats and intimidation, emotional abuse and economic deprivation. Report it, don't suffer in silence.

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

Indigenous rights includes the rights over their land, language, religion, and other elements of cultural heritage that are a part of their existence and identity as a people. There is a need for governments to establish mechanisms and processes for comprehensive dialogue and consultations with indigenous peoples to obtain their free, prior and informed consent in relation to any project that will have an impact on their territories and resources; therefore respecting the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples and ensuring they are able to exercise their rights in accordance with international human rights standards.



This month

- 1 OCTOBER. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS
- 5 OCTOBER. WORLD HABITAT DAY
- 10 OCTOBER. WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY
- 16 OCTOBER. WORLD FOOD DAY
- 17 OCTOBER. INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY
- 24 OCTOBER. UNITED NATIONS DAY

MALCOLM X: HISTORY IS A PEOPLE'S MEMORY, AND WITHOUT MEMORY, MAN IS DEMOTED TO LOWER ANIMALS.