

Human Rights Policy

Policy Title	Human Rights Policy IPP017		
Unit	International Program, Habitat for Humanity Australia		
Version	Version 3.0		
Authorised by	Board of Directors		
Date endorsed	November 2012		
Reviewed	12 August 2015	Re-ratified	10 August 2015
Reviewed	26 September 2019	Re-ratified	18 May 2020

Introduction

Habitat for Humanity Australia (HFHA) is committed to supporting the common standard of rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Through HFHA's holistic approach to poverty reduction, HFHA supports the basic principle that *"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights..."* (UDHR Article 1)

Although guaranteed under the UDHR, HFHA is aware that not all individuals are able to adequately enjoy their rights and freedoms. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that HFHA's programs acknowledge and are guided by the basic principle that all individuals have a right to shelter, health, economic security and education.

Policy Statement

A human-rights based approach utilises the framework of international human rights law to govern practices in development. A human-rights based approach aims to empower individuals and communities, and strengthen the accountability of institutions to support the rights of individuals and communities.

HFHA's mission is to provide appropriate housing solutions for individuals and build sustainable communities. A right to adequate housing is articulated under Article 25 UDHR. Work towards fulfilling a right to adequate housing assists in promoting and supporting other human rights. For example, HFHA's work in provision of housing relies on a belief that such housing can assist people to move out of the poverty cycle, and support improvements in health, education and livelihood outcomes. In this way, HFHA's work also helps support human rights outside of the right to adequate housing, including the right to education, physical and mental health and economic security.



We build **strength, stability, and self-reliance** *through shelter.*

Policy in Practice

To operate within a human rights-based framework, in policy and practice HFHA will strive to ensure:

- That all individuals are recognised as equal and the holders of rights that cannot be alienated.
- Recognition that human rights are interrelated.
- That provision of housing is not discriminatory and is for everyone, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, indigeneity, disability, age, displacement, caste, gender, gender identity, sexuality, sexual orientation, poverty, class or socio-economic status.
- That individuals and communities are involved in the process of HFHA's projects, and are recognised and promoted as empowered rights holders.
- That HFHA as an organisation is accountable for the effects its work has on the rights of individuals.

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