

# The importance of communicating and disseminating the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

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FAIR final international seminar on 10 February 2026

# FRA work on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (Charter)

- Provide assistance and expertise on the Charter to EU institutions
- Contribute to the implementation of the European Commission's Charter Strategy
- Data collection, analysis and research
- Development of tools and material
- Training, and e-learning for practitioners (EJTN, judicial training institutions, NHRIs etc.)
- Community of Charter experts
- Promote the awareness about the EU Charter (e.g EU CharterXchange)

## Key cooperation partners at national level

- Charter focal points
- Judicial training networks (EJTN, CCBE, ENCJ, etc.)
- National human rights/ombuds institutions, equality bodies
- FRANET
- Charter experts
- CERV beneficiaries

# 1

## The legal nature of the Charter

# The 54 Charter provisions

Preamble	Peace – common values	Universal values	Diversity, etc	Rights more visible	Reaffirms const. and int'l rights	Rights, duties, responsibilities	Rights, freedoms and principles
I Dignity (Articles 1–5)	1 Human dignity	2 Life	3 Integrity of the person	4 Torture; inhuman, degrading treatment	5 Slavery and forced labour		
II Freedoms (Articles 6–19)	6 Liberty and security	7 Private and family life	8 Personal data	9 Marry and found family	10 Thought conscience and religion		
	11 Expression and information	12 Assembly and association	13 Arts and sciences	14 Education	15 Choose occupation and engage in work		
	16 Conduct a business	17 Property	18 Asylum	19 Removal, expulsion or extradition			
III Equality (Articles 20–26)	20 Equality before the law	21 Non-discrimination	22 Cultural, religious and linguistic diversity	23 Equality: men and women	24 The child	25 Elderly	26 Integration of persons with disabilities
IV Solidarity (Articles 27–38)	27 Workers right to info. and consultation	28 collective bargaining and action	29 Access to placement services	30 Unjustified dismissal	31 Fair and just working conditions		
	32 Prohibition of child labour; prot. at work	33 Family and professional life	34 Social security and assistance	35 Health care	36 Access to services of economic interest	37 Environmental protection	38 Consumer protection
V Citizens' rights (Articles 39–46)	39 Vote and stand as candidate to EP	40 Vote and candidate at municipal elections	41 Good administration	42 Access to documents	43 European ombudsman	44 Petition (EP)	45 Movement and residence
	46 Diplomatic and consular protection						
VI Justice (Articles 47–50)	47 Effective remedy and fair trial	48 Presump. innocence; right of defence	49 Legality and prop. of offences and penalties	50 Ne bis in idem			
VII General provisions (Articles 51–54)	51 Application	52 Scope and interpretation	53 Level of protection	54 Prohibition of abuse of rights			

# How the Charter adds value to the ECHR

LEGEND	
No ECHR equivalent	More extensive than ECHR
EU context-specific	Equivalent protection to ECHR

I Dignity (Arts. 1-5)	1 Human dignity	2 Life	3 Integrity of the person	4 Torture; inhuman, degrading treatment	5 Slavery and forced labour		
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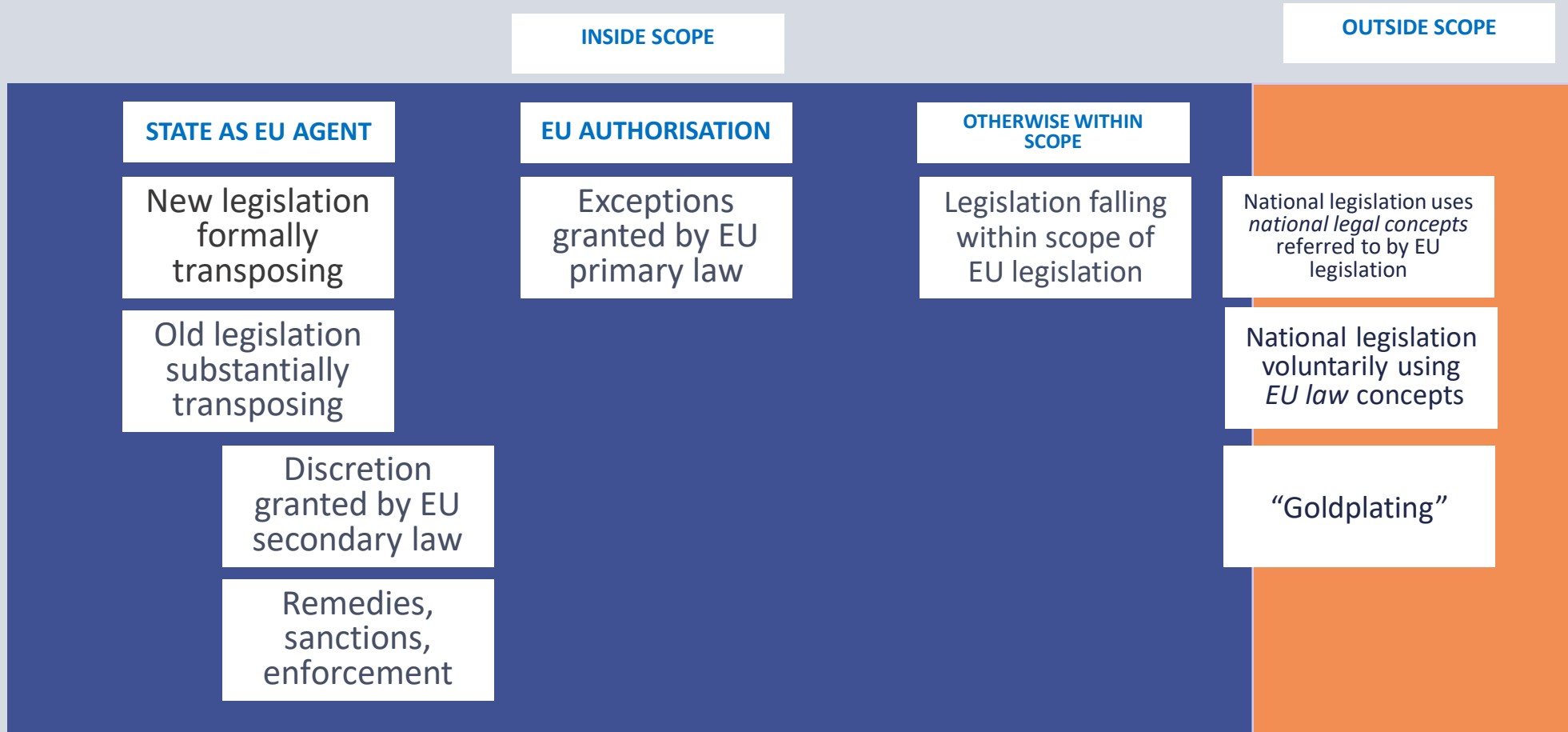
# The Charter is legally binding

- Applies when the Member States act within the scope of EU law (Art. 51(1))
- Status of EU primary law
- Direct effect (*Bauer and Willmeroth*)
- State liability for breaches of the EU law (*Francovich* case)

# The Charter's added value

- ✓ Covers civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural rights
- ✓ Makes rights already contained in the case law more visible
- ✓ Includes modern rights: data protection, the right to asylum etc.
- ✓ Broader scope than in the ECHR (Art. 47, *ne bis in idem*, data protection)
- ✓ Can profit from the strength of EU law – primacy and direct effect, infringement procedures (*Kucukdeveci* C-555/07, *Bauer* C-569/16 and C-570/16, *Commission v Poland* C-192/18)
- ✓ Can lean to the creation of rights which are not available in national law (*Abdida*, C-562/13 – right to a remedy with a suspensive effect)
- ✓ May also generate horizontal effect (*Bauer* C-569/16 – right to paid annual leave)

# Using the Charter handbook examples – Within and beyond the Charter’s scope



# 2

## FRA tools and material on the Charter

# International Sign version of the Charter

- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZMjtrRo5niOg3vozGIPrkCoIR1WbqG2o>

**THE EU CHARTER**  
a roadmap to fundamental rights

## The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in ...

by European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights...

Playlist · 61 videos · 167 views

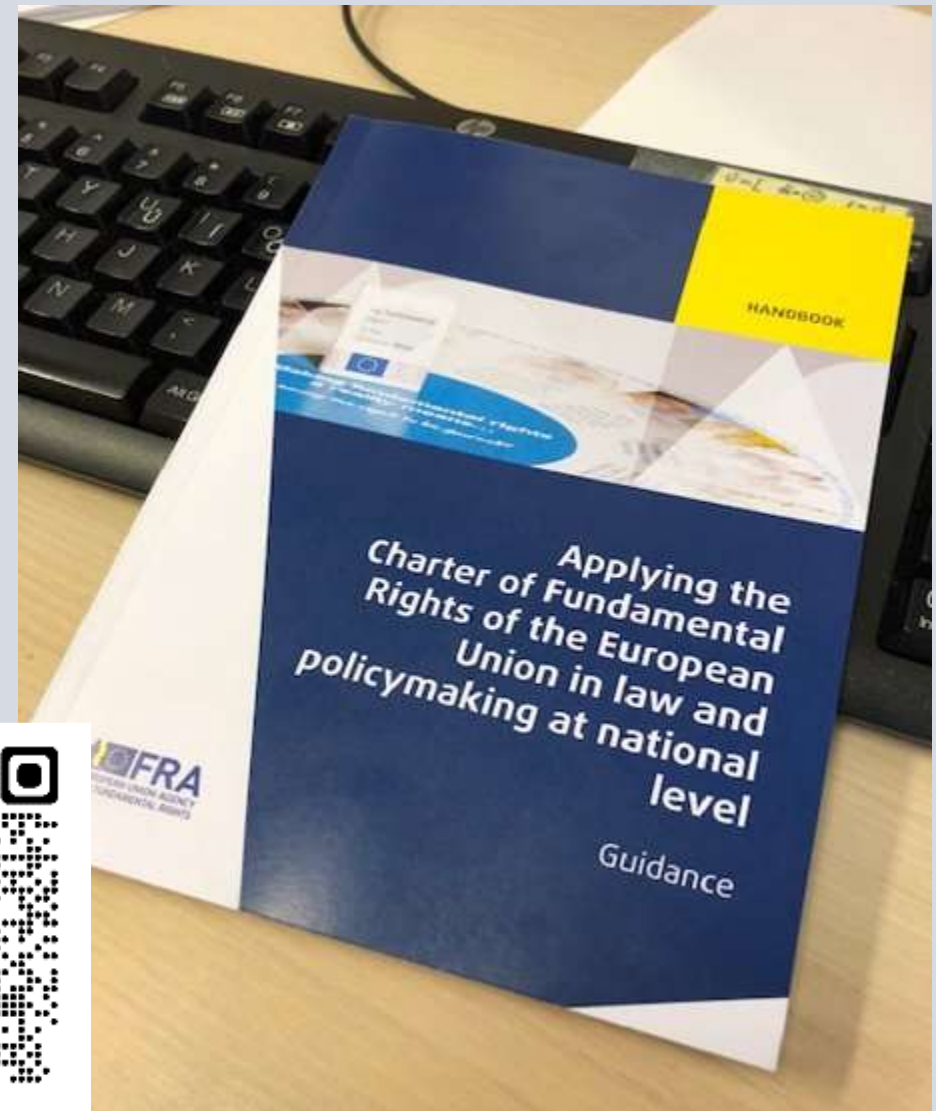
The Charter of Fundamental rights is the 'Bill of Rights' of the EU. [...more](#)

**Play all**

- 1 **The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in Sign Language – Article...**  
European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) · 29 views · 1 month ago  
0:20
- 2 **The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in Sign Language – Article...**  
European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) · 9 views · 1 month ago  
0:25
- 3 **The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in Sign Language – Article...**  
European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) · 6 views · 1 month ago  
1:24
- 4 **The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in Sign Language – Article...**  
European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) · 5 views · 1 month ago  
0:23

## Charter Handbook

- <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/applying-charter-fundamental-rights-european-union-law-and-policymaking-national>
- Based on CJEU case law
- Short & Concise
- Checklist for applicability of Charter
- Checklist for Charter compliance
- Available in all EU languages

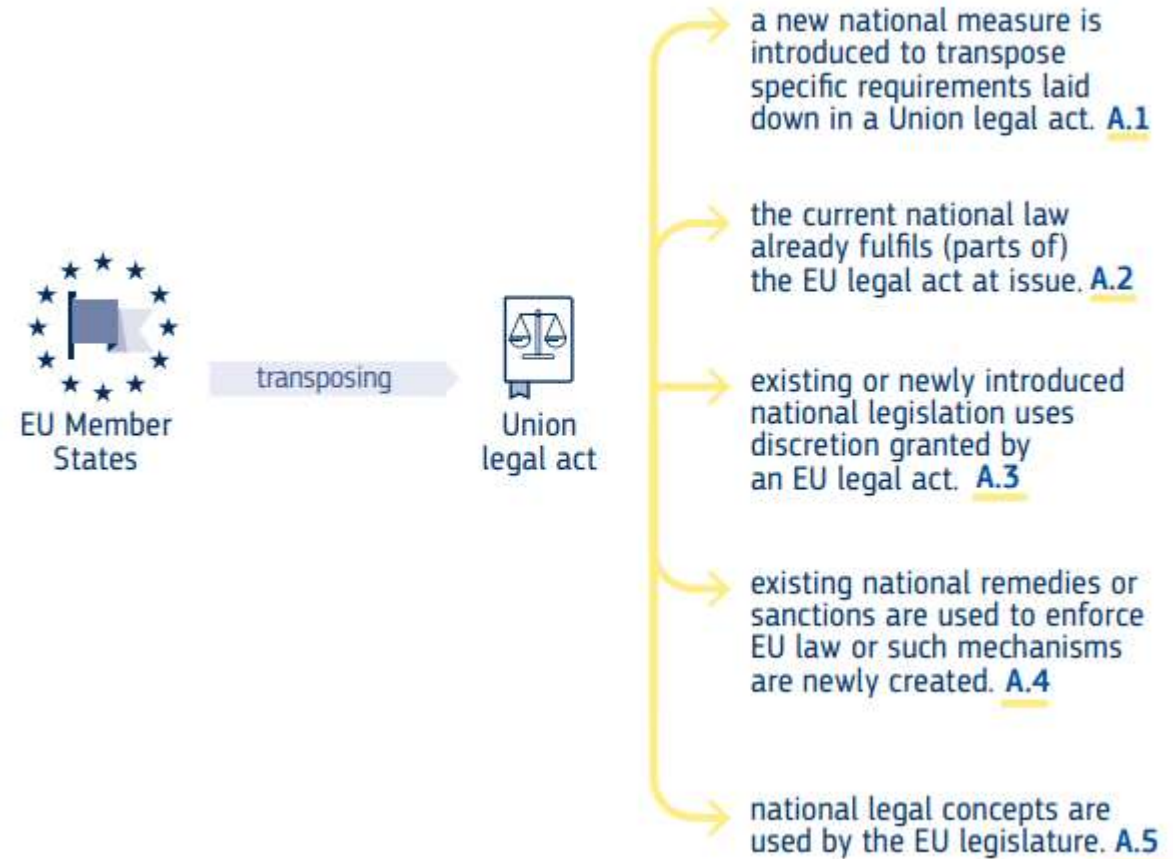


# Charter Guidance checklist

## Article 51 of the Charter - Field of application

1. The provisions of this Charter are addressed to the institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the Union with due regard for the principle of subsidiarity and to the Member States **only** when they are implementing Union law. They shall therefore respect the rights, observe the principles and promote the application thereof in accordance with their respective powers and respecting the limits of the powers of the Union as conferred on it in the Treaties.

Figure 7: Situations of Charter application in response to a Union legal act



# Charterpedia

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/eu-charter>

- National and European case law
- Relevant national constitutional provisions, EU law, international law
- Parliamentary debates
- Academic references



## Charterpedia

Charterpedia is an online tool maintained by the European Union Agency of Fundamental Rights (FRA). It provides easy-to-access information about the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and its provisions. It allows to track the concrete application of the Charter in the EU's Member States and offers regularly updated information providing guidance when concretely applying and interpreting the Charter.

Charterpedia information can be found within the section on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights >>

### Who is Charterpedia made for?

Charterpedia is of obvious interest and value for legal practitioners, academic researchers, and other interested persons be it lawyers in private practice, judges, prosecutors, company lawyers, civil servants in the public administration working on fundamental rights, NHRIs, equality bodies, civil society organisations, academics and law students as well as anyone interested in fundamental rights.

### What does the Charterpedia include?

For each Charter Article, Charterpedia includes the official explanations of the Charter Articles, related European and national case law, related provisions in text of national constitutions as well as in EU legislation and international law. It also contains references to academic analysis and related FRA publications.

### How and how often is Charterpedia updated?

The examples of Charter use at national level - such as national court decisions or examples how the Charter was referred to in national parliaments - are collected via the agency's multidisciplinary research network FRANET on an annual basis. The selection of examples is based on their relevance for the interpretation and application of the Charter.

Under "national constitutional law", those provisions are listed that are part of the main text of the national constitution and that reflect (at least in parts of) the respective Charter provision. Under "international law" and "EU law" preference is given to binding norms that are of relevance to the interpretation of the respective Charter provision. Where not much legally binding sources are available, Charterpedia provides examples of relevant soft law.

Different from national sources, the sections "international law" and "EU law" are not regularly updated (neither is the section "national constitutional law").

### What is the difference between the Charterpedia and the Case Law Database?

Although the Case Law Database and Charterpedia cover the same datasets, the Case Law database allows for more sophisticated searches for instance by deciding body or by country. It is intended for judges, prosecutors, court staff, lawyers in private practice, notaries, and other legal professionals.

# Case law database

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/case-law-database>

Search tool of case law with direct references to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights from

- Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)
- European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)
- a selection of national case law from all EU Member States.

The screenshot shows the 'Case Law Database' search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the FRA logo and menu items: 'WORK ON RIGHTS', 'EU CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS', 'TOOLS', and 'PRODUCTS'. Below the navigation bar, the page title 'Case Law Database' is centered. A descriptive paragraph states: 'Here you can find case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) with direct references to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, as well as a selection of national case law with direct references to the Charter from all EU Member States.' Below this, there is a 'FILTER BY:' section with four dropdown menus: 'EU Charter of fundamental rights', 'ECHR Article(s) referenced', 'Deciding bodies', and 'Countries'. A 'Keyword Search' field is located below the filters, with a 'SEARCH' button to its right. At the bottom of the page, it displays '1469 case law references found' and includes sorting options ('Sort by date', 'Sort by name') and a pagination control showing page 1 of 9.

# Charter e-learning course

- <https://e-learning.fra.europa.eu/>
- Charter e-guidance: 10 concrete examples
- Charter videos
- [Handbook](#) on the applicability of the Charter
- Trainers' area
- Now available in **all EU languages, except Maltese and Gaelic**
- Try it out!

Username: **charter@fra.europa.eu**

Password: **Charter@2000**



The screenshot shows the FRA e-learning website. At the top left is the FRA logo (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights) and the text 'eLearning'. On the top right, there are 'English' and 'Log In' buttons, with 'Log In' circled in yellow. Below the header, the main heading is 'FRA e-learning'. A sub-heading reads: 'Looking to strengthen your knowledge of fundamental rights? This website brings together all FRA's e-learning courses in one place.' To the right of this text is an illustration of two people sitting at a desk with a computer monitor. Below this is a blue banner with the text 'AVAILABLE COURSES'. Underneath, there are two course cards. The first card is titled 'E-MEDIA TOOLKIT' and features an image of a person at a desk with a computer. The second card is titled 'CHARTER COURSES' and features an image of a book titled 'EU CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS'. At the bottom right of the page, there is a QR code.

# Charter case studies – Trainer's manual

- <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2022/charter-case-studies-trainers-manual>
- This trainer's manual aims at providing guidance on both the organisation and the implementation of such trainings based on a series of case studies, which will be extended in the future.
- 8 Practical case studies
- How to use the manual, facts, the law, questions, background info for trainers
- For Charter trainers
- Available in all EU languages



## Country sheets

- <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2019/eu-charter-fundamental-rights-use-and-added-value-eu-member-states>
- Examples of the Charter's use for each Member State.
- Constitutional law relevance
- Links to the national case law which has a direct reference to the Charter
- The Charter added value
- Comparison to ECHR and national catalogue of fundamental rights

The image shows the cover of a 'Country Sheet' for Ireland. At the top left is the European Union flag logo. To its right, the text reads 'THE EU CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS' in large white letters, with 'RIGHTS' being the largest. Below this, 'in Ireland' is written in white. On the left side, 'CHARTER COUNTRY-SHEET' is written vertically. On the right side, there is a quote: "[N]ational authorities (judicial authorities, law enforcement bodies and administrations) are key actors in giving concrete effect to the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Charter". Below the quote, it references a European Parliament resolution from 2015.

CHARTER COUNTRY-SHEET

THE EU CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

in Ireland

“ [N]ational authorities (judicial authorities, law enforcement bodies and administrations) are **key actors** in giving concrete effect to the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Charter”

European Parliament (2015), Resolution on the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union (2013–2014) 2014/2254(INI), Strasbourg, 8 September 2015, recital P.

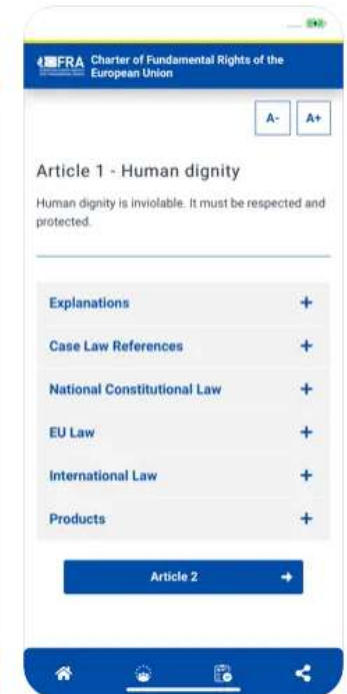
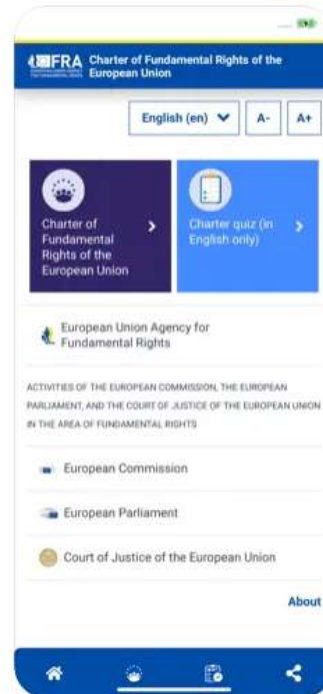
# Charter App

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/charterapp>



**EU Charter** 4+  
European Union Apps  
Designed for iPad  
Free

## Screenshots iPad iPhone



## HELP course on the ECHR and Charter interplay

- Developed in cooperation with FRA
- Launch in September 2023
- Available in Italian, Lithuanian, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovene and Spanish
- <https://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/enrol/index.php?id=6560>



# EU Fundamental Rights Information System (EFRIS)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/databases/efris/>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the EU Fundamental Rights Information System (EFRIS). The page features a dark blue header with the FRA logo and navigation links for 'HOME', 'DATA DASHBOARDS', and 'RIGHTS SEARCH'. Below the header, a main section titled 'Bringing human rights data to life' provides a brief description of the system and includes a 'Learn More' button. Two prominent call-to-action boxes are visible: 'Data Dashboards' with a 'Review Commitments & Compliance' button, and 'Rights Search' with a search input field and a 'Search' button. The background of the main section features a large graphic with the words 'EVERY HUMAN RIGHTS'.

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/databases/efris/>

About Help Abbreviations

**FRA** EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

EU Fundamental Rights Information System

HOME DATA DASHBOARDS RIGHTS SEARCH

## Bringing human rights data to life

The EU Fundamental Rights Information System (EFRIS) is a dynamic tool that creates visualisations of data on human rights commitments and compliance collected from databases maintained by the UN and the Council of Europe. The search engine also indexes all pages and documents retrieved. EFRIS covers the EU-27 plus Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia.

[Learn More](#)

### Data Dashboards

Delve into **50+** Data Sources, **200+** Indicators, across **30** Countries

[Review Commitments & Compliance](#)

### Rights Search

Search through **100,000+** human rights pages and documents in one place.

[Search](#)

## Overview of all FRA Charter materials

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/eu-charter/fra-charter-resources>



# 3

## Upcoming activities on the Charter

# Promotion of FRA's tools and material on the Charter

- In 17 Member States: BG, CZ, CY, DE, EL, FR, HR, HU, IT, LT, LV, MT, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK
- FRANET service request
- Activities and deliverables:
  - Meetings with key stakeholders (including specialised media outlets for legal professionals)
  - National action plans
  - One pilot training
  - Media outreach

# Charter experts' newsletter

- Information about relevant documents from EU institutions, FRA, CJEU case law, training opportunities and academic articles.
- Quarterly, next in April 2026
- To be included in the newsletter, please write to [charter@fra.europa.eu](mailto:charter@fra.europa.eu)

# Fundamental Rights Report

- Topics: digital age, housing, employment challenges, Charter
- Charter chapter novelties:
  - Charter issues: violations and/or non-application
  - Analysis of the ‘barriers’ and the ‘drivers’ to the efficient and frequent use of the Charter by legal practitioners inside and outside the public administration and the judiciary.
- To be published in June 2026



# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Online EU CharterXchange

- In cooperation with the European Commission
- A forum to promote the application of the Charter at national level
- Specific sessions for legal professionals
- On 23-24 November 2026
- See the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Online CharterXchange summary and recordings at: [3rd Annual EU CharterXchange | European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights](#)



# Better legislation – Human rights impact assessments in lawmaking – FRA’s report follow-up

- Link to the report:  
<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2025/better-legislation-human-rights-impact-assessments-lawmaking>
- Exchanges among experts
- Possible support to the Member States



# Thank you!

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