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Whats the African Charter?



The African Charter is the cornerstone treaty of Africa’s human rights system. It protects not only individual rights, but also peoples’ rights, duties, dignity, justice, and accountability.

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Rights and duties

The Charter is unique because it speaks of both rights and duties. It reminds us that human dignity is protected not only by freedom, but also by solidarity, community, and justice

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Peoples' Rights

The Charter protects also communities, not just individuals. It recognises peoples' rights to development, peace, natural resources, and a healthy environment.

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Africa’s human rights system

The Charter and its subsequent protocols also create a system. Through the African Commission and African Court, it created African institutions to interpret, protect, and advance human rights across the continent.