

# Universal Human Rights

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## Who Has Ratified?

Australia      Albania

Belgium      Finland

Canada      Hungary

China      Iceland

France      Mexico

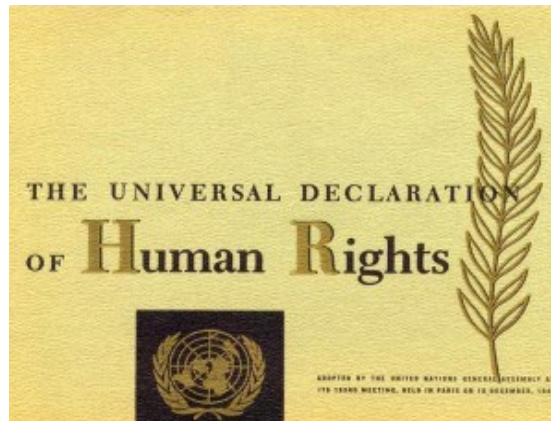
Germany      Italy

Greece      Norway

## Summary

Annually, over 200,000 violations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is reported to the High Commissioner of Human Rights office. Included in these violations are acts of terror and indignity frequently produced by the United States government and armed forces. <sup>1</sup>

One method to solving this world wide concern is through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). It was designed to protect the dignity of all people; allowing every human basic rights to live with freedom and respect.



## Articles in the UDHR:

- ◆ All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and in rights.
- ◆ Everyone is entitled to all rights, regardless of who you are or where you come from.
- ◆ Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person.
- ◆ No one shall be subject to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- ◆ Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

## History

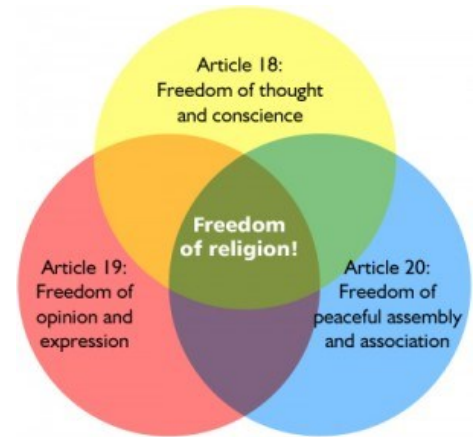
Although the United States played a large role in the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), it still hasn't been ratified. Eleanor Roosevelt, widow to U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt, was chair to the UDHR drafting committee and was one of the nine drafters of this declaration. Some of Franklin Roosevelt's speech on the four freedoms soon became part of this powerful movement as well. <sup>3</sup>

Influenced by the barbarous acts of World War 2, this declaration was created to protect essential freedoms the United Nations would agree were inherent to all human beings.<sup>3</sup> Its designed purpose is to ensure that every person is treated with dignity, no matter who they are or where they come from. This universal declaration protects the idea that all people are born free and equal in dignity and in rights, some of these rights can be seen in various laws and conventions created by the United States government.<sup>8</sup> It also protects all individuals from cruel punishment and torture, oppression, tyranny, arbitrary arrest, detention, and exile. <sup>4</sup> It is essential to promote the development of unity among all nations and provide a sense of equality to people around the world.

## Alternative Approaches

Every year the United States Armed Forces violates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. U. S. authorities continue to hold prisoners without charge or trial in other countries, resorted to multiple forms of torture (including “water boarding” to simulate drowning), and allow the CIA to utilize secret detention and interrogation tactics. The United States estimates over 600,000 people are trafficked across international borders and yet deportation, harassment, and denial of services to the victims are the usual responses from U.S. administration authorities. <sup>4</sup>

The United States government has developed many policies in hopes of embracing similar qualities as the UDHR and reducing the threat of inhumane treatment to people. The U.S. constitution, the American Convention on Human Rights, and other humanitarian laws are a few documents that influence the idea of equality among all human beings. However, though there is a vast range of policies to protect our freedoms, not many, if any, are protecting other nations from our unsightly war tactics (such as torture). <sup>4</sup>



One of the fundamental freedoms the United States is founded on is highly supported in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.<sup>7</sup>

*“Human rights are part of  
our everyday lives, and  
each one of us is responsible  
for their protection and  
promotion.”*

-International Human Rights Funders Group<sup>8</sup>

## Conclusion

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights protects the essential freedoms and rights inherent to all human beings. <sup>3</sup> It protects all people from various forms of torture and indignity. Although the United States frequently utilizes methods outside the acceptance of this international declaration, it is a universal law that needs to be globally established. In order to promote global unity, the United States needs to ratify the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and honor the idea that all people deserve to have these essential freedoms.

## Recommendations

If the United States government ratifies the Universal Declaration of Human Rights then they will be choosing to no longer resort to inhumane and indignifying strategies for international cooperation. Instead, the U.S. government can find alternative strategies, such as enhanced verbal interrogation tactics as used by many police precincts. Alternative strategies can also be seen as a discontinuance of all torture and terrorism by U.S. affiliates and as providing security to victims of similar UDHR violations. <sup>4</sup>

The next steps are simple, you, the United States House of Senate, needs to make the decision to ratify the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and grow in support of true international equality.



Eleanor Roosevelt—chair of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights drafting committee<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Human Rights (<http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/briefing/rights/rights.pdf>) <sup>2</sup>amnesty international (<http://www.amnesty-volunteer.org/udhr50/signers.html>)  
<sup>3</sup>United Nations (<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/history.shtml>) <sup>4</sup>United For Human Rights (<http://www.humanrights.com/what-are-human-rights/violations-of-human-rights/slavery-and-torture.html>) <sup>5</sup>United Nations ([http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ha/udhr/udhr\\_audio.html](http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ha/udhr/udhr_audio.html)) <sup>6</sup>UDHR Image (<http://crls-4120.wikispaces.com/The+Universal+Declaration+of+Human+Rights>) <sup>7</sup>Freedom of Religion Image (<http://omiusajpic.org/2012/11/29/intl-day-for-human-rights/>) <sup>8</sup>International Human Rights Funders Group (<http://www.ihrfg.org/human-rights-funding/faqs-about-human-rights#faq10>) <sup>9</sup>FAQs (<http://www.ihrfg.org/human-rights-funding/faqs-about-human-rights#faq10>) <sup>10</sup>Human Rights Activism (<http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu/conversations/Sane/sane-con5.html>) <sup>11</sup>We the World and Human Rights ([http://www.hrea.org/erc/Library/Jaan\\_Tonisson/theworld/index.html](http://www.hrea.org/erc/Library/Jaan_Tonisson/theworld/index.html))