



**OUR RIGHTS
OUR FREEDOMS
ALWAYS**
HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2015



**UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS**
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

Human Rights Day 2015 - Q&A

What is Human Rights Day?

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December. It commemorates the day (10 December 1948) the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

What is the focus of Human Rights Day this year?

This year Human Rights Day highlights 'Freedoms,' recalling the four freedoms that underlie the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and two major human rights covenants, and first articulated in 1941 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in his "four freedoms speech" to the US Congress.

Why are the Roosevelts being honoured on Human Rights Day?

In 1941 the world lived through dark times: the Second World War had started. In response, Franklin D. Roosevelt offered a clear vision for a better future centered around four freedoms (freedom of speech, of religion, from want, and from fear). Eleanor, his wife, helped his vision to be included in major UN human rights documents.

Why is Human Rights Day being marked at the Four Freedoms Park this year?

Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park is the first memorial dedicated to the former President in his home state of New York. The Park celebrates the Four Freedoms, as pronounced in President Roosevelt's famous January 6, 1941 State of the Union speech.

What is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

A milestone document in the history of human rights, the most translated in the world, it was proclaimed "a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations." It sets out fundamental human rights to be universally protected. It consists of a preamble and 30 articles.

What are the two Human Rights Covenants?

They are: The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, both adopted in 1966. The preambles and articles 1, 3 and 5 of the two International Covenants are almost identical.

What is the International Bill of Human Rights?

It consists of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two Optional Protocols. It represents a veritable *Magna Carta* marking mankind's arrival at a vital phase: the conscious acquisition of human dignity and worth.

#Humanrightsday

Contacts

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|--------------|
| André-Michel Essoungou | Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights | essoungou@un.org | 917 917 9995 |
| Nenad Vasic | Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights | vasic@un.org | 212 963 5998 |
| Martina Donlon | Department of Public Information | donlon@un.org | 212 963 6816 |