

THE DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD LECTURE 1998

# Human Rights

Challenges for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

---

*Mary Robinson*

Uppsala 1998



THE DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD LECTURE 1998

# Human Rights

Challenges for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

*Mary Robinson*

Uppsala 1998

*This is the text of the first Dag Hammarskjöld Lecture given by Mrs Mary Robinson, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, at Uppsala University on 1 October 1998. It is followed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of which fell during the same year.*

ISBN 91-85214-26-4

Printed by Motala Grafiska AB, Motala

Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation,  
Uppsala, Sweden  
1998

# PREFACE

**H**uman rights issues have increasingly come into focus during the course of the 1990s. In international organisations and movements, in meetings and conferences, and in concerned newspapers and journals as well as other media, human rights are receiving more and more attention. This emphasis is not only an indication of a growing number of human rights violations, but also reflects an increased awareness on the part of both governments and civil society organisations.

At the intergovernmental level, decisive steps towards greater involvement have been the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, and the UN Secretary-General's report 'Renewing the United Nations: a Programme for Reform', which was completed in July 1997. In the latter, human rights were placed at the centre of all United Nations work, henceforth regarded as an integral tool for the promotion of peace and security, economic prosperity and social equity.

The acceptance by Mrs Mary Robinson, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and former President of Ireland, to give the first Dag Hammarskjöld Lecture on 1 October 1998 at Uppsala University was therefore

very timely. In an inspiring lecture entitled 'Human Rights: Challenges for the Twenty-first Century', Mrs Robinson shared with the audience her concerns and her vision. In particular, she emphasised the need for structured integration of all aspects of human rights at international, regional and national levels, and, secondly, for the harnessing of one vital component of global society—the corporate sector—to take full responsibility for the implementation of human rights.

The guidelines for the organising committee of the Dag Hammarskjöld Lecture, which selects the speaker after nominations from a broad range of people with extensive experience of international affairs, state: 'The privilege of delivering the Lecture will be offered to a person who has promoted, in action and spirit, the values that inspired Dag Hammarskjöld as Secretary-General of the United Nations and generally in his life: compassion, humanism and commitment to international solidarity and cooperation.' With her extensive experience of politics, academic work and international civil service, her strong rights perspective and her long commitment to work for peace and justice, Mrs Robinson was an ideal person to deliver the first Dag Hammarskjöld Lecture.

Mary Robinson has had a distinguished professional career. She devoted her academic studies to Law and was appointed, at the age of 25, Reid Professor of Constitutional and Criminal Law at Trinity College, Dublin. She combined her academic commitments with numerous political responsibilities and engagements and, in 1990, was the first woman to be elected President of Ireland. Under her presidency, Ireland experienced a remarkable surge of national pride and culture as well as impressive economic development. Despite being a very popular President, Mrs Robinson decided not to stand for re-election after her first seven-year period ending in 1997. Instead,

she turned her attention towards international work and took office as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in September 1997.

The Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and Uppsala University are proud to publish the full text of Mrs Robinson's speech. In this publication we are also including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the fiftieth anniversary of which fell during 1998.

The Dag Hammarskjöld Lecture is to be an annual event and has been jointly instituted by the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and Uppsala University in memory of the second Secretary-General of the United Nations. Uppsala University has also created, especially for this occasion, a Dag Hammarskjöld Medal which is awarded to the person giving the lecture. The first Dag Hammarskjöld Lecture and the presentation of the medal to Mrs Robinson took place in a full University Main Hall and we are particularly pleased that in the audience a majority were students and young people. With this very successful and encouraging start we look forward to future Dag Hammarskjöld Lectures with great confidence.

*Lars Anell*  
*Chairperson*  
*Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation*

*Bo Sundqvist*  
*Vice-Chancellor*  
*Uppsala University*



Photo: Tommy Westberg

*Mary Robinson  
with The Dag Hammarskjöld Medal  
1 October 1998*



# HUMAN RIGHTS

## CHALLENGES FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

*By Mary Robinson*

I had a vivid dream recently, which was clearly related to the honour and also the pressure of delivering this first Dag Hammarskjöld Lecture. In this dream I had obviously come here to Uppsala, to a room in the Foundation which I had in fact visited less than two years ago. Seated in a rocking chair was a remarkably young and familiar looking 93 year-old. I wanted to ask him about the speech he had made on 10 April 1957 in which he had said:

‘We know that the question of peace and the question of human rights are closely related. Without recognition of human rights we shall never have peace, and it is only within the framework of peace that human rights can be fully developed.’

He looked sad and reminded me that when he became Secretary-General in 1953 the early euphoria about human rights in the UN system was already fading. The notion of translating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into binding norms had met resistance and he himself had felt constrained in speaking out as Secretary-General about human rights. Then he leant forward, tipping his chair, and spoke intensely.

‘Everything has changed now. You have a mandate; you have the full backing of the Secretary-General, all you have to do is to work from the

perspective of those who most need their human rights protected and promoted.' 'But how?' I asked, and then the alarm went off and I woke from my dream.

The dream still haunts me as I join in the many tributes to this great man: economist, lawyer, diplomat and international civil servant; whose career culminated in his appointment as the second United Nations Secretary-General, from 1953 until his death in a plane crash in Ndola on 18 September 1961 while attempting to bring peace to the Congo. He truly was a renaissance man, combining his public life with a strong artistic nature, as is clear from the meditations in *Markings*, the poems and translations, his aesthetic sensibility shown through his keen interest in music and the visual arts, the quality of his photography and the wide circle of artists and writers who were his friends.

There are many parallels between the issues he addressed and the challenges confronting us today. As Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld interpreted his mandate to be an extraordinary mandate for action. The Charter empowered him to draw to the attention of the Security Council any matter which threatened international peace and security, and during his term he repeatedly demonstrated his belief that the ideals embodied in the Charter must find expression in reality. The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to him posthumously in 1961 for his work in helping to resolve the crisis in the Congo; now that region of Africa is once more in crisis.

Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, there have been notable achievements. An impressive body of international law has been enacted, including the two Covenants<sup>1</sup> and the Conventions<sup>2</sup> on racism, torture, the rights of the child and the elimination of discrimination against women. Human rights mechanisms such as special rapporteurs, experts and working groups have been established. The United

Nations Human Rights Commission meeting annually in Geneva has focused world attention on cases of torture, racism, disappearances, arbitrary detention, the right to development, summary executions, violence against women, and has generated international pressure on governments to improve their respect for human rights. With Sweden's strong support, the protection and promotion of the rights of children have, in recent years, increasingly been given priority on the agenda of the organisation.

It is acknowledged that we need to improve the way all this functions. During its session this year the Commission on Human Rights initiated a review of the effectiveness of the international human rights mechanisms which I have warmly welcomed. I also support a parallel academic study of the functioning of the International Treaty Bodies and I have established a task force within my Office to support both exercises and to enable me to present my own recommendations to the Secretary-General in due course.

And yet, and yet... As we mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and engage in the stocktaking review after five years of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, it is deeply disturbing to recall that every day, hundreds of millions of people experience some serious violations of their human rights. Increasingly, as we watch their suffering on TV, we seem to have a capacity to distance ourselves: to go and make some coffee, take a phone call. There is a worrying correlation between the

---

<sup>1</sup> The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966).

<sup>2</sup> The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979); the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984); and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).

immediacy of our knowledge and our capacity to distance ourselves. Many of those who suffer are children, women, old people, people with disabilities, minorities, migrants and indigenous peoples.

Many human rights defenders live a life of terrible fear. This was brought home to me in a very personal way during the last session of the Commission on Human Rights. A number of the representatives of small NGOs working in difficult circumstances pleaded with me to ensure their protection when they went back to their own country. Violations range from torture and arbitrary detention to hunger and homelessness, from violence against and trafficking in women and children to child labour, from illiteracy to deaths from lack of access to safe water. The rhetoric becomes ever more hollow. Our world needs effective, structured action to implement the international commitments made.

The challenges that confronted Dag Hammarskjöld have multiplied. There are more wars—albeit conflicts frequently within the boundaries of sovereign states and consequently characterised as ‘internal conflicts’; more refugees—more of whom are technically ‘displaced persons’ within their own country. There are more states—and greater disparity between their resources; there is more poverty—but less agreement about the role of the state in addressing it; in short, more challenges to peace and the realisation of human rights.

One important and increasing asset in addressing these challenges is the robust and continued international debate—including vigorous criticism—from civil society concerning human rights abuses by both states and corporate entities. The need for the United Nations to link more effectively with civil society—and to combine resources, so that criticism can be supplemented by constructive engagement at all levels—was highlighted last year by the



Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, when he presented his report 'Renewing the United Nations; a Programme for Reform'.

This plan, subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly, clearly designated human rights as a theme central to each substantive field of the UN's work. Henceforth, human rights is to become an integral tool for the promotion of peace and security, economic prosperity and social equity.

I propose, therefore, to focus on two immediate challenges: the structured integration of human rights at the international, regional and national levels, and the harnessing of one vital component of our global civil society, the corporate sector, in recognising that human rights is very much their business too.

I see my role in, the Secretary-General's strategy to integrate human rights effectively in all aspects of the United Nations work, as that of a catalyst: to motivate the entire UN system to be involved in the realisation of civil, cultural, economic, social and political rights at all levels, particularly at country level, and within countries, at grassroots level.

Since my appointment, I have been engaging with senior UN colleagues through the participation of my Office on the recently established Executive Committees of the United Nations in New York and also in developing cooperation agreements with different components of the UN, its agencies and programmes. Such agreements are designed to ensure that we introduce an appropriate human rights dynamic and dimension into all UN activities. And I have taken the opportunity to hold working sessions on this with UN colleagues during official visits to countries, such as my recent visit to China. In discussions with colleagues in a range of countries such as Uganda, Rwanda, South Africa, Morocco, Cambodia and Iran, we have talked together about how each programme of the UN can help promote human rights in that

country. Under the leadership of Kofi Annan we have seen the importance of working together as colleagues to further human rights in a very rounded way.

Clearly, there can be no controversy about the centrality of human rights in the Charter. Nor can there be any doubt that the Universal Declaration captured the spirit and determination of those who framed it. The challenge confronting us 50 years on is how to achieve effective, rigorous and balanced implementation of all human rights for all. That requires greater capacity both to promote and to protect human rights at all levels.

International capacity building will require significant further reforms in several of our post-war international institutions, including the UN itself and the Bretton Woods Institutions.

Recent events in Asia and Central and Eastern Europe remind us, vividly and urgently, of not only the universality and indivisibility but also the interdependence of economic rights with all other rights; of the imperative to give real meaning to the right to development.

In the past there has been a view in some quarters that sound economic policy is not synonymous with a central focus on human rights. I disagree. I believe very recent events have given us a more mature understanding not only of their interdependence but of the inherent symmetry between the two sets of rights: civil and political, and economic, social and cultural.

This is particularly important at a time when economic orthodoxies are being challenged and the parameters of the debate on how we address abject poverty and enhance global prosperity are changing.

However, in terms of enhancing the UN's capacity to 'deliver'—particularly for those groups which are the poorest, the most vulnerable and the most disadvantaged—we still have an international system weakened by the degree to which it is compartmentalised. 'Mainstreaming' human rights, as it has

been referred to, including into the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, will provide a dynamic breaking down of that compartmentalisation and more effectively integrating our respective work and endeavours.

This also applies to the regional institutions which have been created and with which my Office is developing working links. Last July I participated at the third conference between the UN and Regional Organizations, the first under the auspices of Kofi Annan as Secretary-General, on the subject of conflict prevention. There was a clear recognition of the need for more coordination, better early warning systems, identification of and sharing of responsibilities. To hear, on both sides, the openness to working with the other, the acknowledgement that together we have much greater strength, was encouraging to me.

Capacity building at the national level requires both a coherent framework of benchmarks and objectives and institutional structures to facilitate their achievement. The former can be provided by commitment to a national plan for human rights—an initiative strongly encouraged in every country by the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993 and one in which my Office is assisting a growing number of governments. Despite this, and disturbingly, some governments do not feel they need a plan of action for human rights.

But even where there are plans, plans without effective strategies for implementation are empty vessels.

During this past year in which I have had the honour to occupy this position, I have become increasingly convinced of the necessity to focus on preventive strategies. This has convinced me of the importance of creating strong, independent national human rights institutions to provide accessible remedies, particularly for those who are most vulnerable and disadvantaged. Frequently these institutions are human rights commissions, but in many countries,

drawing on traditions originating here in Sweden, they are related to or identified as a human rights ombudsman or ombudsperson.

I think we recognise that democracy alone is no guarantee that the rights of all persons will be protected, and the history of all democracies bears this out. Nor is the constitutional entrenchment of human rights in itself a guarantee that they will not be violated in practice. It is precisely their capacity to contribute substantially to the realisation of individual human rights which makes independent institutions so significant. People can bring to them their complaints against the police, their complaints of discrimination on the basis of gender or race, their cases of harassment. I remember discussing with members of the Ugandan Commission on Human Rights how they were handling complaints against the police. And it seems to me that this is really capacity building: this is, from the ground up, developing a capacity to take on issues of potential violation and transgression of human rights.

From a less traditional human rights perspective, national institutions which can protect the rights of minorities are sometimes an essential prerequisite, not only for the rights of individuals concerned, but for the survival of viable multi-ethnic states.

The consequences of neglecting this imperative can be catastrophic—as we have recently witnessed in both Europe and Africa. And danger signals now flash in some areas of South East Asia.

I recognise that capacity building is both a complex and sensitive endeavour, not often talked about as such, and somehow seemingly a little distant from the harsh violations that I began with. And yet, unless we build up the national justice system, we cannot really address human rights in a sustainable way. And capacity building engages the international community—and my Office as part of that community—in constructive dialogue with both govern-



ments and civil society. Nor does this approach lessen in any way the responsibility to voice criticism of violations of human rights whenever that is necessary: rather it acknowledges that criticism must be accompanied by constructive engagement precisely because of a recognition of the primary responsibility which governments must play in an era where the nation state still occupies a central role.

Independent national human rights commissions can, by virtue of their accessibility, transform the rhetoric of international instruments into practical reality and provide redress for millions of people. They can do this in a manner which is consistent with the international standards prescribed in international treaties, while accommodating constitutional peculiarities and the extraordinarily disparate challenges posed by local conditions and cultures—thus respecting ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic diversity but not allowing it to compromise the universality of human rights.

Such commissions can also contribute to and complement government reports to international treaty bodies, reflecting more fully the reality of human rights. In a number of countries that I visit, I am presented with the government's report to the treaty bodies (such as the Committee on the Rights of the Child or the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women) and almost in the same breath I get the NGOs' alternative report, or—better still—I know that the NGOs and independent human rights commission have not only contributed to the report, but will be in Geneva to express their views when the report is being defended by the government. Finally, independent commissions can provide constructive, well-informed criticism from within, which is important in balancing criticism from 'outside'. Human rights is a sensitive and extraordinarily complex affair: it cannot be achieved by nice words and consensus. There has to be a facing-up to bullies;

there has to be an addressing of issues of violations. But if it all comes from the outside it can be seen as being very political and politicised. So, part of our challenge is to build the resources of criticism from within; to develop structures of human rights from within, to create a groundswell of awareness of human rights which links with, and will be in a global alliance with, the international protection and promotion of human rights.

Of course, national human rights commissions or similar bodies can operate most effectively in societies where the domestic infrastructure reflects the state's commitment to democracy and the rule of law—a pluralist and accountable parliament, an executive ultimately subject to the authority of elected representatives and an independent, impartial judiciary. These are necessary but even they are not sufficient prerequisites for the promotion and protection of human rights.

It may seem unrealistic to expect nation states to willingly establish national institutions which have central to their mandate, at the core of their work, the role of monitoring the behaviour of the state and its employees and of holding government accountable. However, I believe nations now understand better the link between respect for human rights and achieving the security and stability essential for sustainable human development. I am encouraged in this belief by the agreement on a framework for technical cooperation in human rights achieved earlier this year at a workshop in Tehran, which drew together representatives of 36 Asian and Pacific governments who, after all, represented over half the world's population. There was also NGO participation and participation by national human rights commissions and by the Asia Pacific Forum. The delegates of governments agreed to work together and to be supported by my Office to strengthen their national capacities in four spe-

cific areas: national plans for human rights; national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights; human rights education; and strategies for realising the right to development. And it was agreed to review progress together annually in further workshops carried out under resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights.

We have already moved on to consolidate this approach at the national level, for example by signing with Indonesia a more detailed memorandum that will involve a human rights resource person in Jakarta having full access to East Timor and helping Indonesia to cope with the problems of implementing a human rights plan of action adopted this summer. In discussions this month with South Korea and Thailand concerning the independent human rights commissions they have agreed to establish within the next 12 months, reference was made to this framework for technical cooperation. More recently it was cited in a Memorandum of Intent I signed with China which is to lead to projects of technical cooperation there. So, there are openings to engage in, and opportunities to ensure that awareness of, a culture of human rights is built from within, as well as being linked to the treaties and standards of the international community.

My Office is also working to support and strengthen national human rights institutions in an increasing number of countries in Africa, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America. Very often we join with regional organisations or other partners in this work.

To illustrate the potential of this approach: at the Second African Conference for National Human Rights Institutions, hosted by the South African Human Rights Commission in Durban this summer, I learned details of the poverty 'speak outs' which had been organised by that Commission, the

Gender Commission and the South African Coalition of NGOs. More than 10,000 people had taken part actively in ten public hearings on how to address issues of poverty in a practical way.

Nor is this human rights capacity building confined to developing regions. Countries such as Australia, New Zealand and Canada have recognised these values, and I was happy to note that one of the requirements of the Anglo-Irish agreement concluded last April was that human rights commissions would be established in Belfast and in Dublin. My Office is currently responding to requests from both governments for advice in relation to the detailed implementation of their obligations under the Anglo-Irish agreement and in accordance with the Paris Principles.

The second challenge, which I want to address now, recognises that one of the effects of globalisation is the shrinking influence of governments in important areas where they nonetheless retain responsibility: for conditions in the workplace, and for the way in which the vulnerable sectors of their communities can be exploited. The corporate sector should neither be asked to, nor expected to, assume those government responsibilities. But I believe the corporate sector can be encouraged to make an informed business assessment of the relevance of human rights to the environment in which they do business. Knowing that governments retain the primary responsibility, and that international organisations such as the UN must continue to give effective leadership in standard-setting, I would emphasise the importance of encouraging young people of calibre, integrity and commitment to human rights to choose a career in the public service: whether in national government or in international organisations. The effects of globalisation will demand principled leadership to address issues of economic and social equity, the rule of law and meaningful participation in decision-making.



In this world of transition, with all the pluses and minuses of globalisation, we need a more eclectic, imaginative and inclusive approach to cooperation with the corporate sector. It is my intention as High Commissioner to pursue appropriate strategies to ensure that social responsibility in general, and human rights in particular, are firmly anchored in the corporate agenda. The welcome pressure of the informed consumer and shareholder, the increasing importance of information and knowledge and the rise of transparency, driven by the explosion of information technology, make this development inevitable. In a sense, the debate is business-driven. There is a recognition that consumers have become much more informed and correspondingly more demanding, and, because we are then talking about the market, civil society has a powerful role to play. If there is an awareness of human rights and standards, if there is an insistence by consumers that human rights values are reflected in the products or in the images that they will accept, that is a very powerful way of developing the scope for human rights as part of a climate conducive to the conduct of business.

Corporations are sometimes responsible for abuses of human rights and, if so, are more and more vulnerable to being in the spotlight in that regard. They can be encouraged to accept that the globalisation of international human rights standards—the slow, painful result of United Nations efforts—must be reflected increasingly in the globalised market place. Like the Secretary-General, I see significant possibilities for the emergence of a more constructive and productive partnership with the private corporate sector, as we approach the new century. Indeed, given the changing role and capacity of government, I believe this is essential.

The issues currently confronting our world pose a tremendous challenge. If we are serious about the right to life we must equally be serious about the

right to food, health care, education and shelter. We must acknowledge the importance of a vigorous international debate—while understanding that the reality of implementation and access for the vast majority of humanity lies at the national level. It is at that level, therefore, that capacity building is most important. We must understand the implications of the recent United Nations report indicating that even in the world's wealthiest countries 100 million of our fellow human beings live in poverty. In this climate there can be no 'us and them'; no preaching; no abdication of responsibility.

We will succeed only if we harness our collective endeavours: if we acknowledge the gross inequity of a world in which the three richest individuals have assets exceeding the financial resources of the 48 least developed countries on this planet.

And so, in conclusion, I would counsel and urge that we collectively resolve to honour the memory of Dag Hammarskjöld by striving for a world in which his vision of peace and human rights becomes a reality, a reality which, I am convinced, will only be possible if we achieve a more equitable allocation of resources, a more enlightened and responsive corporate sector and the growth of appropriate institutions, particularly at the national level, to ensure that governments are accountable for the rights of all those within their jurisdiction.

Our generation, and I say particularly to the students present, your generation, have the hardest task: the laws are there, the international mechanisms have been established, and can be improved and that process is in train, but the essential challenge is to implement where it really matters, to make a reality of human rights for all. That requires each of us to be a custodian of human rights, that each of us plays our part.



Photo: Tommy Westberg

*Mary Robinson  
delivering the first Dag Hammarskjöld Lecture  
Uppsala University Hall*





# THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS



*Adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 217  
A (III) of 10 December 1948*

On December 10, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the full text of which appears below. Following this historic act the Assembly called upon all Member countries to publicise the text of the Declaration and 'to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories'.

## **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.

**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.**

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

**Article 3.**

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

**Article 4.**

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

**Article 5.**

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

**Article 6.**

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

**Article 7.**

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

**Article 8.**

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

**Article 9.**

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

**Article 10.**

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

**Article 11.**

(1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

(2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

**Article 12.**

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

**Article 13.**

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.

(2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

**Article 14.**

(1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

(2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

**Article 15.**

(1) Everyone has the right to a nationality.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

**Article 16.**

(1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

(2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

(3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

**Article 17.**

(1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.



**Article 18.**

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

**Article 19.**

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

**Article 20.**

- (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
- (2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

**Article 21.**

- (1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
- (2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.
- (3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

**Article 22.**

Everyone, as a member of society, has 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.**

- (1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
- (2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

(3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

(4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

**Article 24.**

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

**Article 25.**

(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

(2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

**Article 26.**

(1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

(2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

(3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

**Article 27.**

(1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

(2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

**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.**

(1) Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

(2) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

(3) These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

**Article 30.**

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.







## UPPSALA UNIVERSITY

Uppsala University, founded in 1477, is the oldest and best-known university in Scandinavia. Famous scholars such as Rudbeck, Celsius and Linnaeus were professors at the university and from Uppsala the disciples of Linnaeus spread throughout the world. Seven Nobel Prize laureates have been professors at the university, among them Archbishop Nathan Söderblom, who was also the University's Pro-Chancellor and received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1930.

In the same year Dag Hammarskjöld completed his studies at Uppsala with a bachelor's degree in Law. He had begun his studies in 1923, received a BA in Romance Languages, Philosophy and Economics in 1925 and took a further post-graduate degree in Economics early in 1928.

In 1981, the Swedish Parliament established a Dag Hammarskjöld Chair of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University. The university's international studies library is also named after Dag Hammarskjöld.

## DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD FOUNDATION

The Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation was established in 1962 in memory of the second Secretary-General of the United Nations. The purpose of the Foundation is to organise seminars, workshops and consultations on social, political, cultural and environmental issues facing the Third World and to publish and disseminate the results. The Foundation is an operating and not a grant-making body which carries out its work programme under its own auspices.

Over the years, the Foundation has organised about 150 seminars and workshops and produced over 100 publications of material arising from these events, among them the biannual journal *Development Dialogue*.

\* \* \*

Copies of this publication may be obtained from the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Övre Slottsgatan 2, S-753 10 Uppsala, Sweden, fax: +46-18-12 20 72, e-mail: [secretariat@dhf.uu.se](mailto:secretariat@dhf.uu.se)





*The medal which Uppsala University has produced in memory of Dag Hammarskjöld is awarded to the Dag Hammarskjöld Lecturers. It is designed by Annette Rydström and cast in bronze. The obverse shows a portrait of Dag Hammarskjöld and the reverse a handshake and a text in Latin which reads: 'Uppsala University to its disciple in memory of his outstanding achievements.'*

*Photo: Jan Eve Olsson, Kungl. Myntkabinettet*



DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD  
FOUNDATION



UPPSALA UNIVERSITY

Supported by MeritaNordbanken