

## ★ BEYOND CITIZENSHIP: THE RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLES ★

While this book focuses on the rights and responsibilities of US citizenship and the many paths toward it, all people—regardless of immigration status, country of residence, or country of birth—hold unimpeachable human rights, which have been outlined in the United Nations' [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), a document created in 1948. They are summarized below.

**All of us** are born free and equal  
and should treat one another with dignity and respect,  
regardless of race, gender, country, religion, language,  
political opinion, or social status.

**All of us** have the right to live as we wish,  
to be free from cruelty and enslavement,  
to have a country to which we belong,  
to move freely within and across countries,  
and to escape persecution.

**All of us** have the right to be protected by laws,  
to have those laws applied to us equally,  
and to seek justice when our rights have been violated.

**All of us**, when we are old enough,  
have the right to choose whether and whom to marry  
and to create families.

**All of us** have the right to work, to be paid fairly for that work,  
and to have rest and holidays.

**All of us** have the right to live healthy lives,  
with food, shelter, safety, and education.

**All of us** have the right to hold opinions  
and express them freely, to gather peacefully in groups,  
and to participate in and enjoy the arts.

**We, the people,**  
are the basis for government.

**All of us** have the right to participate in governing  
and to freely elect our leaders.

**No person or country** should limit these rights and freedoms  
except to ensure them for all.

