



Rights matter

Description

On 21 March we celebrated Human Rights Day, pausing to honour those who sacrificed their lives for freedom and reflecting on our constitutional democracy.

South African Human Rights Day commemorates the tragic events of 21 March 1960, when 69 peaceful protesters were killed by apartheid police in Sharpeville while demonstrating against oppressive pass laws. The massacre shocked the world and galvanised international opposition to apartheid.

This year's theme, "Bill of Rights at 30: Making Human Dignity Real", coincides with the commemoration of 30 years of the adoption of our Constitution, reflecting on the resilience and maturity of our democracy but also placing the focus on bridging the gap between constitutional rights and the lived reality of many South Africans.



Constitutional triumph

While our Constitution – one of the most progressive in the world – protects everyone’s dignity, equality, and freedom, Human Rights Day reminds us that democracy isn’t self-sustaining. Each generation must actively protect and promote human rights, ensuring that the sacrifices made in Sharpeville weren’t in vain.

Category

1. Our People