
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2007 No. 1678

The Virgin Islands Constitution Order 2007

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

CHAPTER 2

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF THE INDIVIDUAL

Protection of freedom of expression

23.—(1) No person shall be hindered in the enjoyment of his or her freedom of expression.

(2) A person's freedom of expression includes freedom to hold opinions without interference, freedom to receive information and ideas without interference, freedom to disseminate information and ideas without interference (whether to the public generally or to any person or class of persons) and freedom from interference with his or her correspondence or other means of communication.

(3) Nothing in any law or done under its authority shall be held to contravene this section to the extent that it is reasonably justifiable in a democratic society—

- (a) in the interests of defence, public safety, public order, public morality or public health;
- (b) for the purpose of protecting the reputations, rights and freedoms of other persons, or the private lives of persons concerned in legal proceedings or proceedings before statutory tribunals, preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, maintaining the authority and independence of the courts, or regulating telecommunications, posts, broadcasting or public shows; or
- (c) that imposes restrictions on public officers that are reasonably required for the proper performance of their functions.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3)(c), "law" in subsection (3) includes directions in writing regarding the conduct of public officers generally or any class of public officer issued by the Government of the Virgin Islands.