

01:
BACKGROUND
RESOURCES

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (UDHR)

The UDHR was drawn up by the newly formed United Nations in the years immediately following the Second World War. Since 1948, it has formed the backbone of the international human rights system. Every country in the world is bound by the general principles expressed within the 30 articles of this document.

The UDHR itself is, as its name states, a declaration. It is a declaration of intent by every government around the world that they will abide by certain basic standards in the treatment of individual human beings. Since its adoption, numerous other binding laws and agreements have been drawn up on the basis of its principles. These laws and agreements allow organizations like Amnesty International to call on governments not to engage in the types of behaviour or treatment that the people mentioned in the above cases have experienced: human rights have become part of international law.

Human rights protect individuals, and they create obligations for governments or state officials. They can be seen as laws for governments. They are designed to ensure that every human being, whatever their gender or gender identity, nationality, ethnic identity, or religious orientation; however rich or poor, young or old, abled or disabled; whatever their beliefs; however qualified or skilled they are – that all these human beings should be treated with respect for their humanity and dignity. No one should have to suffer indignity or harm; no one should be treated as a lesser human being than anyone else.

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SUMMARY OF ARTICLES IN THE UDHR

1.	Freedom and equality in dignity and rights
2.	Non-discrimination
3.	Right to life, liberty and security of person
4.	Freedom from slavery
5.	Freedom from torture
6.	Protected by the law
7.	Equal before the law
8.	A remedy when rights have been violated
9.	No unjust detention, imprisonment or exile
10.	Right to a fair trial
11.	Innocent until proven guilty
12.	Privacy and the right to home and family life
13.	Freedom to live and travel freely within state borders
14.	Right to go to another country and ask for protection
15.	Right to a nationality
16.	Right to marry and start a family
17.	Right to own property and possessions
18.	Freedom of belief (including religious belief)
19.	Freedom of expression and the right to spread information
20.	Freedom to join associations and meet with others in a peaceful way
21.	Right to take part in the government of your country
22.	Right to social security
23.	Right to work for a fair wage and to join a trade union
24.	Right to rest and leisure
25.	Right to a standard of living adequate for your health and well-being
26.	Right to education, including free primary education
27.	Right to share in your community's cultural life
28.	Right to an international order where all these rights can be fully realized
29.	Responsibility to respect the rights of others
30.	No taking away any of these rights!



CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES
Right to life, freedom from torture and slavery, freedom of expression and religious belief, right to non-discrimination.



LEGAL RIGHTS
Right to be presumed innocent, right to a fair trial, right to be free from arbitrary arrest or detention.



SOCIAL RIGHTS
Right to education, to found and maintain a family, to recreation, to health care.



POLITICAL RIGHTS
Right to participate in the government of the country, right to vote, right to peaceful assembly.



ECONOMIC RIGHTS
Right to property, to work, to housing, to a pension, to an adequate standard of living.



CULTURAL RIGHTS, SOLIDARITY RIGHTS
Right to participate in the cultural life of the community.

[1] This summary was specifically developed to be used in this educational activity. It is not a UN approved summary.