

# Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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Eleanor Roosevelt with the Spanish version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

<b>Created</b>	1948
<b>Ratified</b>	10 December 1948
<b>Location</b>	Palais de Chaillot, Paris
<b>Authors</b>	John Peters Humphrey (Canada), René Cassin (France), P. C. Chang (China), Charles Malik (Lebanon), Eleanor Roosevelt (United States), among others
<b>Purpose</b>	Human rights

The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** is a declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948 at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris. The Declaration has been translated into at least 375 languages and dialects.<sup>[1]</sup> The Declaration arose directly from the experience of the Second World War and represents the first global expression of rights to which all human beings are entitled. It consists of 30 articles which have been elaborated in subsequent international treaties, regional human rights instruments, national constitutions and laws. The International Bill of Human Rights consists of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two Optional Protocols. In 1966 the General Assembly adopted the two detailed Covenants, which complete the International Bill of Human Rights.

## History

### Conception

European philosophers of the Age of Enlightenment developed theories of natural law that influenced the adoption of documents such as the Bill of Rights of England, the Bill of Rights in the United States, and the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen in France.

National and International pressure for an international bill of rights had been building throughout World War II. In his 1941 State of the Union address US president Franklin Roosevelt called for the protection of what he termed the "essential" Four Freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, freedom from fear and freedom from want, as its basic war aims. This has been seen as part of a movement of the 1940s that sought to make human rights part of the conditions for peace at the end of the war.<sup>[2]</sup> The United Nations Charter "reaffirmed faith in fundamental human rights, and dignity and worth of the human person" and committed all member states to promote "universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion".<sup>[3]</sup>

When the atrocities committed by Nazi Germany became public knowledge around the world after World War II, the consensus within the world community was that the United Nations Charter did not sufficiently define the rights it referenced.<sup>[4]</sup> <sup>[5]</sup> A universal declaration that specified the rights of individuals was necessary to give effect to the

Charter's provisions on human rights.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Drafting

Canadian John Peters Humphrey was called upon by the United Nations Secretary-General to work on the project and became the Declaration's principal drafter. At the time Humphrey was newly appointed as Director of the Division of Human Rights within the United Nations Secretariat.<sup>[7]</sup> The Commission on Human Rights, a standing body of the United Nations, was constituted to undertake the work of preparing what was initially conceived as an International Bill of Rights. The membership of the Commission was designed to be broadly representative of the global community with representatives of the following countries serving: Australia, Belgium, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, China, Cuba, Egypt, France, India, Iran, Lebanon, Panama, Philippines, United Kingdom, United States, Soviet Union, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

## Adoption

The Universal Declaration was adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December 1948 by a vote of 48 in favour, 0 against, with 8 abstentions ( Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, as well as Yugoslavia, South Africa and Saudi Arabia).<sup>[8]</sup>

The following countries voted in favour of the Declaration: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Thailand, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.<sup>[9]</sup>

Despite the central role played by Canadian John Humphrey, the Canadian Government at first abstained from voting on the Declaration's draft, but later voted in favour of the final draft in the General Assembly.<sup>[10]</sup>

## Publication

The Declaration was first published in 1981 (with a foreword by Jimmy Carter) by Paul Williams (Crawdaddy! creator) (from his garage!)<sup>[11]</sup>

## Structure

The underlying structure of the Universal Declaration was introduced in its second draft which was prepared by Rene Cassin. Cassin worked from a first draft prepared by John Peters Humphrey. The structure was influenced by the Code Napoleon, including a preamble and introductory general principles.<sup>[12]</sup> Cassin compared the Declaration to the portico of a Greek temple, with a foundation, steps, four columns and a pediment.

Articles 1 and 2 are the foundation blocks, with their principles of dignity, liberty, equality and brotherhood. The seven paragraphs of the preamble, setting out the reasons for the Declaration, are represented by the steps. The main body of the Declaration forms the four columns. The first column (articles 3–11) constitutes rights of the individual, such as the right to life and the prohibition of slavery. The second column (articles 12–17) constitutes the rights of the individual in civil and political society. The third column (articles 18–21) is concerned with spiritual, public and political freedoms such as freedom of religion and freedom of association. The fourth column (articles 22–27) sets out social, economic and cultural rights.

In Cassin's model, the last three articles of the Declaration provide the pediment which binds the structure together. These articles are concerned with the duty of the individual to society and the prohibition of use of rights in contravention of the purposes of the United Nations.<sup>[13]</sup> With regard to the Communist block's abstentions, the 9 December Velodrome d'Hiver meeting of 20,000 Parisiens at the invitation of World Citizen Garry Davis and his "Conseil de Solidarité" who had interrupted a General Assembly session on 22 November to call for a world

government, provoked its abstention rather than voting against the human rights document. Eleanor Roosevelt in her column "My Day" wrote on 15 December that "Garry Davis, the young man who in Paris as a citizen of the world...has succeeded in getting the backing of a few intellectuals and even has received a cablegram from Albert Einstein telling him, from Professor Einstein's point of view, that the United Nations has not yet achieved peace. The United Nations, of course, is not set up to achieve peace. That the governments are supposed to do themselves. But it is expected to help preserve peace, and that I think, is it doing more effectively day by day...During a plenary session in the General Assembly, this young man tried to make a speech from the balcony on the subject of how incompetent the United Nations is to deal with the questions before it. How much better it would be if Mr. Davis would set up his own governmental organisation and start then and there a worldwide international government. All who would join him would learn that they had no nationality and, therefore, not being bothered by any special interest in any one country, everyone would develop...a completely cooperative feeling among all peoples and a willingness to accept any laws passes by this super government."

## Preamble

The Universal Declaration begins with a preamble consisting of seven paragraphs followed by a statement "proclaiming" the Declaration.

Each paragraph of the preamble sets out a reason for the adoption of the Declaration. The first paragraph asserts that the recognition of human dignity of all people is the foundation of justice and peace in the world. The second paragraph observes that disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind and that the four freedoms: freedom of speech, belief, freedom from want, and freedom from fear – which is "proclaimed as the highest aspiration" of the people. The third paragraph states that so that people are not compelled to rebellion against tyranny, human rights should be protected by rule of law. The fourth paragraph relates human rights to the development of friendly relations between nations. The fifth paragraph links the Declaration back to the United Nations Charter which reaffirms faith in fundamental human rights and dignity and worth of the human person. The sixth paragraph notes that all members of the United Nations have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The seventh paragraph observes that "a common understanding" of rights and freedoms is of "the greatest importance" for the full realisation of that pledge.<sup>[14]</sup>

These paragraphs are followed by the "proclamation" of the Declaration as a "common standard of achievement" for "all peoples and all nations", so that "all individuals" and "all organs of society" should by teaching and education, promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, secure their universal and effective recognition and observance.<sup>[14]</sup>

The Preamble is:

- **Whereas** recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,
- **Whereas** disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,
- **Whereas** it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,
- **Whereas** it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,
- **Whereas** the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,
- **Whereas** Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

- *Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,*
- *Now, Therefore THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.*

## **Human rights set out in the Declaration**

The following reproduces the articles of the Declaration which set out the specific human rights that are recognised in the Declaration.<sup>[15]</sup>

### *Article 1*

*All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.*

### *Article 2*

*Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.*

### *Article 3*

*Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.*

### *Article 4*

*No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.*

### *Article 5*

*No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.*

### *Article 6*

*Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.*

### *Article 7*

*All 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 Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.*

### *Article 8*

*Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.*

### *Article 9*

*No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.*

### *Article 10*

*Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.*

### *Article 11*

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1. *Everyone 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.*
2. *No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international 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 12

*No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.*

#### Article 13

1. *Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.*
2. *Everyone has the right to leave any country, including their own, and to return to their country.*

#### Article 14

1. *Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.*
2. *This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.*

#### Article 15

1. *Everyone has the right to a nationality.*
2. *No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.*

#### Article 16

1. *Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.*
2. *Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.*
3. *The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.*

#### Article 17

1. *Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.*
2. *No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.*

#### Article 18

*Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.*

#### Article 19

*Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.*

#### Article 20

1. *Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.*
2. *No one may be compelled to belong to an association.*

#### Article 21

1. *Everyone has the right to take part in the government of their country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.*
  2. *Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in their country.*
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3. *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 22*

*Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organisation and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.*

*Article 23*

1. *Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.*
2. *Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.*
3. *Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.*
4. *Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.*

*Article 24*

*Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.*

*Article 25*

1. *Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.*
2. *Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.*

*Article 26*

1. *Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.*
2. *Education shall be directed to the full development of the human 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 shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.*
3. *Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.*

*Article 27*

1. *Everyone 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.*
2. *Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.*

*Article 28*

*Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realised.*

*Article 29*

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1. *Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.*
2. *In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.*
3. *These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.*

#### Article 30

*Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.*

## Commemoration: International Human Rights Day

The adoption of the Universal Declaration is a significant international commemoration marked each year on 10 December and is known as Human Rights Day or International Human Rights Day. The commemoration is observed by individuals, community and religious groups, human rights organisations, parliaments, governments and the United Nations. Decadal commemorations are often accompanied by campaigns to promote awareness of the Declaration and human rights. 2008 marked the 60th anniversary of the Declaration and was accompanied by year long activities around the theme "Dignity and justice for all of us".<sup>[16]</sup>



## Significance and legal effect

### Significance

In the preamble, governments commit themselves and their peoples to measures to secure the universal and effective recognition and observance of the human rights set out in the Declaration. Eleanor Roosevelt supported the adoption of the UDHR as a declaration, rather than as a treaty, because she believed that it would have the same kind of influence on global society as the United States Declaration of Independence had within the United States. In this she proved to be correct. Even though not formally legally binding, the Declaration has been adopted in or influenced most national constitutions since 1948. It also serves as the foundation for a growing number of international treaties and national laws and international, regional, national and sub-national institutions protecting and promoting human rights.

### Legal effect

While not a treaty itself, the Declaration was explicitly adopted for the purpose of defining the meaning of the words "fundamental freedoms" and "human rights" appearing in the United Nations Charter, which is binding on all member states.<sup>[17]</sup> For this reason, the Universal Declaration is a fundamental constitutive document of the United Nations. Many international lawyers, in addition, believe that the Declaration forms part of customary international law and is a powerful tool in applying diplomatic and moral pressure to governments that violate any of its articles. The 1968 United Nations International Conference on Human Rights advised that it "constitutes an obligation for the members of the international community" to all persons. The declaration has served as the foundation for two binding UN human rights covenants, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International

Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the principles of the Declaration are elaborated in international treaties such as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Convention Against Torture and many more. The Declaration continues to be widely cited by governments, academics, advocates and constitutional courts and individual human beings who appeal to its principles for the protection of their recognised human rights.

## Reaction

### Praise

The Universal Declaration has received praise from a number of notable people. Charles Malik, Lebanese philosopher and diplomat, called it "an international document of the first order of importance," while Eleanor Roosevelt, first chairwoman of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) that drafted the Declaration, stated that it "may well become the international Magna Carta of all men everywhere."<sup>[18]</sup> 10 December 1948. In a speech on 5 October 1995, Pope John Paul II called the UDHR "one of the highest expressions of the human conscience of our time."<sup>[19]</sup> And in a statement on 10 December 2003 on behalf of the European Union, Marcello Spatafora said that "it placed human rights at the centre of the framework of principles and obligations shaping relations within the international community."<sup>[20]</sup>

### Criticism

#### Islamic criticism

Some Islamic countries have criticised the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for its perceived failure to take into the account the cultural and religious context of Islamic countries. In 1982, the Iranian representative to the United Nations, Said Rajaie-Khorassani, articulated the position of his country regarding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, by saying that the UDHR was "a secular understanding of the Judeo-Christian tradition", which could not be implemented by Muslims without trespassing the Islamic law.<sup>[21]</sup> On 30 June 2000, Muslim nations that are members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference<sup>[22]</sup> officially resolved to support the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam,<sup>[23]</sup> an alternative document that says people have "freedom and right to a dignified life in accordance with the Islamic Shari'ah".<sup>[24]</sup> However, this document does not guarantee freedom of religion or gender equality, the root of many criticisms against its usage.

#### Education

Some proponents of alternative education, particularly unschooling, take issue with the right to compulsory education stated in Article 26.<sup>[25]</sup> In the philosophies of John Holt and others, compulsory education itself violates the right of a person to follow their own interests:

No human right, except the right to life itself, is more fundamental than this. A person's freedom of learning is part of his freedom of thought, even more basic than his freedom of speech. If we take from someone his right to decide what he will be curious about, we destroy his freedom of thought. We say, in effect, you must think not about what interests you and concerns you, but about what interests and concerns us.

– John Holt, *Escape from Childhood*



### Property rights criticism

Some libertarians have criticised the Declaration for its inclusion of positive rights that they believe must be provided by others through forceful extraction (for example taxation) thereby negating others rights. Libertarian natural law theorist Frank Van Dun said of the document:

The UD's distinctive "rights" are incompatible with that doctrine [of natural rights]. Enforcement of one person's economic, social, or cultural rights necessarily involves forcing others to relinquish their property, or to use it in a way prescribed by the enforcers. It would, therefore, constitute a clear violation of their natural right to manage and dispose of their lawful possessions without coercive or aggressive interference by others. It would also deny a person the right to improve his condition by accepting work for what he (but perhaps no one else) considers an adequate wage.<sup>[26]</sup>

– Frank Van Dun, *Human Dignity: Reason or Desire?*

### The Right to Refuse to Kill

Groups such as Amnesty International<sup>[27]</sup> and War Resisters International<sup>[28]</sup> have advocated for "The Right to Refuse to Kill" to be added to the UDHR. War Resisters International has stated that the right to conscientious objection to military service is primarily derived from, but not yet explicit in, Article 18 of the UDHR: the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.<sup>[28]</sup>

Steps have been taken within the United Nations to make this right more explicit; but those steps have been limited to secondary, more "marginal" United Nations documents. That is why Amnesty International would like to have this right brought "out of the margins" and explicitly into the primary document, namely the UDHR itself.<sup>[27]</sup>

To the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights one more might, with relevance, be added. It is "The Right to Refuse to Kill."<sup>[29]</sup>

– Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations, and Nobel Peace Laureate, Sean MacBride, *1974 Nobel Lecture*

### Bangkok Declaration

In the Bangkok Declaration adopted by Ministers of Asian states meeting in 1993 in the lead up to the World Conference on Human Rights, Asian governments reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They stated their view of the interdependence and indivisibility of human rights and stressed the need for universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of human rights.<sup>[30]</sup>

### See also

Human rights

- History of human rights
- Human Rights
- Portal:Human rights
- International Federation for Human Rights
- Timeline of young people's rights in the United Kingdom
- Timeline of young people's rights in the United States
- Declaration of Human Duties and Responsibilities

Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of UDHR

- Maryland Law UDHR 60 Conference<sup>[31]</sup> – 23–25 October 2008
- UDHR 60 Connecticut Conference<sup>[32]</sup> – December 2008
- Know Your Rights 2008<sup>[33]</sup>

- Youth Celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the UDHR <sup>[34]</sup> CASHRA, the John Humphrey Centre and TakingITGlobal join forces
- Interfaith Cooperation and the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity. <sup>[35]</sup> Event celebrating the 60th anniversary of the UN-UDHR

#### Non-binding agreements

- Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam, 1990
- Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 1993
- United Nations Millennium Declaration, 2000
- Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007

#### National human rights law

- Golden Bull, Hungary, 1222
- English Bill of Rights and Scottish Claim of Right, 1689
- Virginia Declaration of Rights, June 1776
- United States Bill of Rights, completed in 1789, approved in 1791
- Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, France 1789
- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, 1982

#### International human rights law

- European Convention on Human Rights, 1950
- Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, 1954
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1969
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1976
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1976
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1981
- Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989
- Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1990
- Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, 2000
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006

#### Rights of peoples

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Declaration of the Rights of the Negro Peoples of the World
- Declaration of Rights of Peoples of Russia
- Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Universal Declaration of the Rights of Peoples
- Universal Declaration on the Rights of Peoples

#### Rights of future generations

- Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations

#### Linguistic rights

- Linguistic rights
  - Language Rights Support Program
  - Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights
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## Notes and references

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- [4] Overview (<http://www.udhr.org/history/overview.htm#Cataclysm and World Response>)
- [5] UDHR50: Didn't Nazi tyranny end all hope for protecting human rights in the modern world? (<http://www.udhr.org/Introduction/question4.htm>)
- [6] UDHR – History of human rights (<http://www.universalrights.net/main/creation.htm>)
- [7] Johannes Morsink, *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, University of Pennsylvania Press, p. 5
- [8] See UNA-Canada (<http://www.unac.org/rights/question.html>) under "Who are the signatories of the Declaration?"
- [9] Yearbook of the United Nations 1948–1949 p 535
- [10] Schabas, William (1998). "Canada and the Adoption of Universal Declaration of Human Rights" (<http://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&lr=&q=info:bhD3YIk9aKIJ:scholar.google.com/&output=viewport>) (fee required). *McGill Law Journal* **43**: 403. . Retrieved 29 Jul. 2009.
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- [12] Glendon, pp 62–64
- [13] Mary Ann Glendon, *A World Made New: : Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, Chapter 10
- [14] Universal Declaration of Human Rights, preamble
- [15] United Nations (<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>)
- [16] UDHR 60th Anniversary Activities (<http://www.un.org/events/humanrights/2007/>)
- [17] Chapter 2, Article 4, Section 1 of the Charter of the United Nations (<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter2.shtml>)
- [18] Eleanor Roosevelt: Address to the United Nations General Assembly (<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/eleanorrooseveltdclarationhumanrights.htm>)
- [19] John Paul II. "Address of His Holiness John Paul II." The Fiftieth General Assembly of the United Nations. United Nations Headquarters, New York. 5 October 1995; n. 2 ([http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/speeches/1995/october/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_spe\\_05101995\\_address-to-uno\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/speeches/1995/october/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_05101995_address-to-uno_en.html))
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## Further reading

- Johannes Morsink, "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Origins, Drafting and Intent" (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1999).
- James W. Nickel, "Making Sense of Human Rights" (2nd edition, Wiley-Blackwell, 2006).
- John Nurser, "For All Peoples and All Nations. Christian Churches and Human Rights". (Geneva: WCC Publications, 2005).
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights pages at [[Columbia University (<http://www.columbia.edu/ccnmtl/projects/mmt/udhr/index.html>)] (Center for the Study of Human Rights), including article by article commentary, video interviews, discussion of meaning, drafting and history.]

## External links

- Text of the UDHR (<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml>) (English)
- Translations of the UDHR (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Pages/Introduction.aspx>) (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights)
- Plain Language version of the UDHR (<http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/humanrights/resources/plain.asp>) (English) – UN.org
- Page devoted to the UDHR in the Historic Archives of the UN Audiovisual Library of International Law (<http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ha/udhr/udhr.html>) with an introductory note by Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade
- Questions and answers about the Universal Declaration (<http://www.unac.org/rights/question.html>)
- WORLD CONFERENCES ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND MILLENNIUM DECLARATION (<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/instree/auol.htm>)
- Text, Audio, and Video excerpt of Eleanor Roosevelt's Address to the United Nations on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/eleanorrooseveltdclarationhumanrights.htm>)
- UDHR – Education (<http://www.universalrights.net/main/educat.htm>)
- A Declaration of Human Rights For the 21st Century – Universal Declaration of Human Rights from a Gender Perspective (<http://www.envio.org.ni/articulo/1349>) (Committee of Latin America and the Caribbean for the Defense of Women's Rights (CLADEM))

### Audiovisual materials

- Film footage ([http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ha/udhr/udhr\\_video.html](http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ha/udhr/udhr_video.html)), audio recordings ([http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ha/udhr/udhr\\_audio.html](http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ha/udhr/udhr_audio.html)) and photos ([http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ha/udhr/udhr\\_photo.html](http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ha/udhr/udhr_photo.html)) relating to the adoption of the UDHR on the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law website (<http://www.un.org/law/avl/>)
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights Typographical Animation (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTlrSYbCbHE>) by Human Rights Action Center (<http://humanrightSACTIONcenter.org/>)
- Librivox: Human-read audio recordings in several Languages (<http://librivox.org/the-universal-declaration-of-human-rights-by-the-united-nations/>)
- Text, Audio, and Video excerpt of Eleanor Roosevelt's Address to the United Nations on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/eleanorrooseveltdclarationhumanrights.htm>)
- Animated presentation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by Amnesty International, from Youtube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?gl=JP&hl=ja&v=epVZrYbDVis>) (English, 20 minutes and 23 seconds)

- Audio: Statement by Charles Malik as Representative of Lebanon to the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly on the Universal Declaration, 6 November 1948. ([http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/legal/audio/humanrights/dr\\_charles\\_malik-human\\_rights\\_06\\_nov\\_48.rm](http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/legal/audio/humanrights/dr_charles_malik-human_rights_06_nov_48.rm))
  - UN Department of Public Information introduction to the drafters of the Declaration. ([http://www.columbia.edu/ccnmtl/projects/mmt/udhr/ramfiles/udhr\\_045.ram](http://www.columbia.edu/ccnmtl/projects/mmt/udhr/ramfiles/udhr_045.ram))
  - Videos introducing each article of the UDHR from RRRT Pacific. ([http://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=human+rights+rrrt](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=human+rights+rrrt))
  - Video ad for UDHR article 1 from [[Youth for Human Rights International (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixjACBvv2mE>)].]
  - In Historic Vote, UN Declares Water a Fundamental Human Right ([http://www.democracynow.org/2010/7/29/in\\_historic\\_vote\\_un\\_declares\\_access](http://www.democracynow.org/2010/7/29/in_historic_vote_un_declares_access)) – video report by *Democracy Now!*
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