

## **BELIEFS & RELIGION (Freedom of Thought)**

### **Human Rights - the Right to freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion.**

**WHEREAS**, Article 18 of the UDHR states:

"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

This includes the right to refuse consent for medical or pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical interventions either **based on thought/opinion, conscience or religion**. Refusing to permit freedom of thought, conscience or religion is a prima facie breach of Article 18 of the UDHR; and

### **Human Rights - the Right to respect for the Liberty of Parents and Legal Guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.**

**WHEREAS**, Article 18 of the UDHR is enshrined in Article 18 of the ICCPR, which states:

"Article 18.

1. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
2. The States Parties to the present Convention undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents, and, when applicable, legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions." ; and

**WHEREAS**, Article 18 of the UDHR is enshrined in the ECHR in Article 9 " the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion", as follows:

Article 9. the "Right to Freedom of thought, conscience and religion":

"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience or religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in a community with others and in public or in private, to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance."

"Freedom to manifest one's religions or beliefs shall be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety, for the protection of public order, health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others."

This includes **the right to refuse to consent to wearing a mask, taking a test, isolating, quarantining, socially distance and receiving medical treatment or medical procedures, or providing their personal or medical information to others**, whether this refusal to consent to these measures be on the basis of the person's opinion, their conscience or their religious beliefs and doctrines. Refusing to permit freedom of thought, conscience or religion is a prima facie breach of Article 9 of the ECHR and Article 18 of the UDHR; and