**International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**

Adopted by General Assembly Resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966

***Article 2.***

Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to respect and to ensure to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction the rights recognized in the present Covenant, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

(…)

***Article 3.***

The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights set forth in the present Covenant.

***Article 16.***

Everyone shall have the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

***Article 19.***

Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference.

(…)

***Article 25.***

Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions mentioned in article 2 and without unreasonable restrictions:

(a) To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives;

(b) To vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors;

(c) To have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his country.