

# Constitution of the Republic of Estonia

*Translation into English. Translations into English are officially sanctioned for information purpose only. Only The Estonian language text has the force of law.*

passed by a referendum held on 28 June 1992  
(RT<sup>1</sup> 1992, 26, 349),  
entered into force 3 July 1992,  
amended by the following Acts:

12.04.2007 entered into force 21.07.2007 - RT I 2007, 33, 210;  
05.10.2003 entered into force 06.01.2004 - RT I 2003, 64, 429;  
25.02.2003 entered into force 17.10.2005 - RT I 2003, 29, 174.

With unwavering faith and a steadfast will to strengthen and develop the state,

which is established on the inextinguishable right of the people of Estonia to national self-determination and which was proclaimed on 24 February 1918,  
which is founded on liberty, justice and law,  
which shall protect internal and external peace, and is a pledge to present and future generations for their social progress and welfare,  
which shall guarantee the preservation of the Estonian nation, language and culture through the ages,  
the people of Estonia, on the basis of § 1 of the Constitution which entered into force in 1938, and by a referendum held on 28 June 1992, adopted the following Constitution.

(RT I 2007, 33, 210 - entered into force 21.07.2007)

## **§ 12.**

Everyone is equal before the law. No one shall be discriminated against on the basis of nationality, race, colour, sex, language, origin, religion, political or other opinion, property or social status, or on other grounds.

The incitement of national, racial, religious or political hatred, violence or discrimination shall, by law, be prohibited and punishable. The incitement of hatred, violence or discrimination between social strata shall, by law, also be prohibited and punishable.

(...)

## **§ 40.**

Everyone has freedom of conscience, religion and thought.

Everyone may freely belong to churches and religious societies. There is no state church.

Everyone has the freedom to exercise his or her religion, both alone and in community with others, in public or in private, unless this is detrimental to public order, health or morals.

(...)

## **§ 41.**

Everyone has the right to remain faithful to his or her opinions and beliefs. No one shall be compelled to change them.

Beliefs shall not excuse a violation of the law.  
No one shall bear legal liability because of his or her beliefs.

- See more at: <http://www.president.ee/en/republic-of-estonia/the-constitution/index.html#XV>