

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights



Eleanor Roosevelt with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
Image source: UN Photo

This declaration was the first international declaration of the human rights and fundamental freedoms to which all human beings are intrinsically entitled. It was initially adopted in 1948.

The General Assembly of the United Nations has proclaimed this Universal Declaration of Human Rights to be *“a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations...”* to promote *“social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.”*

Article 2.

“Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, ... ”

Article 3.

“Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.”

As previously stated elsewhere in this review, *“As research indicates that some RF/microwave regimes (at levels lower than current limits) may raise risk of infertility, miscarriage, and cause damage to both animal and human offspring (Cherry 2000); claims might be brought that increasing involuntary exposures to such regimes may be against individuals’ right to life.”*

‘Security of person’ is legally defined as *“The legal and uninterrupted enjoyment by a man of his life, his body, his health and his reputation.”* Claims may be brought by some that enjoyment of life and health may be seriously compromised by the RF/microwave regimes created by some Smart Meters and related technologies.

Claims might also be brought that some individuals may have their reputations damaged as a result of how they are forced to behave as a result of exposures, or potential exposures to RF/microwave radiation from such units. Claims might also be brought that they find that having to behave in this way is degrading and damaging to their security of person.

Additionally, with regard to privacy issues, it could be claimed that lifestyle information determined by third parties from analysis of energy usage divulged by Smart Meters (if data is not suitably protected and/or anonymised) may potentially damage individuals' reputations and security of person. *Refer also to Appendix 7 for one opponent's views.*

Article 5.

"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

As documented earlier when discussing the UK - Human Rights Act 1998, the "... feelings of fear, anguish and inferiority, capable of humiliating and debasing... and possibly breaking... physical or moral resistance" that can be caused by degrading treatment (IUK 1980) appear very similar to descriptions of how EHS individuals can feel when exposed to RF/microwave emissions as created by Smart Meter units (EMFSN 2011). This suggests that deliberately exposing vulnerable individuals to such regimes may be against their basic Human Rights.

Article 7.

"All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination."

Claims might be brought that if providers ignore the special needs of individuals who are, or believe they are, vulnerable to exposure to the EMF radiation emitted by some Smart Meter and related devices, they may be guilty of discrimination.

Claims might also be brought that those who deliberately ignore and dismiss relevant scientific evidence of potential risks may be guilty of inciting others to unwittingly discriminate against such individuals.

Article 8.

“Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.”

As everyone has the right to an effective remedy for acts violating fundamental rights, there appears a very real possibility that those who violate such rights may be required to pay for their rectification.

Article 12.

“No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.”

There are significant concerns being expressed worldwide that some Smart Metering regimes may compromise this basic Human Right (FIPR 2010, OTLB 2010, Cuipers & Koops 2008).

This policy has already been successfully contested in the Netherlands (Anderson & Fuloria 2010), causing the previously mandatory introduction of Smart Metering there to be replaced by a voluntary ‘opt in’ scheme.

Article 13.

1. *“Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. ...”*

The freedom of movement of individuals vulnerable to the effects of RF/microwave emissions may be compromised by the presence of some Smart Meter regimes. This has already been documented after some rollouts, and can even restrict some individuals to which rooms within their own homes they can occupy (EMFSN 2011, KCRA 2011).

Article 16.

1. *“Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. ...”*

Scientific research has demonstrated that increased exposures to RF/microwave can reduce human fertility and increase risk of miscarriage, thereby hindering individuals’ rights to found families (Cherry 2000).

Claims of breaches of Human Rights may be brought if similar risks are indicated with particular types of Smart Meters and related technology. (Opting for technologies such as fibre-optics would appear to reduce such risks and likelihood of claims – present author's comment).

3. *"The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State."*

There is a risk that States (and utility companies) may be declared negligent if they rush through the adoption of Smart Meter technologies that are indicated as potentially placing the family unit at increased risk of ill health, infertility, burglary, identity theft and other privacy violations.

Article 17.

... 2. *"No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property."*

The term 'property' can be legally defined as including real estate, land, growing plants and animals. If particular Smart Metering regimes are shown to cause losses to any of these, claims may be made that this basic Human Right is being denied.

RF/microwaves have already been shown to be capable of causing damage to plants and animals at levels below internationally accepted guidelines and at levels below that which RF/microwave emitting Smart Meters operate.

Anecdotal evidence has also been presented which indicates that some Smart Meter regimes may harm plants and animals – *Refer to section on 'Environmental Concerns' in present document.*

Article 21.

... 2. *"Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country. ..."*

Inappropriate RF/microwave regimes from certain types of Smart Meters and related technology may prohibit some vulnerable individuals from directly accessing public services if these units are present.

Article 23.

1. *"Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work ..."*

It has been suggested that the EMF emissions from some Smart Meters and related smart technologies in the workplace may

compromise the right to work of vulnerable individuals who may react adversely to such exposures. It might therefore be claimed that such conditions are neither just nor favourable to such individuals and may compromise their free choice of employment.

Article 25.

1. *“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including ... housing ...”*

Anecdotal evidence already indicates that the standard of living of many individuals, as related to health, wellbeing and earning ability, is presently being compromised by a number of Smart Meter rollouts (EMFSN 2011, KCRA 2011).

Standards of living, as related to useable space within individuals' homes, may also become compromised, as vulnerable individuals are no longer able to occupy some areas of their homes (and gardens) for prolonged periods due to emissions from some types of Smart Meters and related technology (EMFSN 2011, KCRA 2011).

2. *“Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. ...”*

As RF/microwave radiation is classified as a Class 2B carcinogen (WHO/IARC 2011), and has been linked with increased incidence of miscarriage and damage to human offspring (Cherry 2000); it would appear wise to limit the exposure of mothers and children to additional sources of such emissions, or at to least prove that the type of emissions created by Smart Meters and related technology cause no such risk.

Article 27.

1. *“Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits. ...”*

Individuals may be prohibited from fully participating in the cultural life of the community if their health is compromised as a result of unwarranted exposures to Smart Meter EMF regimes that damage their health.

In order to help allow vulnerable individuals to share in scientific advancement it is necessary to develop/specify Smart Metering regimes that are scientifically proven, truly beneficial and biologically friendly.

References

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Additional Human Rights guidelines to those mentioned in this document also exist.