



Under the Secretary General's leadership the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be a UN system-wide advocacy campaign throughout 2008. UN agencies and institutions will highlight how their work helps advance the rights and freedoms enshrined in

the Declaration. This will also be an opportunity for the UN family as a whole to reinforce the importance of the universality of human rights and justice at the regional and country levels.

Keep sending us your feedback and information on your plans at [60anniversary@ohchr.org](mailto:60anniversary@ohchr.org).

## 10 December Launch

This year's Human Rights Day will be the starting point of the UDHR60 campaign. High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour will launch the year-long commemoration in Geneva. Watch out for our special Info60 which will feature the new UDHR60 logo and the creative concept behind it, as well as additional materials to support your own initiatives. The logo is embargoed until 10 December.

## Campaign Tips

Invite your local audience to write a personal story entitled "I am 60" or "When I am 60". Those who are 60 could be invited to recount their experience and perception of changes in human rights over the past 60 years. Or they could be invited to write about the future "When I am 60, I want all the rights in the UDHR to be real, especially..." Participants could use UDHR themes (<http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/>), to

illustrate their story, or perhaps include suggestions on how their rights can be protected.

### Our Projects - your projects

- A website to complement the UDHR60 campaign will be launched on 10 December. **[www.KnowYourRights2008.org](http://www.KnowYourRights2008.org)** will be a market place of ideas about how to mark the anniversary and a source of information about the Universal Declaration. Visitors to the site will be invited to provide details

of their special events, publications, illustrations, educational activities, performances, music and any other means they plan using to mark the anniversary. Send your project plans NOW to [kyr2008@unric.org](mailto:kyr2008@unric.org)

- In Connecticut, USA, the Peace Commission of the City of New Haven will run a year-long campaign of public interaction on human rights to mark the 60th Anniversary.

## Know your UDHR

Santa Cruz Hernàn, a Chilean delegate in the drafting committee of the Human Rights Commission in 1948, wrote later in *Cooperar o Perecer: El dilema de la comunidad mundial*:

"I perceived clearly that I was participating in a truly significant historic event in which a consensus had been reached as to the supreme value of the human person, a value that did not originate in the decision of a worldly power, but rather in the

fact of existing—which gave rise to the inalienable right to live free from want and oppression and to fully develop one's personality. In the Great Hall...there was an atmosphere of genuine solidarity and brotherhood among men and women from all latitudes, the like of which I have not seen again in any international setting. Sincerity and a sober eloquence free of bombast characterized most of the interventions."

## Your space

In this section, we will post your UDHR60 poem, stories

All humans born free, and equal in rights  
So people can love, and people not fight  
Let there be, no discrimination, throughout the human nation  
Equal, so elation, and not cruel domination  
No person or state, with gun or knife  
Can take away your freedom, take away your life  
Let no one be cursed by all of the pains  
That come from Slavery, and are worn with its chains  
Torture must never be used as a tool  
For it is, inhuman, degrading and cruel  
To each of you, I tell you true  
That the Law must stand tall, beside each of you  
No state should try to use might  
To arrest or detain, without any right  
All accused, every one and everywhere  
Are entitled to a hearing, that is public and fair  
All must be presumed innocent and clean

Until, by public trial, their guilt is plainly seen  
Each letter you read, each word that you write,  
Should all be kept private, for that is your right  
In your own country, you can always stay  
Or choose another, if that is your way  
You can flee from violence, flee from hate  
And find safe Asylum in another state  
Your nationality is yours, forever to treasure  
Or change it for another, as is your pleasure  
Whatever your religion, marriage is your choice  
Equal in rights, you both can rejoice  
To own your property, that is quite fair  
And if you have a partner, with them you can share  
Your religion, your beliefs, are for you to decide  
Your comfort and solace, a deep source of pride  
No one can hold dominion  
Over your freedom of opinion  
In peaceful assembly you all may gather  
Or stay apart, if you would rather

Poem written for International Human Rights Day 2007 by Ashby McGowan, school technician, Glasgow, Scotland.