

Human Rights Policy

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Department	Internal Program, Habitat for Humanity Australia
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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.

Purpose

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

HFHA's mission is to provide appropriate housing solutions in sustainable communities. A right to adequate housing is articulated under Article 25 of the UDHR. Work towards meeting the goal of 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 sense, HFHA's work can also help support additional human rights outside of the right to adequate housing, including the right to education and the right to attainment of the highest enjoyable standard of physical and mental health.

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 different human rights are interrelated.
- That provision of housing is not discriminatory in anyway, including due to the race, colour, sex/gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or any other status of the individuals or groups involved.
- That individuals and communities are involved in a participatory process of HFHA's project identification and implementation, and are recognised and promoted as empowered rights holders.
- That training is provided to staff and volunteers in human rights based approach to development.
- That HFHA as an organisation is accountable for the effects its work has on the rights of individuals.
- That the HFHA *Development Effectiveness Framework* underpins all HFHA program activities in achieving and evaluating impacts in terms of human rights outcomes.