



GET INTO...

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights 70th Anniversary

#standup4humanrights

On 10 December 2018, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights turns 70.

The Declaration is a foundational document which underpins dozens of others around the world. Its 30 articles and preamble have inspired and guided the work of advocates to ensure that all people, irrespective of their status, gender, orientation and location, can gain freedom, equality and dignity.



Crucially, the Declaration contains several key principles that underline the importance of the work of libraries. In addition to Article 19 (access to information) and 27a (the right to take part in the cultural life of the community, and benefit from scientific progress), libraries work hard to deliver the rights to education, to privacy, and to living without discrimination.

As such, it offers an opportunity to highlight the key contributions that libraries make to building fairer, more equal societies, where everyone is able to enjoy their rights.

What Materials are Available?

The anniversary is an important landmark and has encouraged a flurry of activities and campaigns to promote the Declaration, embrace its message and spread the spirit of respect, equality and freedom it embodies. To help those keen to mark the anniversary, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Office has created a dedicated [website](#).

Article 19: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom [...] to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers



This provides both information about the Declaration – notably an in-depth look at each article – and information about opportunities to engage in the celebrations. There is also an interesting link to

historical video and audio footage that document the phases that lead to the birth of the declaration: a three-year process.

There are also links to highlight events and stories taking place across the world to celebrate the Universal Declaration. You can download a variety of promotional material for campaigns and events such as posters, banners, stickers and logos. You can also access social media visuals, videos and photos and proposal for engagement and media fact sheet.

For those who want to go further, there are also suggestions to engage in actions that make a difference, and enhance respect, freedom and more compassion. See in particular the [“Take Action”](#) tab, which includes ideas to promote, engage and reflect on the Declaration, as well as with targeted activities and social media posts via the hashtag #standup4humanrights.

Article 12: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence...



What are Others Doing?

In line with this worldwide campaign, several organizations have already launched their own activities and campaigns.

In early 2018, the EU kicked off a [campaign](#) to mark this anniversary. The campaign lasted 30 days, the numbers of articles in the Declaration, and targeted EU social media outlets underlining and explaining each day one of the Declarations; articles.

ALDE, the Alliance of Liberal and Democrats of Europe launched [a design competition](#) to celebrate this occasion, and artist and designers are encouraged to participate by submitting their artwork which will be displayed in the European Parliament in Strasbourg in December 2018. The three winning artists will also be invited to the parliament plenary session to follow the human rights week discussions in December 2018.

Article 26: Everyone has the right to education [...]. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality...



[The British Institute for Human Rights](#) has also launched a campaign to celebrate the event. Participants can sign an online birthday card, organize a march for human rights or attend a community event that focuses on human rights,

as well as becoming familiar with UK resources on human rights.

The antidiscrimination commission of Queensland in Brisbane Australia, whose mission is to promote public discussion of human right has published a useful [human rights calendar](#) to highlight, each day, their important role in the life of every individual.

Amnesty International has a list of [10 human rights activists](#) you can follow in 2018 to join their efforts or gain inspiration. Alongside, the organization has also released its report for 2017-2018 on the [state of human rights in the world](#).

As the Amnesty International report states, it is abundantly clear that none of us can take any of our human rights for granted. We certainly cannot take for granted that we will be free to gather together in protest or to criticize our governments. Neither can we take for granted the social rights of babies, young people or the elderly.

For these reasons it is important to advocate for human rights and celebrate this important landmark.

#standup4humanrights by supporting and publicizing the work of these organizations. Make your voice heard, engage your patrons, take actions.

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



What Can You Do?

IFLA encourages libraries to seize the opportunity to engage in these celebrations and support the Declaration. This can go from highlighting the human rights realised through daily library activities, to campaigns or other dedicated efforts to celebrate the text and the rights it contains.

Below are just a few ideas for what you can do to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

- Read about the Declaration on the [dedicated website](#)
- Get involved in the social media campaign around the anniversary of the Universal Declaration
- Place materials from the [website](#) in your library to raise users' awareness

- Organise your own debate or discussion in your library or library association about the Declaration, and the role of libraries in delivering it
- Organise a display or selection of books relating to key human rights
- Write an article for your library magazine or local newspaper about how libraries enable human rights
- Follow [SpeakUp!](#), the blog of IFLA's Advisory Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE), and suggest contributions sharing your perspective!
- [Let us know](#) what you are doing, so we can celebrate the library contribution to defending and promoting Human Rights this December!