Every December 10, International Human Rights Day celebrates the 1948 adoption by the United Nations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Citizens should read Ginger's important book, *The UDHR Is the Law: A Guide to UDHR Articles in Treaties Ratified by the US*, important because during the past decade the US has illegally invaded two countries massively, is bombing a third regularly to assassinate people, bombing two more, and is threatening a fifth, all in violation of the UN Charter and the UDHR.

Also remember BILL OF RIGHTS DAY DECEMBER 15, the EARTH CHARTER, AND UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MOTHER EARTH (in preparation).

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UN HUMAN RIGHTS DAY
UNA-USA
These Human Rights DAYS are among our most important, for the simple reason that the United Nations’ Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the International Criminal Court are essential to ending some of the worst causes of violence and oppression in the world and preventing their repetition in the future. As Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and all rights organizations recognize, these expressions of a compassionate and just world affirm the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all people as the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace. These principles animate our hopes.

Day

UN Human Rights Day

Quick Facts
Human Rights Day is an occasion for people worldwide to know and consider the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
The United Nations’ (UN) Human Rights Day is annually observed December 10 to mark the anniversary of the presentation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Human Rights Day is a time for people to reflect about the meaning, importance, and need for human rights. This illustration is based on artwork from ©iStockphoto.com/Amanda Rohde

What do people do?
Events focused on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are held worldwide on and around December 10. Many events aim to educate people, especially children and teenagers, on their human rights and the importance of upholding these in their own communities and further afield.
The day may also include protests to alert people of circumstances in parts of the world where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is not recognized or respected, or where the importance of these rights are not considered to be important. Cultural events are also organized to celebrate the importance of human rights through music, dance, drama or fine art.

Public life
Human Rights Day is a global observance and not a public holiday.

Background
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was drafted between January 1947 and December 1948. It aimed to form a basis for human rights all over the world and represented a significant change of direction from events during World War II and the continuing colonialism that was rife in the world at the time. The
Universal Declaration of Human Rights is considered as the most translated document in modern history. It is available in more than 360 languages and new translations are still being added.

The UN General Assembly adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris, France, on the December 10, 1948. All states and interested organizations were invited to mark December 10 as Human Rights Day at a UN meeting on December 4, 1950. It was first observed on December 10 that year and has been observed each year on the same date. Each year Human Rights Day has a theme. Some of these themes have focused on people knowing their human rights or the importance of human rights education.

Symbols
The UN symbol (an azimuthal equidistant projection of the globe centered on the North Pole surrounded by olive branches) is often associated with Human Rights Day. Copies of the whole Universal Declaration of Human Rights are also regarded as symbolic of Human Rights Day and are often distributed on or around December 10.

UNA-USA Advancing the Fight for Human Rights

Patrick Madden membership@unausa.org via uark.edu
December 7, 2011 to jbennet
Dear UNA-USA Member,

The global struggle continues. Each country in its own way and with its own history faces the challenge. How can a country and its people work to fulfill the UN’s guiding post for human rights?

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” Article I of the UN’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights

This is what we reflect on this weekend when we celebrate Human Rights Day.

Chapters across the country will help shine an important spotlight on human rights in their communities by hosting educational and informational programs on human rights and the UN’s work across the globe.

Sixty-three years ago this Saturday, the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the first global expression to protect the rights of everyone worldwide. This year has certainly been one of the most active and important in terms of human rights in recent memory. We are reminded of the importance of promoting human rights, and of how far we still have to go, as highlighted by the struggle for political and human rights in countries such as Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, and Libya. There are many ways to express your support of human rights during this important moment:
Participate in a live global discussion with the High Commissioner for Human Rights on Friday, Dec. 9.
Join us for our nationwide conference call on Dec. 15 on human rights, featuring Leo Nevas Human Rights Task Force Chair Felice Gear.
Listen to a Roundtable Discussion on Session 19 of the Human Rights Council on Tuesday, Dec. 13.
Visit the human rights series in UNA-USA’s online magazine, The InterDependent.
Learn more about the history of human rights and what it means to others on our 2011 Human Rights Day web page.
Take advantage of other human rights resources, such as UNA-USA’s Leo Nevas Program on Human Rights, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
Lift up individuals in your community who have faced human rights struggles or organizations that work on human rights issues.
Human rights are not conveyed via words and treaties, but through actions. Ensure your family, friends, colleagues, and neighbors know about the vital work the UN performs in the area of human rights and how they can support it.

Thank you for all that you do to tell the UN’s story on this special day.

Sincerely,
Patrick Madden
Executive Director
UN Association of the United States of America
http://www.unausa.org/
UNA-USA
1800 Massachusetts Ave. NW #400
Washington, DC 20036

Human Rights Day December 10, 2010 7:30 pm, at OMNI
Special national viewing of the new Oliver Stone film
South of the Border
Oliver Stone sets out on a road trip across five countries to explore the social and political movements as well as the mainstream media's misperception of South America while interviewing seven of its elected presidents. This will be one of many house party viewings of the film taking place on Friday, December 10, Human Rights Day, and we will be joined, via a live video stream, by the film's co-writer, Mark Weisbrot, for a Q & A about the film and what we can do to improve U.S.-Latin America policy.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2010 UNA/USA
“Keeping the Spirit Alive”
Edward Elmendorf, UNA-USA to James
Human Rights Day, 2010
Take an active role in keeping the spirit alive!
Dear UNA-USA Members,

Sixty-two years ago today, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the first expression by all countries of the rights of individuals around the world. We at UNA-USA and many others celebrate this watershed moment with Human Rights Day.

For this year’s Human Rights Day, we encourage UNA-USA members and supporters to take an active role in maintaining the spirit of this important declaration.

Here are some ways you can promote Human Rights Day:
Become involved with one of our many chapters and divisions
UNA-USA Chapters and Divisions work today and throughout the year to highlight both the work of the UN as well as the plight of some of the most marginalized people in the world. Our grass-roots chapters have organized an impressive list of activities for this important day. Click here to learn more about UNA-USA Chapter and Division Human Rights Day events in your area!

Keep the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights alive by ensuring that the rights of women and girls are respected across the globe.

To be part of this effort, tell your representative in Congress to vote in favor of two important pieces of legislation that improve the conditions of women and girls.

The first piece is the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act. Child marriage is an egregious human rights violation and a barrier to development, robbing girls of their ability to reach their full potential. Passing this legislation will help combat child marriage by educating communities and helping to provide alternatives to marriage for millions of girls.

Click here to tell your Congressional representative to vote in favor of ending child marriage!

The second piece of legislation is the International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA). According to the World Bank, if you are a woman in a developing country between the ages of 15 and 44, you are more at risk from rape and domestic violence than from cancer, car accidents, war and malaria. This legislation would make ending violence against women a foreign policy priority for US assistance programs. It would help protect victims, prosecute perpetrators and empower women and communities worldwide to overcome violence.

Click here to tell Congressional leaders to pass the IVAWA!

By improving the legal rights and economic opportunities of women and girls around the world, we can help honor the spirit of the 62-year-old Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Thank you very much!
A. Edward Elmendorf
Executive Director, UNA-USA
P.S. You can click here to find Human Rights Day related facebook and twitter posts as well as the United Nations Secretary-General’s message for Human Rights Day 2010 which gives
Human Rights Council Reinstates Libya
The General Assembly voted on November 18 to reinstate Libya’s membership in the Human Rights Council (HRC). Muammar Al-Qadhafi’s Libya was the only member of the HRC that has ever been suspended for gross and systematic violations of human rights. The Libyan authorities have affirmed their commitment to “uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights,” and stated that they will work to ensure security and accountability according to the rule of law and Libya’s international obligations and commitments. However, reports of human rights abuses in Libya remain a concern, and some rights advocates contend that Libya should not have had its membership reinstated without making concrete commitments to cooperate with UN human rights mechanisms, including the Commission of Inquiry that was established by the HRC to investigate abuses in Libya.

Human Rights Council Action on Syria

The HRC’s Commission of Inquiry on Syria issued its report this week, which claimed that the Syrian forces have committed “crimes against humanity”. The report "documents “patterns of summary execution, arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance, torture, as well as violations of children's rights." The assessment was based on interviews with 223 victims and witnesses, but observers were not allowed access to the country. The HRC will hold an urgent session on Friday to discuss the situation in Syria, the third special session on Syria since the start of the uprising in March.

The General Assembly’s Third Committee Passes Human Rights Resolutions

Earlier this month, the General Assembly’s Third Committee—the Social, Humanitarian Cultural Affairs Commitee—passed by consensus a resolution on combating religious intolerance that marked a decisive break from a previous text on religious defamation, which had provided a cover for abusive blasphemy laws around the world. This development marks a victory for human rights defenders and champions of freedom of expression, and illustrates the building of international norms that can only take place at the United Nations.
The Third Committee also passed resolutions concerning human rights situations in Iran, Myanmar, and North Korea, as it had in past years, as well as a new resolution on Syria. The resolutions in Iran, Myanmar, and North Korea passed by wider margins than in previous years. The resolution on Syria, which strongly condemned the grave and systematic violations of human rights by Syrian authorities and called on the government to immediately put an end to all human rights violations, received the support of the vast majority of Arab states.

All resolutions passed by the Third Committee will go before the full General Assembly over the next weeks.

Council Issues Report on Syria

The Commission of Inquiry on Syria issued its report this week, which "documents patterns of summary execution, arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance, torture, as well as violations of children's rights." The assessment was based on interviews with 223 victims and witnesses, but observers were not allowed access to the country.

Support Human Rights Through Social Media

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is asking people to support human rights through social media. You can add their “Celebrate Human Rights” badge to your Facebook and Twitter photos in honor of Human Rights Day on Dec. 10 (download the photo here) and 'Like' OHCHR’s Facebook page here, where you can follow the UN’s countdown to Human Rights Day and participate in a live global discussion with the High Commissioner on Human Rights on December 9.

Legal Power to the People

Vivek Maru, Op-Ed, NationofChange, 11-12-11: “Two of the great international movements since World War II have arrived at exactly this challenge. The human rights movement has led nearly all countries to endorse human rights norms, at least in name. Organizations such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International can therefore use documentation and public advocacy to shame governments for egregious violations. But shaming alone cannot address every breach of basic rights: a juvenile is wrongfully detained, a factory poisons a river. There must be a consistent system by which citizens can protect their rights in daily life.”

READ | DISCUSS | SHARE http://www.nationofchange.org/legal-power-people-1321198900#comments
Take Action Now: As you are making your New Year's resolutions list, be sure to renew your commitment to being an engaged American. Remind your family and friends about The Leadership Conference Action Alerts, and increase your calls and emails to push members of Congress to press for the critical civil and human rights issues of our time.

This year, you joined leaders and activists in securing many victories in Congress. Because you took the time to send emails, make phone calls, and otherwise engage members of Congress, we were able to celebrate the passage of a strong financial reform bill, health care reform, and legislation that lowered the sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine was enacted. We completed a successful 2010 census, and other critical issues that depend on that count will be better served as a result.

However, lawmakers continue to prioritize dealmaking and obstruction over justice and equality for all. They still have much work to do, including:

Create good jobs for all who want them by passing strong legislation that stimulates the economy and help the millions of jobless Americans. The passage of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act is a step in the right direction, but there is still much more that needs to be done to fully address the jobs crisis and the needs of all unemployed workers.

Allow students to realize their DREAMs by passing the DREAM Act. Congress missed an opportunity to strengthen our economy and society by enabling thousands of students to pursue opportunities in college, the military, or trade schools.

End judicial emergencies by confirming President Obama’s nominees. The Senate must put aside petty partisanship and commit to taking yes-or-no confirmation votes on pending judicial and executive branch nominees.

Stop shortchanging women by passing the Paycheck Fairness Act (PFA). We all know women are not worth less than men, so Congress must make sure they are not paid less.

We need people like you to continue to hold your members of Congress accountable to these priorities. As you are making your New Year’s resolutions, be sure to renew your commitment to telling more of your family and friends about The Leadership Conference Action Alerts, and increasing your calls and emails to your members of Congress around these pressing civil and human rights issues.

Best wishes for peace, health and success in the upcoming year from The Leadership Conference!
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NEWS BITES
UUSC's 2010 annual report
Travel around the world with highlights of UUSC's global human-rights work.
Successful JustJourney to Uganda
Read about the joint UUSC-UUA JustJourney — a once-in-a-lifetime experience.
The healing power of art in Haiti
Young earthquake survivors are learning the therapeutic value of art.

Happy Birthday, Universal Declaration of Human Rights!
Every December 10, International Human Rights Day celebrates the 1948 adoption by the United Nations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights — and reminds us that every day should be Human Rights Day! Read UUSC President and CEO Bill Schulz's message for this year. Then, find out the latest from each of our program areas: Rights in Humanitarian Crises, Economic Justice, Civil Liberties, and Environmental Justice. And UUSC staff share what Human Rights Day means to them, too!

Haiti One Year Later: Cultivating Creative Solutions for Recovery
As the one-year commemoration of the Haiti earthquake on January 12 approaches, UUSC and its grassroots partners in Haiti are developing and implementing innovative solutions to address continuing challenges. Read about the situation on the ground and work being done on the road to recovery. Want to take action? Urge your representatives in Congress to pass the Haiti Empowerment, Assistance, and Rebuilding Act before this session concludes. And then check out the latest information and resources to plan your own commemoration activities.

Summiting Mount Kilimanjaro to Support Human Rights
A few weeks ago, Dave DeSario and Chris Beattie set out to climb Mount Kilimanjaro — to take on a challenge, to honor the memory of Dave's mom, and to raise money for UUSC's work in Tanzania on environmental justice. And they did it, reaching the summit (with pictures to prove it) and raising almost $4,000 while they were at it! Check out DeSario's reflections on the experience.

Gaza: Repairing Homes, Restoring Dignity
Following work with youth in Gaza to rebuild homes damaged by military conflict, UUSC and partners have released a new report, Gaza Repair Strategies, that offers effective strategies for restoring structures — and the dignity and safety of people that call them home. In addition to a detailed evaluation of damages, the report outlines suggestions for viable, local repair options. Learn more and read the
Still Holiday Shopping? We’ve Got Good Value for People with Good Values

If you still need the perfect gift for your favorite human-rights activist, we’ve got what you need — from a handbag made by one of our environmental-justice partners to newly designed chalice jewelry. Plus, net proceeds support UUSC’s important work advancing human rights. Order from our online store!

Human Rights Day Radio Interview with UUSC President

William F. Schulz, president and CEO, is in Washington, D.C., today, December 10, 2010, for International Human Rights Day events. He was interviewed about the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo, Norway, on the Michael Eric Dyson Show, aired over WEAA public radio in Baltimore and WAMU-HD3 in Washington, D.C. Listen to the interview.

RIGHTS OF WOMEN: CEDAW

Dear J.,

Time and time again, the Obama Administration has declared its support for women worldwide and announced that the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is an important priority. Now we need the President to show leadership in advancing the rights of women and girls around the world.

To help promote basic rights for women and girls worldwide - the right to live free from violence, the ability to go to school, and access to the political system - we need President Obama to send a strong and urgent signal to the Senate that ratification of CEDAW is vital.
We are within striking distance of CEDAW ratification, but the window of opportunity is closing, and fast. We cannot allow the United States to continue to be one of only 7 countries in the world that has not ratified CEDAW.

We know that CEDAW works. Several countries, including Australia, Brazil, Morocco, South Africa, and Uganda have incorporated provisions of the CEDAW treaty into their constitutions and domestic legal codes. Additionally, Egypt, Jordan, Nicaragua, and Pakistan have all seen significant increases in literacy rates after improving access to education for girls and women.

Click here to tell President Obama that the women and girls of the world can't wait any longer - we need CEDAW now!

Thank you,
The UNA-USA Advocacy Team

Dick: People are partly created by their societies. The Maori differ from the French in many values and practices. So if our society is repressive and cruel, we must work to change individuals through education and meditation, but in order to be effective we must change groups, communities, policies, laws, and institutions. We must work on many levels in our commitment to nonviolence, world peace, social and economic justice, and HUMAN RIGHTS.

2010 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE TO CHINESE DISSIDENT
Minky Worden of Human Rights Watch was interviewed by Amy Goodman 10-8-10 about Chinese author and human rights advocate recently sentenced to 11 years in prison for his writings. Also shown are notable US writers in DC reading the sentences that so offended the Chinese government (DeLillo, Doctorow, et al.). (D)

Jailed Chinese Dissident Liu Xiaobo Awarded Nobel Peace Prize
The jailed Chinese human rights activist and writer Liu Xiaobo has been awarded this year’s Nobel Peace Prize for "his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights." Liu was sentenced to eleven years in prison last year after spearheading a petition calling for freedom of assembly, expression and religion in China.

Listen
Real Video Stream
Real Audio Stream

Watch
MP3 Download

More...

Minky Worden, Director of Global Initiatives at Human Rights Watch. In 2008 Liu Xiaobo contributed a chapter to a book she edited titled "China’s Great Leap: The Beijing Games and
OMNI's hopes include: A world free of violence and wars and the threat of violence and wars, a democratic society with liberty and justice for all, a caring community where every person's potential may be fulfilled, an Earth restored. Grassroots nonviolence, world peace, human rights (Universal Declaration of Human Rights), civil liberties (Bill of Rights), social and economic justice (Rights depend upon justice), environmental stewardship protecting species and the Earth (Earth Charter, Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth). These are OMNI's ideals. Read our brochure and our newsletters, attend our Steering Committee, become an active member of one or more of our committees, participate in our dozens of activities to see how these broad goals for building a Community of Peace are realized in action. There is nothing vague about Building a Community of Peace through actions led by YOU.

RECENT BOOKS

END OF HUMAN RIGHTS NEWSLETTER #3 2011