



Indian Diaspora Council

Indian Diaspora Council International

Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

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PRESS RELEASE

December 10, 2023 (EST-USA)

Indian Diaspora Council Observance of World Human Rights Day **2024 Theme: Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now**



“Human rights are under assault [...] This year’s theme reminds us that human rights are about building the future – right now [...] We must stand up for all rights – always.”

– UN Secretary-General António Guterres

The **Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC)**, in collaboration with its global membership and affiliates, is pleased to join with other organizations, associations, agencies, and individuals in observance of Human Rights Day and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Human Rights Day is observed annually around the world on **10 December**. It commemorates the anniversary of one of the world's most groundbreaking global pledges: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This year, the 76th anniversary of the UDHR emphasizes the power of human rights as a *preventative, protective, and transformative force*, especially in times of crisis.

The UDHR is a groundbreaking document that establishes the fundamental rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of their background or status. On 10 December 1948, it was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris to mark the first global agreement on essential human rights that should be universally protected. It consists of 30 articles that outline individual "*basic rights and fundamental freedoms*" and affirm their universal nature. It serves as a foundation for international human rights law and has inspired the development of numerous human rights instruments worldwide.

As a universally applicable standard, the UDHR has been translated into hundreds of languages and dialects. As of 2024, it is available in 562 languages, making it the most translated document in the world. This extensive translation effort underscores its global significance and ensures its accessibility to people from diverse linguistic backgrounds. The Declaration's principles have been incorporated into international treaties, regional human rights instruments, and national constitutions, solidifying its role as a cornerstone of human rights protection and advancement globally.

Human Rights Day provides a chance to consider the work that has been done and what has to be done to protect everyone's rights. It serves as a call to action, imploring governments, institutions, and people everywhere to strive for equality, justice, and the defense of human dignity.

Some Famous Quotes in Celebration of Human Rights Day

“To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity.” –Nelson Mandela

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” –Martin Luther King Jr.

“The rights of every man are diminished when the rights of one man are threatened.” –John F. Kennedy

“Human rights are not a privilege granted by the government. They are every human being’s entitlement by his humanity.” –Mother Teresa

“The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything.” –Albert Einstein

Here are five essential facts about human rights everyone should know:

1. Human Rights are universal and inalienable
2. Human Rights are equal, indivisible, and independent
3. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was a global turning point
4. State have obligations and individuals have support
5. Human Rights Day: a platform for action

New York City has several events to commemorate Human Rights Day on December 10, 2024, including:

- Film screening

The United Nations Human Rights, along with the Permanent Missions of Germany and New Zealand, will host a film screening at the German House 871 UN Plaza) at 6 PM. The event will include a discussion on human rights, climate action, and future generations, followed by a screening of the film High Tide Don't Hide.

- Wearing Our Faith

The NYC Commission on Human Rights will celebrate Human Rights Day with community partners at Flushing Public Library from 3:30 to 5:00 PM. The Wearing Our Faith event will explore religious garbs and practices across various faiths.

- Amnesty International Write for Rights Letter Writing Open House

Amnesty International will host a letter-writing event to support individuals and communities facing human rights violations at 311 West 43rd St, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10036 from 3 to 8 PM.

- Vance Center LGBTQ+ Legal Challenges Event

Global perspectives on LGBTQ+ legal challenges and pro bono solutions at Paul Hastings, 200 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10166, from 5 to 6:30 PM.

As we commemorate Human Rights Day and reflect on the enduring importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, let us remember the words of **Eleanor Roosevelt**: "*Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. ... Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.*"



This powerful quote reminds us here at the IDC that the fight for human rights starts with each one of us in our communities and daily lives. As we look to the future, let us recommit ourselves to upholding the dignity, freedom, and respect of every individual, ensuring that human rights are not just ideals but lived realities for all. -Dr. Nicole Bissessar, Director of Community Cultural Affairs, Indian Diaspora Council

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Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), established in 1997, is an international non-profit organization with global affiliates and membership in 21 countries with the objective to embrace, engage and enhance the shared heritage, aspirations and interests of persons of Indian origin with optimum inclusivity.