

# The Space Rights Convention



THE CONVENTION ON  
THE RIGHTS OF THE  
PERSON IN OUTER SPACE



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Publishers to the Institution,  
a subsidiary of the Astronist Institution.

160 Cop Lane,  
Penwortham,  
Preston,  
PR1 9AD

First Draft published 2022

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# Preamble to the Convention



## Preamble

I first received the reception to draft this Convention in the year of 2021 when it dawned on me that the governments of this planet continue to violate the freedoms of human beings despite condemnation for their actions not to mention the widespread abuses levied against all manner of sentient creatures. Even with a set of rights defined, governments have manipulated their good-natured foundations. Although the efficacy of international human rights instruments have been called into question, ultimately, I do believe in them, at least that they form a basis for the work of activists to continue.

Then, I realised that if human rights are still so limited here on Earth and I, as Cometan, preach about the transcension of humanity to the astronomical world, will my preaching have been in vain if humans, animals and other persons on planets beyond our homeworld continue to face abuse, mistreatment, discrimination and persecution?

Indeed, my transcensional preaching would be in vain if there were not a convention of rights drafted to be applied to the context of the spacefaring activities of human and non-human species. Many of the rights outlined herein reflect those of the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but have been tailored to the context of outer space while there are rights outlined that are unique to this Convention due to its spacial context. You will find below three parts dividing a total of 40 articles some of which themselves include sub-articles.

The First Draft of this Space Rights Convention is published singularly on 23rd May 2022. The Space Rights Convention will continue to see subsequent drafts until its final publication as one of the preppendices of the Astrodoxy, after which only amendments will be possible to make to it contents. Amendments will be made on the basis of changing needs of persons especially as the development of civilisation in extraterrestrial territories accelerates, needs that are not as clear for the present Earthbound age in which this Convention was first draft. As such, this Convention will grow and reconstitute itself over time to ensure that all relevant rights and freedoms of persons all future ages are clearly defined and protected.

The Space Rights Convention was composed by:





# The Convention

# The Convention on the Rights of the Person in Outer Space

## PART ONE – Initial Provisions

Signing parties agree upon the following articles:

### Article 1

Outer space is for everyone. Outer space is an equal space and those leading spacefaring activities should hold the democratisation of space as a priority. All civilisations of planetary bodies have the right to establish themselves socially, culturally and politically and have the right to vote to become self-governing entities with respect for democratic values and human rights.

### Article 2

In the context of space rights, a 'person' refers to either a sentient being (e.g. an animal) or a sapient being (e.g. a human); use of the terms 'person' and 'people' are therefore broader than use of more specific terms 'sentient' and 'sapient'.

Use of the term 'sapient being' applies to beings of equal or exceeding intelligence to that of human

beings regardless of their origin in the universe. Use of the term 'sentient being' applies to beings of lesser intelligence than that of human beings, but remain subject to physical or mental pain, whichever planetary or sub-planetary body they originate from.

Space rights are principally human rights that apply to the domain of outer space and all planetary and sub-planetary bodies populating it. Space rights also pertain to and protect the rights of sentient beings wherever they are specifically referenced.

The term 'outer space' in the Convention refers collectively to all planetary bodies, sub-planetary bodies and the interspace between these bodies.

The term 'interspace' in the Convention refers to residence, either permanent or temporary, in the vacuum of outer space, either aboard a spacecraft or immobile space station. The term 'planetary body' in the Convention refers to a celestial entity that fits the criteria to be recognised as a planet by the International Astronomical Union (IAU). The term 'sub-planetary body' in the Convention refers to any celestial entity that does not fit the criteria for classification as a planet.

The term 'being of capacity' refers to an animate person that possesses the capacity of conscience,



namely to make decisions pertaining to right and wrong behaviour as well as the capacity to interpret a doctrine and to believe or not to believe.

### Article 3

All human beings born in outer space or residing on any planetary body are equal and autonomous in dignity, rights and conscience. They are moral agents that should principally act in favour of the welfare of each other and to practice respect and careful treatment of all sentient beings.

### Article 4

Every human being is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention, without discrimination of any kind based on race, colour, sex, gender, sexuality, language, religion or spirituality, philosophy, astronomy, political or other opinion, national or social origin, wealth and property, circumstances at birth or other core human characteristics.

### Article 5

Persons shall not be discriminated against on the basis of the status of the country or territory from which they originate, whether it be independent, non-

self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

## Article 6

Sapient persons shall not be discriminated against on the basis of their spacefaring sponsor. Each sapient person is endowed with the right to obtain sponsorship to participate in spacefaring activities. The sponsor is responsible for the safe transit of all their spacefarers which shall be governed by sponsorial law.

## Article 7

The jurisdiction of this Convention and the rights its grants are eternal and all-pervading beyond the atmosphere of Earth. The contents of this Convention may be invoked in any place or relevant circumstance in the interspace, planetary or sub-planetary realms, whether upon a natural or synthetic body such as a spacecraft or space station. The universal applicability of the Convention is incontrovertible.

## **PART TWO – Outline of Space Rights**

## Article 8

Every person has the right to live, to exercise personal liberty and to have their safety and privacy respected and protected while in interspace or on any planetary or sub-planetary body.

## Article 9

Sapient beings born on a planetary body have the right to obtain citizenship from the government holding jurisdiction over that planetary body. Human beings born on a sub-planetary body have the same right to obtain citizenship from whichever government holds jurisdiction over that sub-planetary body.

Sapient beings born in interspace such as on spacecraft or immobile space stations automatically become Interspace citizens with their human rights endowed and their protection granted. Parents of interspace children may apply to obtain dual citizenship for their children from the government of a planetary or sub-planetary body on which they become permanent residents.

## Article 10

No sapient being shall be held in slavery or servitude in outer space; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms; any government

participating in or sponsoring forced or slave labour must be sanctioned and denied access to treaties with all other partied members of the Convention.

### Article 11

No sapient or sentient being shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in outer space.

### Article 12

Every sapient being has the right to recognition everywhere in outer space as a person before the law, whether this be interspace law or local law on planetary and sub-planetary bodies. Sentient beings shall be protected in law in outer space through their representation by sapient-lead representative organisations.

### Article 13

All sapient beings are equal before the law and are entitled, without any discrimination, to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Convention and against any incitement to such discrimination.

## Article 14

Every sapient being has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted them by this Convention or the constitution or law of their respective planetary or sub-planetary body.

## Article 15

No sapient being shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile in outer space. No unauthorised body (e.g. vigilantes) may hold to arrest or detain any sapient being aboard a synthetic body (i.e. spacecraft or space station) or natural celestial body.

## Article 16

Every sapient being is entitled to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, to be treated equally among all other sapient beings, and is to be made clearly aware both their rights and obligations and of any and all criminal charges levied against them; this right applies to all planetary bodies and jurisdictions as a fundamental right of persons across all star systems.

## Article 17

Everyone has the right to water and sufficiently nutritional food in outer space or aboard any commissioned (commercial or governmental) or uncommissioned (private) spacecraft. State jurisdictions or private corporations sponsoring spacefaring activities must give evidence that they have both the resources and the intent to provide their sponsorees sufficient water and food to the satisfaction of health authorities.

#### Article 18

Every sapient being charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence. Terrestrial and interspacial jurisdictions have the responsibilities of ensuring that all sapient beings will be held to trial for offences charged against them. No sapient being shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under jurisdictional or interspacial law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

#### Article 19

No sapient being shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon their honour and reputation on all planetary and sub-planetary bodies and aboard commissioned or uncommissioned spacecraft. Every sapient being has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

## Article 20

Every sapient being has the right to freedom of movement and residence on different planetary or sub-planetary bodies, including to cross territorial borders of any jurisdiction on such planetary or sub-planetary bodies provided the individual complies with local immigration laws. Every sapient being has the right to live as a permanent spacefarer, to live aboard spacecraft as their permanent residence. Every sapient being has the right to engage in spacefaring activities, to travel in outer space. Every sapient being has the right to leave any planetary or sub-planetary body or any jurisdiction on such planetary or sub-planetary bodies, including their home planetary or sub-planetary body, and to return to their home planetary or sub-planetary body. Every sapient being is endowed with the right to depart travel from one spacecraft and embark upon another

spacecraft as long as such departures are conducted in a legal and safe manner as prescribed in departural law.

#### Article 21

Every sapient being has the right to seek and to enjoy asylum from persecution in any jurisdiction, whether aboard spacecraft or in a jurisdiction on a planetary or sub-planetary body. This right may not be invoked when the individual faces charges for non-political crimes and has absconded from authorities.

#### Article 22

Every sapient being has the right to a nationality or to seek the revocation of their nationality. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of their nationality nor denied the right to change their nationality. Every sapient being has the right to refrain from seeking a nationality if born aboard a spacecraft. Every sapient being has the right to nationality in the jurisdiction to which they first arrive if they were born in-flight.

#### Article 23

Every sapient being of full age, without any limitation due to race, gender, nationality or religion or belief,



have the right to marry and to found a family on a planetary or sub-planetary body or aboard any spacecraft. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses. The family shall remain the natural and fundamental group unit in extraterrestrial civilisations and is entitled to protection by state jurisdictions and by society members.

#### Article 24

Every sapient being has the right to be addressed as they so prefer in accordance with their identity as part of their broader right to recognition.

#### Article 25

Every sapient being has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others. No sapient being shall be arbitrarily deprived of their property.

#### Article 26

Every being of capacity has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief; this includes the right to incorporate one's religion or belief into

one's identity to form one's unique belief identity which is an innate part of the sapient being and is to be protected as such by the state and by society; this includes the right of freedom to change one's religion or belief and to refrain from adopting a religion or belief; it includes the right to freely practice and express one's religion or belief in whichever way that corresponds to the prescriptions made in that religion or belief; it includes the right to freely practice and express one's religion or belief both in public and in private and either individually or in community with others; it includes the right to disseminate and to reach the tenets of the religion or belief to others; it includes the right to freely manifest in any other way appropriate to that religion or belief including worship, prayer, or any other kind of ritualistic observance; every sapient being has the right to believe or practice as they wish in relation to outer space and its prospects which means freedom of religion or belief for outer space, including freedom of astronomy (space belief and space religion).

## Article 27

Every sapient being has the right to freedom of opinion and expression on all terrestrial jurisdictions and in the interspace; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference from the state or fellow members of society and to seek, receive and

impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers.

#### Article 28

Every sapient being has the right to freely engage in peaceful assembly and association. No sapient being may be compelled to belong to any association or to be compelled to participate in political activity. Further still, every sapient being has the right to refrain from engaging in public political activity.

#### Article 29

Every sapient being has the right to take part in the government of their jurisdiction, directly or through freely chosen representatives. Every sapient being has the right of equal access to public service in their jurisdiction. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

#### Article 30

Every sapient being, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realisation,

through national effort and both international and interspatial co-operation and in accordance with the organisation and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for their dignity and the free development of their personality on any planetary, sub-planetary or synthetic body in outer space.

### Article 31

Every sapient being has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment in all extraterrestrial jurisdictions. Every sapient being, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work for work conducted on planetary or sub-planetary bodies or in the interspace. Every sapient being who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for themselves and their family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection whether they reside on a planetary or sub-planetary body or in the interspace. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of their interests on any planetary, sub-planetary or synthetic body in outer space.

### Article 32

A right to be recognised for how you identify, whether this be in terms of your beliefs, astronomy or religion, gender, name, ethnicity, sexual orientation or nationality should be afforded to all sapient beings of capacity in all extraterrestrial jurisdictions, whether on planetary, sub-planetary, or synergic bodies or in the interspace.

### Article 33

Every sentient and sapient being has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay no matter the jurisdiction. This applies to both human and non-human sapient beings as well as animals; none of which should be overworked as this constitutes a form of abuse. Every sapient being must also be adequately paid in proportion to the length and complexity of the labour conducted.

### Article 34

Every sapient being has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and of their family, including food, clothing, housing, education and medical care and other necessary social services including precise mental health care, and the right to security in the

event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond their control. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance in all jurisdictions and aboard permanent spacecraft voyages. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection. All children must be treated equally no matter the planetary or sub-planetary or spacecraft on which they were born or the jurisdiction in which they reside.

## Article 35

Every sapient being has the right to an education in outer space and during spaceflight on all basic functional subjects and in subjects of their interest and specialty. Education shall be free in the elementary, secondary and tertiary stages. Elementary, secondary and tertiary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education must be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit in all jurisdictions. Sponsors of spacefaring activities must ensure and provide evidence that they have both the resources and intent to educate their sponsorees both fundamentally and specially when so required. Education shall be directed towards the full

development of the personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and for all belief and gender identities, and shall further the activities of international human rights organisations for the maintenance of peace. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

### Article 36

Every sapient being has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits both on a terrestrial body or in the interspace. Every sapient being has the right to the protection of their moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which they are the author.

### Article 37

Every person is entitled to a social, international, interspatial and jurisdictional order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention can be fully realised.

## Article 38

Every person has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of their personality is possible. In the exercise of their rights and freedoms, every person shall only be subject to limitations as prescribed in law solely for the purpose of ensuring the due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others in a free and democratic society. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of international law on the outer space environment and extraterrestrial territories.

## Article 39

No aspect of this Convention may be interpreted as allowing any state, jurisdiction, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act with the purpose of destructing any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

## Article 40

No sapient being or group may be subject to colonial rule or rule by any unelected authority whether aboard a natural body (e.g. non-Earth planet) or a synthetic one (e.g. spacecraft). Use of wealth or political influence to colonise planetary or sub-



planetary bodies is incompatible with the upholding of these space rights.

# Reflections and closing notes



## **PART THREE – Reflections and closing notes**

1. This Convention will constitute the foundations of space rights law and its constituents interspace law, planetary law, sub-planetary law, and spacefaring law and its branches (i.e. sponsorial law).
2. New branches of law will emerge with the continued development of human spacefaring activities including some mentioned in this Convention like departural law.
3. This Convention sets out a framework for how human (sapient) and animal (sentient) rights and activities in outer space should be instituted and protected.
4. This Convention constitutes the Great Reaffirmation of rights, that is a reaffirmation of the fundamental human rights that whose protection remains inconsistent and whose foundations are increasingly being eroded as we continue quarter of the way through this 21st century.
5. All of these rights and their provisions in combination may be referred to as “space rights” or “rights in outer space.”

6. Use of the word “non-Earth” is used throughout the document in order to establish the Convention’s jurisdiction as taking effect anywhere beyond Earth’s atmosphere; this does not suggest any inconsistency or competition with the Earth-based UDHR.
7. This Convention may also be appropriately referred to as the Astronist Convention, the Astrodoxical Convention, the Outer Space Convention, or principally, the Space Rights Convention.
8. Appropriate abbreviations for this Convention shall include: **CRPS** or **CRPOS**.



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