



Diplomatic Immunity

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- 'Diplomatic Immunity' is a **privilege of exemption from certain laws and taxes granted to diplomats** by the country in which they are posted. The custom was formed so that **diplomats can function without fear, threat or intimidation from the host country.**
- Diplomatic immunity is granted on the basis of two conventions:

★ The Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961

★ The Convention on Consular Relations, 1963

- **Both the conventions are popularly called the Vienna Conventions.** They have been ratified by 187 countries. It is a law under these countries' legal framework and cannot be violated.
- According to Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961, the immunity enjoyed by a diplomat posted in the embassy is "inviolable". The **diplomat cannot be arrested or detained and his house will have the same inviolability and protection as the embassy.**
- It is possible for the diplomat's home country to waive immunity but this can happen only when the individual has committed a 'serious crime', unconnected with their diplomatic role or has witnessed such a crime. The **diplomats posted in a consulate also get immunity with their family, as the diplomats in embassy.**