

## Appendix A

**Life** presupposes the right to hunt, fish, and forage for food.

**Liberty** is the freedom to be, to make decisions, and to act in terms of one's interests and concerns. The First Amendment delineates these human rights of liberty as:

- Freedom of Religion
- Freedom of Speech
- Freedom of the Press
- Freedom of Assembly
- The Right to Petition the Government for Redress of Grievances.

**The pursuit of happiness** involves rights and freedoms in everyday life. To that end, the Constitution also provides civil or legal rights to citizens stating that **no state** shall:

- Make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States,
- Deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of the law,
- Deny any person equal protection of the law,
- Deny or abridge the rights of citizens 18 years old or older to vote on account of gender, race, or ethnicity.

If accused of a crime, citizens have the following rights:

- To be informed of the crime of which they are accused,
- To a speedy and public trial,
- To an impartial jury and to bail,
- To be confronted with witnesses against them,
- To call witnesses for defense,
- To have an attorney.

The Constitution also provides protection from:

- Unreasonable searches and seizures,
- Being tried twice for the same crime,
- Being a witness against oneself,
- Being enslaved,
- Cruel and unusual punishment,
- Having one's property taken without just compensation

Beyond what is established law, we believe more rights need to be added.<sup>2</sup>

**Gender Rights** include men's rights as well as women's rights, because when women are fully integrated into the culture, the economy, and society, men are freed as well. To that end, all men and women alike have the rights to equality:

- In the workplace, that means equal pay for equal work, equal opportunity for advancement, and equal respect as people and employees.
- In the education system, that means equal expectations and access to educational institutions, trades, professions, and careers.
- In society, that means that both men and women need to be protected from sexual and domestic violence and believed and treated with dignity when victimized.
- In medical care, that includes research involving both men and women as well as reproductive rights. That means that both men and women have the right to affordable access to contraception. Women have the right to decide with her doctor how and when to plan a family; that includes the right to decide whether abortion is the appropriate for her. Monetary restrictions such as the Hyde Amendment disproportionately affect poor women and does not allow equal access to medical treatment.
- In the military, this includes requiring registration for and opening the draft to all men and women or no one.
- In the culture, that means all people, regardless of sexual orientation and/or identity deserve to be treated with the same consideration as everyone else.

**Labor Rights** need to be delineated because many of these rights are stated not as rights but as restrictions preventing the state from denying those rights. In many cases that does not preclude the private sector from abridging those rights. In the private sector, for example, an employer may restrict employees from discussing their salaries with fellow employees. For that reason, we assert that workers in both the private and public sectors have the right:

- To enter a craft, trade, vocation, or profession of choice based on qualifications needed, not on bias,
- To a living wage,
- To bargain collectively for wages and terms and conditions of employment,
- To strike,
- To a safe and bias-free work environment,
- Of due process,
- Of no punishment or dismissal without just cause,
- Of binding arbitration for settlement of grievances.

**Education Rights** benefit both the nation and the individual. A well-educated populace is essential to a functioning democracy and the preservation of freedom. A successful society demands its participants understand how to function within it. In addition, education serves to provide the learner with the skills and knowledge necessary to economic well-being and personal understanding of the world and his/her place in it. To that end, everyone has the right:

- To an education free from bias;

- To an adequately funded, tuition free public education from pre-K through two years of post-secondary academic or vocational education;
- To substitute a private education at his/her expense, providing that education equals or exceeds that of the public offering;
- To be taught or supervised by knowledgeable, competent, certificated teachers;
- To be taught to think for oneself;
- To question respectfully what is taught;
- To be taught in a safe and secure atmosphere.
- To a rigorous curriculum.

[Back to Rights Document](#)