

A Non-Governmental Organization in special consultative matter with the Feonomic and Social Council of the United National

## STATEMENT ON PERSONAL PRIVACY AS A PROPERTY RIGHT

**The Universal Declaration of Human Rights** recognizes in its Preamble the "Inherent dignity' of all members of the human family" and the "dignity and worth of the human person".

**Article 3** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares that everyone has a right to life, liberty and security of person.

The dignity and worth of an individual, the liberty and security of an individual, require for these conditions to be experienced effectively a zone of personal privacy and autonomy. Human dignity is protected best by granting to each person a small sovereignty under his or her personal control, which can be maintained against intrusion, exploitation, or oppression.

This sovereign autonomy embraces at the personal level freedom of thought, conscience, religion, opinion and expression. **Article 22** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights makes reference to an individual's right of access to economic, social and cultural support which is "indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality."

These powers of individual sovereignty expressing one's dignity and the free development of his or her personality are a property the title of which belongs to the individual human person.

This right of privacy is fully recognized in **Article 12** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which prescribes that "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, nor to attacks on upon his honor and reputation."

**Article 17** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights supports the autonomy of each individual with the stipulation that "No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property."

A right of personal autonomy is a property right securing powers to each human person to defend and assert his or her dignity and worth within the family of humankind.

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