

70th Anniversary Celebration for the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

PROPOSAL FOR ENGAGEMENT



#standup4humanrights

Background

Born out of two World Wars, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is just as powerfully relevant as it was on its first day.

Drafted by representatives of diverse legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration sets out universal values and a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations. It establishes the equal dignity and worth of every person.

Thanks to the Declaration, and States' commitments to its principles, the dignity of millions has been uplifted and the foundation for a more just world has been laid. While its promise is yet to be fully realized, the very fact that it has stood the test of time is testament to the enduring universality of its perennial values.

To highlight what the Universal Declaration means for people in their everyday lives, **UN Human Rights launched a yearlong campaign** that will culminate in the actual occasion of the **Declaration's 70th anniversary celebration** on 10 December 2018.

ABOUT THE DECLARATION AND ITS DRAFTERS:

- Proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on **10 December 1948**.
- Drafted by a **diverse** group of people from Australia, Canada, Chile, China, France, Lebanon, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States, including:
 - **Eleanor Roosevelt** was the first chair of the United Nation's Commission on Human Rights;
 - **Chang Peng-Chun**, the Chinese playwright, philosopher and diplomat was vice-chair of the Commission;
 - Dr **Charles Malik**, the Lebanese academic, philosopher, and ethicist who, as rapporteur, played a vital role in shaping the ethical contents of the UDHR.
 - **Rene Cassin**, a jurist, judge, and advisor to Charles de Gaulle, played a major drafting role.
- The Declaration holds the **Guinness World Record** as the world's **most translated document**, in over 500 languages.

1. Objectives

The campaign has three core objectives:

- to **engage** a broad base of audiences the world over;
- to help **promote** understanding of how the Universal Declaration empowers us all;
- to encourage **further reflection** on the ways that each of us can stand up for rights, every day.

2. Key messages

The UDHR 70 campaign, which is a continuation of the **Stand up for someone's rights today** movement of 2017, looks to emphasize the following:

- **The UDHR empowers us all.**
- **Human rights are relevant for all of us, every day.**
- **Our shared humanity is rooted in these universal values.**
- **Equality, justice and freedom prevent violence and sustain peace.**
- **Whenever and wherever humanity's values are abandoned, we all are at greater risk.**
- **We need to stand up for our rights and those of others.**

See the full messages in the 6 UN languages [here](#).

3. Take action and #Standup4HumanRights

All of us can promote and defend human rights. We are calling on everyone, individuals as well as governments, companies, the civil society, the UN family and others to join us and make a difference. Here are some options to get you started.



Promote: Raise awareness of what the Declaration means in everyday life and show how it empowers us all.



Engage: Join us in expressing your commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.



Reflect: Take stock of the state of human rights today and reflect how each of us can stand up for rights, every day.

Please visit www.standup4humanrights.org and learn more about ways to promote, engage and reflect on human rights.

- Campaign website – www.standup4humanrights.org
- [Downloadable 70th anniversary logo in 6 languages](#)
- Social media: [#standup4humanrights](#)



facebook.com/unitednationshumanrights



twitter.com/unhumanrights



instagram.com/unitednationshumanrights

4. Overview of activities/events

The UDHR 70 campaign is an opportunity for all actors – in partnership with the UN Human Rights Office or on their own– to express, celebrate and encourage support for human rights.

You may wish to join forces with us by engaging around four categories of dates:

1. **Institutional dates**
2. **International Days related to Human Rights**
3. **Initiatives planned by Governments and multilateral organizations**
4. **Initiatives planned by partners, which include a UDHR focus.** This may be stand-alone events organised from scratch or, more generally, event already planned which are an occasion to mark the anniversary.

Institutional Dates

26 Feb- 23 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Rights Council (37th) • Round table on the UDHR on the occasion of the High Level Segment • Side events/animation
May-June	25th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action
18 June -6 July	Human Rights Council (38th)
10 Sep -28 Sep	Human Rights Council (39th)
Fall	UN GA High-level plenary meeting of the GA on the 20th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders
9 December	20th anniversary of the UN Declaration on UN Human Rights Defenders
10 December	Anniversary Date / Human Rights Prize

International Days related to Human Rights

27 January	International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust
8 March	International Women's Day
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
6 April	International Day sport for development
17 May	International Day against Homophobia
13 June	International Albinism Awareness Day
20 June	World Refugee Day
26 June	International Day in support of Victims of Torture
18 July	Nelson Mandela International Day
30 July	World Day against Trafficking in Persons
9 Aug	The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
12 Aug	International Youth Day
15 Sep	The International Day of Democracy
30 Sep	International Translation Day
2 Nov	International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists
19 Nov	Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims
2 Dec	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
3 Dec	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
10 Dec	Human Rights Day
18 Dec	International Migrants Day

Note: The UN Human Rights Office will create content for each of these dates, please get in touch with udhr70@ohchr.org if you would like to partner on any of these occasions or just spread our messages.

Events organized by Governments and multilateral organizations

28 January	Side event on the margins of the 30 th African Union Summit in Addis Ababa with the President of Ghana - 70th Anniversary of the UDHR / Ratification of the Maputo Protocol
5-12 February	The High Commissioner visits Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Fiji – regional conference in Jakarta (5 Feb)/University of the South Pacific in Fiji (10 Feb)

20-22 April The High Commissioner will participate at a panel during the World Bank and International Monetary Fund Spring meetings (TBC)

Events organized by partners with a UDHR focus

23-26 January	Davos Forum
24-26 January	Students United Nations (SUN) - General Assembly in Geneva
6 February	Pyeongchang Olympics 'Talk' Concert on the SDG and the UDHR + possible separate event for the Paralympics (tbc)
3 February	Festival Antigal "Occupied Geneva"- Artist creating an outside piece of arts on Gender Equality
21-23 February	Global alliance of the National Human Rights institutions
9 March	International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights
8-18 March	Salon de l'automobile Geneva - Road safety and the UDHR
26 March	Stand up for cultural rights - Round table on the preservation of patrimony with Mayors from around the world (tbc)
21 April	UEFA Solidarity Match in Geneva
May - June	Exhibition at the GVA Airport
3 May	Launch of the UDHR stamp sheet, International Briefmarken-Messe Stamp show, Essen, Germany
16 June	Open Day Palais Wilson, Geneva followed by concert
16-22 July	Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition
November	Human Rights Week, Geneva
November	Gala event on Global Women in Music for Human Rights with the Fondazione Adkins Chiti: Donne in Musica, Roma, Italy

Note: This list is being updated on an ongoing basis and does not show the various initiatives at local level in the 60+ countries where the UN Human Rights has a presence.

