In 2018, the world celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Drafted in the wake of the Second World War, this founding document is as relevant today as it was in 1948.

SPIROU Magazine joins efforts for the anniversary campaign launched by the UN Human Rights Office with a special issue in which some great talents of comics illustrate the articles of the Universal Declaration.

In order to convey as widely as possible the values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the comic strip, with its graphic and playful attributes, is an ideal means of communication to reach a wide audience.

The UN Human Rights Office

The UN Human Rights Office promotes and protects the rights and freedoms set forth by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and promotes their concrete exercise. Through the voice and work of the High Commissioner and 1,200 staff in more than 72 countries, the Office aims to make human rights a reality for women and men the world over.

SPIROU Magazine

Spirou Magazine (created in 1938) is published by Editions Dupuis, one of the leading European publishers of comics. Its catalogue includes iconic characters such as The Smurfs, Billy & Buddy, The Bluecoats, Petit Spirou, Lucky Luke, Largo Winch, Gaston Lagaffe, and The Marsupilami.

Spirou is the mascot of the magazine, and its main character. He has delighted generations of readers. As a true reflection of the times he has lived through, the famous bellhop has always embodied his creators’ values: openness to the world, protection and defence of the oppressed, respect for diversity, courage and generosity.
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in Paris on 10 December 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly. Drafted by people of various nationalities and backgrounds, it is a founding text that lays out the rights and freedoms of every human being.
Comic strips are a universal medium and can address important and serious topics using humour and emotion. Spirou Magazine has asked its most talented artists and authors to illustrate the Declaration.

With the little bellhop Spirou as guide, discover the 30 articles of the Declaration with a little help from other characters from the world of Spirou magazine.
ARTICLE 1
All human beings are born free and equal and should be treated the same way.

ARTICLE 2
Everyone can claim their rights regardless of sex, race, language, religion, social standing, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

ARTICLE 3
Everyone has the right to life and to live in freedom and safety.
ARTICLE 4
No one has the right to treat you as a slave nor should you enslave anyone.

ARTICLE 5
No one has the right to torture you.

ARTICLE 6
You should be legally protected in the same way everywhere, like anyone else.
ARTICLE 7
The law is the same for everyone and should be applied in the same manner to all.

ARTICLE 8
You have the right to obtain legal help and access the justice system when your rights are not respected.

ARTICLE 9
No one can arrest or detain you arbitrarily, or send you away from your country unjustly.
ARTICLE 10
Trials should be public and tried in a fair manner by an impartial and independent tribunal.

ARTICLE 11
You are considered innocent until it can be proved you are guilty according to law. If accused of a crime you have the right to a defence.

ARTICLE 12
You have the right to protection if someone tried to harm your good name, enter your home without permission or interfere with your correspondence.
ARTICLE 13
You have the right to move within and leave your own country and you should be able to return.

ARTICLE 14
If you are persecuted at home, you have the right to seek protection in another country.

ARTICLE 15
You have the right to belong to a country and have a nationality.
ARTICLE 16
Men and women have the right to marry when they are legally able without limits due to race, nationality or religion. Families should be protected by the Government and the justice system.

ARTICLE 17
You have the right to own things. No one has the right to illegally take them from you.

ARTICLE 18
Everyone has the right to freely practice their religion, to change it and to practice it alone or with others.
ARTICLE 19
Everyone has the right to think and say what they like and no one should forbid it.

ARTICLE 20
You have the right to organize and participate in peaceful meetings.

ARTICLE 21
Everyone has the right to take part in their country’s political affairs and equal access to public service. Governments should be voted for regularly.
ARTICLE 22
Society should help individuals to freely develop and make the most of all advantages offered in their country.

ARTICLE 23
Everyone has the right to work in just and favourable conditions and be free to choose their work with a salary that allows them to live and support family. Everyone should receive equal pay for equal work.

ARTICLE 24
Each workday should not be too long and everyone has the right to rest and take regular paid holidays.
**ARTICLE 25**
You have the right to have what you need so that you and your family do not go hungry, homeless or fall ill.

**ARTICLE 26**
You have the right to go to school, continue your studies as far as you wish and learn regardless of race, religion or country of origin.

**ARTICLE 27**
You have the right to share the benefits of your community’s culture, arts and sciences.
ARTICLE 28
To make sure your rights are respected, there must be an order that can protect them. This order should be global.

ARTICLE 29
You have duties toward the community within which your personality can fully develop. The law should guarantee human rights. It should allow everyone to respect others and to be respected.

ARTICLE 30
No one, institution nor individual, should act in any way to destroy the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
80 YEARS OF HUMANITY

Since its creation in 1938, SPIROU magazine has conveyed human values through its emblematic authors and iconic characters. The family weekly regularly denounced, defended, questioned, and lent its support to advance human rights. It expressed outrage and allowed generations to open up to the problems around us in a caring and humorous way. Here taken from various eras, is an anthology of important moments where SPIROU championed the values of openness, respect and tolerance.

1972 The Smurfs, for the Belgian operation 48-81-00 (funding of projects linked to disability). Peyo.

1981 Belgian campaign for energy conservation. Franquin.


1964 Special issue of SPIROU Magazine in partnership with the Human Rights League.

1977 Drawing of Cedric for the Belgian Red Cross. Laudec and Cauvin.

2004 Drawing of Cedric for the Belgian Red Cross. Laudec and Cauvin.

2007 Special issue of Boule et Bill (Billy and Buddy) including: With WWF Roba and Verron.

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2015 Special issue of SPIROU Magazine following the attack on the editorial team of Charlie Hebdo.

2010 Drawing of Petit Spirou for Cap 48, a Belgian campaign to show solidarity with people with disabilities. Tome and Janry.

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Since his beginnings in 2007, the character of SPIROU has fought inequalities, protected the weak, and showed courage and generosity. He first appeared in “An ingenious boy's diary”, and is followed this year with “Spirou: The Time of hope - Part 1”. Here, author Emile Bravo places us in 1940. World War II has started. How will Spirou and Fantasio survive this global conflict? How does a teenager, who holds doors at a hotel, turn into the conscientious young adventurer we come to know? Some of the values of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are echoed in his behaviour. Discover for yourself, in the images displayed.

Emile Bravo

A DEFENDER OF HUMAN VALUES FACING THE WORST TIME IN HISTORY
« 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 maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighbourhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm or office where he works. 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 concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world. »

(Eleanor Roosevelt, speech delivered on March 27, 1958 on the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.)

And you, how do you stand up for human rights?
#SPIROU4RIGHTS

Spirou is a Human Rights Champion of the UN Human Rights Office. Committed to the rights of others, he lends his image to promote the principles of the Declaration.

Join Spirou and salute human rights. Make the SPIROU SALUTE to reaffirm your commitment to human rights and share it on social media with the hashtag #SPIROU4RIGHTS!

TOGETHER, LET’S STAND UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS!

The Spirou exhibition is available online in English, French and Spanish, in downloadable and printable format, to be exhibited in various places: schools, libraries, bookstores, companies, cultural centers... See the following link: www.spirou.com/onu ou www.wbi.be/spirou4rights

This exhibition is produced by the UN Human Rights Office in partnership with SPIROU Magazine and with the support of Wallonie-Bruxelles International.

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