

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Facts and Figures

WHAT

The Declaration consists of one preamble and 30 articles affirming people's rights and freedoms. These articles are not legally binding in themselves but have been elaborated in subsequent international treaties, economic transfers, regional human rights instruments, national constitutions, and other laws.



WHY

When the atrocities committed by the Nazis became fully apparent after World War II, the consensus within the world community was that the United Nations Charter did not sufficiently define the rights to which it referred.

It was therefore decided to create a declaration that specified the fundamental rights of individuals.

WHEN

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration on 10 December 1948. Human Rights Day is now celebrated every year on 10 December.



Where after all do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any map of the world. (...) Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination.

Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.

*- Eleanor Roosevelt,
Chair of the UDHR Drafting Committee*



WHERE

The Declaration has been translated into more than 500 languages, making it the most translated document in the world.

48 out of 58

Member States voted in favour of the Declaration. None voted against, 8 abstained and 2 did not vote.



WHO

The Declaration was drafted by a committee chaired by Eleanor Roosevelt (USA) and included representatives from the Republic of China, Lebanon, Australia, Chile, France, USSR, United Kingdom and Canada.



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

The declaration has helped countless people achieve greater freedom

Human rights are more recognized and guaranteed for everyone



To protect the most vulnerable, explicit protections now exist in international law to cover, among others, children, women, victims of torture and persons with disabilities.

Since 1948, 18 treaties and optional protocols that advance human rights have been internationally agreed.

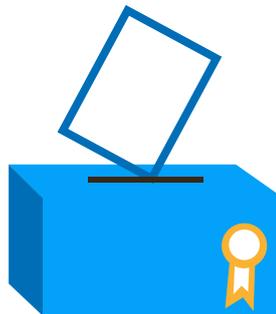
Today, 59 % of countries have a national human rights institution. In 1948, such institutions were practically unheard of.



104 countries have now outlawed capital punishment. Only 9 countries had abolished the death penalty when the UDHR was adopted in 1948.

More democracy

Today most States have a national parliament. 70 years ago, there were only 26.



Today, women have the right to vote in 198 countries versus 91 countries in 1948.

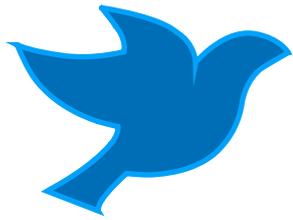
More freedom



Freedom of information laws and policies have been adopted by 111 countries, with at least 15 countries adopting such laws over the past four years.

169 States have ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which states that every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives. Every person shall have the right to vote and be elected, and to have access to public service, as well as to free expression, assembly and association.

But its promise is yet to be fully realised



Right to a free and fair world

In 2015, 65 million men, women and children were forced from their homes by war and persecution. This represents one in every 113 people.

Slavery

Around 1 in 10 children worldwide are engaged in child labour.

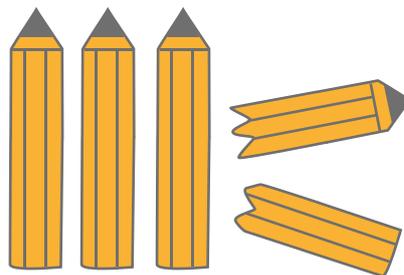


Detention

Almost 1 in 3 people in detention are held without being tried or sentenced for a crime.

Freedom of expression

101 journalists were killed in the pursuit of a story in 2016, which on average constitutes one casualty every four days.



Right to partake in public affairs

Women represent only 24% of national parliaments



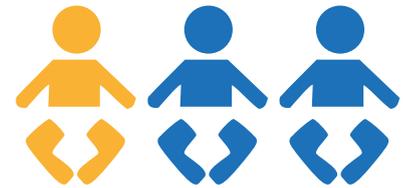
Right to marriage and to found a family

1 in 4 women aged 20-24 were married before age 18 in 2015.

Right to take part in cultural, artistic and scientific life

In 2016, about 80% of the population in developed regions had Internet access, compared to 40% in developing regions and 15% in least developed countries.

Right to a Nationality



29% of children under the age of 5 worldwide have not had their births registered.

Right to Education



The proportion of primary school age children out of school has stagnated at about 9% since 2008.

Adequate standards of living

Worldwide, 880 million urban residents live in slums.

