



American Nurses Association: Ethics and Human Rights Statement

(January 2017)

Nursing is committed to *both* the welfare of the sick, injured, and vulnerable in society *and* to social justice. The [ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements](#) (2015) establishes the ethical standard for the profession in its fervent call for all nurses and nursing organizations to advocate for the protection of human rights and social justice.

- A fundamental principle is respect for the inherent dignity, worth, unique attributes, and human rights of all individuals.
Interpretive Statement 1.1
- Nurses must bring attention to human rights violations in all settings and contexts and must respond when these violations are encountered.
Interpretive Statement 8.4
- Nurses must always stress human rights protection with particular attention to preserving the human rights of vulnerable groups, such as the poor, the homeless, the elderly, the mentally ill, prisoners, refugees, women, children, and socially stigmatized groups.
Interpretive Statement 8.4
- Ethics, human rights, and nursing converge as a formidable instrument for social justice and human rights must be diligently protected and promoted.
Interpretive Statement 8.2

Additional Relevant Resources:

- American Nurses Association. (2015). Code of ethics for nurses with interpretive statements. Silver Spring, MD. Retrieved from <http://www.nursingworld.org/code-of-ethics>.
- [American Nurses Association. \(2010\). Nursing beyond borders: Access to health care for documented and undocumented immigrants living in the US \(issue brief\). Silver Spring, MD: Author.](#)
- [American Nurses Association. \(2016\). The nurse's role in ethics and human rights: Protecting and promoting individual worth, dignity, and human rights in practice settings \(position statement\). Silver Spring, MD: Author.](#)
- [American Nurses Association. \(2015\). Nursing: Scope and standards of practice. Silver Spring, MD: nursesbooks.org.](#)