Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world; whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have acted barbary acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people; whereas it is essential, in order not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law; whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations; whereas the peoples of the United Nations have, in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in certain basic rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom; whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms; whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge. Now, therefore:

The General Assembly,

Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for the rights and freedoms set forth in it and for the purposes of promoting national and international cooperation, as well as for the maintenance of international peace and security, in order to secure to all individuals their fundamental human rights and freedoms without distinction as to race, sex, language, religion, or political or other opinion; and for the achievement of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, as a guarantee for the promotion of democratic and social progress.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion or political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

The General Assembly,

Desires to place before the peoples of the United Nations this Declaration as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for the rights and freedoms set forth in it and for the purposes of promoting national and international cooperation, as well as for the maintenance of international peace and security, in order to secure to all individuals their fundamental human rights and freedoms without distinction as to race, sex, language, religion, or political or other opinion; and for the achievement of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, as a guarantee for the promotion of democratic and social progress.

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Article 2

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Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10

Everyone is entitled to full equality as a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

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