

# THE LEFT-HANDER'S CHARTER

## **Preamble:**

We, the Left-Handed People of the World, in order to create equality and opportunity for all, present this Charter to foster acceptance and inclusion of left-handedness in all aspects of our lives.

Left-handedness is a natural variation of human handedness but is subject to bias, prejudice and discrimination globally. Acceptance will ensure that left-handed people around the world are supported to fully develop their skills and talents without being restricted in the use of their left hand. We also include left-footers as well as those who are left eye dominant or left ear dominant amongst the left-handed fraternity.

We are grateful to the former Lefthanders International, of Topeka City, Kansas State, USA, for having created a precedence and a profound document many decades ago, now the foundation of this document.

We implore legislators, educators, employers and manufacturers to ensure the handedness of all is included in their deliberations, actions, processes and designs, and not just for the majority.

With all humility and no offense or malice to any being, belief, rule of law, any government, religious doctrines or methodology, to parents and teachers, and to the majority right-handers of the world, we submit the following 10 articles before the entire world to seek their support and acceptance, ensuring our well-being and progress as equal human beings.

## **Article 1:**

All persons shall be guaranteed the freedom to practice and enjoy their natural hand preference for all daily acts of all kinds – personal, professional or religious – without any influence from parents, teachers, peers or society at large through any written or unwritten law, custom, precedence or superstition.

## **Article 2:**

All left-handed persons shall enjoy the freedom, encouragement and instruction to develop their talents and skills to the fullest in any field of their preference.

## **Article 3:**

Left-handers shall be entitled to offer their dominant left hand in greetings such as a handshake, salute, aadaab or salaam, when taking oaths, and for personal and religious rituals. Greetings using both hands and neither hand should also be welcomed.

## **Article 4:**

There shall be no discrimination against left-handers in any field of employment or endeavour, including sporting and leisure activities. Equipment, tooling and workstations must be appropriate to the handedness of the person using them. Rules and procedures must allow the freedom of the left hand whilst ensuring safety, efficiency and fairness for all.

**Article 5:**

Left-handers shall have the freedom to refrain from apologising for their handedness or hiding their left hand in social situations or religious rituals.

**Article 6:**

All persons shall have the privilege of diminishing the use of the word 'right' to mean 'correct', by substituting with 'correct', 'OK', 'true' and similar affirmatives.

**Article 7:**

All persons shall be entitled to actively discourage the use of the word 'left' in a negative connotation, e.g. no more having two left feet and left-handed compliments.

**Article 8:**

Educational policymakers and curriculum-setters, from pre-primary to post graduate, should incorporate handedness in the entire education process. Educators must be fully prepared to teach and support the natural left-handedness of their students when they enter the classroom.

**Article 9:**

Governments of all Nations should allocate the required resources, finances and personnel to build programs and resources to raise all left-hander's skills to parity with those of the right-handed majority. Such actions should include provisions that ensures equality in opportunity on an ongoing basis.

**Article 10:**

The 13th Day of August each year shall continue to be observed as 'International Left-Handers' Day' throughout the world, championing the freedoms, worth and dignity of left-handedness.

It is desirable that the United Nations, or other appropriate international body, take the required actions to enable the acceptance and implementation of the principles outlined in this Charter.