eInfopack on Human Rights

Presidential Proclamation
Human Rights Day and Human Rights Week 2013

President Barack Obama

The White House

2013-12-09

Six and a half decades ago, delegates from around the world convened to adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, rejecting the notion that individual aspirations should be subject to the whims of tyrants and empires, and affirming every person's right to liberty, equality, and justice under the law. On Human Rights Day and during Human Rights Week, we resolve not only to celebrate these ideals but also to advance them in our time.

Humanity thrives because of our differences; the exchange of ideas among vibrant cultures is a source of innovation, beauty, and vitality. Yet across the globe, our common and inalienable rights bind us as one. All women and men — across borders and regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity, or income level — share the freedoms of expression, religion, assembly, and association. We all have the right to take part in government, directly or through freely elected representatives. And as societies, we have the right to choose our own destiny.

But in many parts of the world, people are still persecuted for their beliefs, imprisoned for their ideals, and punished for their convictions. A growing number of countries are passing laws designed to stifle civil society — including organizations that promote universal human rights, support good governance, and bolster economic development. Securing freedoms that are threatened or denied will require an unceasing commitment. Today and always, let us break down prejudice, amplify the courageous voices that sound the call for change, and reaffirm our unwavering support for the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 10, 2013, as Human Rights Day and the week beginning December 10, 2013, as Human Rights Week. I call upon the people of the United States to mark these observances with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

Source: **whitehouse.gov**

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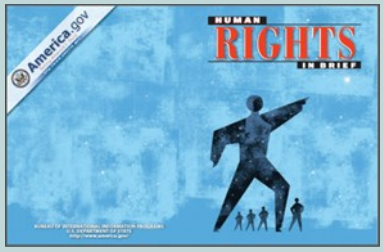
Human Rights in Brief

15 March 2008

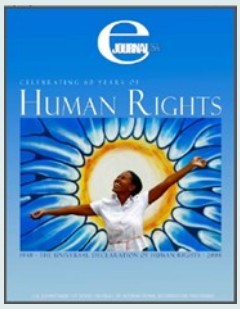


In all civilized nations, attempts are made to define and buttress human rights. The core of the concept is the same everywhere: Human rights are the rights that one has simply because one is human. They are universal and equal.

Celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

18 November 2008

This issue of eJournal USA celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration by explaining how this powerful statement of humanity's common inheritance came to be, how it draws upon an intellectual heritage that transcends political boundaries, and how — with room always for improvement — it has bettered the lives of individuals in every corner of the globe.



Overcoming Barriers to Equal Education

28 August 2013

Access to education is a fundamental human right. Education provides the foundation for an individual's professional, economic, social and personal development. Education enables individuals to hone their skills and realize their full potential.

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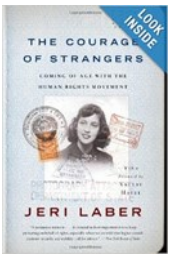


Courage of Strangers Coming of Age with the Human Rights Movement

by Jeri Laber. Public Affairs, 2005.

Fire in the Soul: 100 Poems for Human Rights

by Dinyar Godrej. New Internationalist, 2009.

Globalization of Human Rights

by Jean-Marc Coicaud, Michael Doyle and Anne-Marie Gardener. United Nations Publications 2002.

Human Rights in the Global Information Society

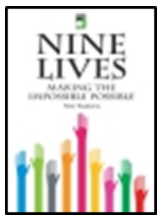
by Rikke Frank Jorgenses. MIT Press, 2005.

International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

by Rene Provost. Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Nine Lives: Making the Impossible Possible

by Peter Braaksma. New Internationalist, 2009.



Pennsylvania Studies in Human Rights: Universal Human Rights and Extraterritorial Obligations

by Mark Gibney,and Sigrun Skogly. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010.

Racism and Human Rights

by Raphael Walden. Brill Academic Publishers 2004.

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http://elibraryusa.state.gov

BMC International Health and Human Rights

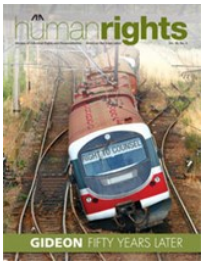
Frequency—Irregular

Publishes research articles in health care in developing and transitional countries, and all issues relating to health and human rights.

Human rights review

Frequency— Quarterly

Scholarly journal covering human rights.



Human Rights

Frequency— Triannual

A professional journal reporting news and information of particular interest to attorneys working in the field of human rights. Coverage includes articles on human rights and individual rights and responsibilities, as well as book reviews. Published by the American Bar Associations (ABA) Center for Human Rights.

Human rights quarterly

Frequency— Quarterly

Journal on human rights resources and policy analysis.

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Useful Weblinks

U.S. Government Reports and weblinks

Human Rights Reports

http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/

Cover internationally recognized individual, civil, political, and worker rights as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. *Also called the Human Rights Reports.*

Trafficking in Persons Report

http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2013/index.htm

Assesses governments on their efforts to combat trafficking in persons as defined in the UN Trafficking Protocol, including conduct involved in forced labor and trafficking of adults and children for commercial sexual exploitation.

International Religious Freedom

http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/religiousfreedom/index.htm#wrapper

The annual Report to Congress on International Religious Freedom – the International Religious Freedom Report – describes the status of religious freedom in every country. The report covers government policies violating religious belief and practices of groups, religious denominations and individuals, and U.S. policies to promote religious freedom around the world.

Advancing Freedom and Democracy Report 2013

http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/afdr/2013/index.htm

Describes U.S. efforts to support democracy and human rights in nondemocratic countries and countries undergoing democratic transitions worldwide.

Human Rights.gov

http://www.humanrights.gov/

HumanRights.gov is the official United States Government (USG) website for human rights related information. The site's search function links users directly with news, reports and explanatory information from the State Department, USG agencies and other resources, allowing for easy access to publicly available documents.

Reports- Think Tanks

Human Rights Watch - World Report 2013

http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2013

This 23rd annual World Report summarizes human rights conditions in more than 90 countries and territories worldwide in 2012. It reflects extensive investigative work that Human Rights Watch staff has undertaken during the year, often in close partnership with domestic human rights activists.

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