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Right to Participate in the Cultural Life of the Community



In the Netherlands, the quality of life is very high. Yet, human rights are not always respected. 70 years after the UDHR, we highlight the Dutch human rights situation and the original idea of Eleanor Roosevelt that human rights matter most in small places, close to home.



Art. 1 Right to Equality



At the border and in the streets a substantial number of people are being stopped by law enforcement officers because of the color of their skin, rather than their behavior.



Art. 2

Freedom from Discrimination



The government of the Netherlands applies a different standard of living for the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom. For example, equal treatment law does not apply and a lower social security standard is used.

Art. 3

Right to Life, Liberty, Personal Security



Police officers use the chokehold method during arrests. The method is controversial and can cause fatal incidents.



Art. 4

Freedom from Slavery



Prostitution is a legal profession. Sex workers are protected by (human rights) law. At the same time, illegal trafficking and exploitation of sex workers is not sufficiently tackled by the government.

Art. 5

Freedom from Torture and Degrading Treatment



The Netherlands forcibly returns asylum seekers to war-zones like Afghanistan, where they are likely to experience torture and inhumane treatment. This is a violation of the Refugee Convention and other international human rights treaties.

Art. 6

Right to Recognition as a Person before the Law



Only 20% of people who are intellectually impaired cast their vote during elections. They are not sufficiently assisted to exert their civil rights.



Art. 7

Right to Equality before the Law



On average, male employees earn 16% more than female employees. In public institutions, the gender pay gap is 3.3%.

Art. 8

Right to Remedy by Competent Tribunal



Victims' rights have gradually been expanded. This has sometimes impaired the legal rights of suspects.

Art. 9

Freedom from Arbitrary Arrest and Exile



Undocumented migrants have unconditional basic rights like overnight shelter, food and water. However, the national government aims to make these minimum rights subject to collaboration on return.



Art. 10

Right to Fair Public Hearing



Sometimes children are ignored the right to have a lawyer during police interrogation.

Art. 11

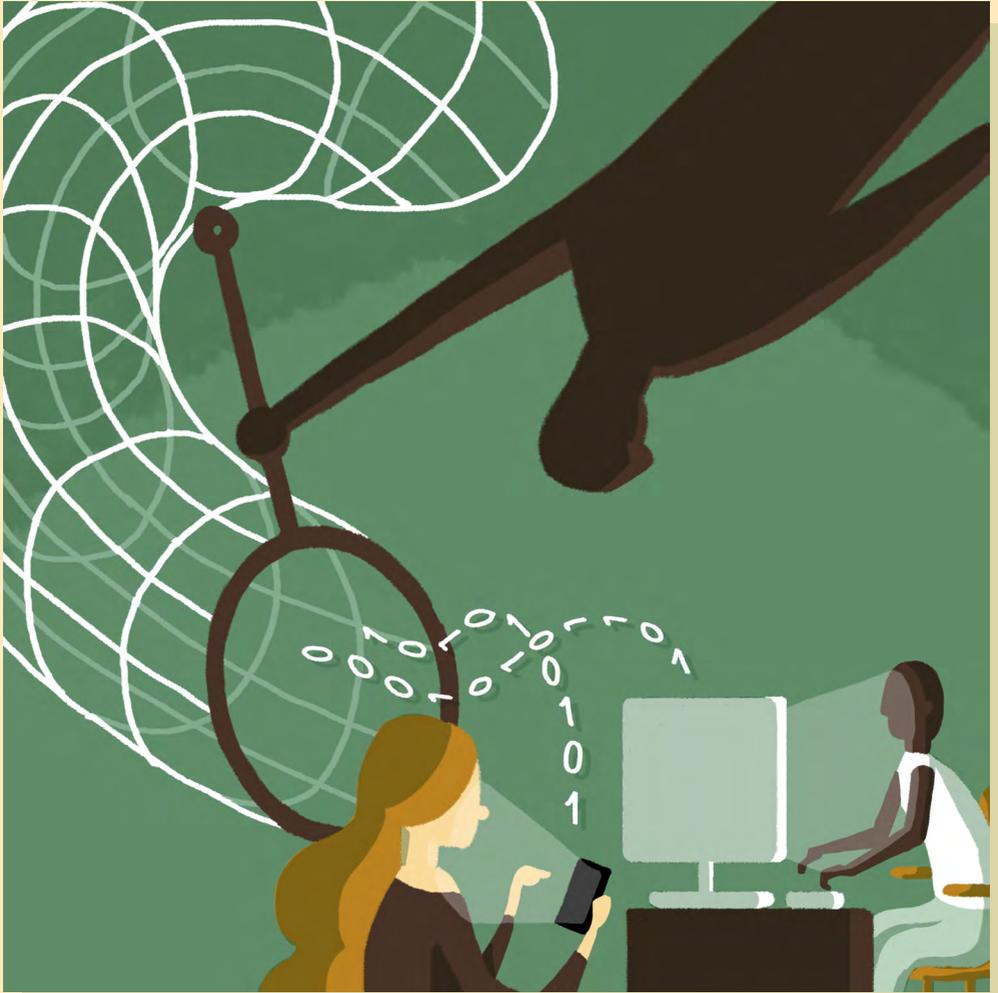
Right to be Considered Innocent until Proven Guilty



When parents can no longer take care of their child, and the child's development or safety is at risk, the child's right to be heard by a judge is not always respected.

Art. 12

Freedom from Interference with Privacy, Family, Home and Correspondence



A new law gives the intelligence services disproportionate powers to wiretap citizens. These powers pose a serious threat to the right to privacy.

Art. 13

Right to Free Movement in and out of the Country



Children who were taken to a warzone by their parents should not be held accountable for the acts of their parents. In principle they have the right to return home.

Art. 14

Right to Asylum in other Countries from Persecution



Dutch asylum policy stereotypes LGBT+ people. These stereotypes have a negative effect on their rights to asylum and freedom from persecution.

Art. 15

Right to a Nationality and the Freedom to Change It



By signing the relevant conventions, the Netherlands committed to protect stateless people and reduce statelessness. Yet, in reality few stateless people are registered as 'stateless'. Others are mainly stuck in a bureaucracy and do not have access to the rights they are entitled to.



Art. 16

Right to Marriage and Family



Dutch women held captive abroad by their husband, do not receive the government's full assistance to return home.



Art. 17

Right to Own Property



Dutch fiscal regulations such as the capital yield tax are putting disproportionate limits on the owner's right to property.



Art. 18

Freedom of Belief and Religion



Hate crimes against Muslims occur increasingly. Perpetrators often go unpunished. Victims do not file a report, because they lack access to or trust in authorities that justice will be done.



Art. 19

Freedom of Opinion and Information



Whoever insults the King can be sentenced to five years in prison or to a fine of 20.500 euros. The penalty for insulting any other citizen of the Netherlands is disproportionately and unjustifiably lower.

Art. 20

Right of Peaceful Assembly and Association



Mayors put restrictions on the right to demonstrate by imposing rally organizers to change the focus, the content or the itinerary of their event.

Art. 21

Right to Participate in Government and in Free Elections



Women are still underrepresented in Parliament and in public office.



Art. 22

Right to Social Security



Currently, unemployment benefits are made conditional to the person's willingness to accept unpaid work. It is vital that unpaid work does not diminish a person's dignity and serves as a stepping-stone to real labor market participation.

Art. 23

Right to Desirable Work and to Join Trade Unions



Young people, aged 18 to 21, are underpaid and lack job security. A zero hours contract - commonly used for young people - offers the employer a high degree of flexibility, but ignores the need for job security and basic rights.



Art. 24

Right to Rest and Leisure



The government has the responsibility to protect the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable working hours. Yet, big holdings have forced small entrepreneurs to open their shops on Sunday and work more than 53 hours per week.



Art. 25

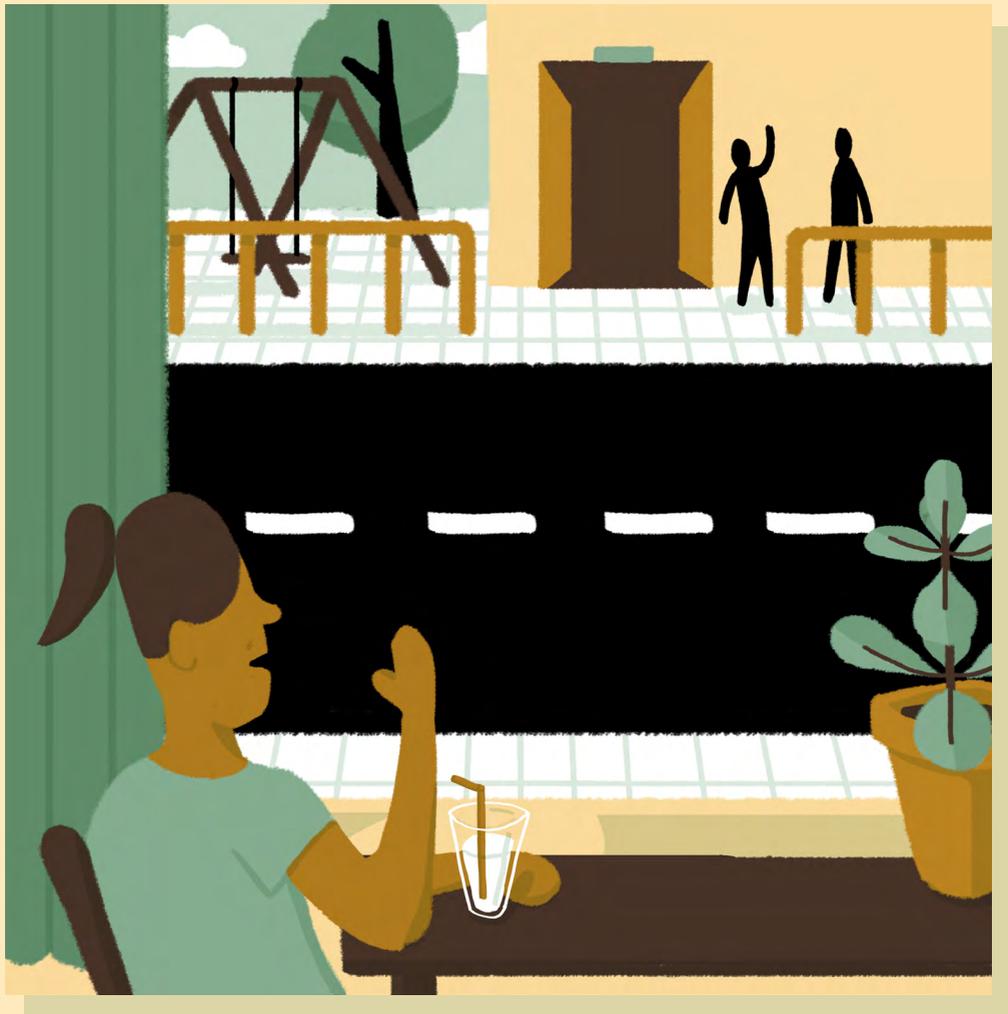
Right to Adequate Living Standard



The number of poor people in the Netherlands is on the rise. A substantial number of children e.g. lacks access to (drinking) water. They are not able to wash themselves or cook because of debt and/or poverty.



Art. 26 Right to Education



The number of primary and high-school students who are not receiving education for three months or longer is too high. The students are in need of more support for their physical and mental problems in order to return to school.

Art. 27

Right to Participate in the Cultural Life of Community



Roma, Sinti and travellers have the cultural right to reside in caravans. Yet, many local governments intend to remove all camp sites.