



## Did You Know?



*States have a legal obligation to respect, protect & fulfil the right to health.*

*(Article 12 of 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights)*

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## What is the Right to Health?

*It is the “right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health”. This includes access to health care and addressing social determinants of health.*

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## How is the Right to Health evaluated?

*The AAAQ Framework looks at availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality. This is reviewed every 5 years by the UN Committee on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights.*

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## The Right to Health in Europe

*As of 2026, the Right to Health (ICESCR) has been ratified in all EU member states. This creates a high-level legal obligation for governments to align national policies to these standards.*

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## Did You Know?



*States are expected to show “progressive realization” of the Right to Health. This means moving towards meeting the standards as quickly and effectively as possible.*

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## **Rural Health & the Right to Health**

*All services, goods and facilities must be available, accessible, acceptable and of good quality. Medical deserts, workforce shortages, and lack of public infrastructure are ongoing barriers.*

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## Rural Proofing & the Right to Health

*Rural proofing should be used to meet the non-discrimination clause. “Lack of funds” should not be used to justify withdrawal of services in rural areas as this constitutes a violation of the clause.*

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**Learn More**



*The Right to Health Fact Sheet*  
*(WHO)*

*Tackling inequalities in public service*  
*coverage to “build forward better” for*  
*the rural poor (UN 2021)*

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