Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

(Excerpts, see www.un.org for the full text)


PREAMBLE
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.
ARTICLES OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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. All the following rights should be applied without discrimination on basis of “race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.”

Article 3. The right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4. The right to freedom from slavery.

Article 5. The right to freedom from torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6. The right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7. The right to equal treatment before the law.

Article 8. The right to an effective legal remedy for rights violations.

Article 9. The right to freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10. The right to a fair trial.

Article 11. The right to presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

Article 12. The right to privacy and freedom from upon honor and reputation.

Article 13. The right to freedom of movement, to leave any country, and to return to one’s country.

Article 14. The right to asylum from persecution.

Article 15. The right to a nationality.

Article 16. The right to marry and to found a family.

Article 17. The right to own property alone as well as in association with others. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18. The right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Article 19. The right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Article 20. The right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

Article 21. The right to take part in the government of one’s country.

Article 22. The right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization 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. The right to work, and to just conditions of work and to equal pay for equal work.

Article 24. The right to rest and leisure.

Article 25. The right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of oneself and of one’s family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care.

Article 26. The right to education.

Article 27. The right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community.

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 realized.

Article 29. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.