



THE MUSIC SETTLEMENT *IDEA COMMITTEE*



UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS
MONTH

DECEMBER 2022



The Music Settlement
OHIO CITY · UNIVERSITY CIRCLE



GOOD TO KNOW...

- Universal Human Rights Month is here to remind us of that day in 1948 when the United Nations General Assembly put forth 30 articles that cover everything from rights to education, freedom, health, and more; the basic human rights of every individual on the planet.
- December 10th is Human Rights Day, marking the date in 1948 that the U.S. adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, it set out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was created to be a 'common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations'.
- This Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been translated into over 500 languages, and is the most downloaded document in the world!
- Eleanor Roosevelt, former First Lady of America, was a very influential figure involved in creating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. She served as the Chairperson for the Commission of Human Rights and she was later awarded the United Nations Human Rights Prize.

How to celebrate Universal Human Rights Month

- The best way to celebrate Human Rights month is to take time to understand what exactly this codified set of freedoms does for you. Studying and researching it is a way to honor the work and lives that went into making sure this document came to exist for the good of all mankind. It's also a great opportunity to spend some time volunteering for organizations like Amnesty International, a charity organization that works tirelessly to support and spread human rights.
- Working with organizations like these will help millions of people around the world, and the ways to contribute are endless. It can start as simple as a donation drive, or grow to a continuous and concerted effort to help prisoners and the needy all throughout the world. We all benefit from the work done by these organizations; International Universal Human Rights Month is your opportunity to give a little back for the protections you enjoy as a citizen of the world.

¹ See last page for list of Human Rights



Latest and past observances of Human Rights Day

- 2022 - Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All
- 2021 - All human- All equal
- 2020 - Recover Better
- 2019 - Youth Standing Up for Human Rights
- 2017-2018 - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights turns 70
- 2016 - Stand up for someone's rights today
- 2015 - Our Rights. Our Freedoms. Always.
- 2014 - #Rights365
- 2013 - 20 Years Working for Your Rights
- 2012 - My Voice counts
- 2011 - Celebrate human rights!
- 2010 - Speak up, Stop Discrimination
- 2009 - Embrace Diversity, End Discrimination
- 2007-2008 - 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- 2006 - Fighting Poverty: A Matter of Obligation, Not Charity
- 2005 - Torture and the Global Efforts to Combat it
- 2004 - Human Rights Education

5 FACTS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS

Leading by Example

King Cyrus II of Persia, also known as King Cyrus the Great, the founder of the first Persian Empire, freed slaves, established racial equality, and gave the right to religious choice.

Know your rights

Everyone has a right to leisure and holiday, with pay, thanks to Article 24 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Think of the children

There are approximately 250,000 child soldiers in the world today spread across 20 countries. About 40% of these are girls who are often used as sex slaves and taken as "wives" by male fighters.

A long battle

The women's suffrage movement lasted 17 years. To gain the right to vote, women protested (led by Susan B. Anthony and others), and governments slowly allowed it. Passed by Congress June 4, 1919, and ratified on August 18, 1920, the 19th amendment granted women the right to vote

A Global Problem

It is estimated that 12 million girls are married in childhood (under the age of 16-18) each year, according to the latest prevalence and population figures collected by UNICEF.



Human rights are universal rights that mean that everyone should be treated equally and with respect. People should not be discriminated against because of:

- gender;
- race;
- the color of their skin;
- sexual orientation;
- religion;
- the country in which they were born.

FAMOUS HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS



Raif (Raef) bin Muhammed Badawi

Badawi is a writer and activist from Saudi Arabia. He created the website Free Saudi Liberals where he wrote about free speech. In 2012, he was arrested on a charge of insulting Islam and brought to court for charges involving apostasy. In his writings, he criticized religion in Saudi Arabia. He was originally given a death sentence but then sentenced to 1000 lashes and ten years in prison in 2014. In 2015, he endured 50 lashes in public. While in prison, he has undertaken hunger strikes to protest the conditions.

Michelle Bachelet

Chile's first female president, Michelle Bachelet, now serves as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. She has a long history of activism. In 1975, she was detained and tortured for weeks after speaking out against Chile's military dictatorship. She went on to serve as Chile's president from 2006-2010 and 2014-2018. A physician by training, she spent her presidencies strengthening the rights of the country's most vulnerable, including women and the LGBTQ+ community. Her appointment as the UN's High Commissioner was well-received by the international community.



Befaqadu (Befekadu) Hailu

An Ethiopian writer and activist, Hailu co-founded Zone 9. This blogging platform allows people to speak against human rights violations in Ethiopia. Hailu was charged with terrorism because of his work promoting human rights. He has been imprisoned at four different times but has never received a conviction. He has received numerous awards, including the International Press Freedom Award in 2015 and the 2019 International Writer of Courage at the PEN Pinter Prize Ceremony. Despite the risks, Hailu continues to write and promote human rights.

Nadia Murad

In 2014, ISIS abducted Murad, an Iraqi Yazidi, and took her to Mosul. There, she was forced to convert to Islam and held in sexual slavery for three months. After escaping, she began her life as an activist. She spread awareness about human trafficking and refugees, despite the dangers of speaking out. In 2017, she published her memoir and in 2018, she shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Denis Mukwege, another activist who fights against sexual violence as a weapon of war.



Tran Minh Nhat

A Vietnamese journalist and activist, Nhat works with the Vietnam Redemptorist News promoting economic, social, and cultural rights in Vietnam. He was arrested in 2011 for "carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the people's administration." He was sentenced to four years in prison with three years of probation. During his prison time, he dealt with constant harassment. After his release, the threats against him and his family continued. In 2017, a warrant for his arrest was issued, claiming he had breached the terms of his probation.

Alexya Salvador

A trans woman in Brazil, one of the most dangerous places in the world for the LGBTQ+ community, Alexya Salvador is also a pastor. In 2015, the Metropolitan Community Church appointed her as an assistant pastor, so she became the first trans reverend in Latin America. In 2018, she ran for a state representative position. She's currently the vice president of the Brazilian Association of Homotransaffective Families. She speaks on issues like adoption, different family formations, and education.



Greta Thunberg

Arguably the most famous human rights activist right now, Greta Thunberg travels the world to draw attention to the climate crisis. Only 17 years old, she began her activism in 2018 by skipping school to stand outside the Swedish Parliament calling for action. Other students joined and the movement went global. She was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 2019 and won Amnesty International's top human rights award. In focusing on climate change, Thunberg draws attention to the fact that the climate crisis is a human rights crisis.

Malala Yousafzai

Born in Pakistan, Malala Yousafzai comes from a family of human rights activists. At only 11, she began writing a blog. Over the next few years, she became well-known for her promotion of education as a right. In 2012, the Taliban attempted to assassinate her. The attack made her world-famous. She went on to share the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 at age 17, making her the youngest laureate. Malala is the co-founder of the Malala Fund and continues her human rights activism as she earns her degree from Oxford.



MEDIA

Books

The Rights of Man

H. G. Wells' passionate and influential manifesto was first published in England in 1940 in response to World War II. In the face of a global miscarriage of justice, *The Rights of Man* made a clear statement of mankind's responsibilities to itself.

Penguin Book of Migration Literature

Organized in four parts (Departures, Arrivals, Generations, and Returns), *The Penguin Book of Migration Literature* conveys the intricacy of worldwide migration patterns, the diversity of immigrant experiences, and the commonalities among many of those diverse experiences.

They Called Us Enemy

Here is a stunning graphic memoir recounting actor/author/activist George Takei's childhood imprisoned within American concentration camps during World War II, depicting the joys and terrors of growing up under legalized racism.

Tales of Two Americas

In *Tales of Two Americas*, some of the literary world's most exciting writers share their powerful stories, essays, and poems, demonstrating how boundaries break down when experiences are shared, and that in sharing our stories we can help to alleviate a suffering that touches so many people.

World Report 2021

Here are the human rights records of more than ninety countries and territories. The annual World Report is an invaluable resource for journalists, diplomats, and citizens, and is a must-read for anyone interested in the fight to protect human rights in every corner of the globe.

A Map Is Only One Story

Selected from the archives of *Catapult* magazine, the essays in *A Map Is Only One Story* highlight the human side of immigration policies and polarized rhetoric, as twenty writers share provocative personal stories of existing between languages and cultures.

Videos

Standing Up for Freedom

This short animated video was commissioned by Amnesty International USA to mark Amnesty's 50th anniversary back in 2011. As the text reads, 'We have been standing up for freedom for the last 50 years but we still have a long way to go. Be a voice for human rights. Join Us'.

Morgan Freeman: The Power of Words

This compelling video on the importance of people speaking out for human rights stars Morgan Freeman and was a Webby Award winner. Definitely a good video to inspire us to take action and stand up for human rights.

Les petits soldats de la paix

This beautiful documentary on child soldiers from the Kivu conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo raises important questions concerning what comes next for these child soldiers, by showing the life of a local organization that gives these children a second chance at having a decent life. It was made in 2011 with the support of Amnesty International.

I talk out loud

This video shares the story of an Amnesty Youth Group at Eastlea School in east London and their campaign to end stoning in Iran. The Eastlea School students talk about their experience during this campaign, which included a protest in front of the Iranian embassy in London, in this inspiring demonstration of young people standing up for human rights. It was made by Amnesty International UK in 2012.

When you don't exist

When you don't exist is a two-minute video, showing an "alternative reality" where Europeans are the ones undertaking a dangerous journey to reach Africa, only to be detained at immigration centers and be refused entrance at the border. It uses powerful imagery to challenge our perspective on the human reality of experiences of migration, and make us more aware of the situation that many migrants and refugees face when trying to reach European borders. It was made by Amnesty International in 2012.

UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Adopted: December 10, 1948

1. We are all born free and equal
2. Everyone has rights despite differences
3. All have the right to live, and live in safety
4. No one may enslave you
5. No one may torture you
6. You have rights no matter where you travel
7. All are equal before the law
8. Human rights are protected by law
9. No one should be unfairly detained
10. All have a right to a fair trial
11. All accused are innocent until proven guilty
12. All have a right to privacy
13. All have the right to move freely
14. All may enjoy asylum from persecution
15. All have a right to nationality
16. All may marry and establish families
17. All may own property
18. All may think freely, including religion
19. All may freely express opinions
20. All may assemble peacefully
21. All may participate in governing
22. All have rights to dignity and social protections
23. All have free choices of employment
24. All have rights to rest and leisure
25. All have the right to an adequate standard of living
26. All have a right to education
27. All have rights to intellectual property
28. All have the right to a world that enables and protects rights
29. All rights have responsibilities and can only be limited when infringing on others' rights
30. No one can take away your human rights