

THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS (ICCPR)

The 1976 ICCPR was ratified by Australia in 1980, and Australia is now bound by its terms, which require it to 'respect and ensure' to all individuals the rights that are recognised in the Covenant. These include the rights of self-determination (Article 1), the proscription of slavery and slave labour, and forced or compulsory labour (Article 8), the right to 'liberty and security of person' (Article 9), the right to 'liberty of movement and freedom to choose residence' (Article 12), to equality before the law (Article 14), the right to 'form and join trade unions' (Article 22), to 'access . . . to public service' (Article 25), and the right to be protected against discrimination (Article 26).

Parties to the Covenant are required to 'undertake the necessary steps . . . to adopt such legislative or other measures as may be necessary to give effect to the rights recognised in the . . . Covenant'. Article 40 of the Covenant binds Parties to the Covenant to 'undertake to submit reports on the measures they have adopted which give effect to the rights recognized herein and on the progress made in the enjoyment of those rights . . . '.