

# EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW

The United States is sometimes called the land of equality—a place where people are treated in the same way, a place where people have an equal chance to succeed. Think about what you have seen in this country. Would you say that all people are treated the same? Always? Sometimes? Is it ever all right to treat people differently?

<b>VOCABULARY:</b>	discrimination	slavery	segregation
	facilities	racism	superior

**ACTIVITY:** Discrimination: Right or Wrong?

**Discrimination** means to treat some people differently from others. Sometimes there is a good reason for discrimination. Would you want 10-year-old children to drive cars? Other times discrimination hurts people. Which of the following examples of discrimination do you think are reasonable? Which examples would you want to change? Why?

- 1) Men under 25 years old have more car accidents than other people. They must pay more for car insurance.
- 2) Jones Candy Factory will not hire anyone with a foreign accent.
- 3) Alta Airlines will not hire a pilot who is blind.
- 4) Lee wants to rent a five-room apartment in Rosedale. The owner will not rent to Lee because Lee has no job and no money.

These examples show that it is not always easy to decide if discrimination is fair or unfair. When discrimination denies people equal opportunity for jobs and schools, it is unfair. History tells us there has been a long struggle for equal right and fair treatment.