

WHAT DOES THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE STAND FOR?

THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

which prohibits:

- ▶ torture
- ▶ slavery and forced labour
- ▶ discrimination
- ▶ the death penalty

and safeguards:

- ▶ freedom of thought, conscience and religion
- ▶ freedom of expression
- ▶ freedom of assembly
- ▶ the right to education
- ▶ the right to free elections
- ▶ the right to a fair trial

THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The European Court of Human Rights monitors the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights in the 47 member states of the Council of Europe. Both states and individuals, irrespective of their nationality, can bring cases before the Court. Individuals can lodge complaints in Strasbourg provided they have exhausted all domestic remedies. Following the Court's judgments, which are binding on the countries concerned, governments often amend their legislation and administrative practices in many fields.

MONITORING MECHANISMS IN THE FIELD

When becoming a member of the Council of Europe, each country accepts to submit to independent monitoring mechanisms, which ensure compliance with human rights and democratic practice in the member state in question. These bodies ensure that the 47 member states comply with the recommendations made to them on issues such as combating corruption, preventing ill-treatment in prisons, trafficking in human beings, the efficiency of justice, social rights, combating racism and protecting national minorities.

HUMAN RIGHTS,
DEMOCRACY
AND THE RULE OF LAW

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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