
OMNI’S NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL DAYS PROJECT

OMNI is part of the international peace and justice movement—transforming the structures of the world from violence and wars to peace and the golden rule, for which the UN is the leading organization.

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Universal Children's Day

Quick Facts

The United Nations' (UN) Universal Children's Day is an occasion to promote the welfare of children and an understanding between children all over the world. It is held on November 20 each year.

Universal Children's Day 2014

Thursday, November 20, 2014

List of dates for other years

The United Nations' (UN) Universal Children's Day, which was established in 1954, is celebrated on November 20 each year to promote international togetherness and awareness among children worldwide. UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, promotes and coordinates this special day, which also works towards improving children's welfare.

Universal Children's Day promotes the welfare of and understanding between children.

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What do people do?

Many schools and other educational institutions make a special effort to inform children of their rights according to the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Teachers stimulate their pupils to think about the differences between themselves and others and explain the idea of “rights”. In countries where the rights of children are generally well-respected, teachers may draw attention to situations in countries where this is not the case.

In some areas UNICEF holds events to draw particular attention to children's rights. These may be to stimulate interest in the media around the world or to start nationwide campaigns, for instance on the importance of immunizations or breastfeeding.

Many countries, including Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, hold Universal Children's Day events on November 20 to mark the anniversaries of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, other countries hold events on different dates, such as the fourth Wednesday in October (Australia) and November 14 (India). **Universal Children's Day is not observed in the United States, although a similar observance, National Child's Day, is held on the first Sunday in June. [Why is this? Deliberate dismissal of UN, like Pres. Bush appointing Bolton as our Ambassador to the UN? US concern for children stops at our borders, is not universal? --Dick]**

Public life

Universal Children's Day is a global observance and not a public holiday.

Background

On December 14, 1954, the UN General Assembly recommended that all countries should introduce an annual event from 1956 known as Universal Children's Day to encourage fraternity and understanding between children all over the world and promoting the welfare of children. It was recommended that individual countries should choose an appropriate date for this occasion.

At the time, the UN General Assembly recommended that all countries should establish a
Children's Day on an “appropriate” date. Many of the countries respected this recommendation and the Universal Children's Day has since been annually observed on November 20. There are however, some countries, such as Australia and India, which still chose various different dates during the year to celebrate this day.

On November 20, 1959, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and on November 20, 1989, it adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Since 1990, Universal Children's Day also marks the anniversary of the date that the UN General Assembly adopted both the declaration and the convention on children's rights.

Symbols

Universal Children's Day is part of the work carried out by UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. UNICEF's logo consists of an image of a mother and child, a globe, olive branches and the word “UNICEF”. All parts of the logo are in UN's blue color, although it may be presented in white on a blue background.
Help save the lives of children in the Philippines

https://secure.unicefusa.org/site/Donation2?df_id=16500&16500.donation=form1

©AP Photo/Nelson Salting

Families in central Philippines fleeing Typhoon Haiyan are evacuated to public schools by police.

Super Typhoon Haiyan – one of the strongest storms ever to make landfall – has brought terrible destruction to the Philippines. Thousands are feared dead. Five million children have been affected by the typhoon.

These children desperately need shelter, clean water, medicine and nutrition. Although 60 metric tons of emergency supplies just arrived, it isn't enough. UNICEF’s resources in the Philippines are exhausted. More help is desperately needed to save children’s lives.

Every moment matters for these children. Please, support UNICEF’s emergency response in the Philippines: $50, $100, $250, $500 or any amount you can give will help save kids' lives.

If you prefer, print a form to send your donation by mail or call 1.800.FOR.KIDS (1.800.367.5437) to donate by phone.

* required information

**GIFT INFORMATION**

Field Is RequiredEnter Gift Amount:

〇
$50.00

$75.00

$150.00

$500.00

$1,000.00

Enter an Amount

Enter amount

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Email Address:

Title:

First Name:

Last Name:

☐ My address is a business address
Street 1: 
Street 2: 
City: 
State/Province: 
ZIP/Postal code: 
Country: 

Phone Number: 

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Credit Card Number: 
Expiration Date: Select month of credit card | Select Expiration Year

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☑️ Use the contact information as the billing information.

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- Donate
PHILIPPINES TYPHOON HAIYAN
Help children affected by the disaster.

UNICEF makes the world better for kids.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) works in more than 190 countries and territories to save and improve children's lives, providing health care and immunizations, clean water and sanitation, nutrition, education, emergency relief and
more.

The U.S. Fund for UNICEF supports UNICEF’s work through fundraising, advocacy and education in the United States. We’re working toward the day when ZERO children die from preventable causes and every child has a safe and healthy childhood.

Join us today:

How You Can Help Children Now

• Syrian Refugee Crisis
  Help Syria’s children this winter.
  • Donate Now
  • Learn More

• Equal Lives
  Help end discrimination against children with disabilities.
  • Take Action Now

• 50¢ a Day Helps a Child
  See how a small gift can make a big difference.
Who We Are

More than 500,000 American individuals and organizations united to make a better world for children.

Volunteers

Thousands of Americans who donate time to help save children's lives

Celebrity Ambassadors

Leaders in entertainment, from the worlds of film, music, sports and beyond

Teachers

Educators across the country helping students learn the value of global citizenship

More Ways to Help

Make a Pledge

A way to make your gift work harder

Give Monthly
FieldNotes Blog

**Toilets to Tacloban** November 19, 2013

Before Typhoon Haiyan hit Tacloban, UNICEF had stocked supplies of a critical emergency item inside the Philippine city — portable toilets. In the aftermath of a natural disaster, toilets are true lifesaver. Today, World Toilet Day, is a good time to focus on that fact. When homes are destroyed and sanitation systems collapse, sewage and […]

**On the Ground in Tacloban** November 19, 2013

Kent Page, Senior Advisor of Strategic Communications for UNICEF Philippines, has been on the ground in Tacloban following the devastation from Typhoon Haiyan. It’s great to be part of the UNICEF immediate response team that were rushed into the Philippines after the devastation of super typhoon Haiyan. We are a group of emergency professionals specializing […]

**Filipino Community Finds Hope** November 18, 2013

Anna Butler, a U.S. Fund for UNICEF intern, participated in a forum and candlelight vigil on Nov. 13 in Woodside, N.Y., in honor of those affected by Typhoon Haiyan. Woodside, a neighborhood in Queens, has a significant Filipino immigrant population, and Butler reports that she was moved by the strength and support of the community. […]

See more blog posts »
Partners in Action

Holiday Offerings

Corporate partners offer "gifts that give back" this holiday season

Montblanc

Montblanc's “Signature for Good” collection benefits UNICEF’s education programs
IKEA

Fairy tale-themed characters join IKEA’s “Soft Toy for Education” Campaign

UNICEF's Work

- Children With Disabilities
- Education
- Emergency Relief
- Immunization
- Malaria
- HIV/AIDS
- Nutrition
- Protection
- Water & Sanitation
- U.S. Initiatives

People & Partners

- UNICEF Ambassadors
- Corporate Partners
- Foundation Partners
- NGO Supporters
- Sports Partners

About Us

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- Danny Kaye Society
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DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Adopted by UN General Assembly Resolution 1386 (XIV) of 10 December 1959

WHEREAS the peoples of the United Nations have, in the Charter, reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person, and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger
freedom,

WHEREAS the United Nations has, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, 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,

WHEREAS the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth,

WHEREAS the need for such special safeguards has been stated in the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child of 1924, and recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the statutes of specialized agencies and international organizations concerned with the welfare of children,

WHEREAS mankind owes to the child the best it has to give,

Now, therefore,

Proclaims

THIS DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD to the end that he may have a happy childhood and enjoy for his own good and for the good of society the rights and freedoms herein set forth, and calls upon parents, upon men and women as individuals, and upon voluntary organizations, local authorities and national Governments to recognize these rights and strive for their observance by legislative and other measures progressively taken in accordance with the following principles:

1. The child shall enjoy all the rights set forth in this Declaration. Every child, without any exception whatsoever, shall be entitled to these rights, without distinction or discrimination on account of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, whether of himself or of his family.

2. The child shall enjoy special protection, and shall be given opportunities and facilities, by law and by other means, to enable him to develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and socially in a healthy and normal manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity. In the enactment of laws for this purpose, the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration.

3. The child shall be entitled from his birth to a name and a nationality.

4. The child shall enjoy the benefits of social security. He shall be entitled to grow and develop in health; to this end, special care and protection shall be provided both to him and to his mother, including adequate pre-natal and post-natal care. The child shall have the right to adequate nutrition, housing, recreation and medical services.

5. The child who is physically, mentally or socially handicapped shall be given the special treatment, education and care required by his
particular condition.

6 The child, for the full and harmonious development of his personality, needs love and understanding. He shall, wherever possible, grow up in the care and under the responsibility of his parents, and, in any case, in an atmosphere of affection and of moral and material security; a child of tender years shall not, save in exceptional circumstances, be separated from his mother. Society and the public authorities shall have the duty to extend particular care to children without a family and to those without adequate means of support. Payment of State and other assistance towards the maintenance of children of large families is desirable.

7 The child is entitled to receive education, which shall be free and compulsory, at least in the elementary stages. He shall be given an education which will promote his general culture and enable him, on a basis of equal opportunity, to develop his abilities, his individual judgement, and his sense of moral and social responsibility, and to become a useful member of society.

The best interests of the child shall be the guiding principle of those responsible for his education and guidance; that responsibility lies in the first place with his parents.

The child shall have full opportunity for play and recreation, which should be directed to the same purposes as education; society and the public authorities shall endeavour to promote the enjoyment of this right.

8 The child shall in all circumstances be among the first to receive protection and relief.

9 The child shall be protected against all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation. He shall not be the subject of traffic, in any form.

The child shall not be admitted to employment before an appropriate minimum age; he shall in no case be caused or permitted to engage in any occupation or employment which would prejudice his health or education, or interfere with his physical, mental or moral development.

10 The child shall be protected from practices which may foster racial, religious and any other form of discrimination. He shall be brought up in a spirit of understanding, tolerance, friendship among peoples, peace and universal brotherhood, and in full consciousness that his energy and talents should be devoted to the service of his fellow men.
CHILDREN VICTIMS OF GENOCIDE: A FATHER’S COMPASSION

THIS IS WHAT KEEPS ME FOCUSED WHEN DARKNESS OVERTAKES ME

samuel toten
To Patrick Murinzi Minega and all other children victimized by genocide, war, and violence.

Dear All,

Invariably, most serious scholars of genocide studies are ultimately asked: How can you do this work? What keeps you going in light of the darkness? The horror?

Many have also asked me: what prompts you to go to such places as the Nuba Mountains when the area continues to be bombed on a daily basis or to such all but God forsaken places as Goz Beida, along the Chad/Darfur, Sudan border?

My answer is staring at you in the face: the above photo of a little guy (Patrick) wish I could
say I had met on one of the thousands of hills in Rwanda.

It’s also why I firmly believe that perhaps the most important aspect of my life as far as genocide studies is concerned, and as far as being a human being is concerned, is my co-founding The Post Genocide Education Fund with Rafiki Ubaldo, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide. As many of you know, PGEF provides full scholarships and living expenses to young survivors of genocide across the globe who wish to earn a university diploma. (Thus far, we’ve sponsored students from Rwanda; Darfur, Sudan; and the Nuba Mountains, Sudan.) My point is: it is my one way to break out of the darkness and gain some sense that I am actually helping people in desperate need, instead of solely writing about the horrors faced by innocents either in the aftermath of genocide or during the actual perpetration of crimes against humanity/genocide.

In closing, I wish to share an excerpt from the introduction of my new and forthcoming edited book, *The Plight and Fate of Children During and Following Genocide*, in which I speak about gazing at Patrick’s countenance for the first time:

**Introduction**

*Samuel Totten*

Generally, when I make my way through museums dealing with genocide I find myself feeling sad and angry but I forge on and make my way through the exhibits. This, I have done, time and again, beginning back in 1978 when I first visited Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem, the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1993, and the tiny museum on the Armenian genocide located in the basement of a church in Deir et Zor (Syria) in 2005. But then, in 2006, as I made my way through the museum at the Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre in Rwanda, I entered the “Children’s Wing,” and within ten minutes my heart was shattered. I had only managed to view a tenth of the photographs and accompanying information in the room, but I simply could not go on. I literally wanted to scream and flay away at a world that would allow such horrific injustices and atrocities to be perpetrated.

I shall never forget the last photo and captions that ripped my heart apart. It was the sweetest picture of a young man, Patrick, seven years of age, I’ve ever seen. His smile and bright sparkling eyes exuded joy. Then, I read the captions:

- Name: Patrick Murinzi Minega
- Favorite Sport: Swimming
- Favorite Sweets: Chocolate
- Favorite Person: His Mum
- Personality: Gregarious
- Cause of Death: Bludgeoned with Club

Over the years (during which I served as a Fulbright Scholar at the Centre for Conflict Management at the National University of Rwanda,
and on subsequent research trips when Rafi ki Ubaldo, a survivor of the 1994 genocide, and I conducted interviews for our book, *We Cannot Forget: Interviews with Survivors of the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda*), I returned to the Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre several times in order to try to view all of the photographs and captions in the “Children’s Wing.” Each and every time I’d only get so far before I was overwhelmed with sorrow, and, yet again, would depart without having viewed the entire exhibit. To this day I’ve not viewed the entire exhibit.

The killing of infants, preschoolers, school-age children, and preadolescents should be beyond the pale. Unfortunately, and sadly, it is not—at least not for those who are apt to committing crimes against humanity and genocide. And it’s not just killing that the latter engage in, but also the torture and butchery of babies and young children.

When perpetrators kill infants and children there is often a sadistic tone and tenor to their actions. They seem to enjoy exhibiting their perverted power over the victim population. They seem to enjoy crushing the spirits of those parents and siblings who are forced to watch their children and babies and young brothers and sisters, respectively, be brutalized in the most horrific ways possible.

**THIS, THEN, IS WHY I AM FIERCELY DEDICATED TO SEEING CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AND GENOCIDE STOPPED IN THEIR DEADLY TRACKS, AND IT IS WHAT DRIVES ME TO DO WHAT I DO.**

Am heading back to the Nuba Mountains right after the new year. Current reports are that Nuba civilians are desperately trying to make their way out of Sudan to South Sudan in search of food and many are literally dropping and dying each and every day. Last week a colleague I am working with to insert food into the region reported that he witnessed -- **IN A SINGLE DAY** -- 20 individuals (mainly elderly men and woman and infants and young children) who had keeled over and perished along the way. That is obscene. Unconscionable. And it's way I've been haranguing Members of Congress, The White House and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, among others, to yank off their purposely placed blinders and OPEN THEIR EYES to the reality of the world we all live in and do something to try to ameliorate the horrors -- **NOW**, not next week, not next month, not next year. **Each day that goes by another human being, like you and I, like your children and grandchildren, will perish in that desert wondering why no one but no one has reached out to them as those with the means would surely wish others would do for them should they find themselves in such dire straits.**

Sorry for the soapboxing. That was not my intent!

Thank you for listening. Thank you for what you do to try to make the world a better place.

warmly,
sam
A MOTHER'S COMPASSION

http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article28324.htm

Children and War By Cindy Sheehan

June 13 2011 "Information Clearing House" -- Recently, I was listening to KGO radio and in case you don’t know, KGO is the ABC affiliate super-station here in San Francisco that can be heard by millions of people with it’s mega-wattage transmitter.

Gene Burns happened to be the host at that time. The night that I was listening, Mr. Burns was wondering why the U.S. is bombing Libya, but not Syria, because Syria is, “torturing and killing children,” and Mr. Burns didn’t know how the people of the world could stand by and watch this happen.

I wish I could have gotten through on the call-in line because I would have asked Mr. Burns how he feels about the USA torturing and killing children in places like Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Yemen. These are the active places the US is bombing, but what about the children that were held or are being held in places like Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Abu Ghraib in Iraq or Bagram AFB in Afghanistan? Why are the "people of the world" standing by and watching the US destroy civilization as it murders and tortures children?

It is my suspicion that even the most hardcore war supporter knows that women and children are the ones that suffer the most from war—but as War Madam, Madeline Albright notoriously said in an interview with Lesley Stahl of CBS: the slaughter of over 500,000 Iraqi children during the sanctions period during the Clinton regime was “worth it.” Monsters don’t always have to have long claws, bloody fangs, or inhabit our nightmares—they can look like somebody’s Grammy—and that’s what I call a waking terror.

As a mother of a victim of US Imperialism, my well of empathy is bottomless, but I am not like Gene Burns—I don’t think we should just be upset when “rogue” regimes kill or torture children—because the US is the largest rogue regime in recorded history. The rogue Empire counts on people like Gene Burns to provide cover for its crimes, in part, by over-sensationalizing the crimes of others.

Because of the definition of “collateral damage” (“We don’t do body counts,” General Tommy Franks), it is hard to pin down the exact number of children that have been killed by the US’s War OF Terror since 2001—in fact, it’s almost impossible, but a safe guesstimate is hundreds of thousands. However, one was exactly one too many.

What I can do for you is tell you some statistics on how children are treated here in the US:

NUMBER OF HOMELESS CHILDREN: 1.5 million

NUMBER OF HUNGRY CHILDREN: 16.7 million

MORE http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article28324.htm
END UN UNIVERSAL CHILDREN’S DAY 2013

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Dick Bennett

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National/International Days
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