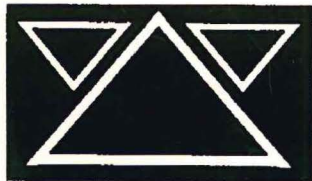


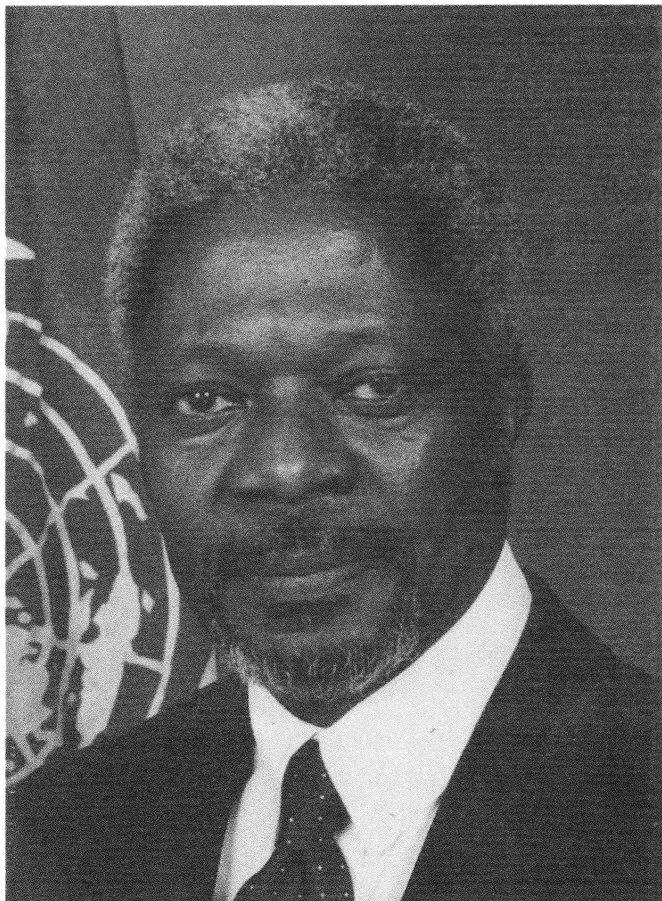
THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

A plain language version illustrated by Joe Madisia



A publication of
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and
the Legal Assistance Centre





Portrait of Kofi Annan, Seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations

"I am aware of the fact that some view [the concern of human rights] as a luxury of the rich countries for which Africa is not ready. I know that others treat it as an imposition, if not a plot, by the industrialized West. I find these thoughts truly demeaning, demeaning of the yearning for human dignity that resides in every African heart."

"Do not African mothers weep when their sons or daughters are killed or maimed by agents of repressive rule? Are not African fathers saddened when their children are unjustly jailed or tortured? Is not Africa as a whole impoverished when even one of its brilliant voices is silenced?"

...Address to the Annual Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, Harare, 2 June 1997 (SG/SM/6245)

"Human rights are your rights. Seize them. Defend them. Promote them. Understand them and insist on them. Nourish and enrich them... They are the best in us. Give them life."

...Address at the University of Tehran on Human Rights Day, 10 December 1997 (SG/SM/6419)



THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

What you are about to read is the plain language version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, illustrated by the famous Namibian artist, Joe Madisia.

Human rights are those rights which are essential for us to live as human beings. Without human rights, we cannot fully develop ourselves and use our human qualities, our intelligence, our talent and our spirituality.

The United Nations set a common standard on human rights for all nations when, in 1948, it adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. By this Declaration, Governments accepted their obligation to ensure that all human beings, rich and poor, strong and weak, male and female, of all races and religions, are to be treated equally.

This version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is based on "Human Rights for All: Education towards a rights culture" published by Lawyers for Human Rights and the National Institute for Citizen Education in the Law.

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A/proof

"Slavery + forced labour is outlawed"

Hadisla
21

1

All people are born free and have the same dignity and rights. All people have reason and conscience and should behave in a spirit of brotherhood towards each other.

2

Everyone can claim the following rights, even though they are a different sex, have a different skin colour, speak a different language, have different opinions, believe in other religions, are born in a different social group, come from another country. It also makes no difference if the country you live in is independent or not.

3

You have the right to life, and to live in freedom and safety.

4

It is forbidden by law to own or sell slaves, or to make a person a slave.

5

Nobody has the right to torture you, or treat or punish you in a cruel way.

6

Every person everywhere has the same rights before the law.

7

The law is the same for everyone. There must be no discrimination before the law. The law should be applied in the same way to all.

8

If the rights given to you in your country's constitution or laws are not respected, you have the right to take your complaint to a court of law in your country.

9

Nobody has the right to arrest you, put you in prison, to keep you there, or to send you away from your country unjustly, or without a good reason.

10

If you are charged with a crime, you have the right to a public trial. The people who judge you must be fair and not take sides.

11

You have the right to be considered innocent until it is proved that you are guilty. If you are accused of a crime, you have the right to defend yourself or have someone to defend you. If you have done something that was not a crime in your country or in the world at the time, you cannot later be accused of that crime.



Apr 1971

"The Protection of life"

J. K. K. K. K.

12

You have the right to be protected if someone tries to harm your good name, enter your house, open your letters, or bother you or your family without a good reason.

13

You have the right to come and go as you wish within your country. You have the right to leave your country to go to another one; and you have the right to return to your country if you want.

14

You have the right to go to another country and ask for protection if your life is in danger because of political reasons. You lose this right if you have done something criminal that is not a political act. You also lose this right if you do not respect the rights in this Declaration.

15

You have the right to have a nationality. Your nationality cannot be taken away from you without a good reason and no one can stop you from taking another nationality without a good reason.

16

Men and women of a legal age have the right to marry and have a family. It does not matter what their race, nationality or religion is. Men and women have the same rights when they are married and also when they divorce. Nobody should force a person to marry - the decision to get married should



A/proof

"Children's Rights"

Harris

be a free one and both partners must agree to get married. The government of your country and your community should protect you and your family.

17

You have the right to own things and nobody has the right to take these from you without a good reason.

18

You have the right to your religion and your thoughts. You have the right to practice your religion, through worship, teaching or following it. You are also free to change your religion if you want to.

19

You have the right to think what you want, to say what you like, and nobody should stop you from doing so. You have the right to share your ideas with people from any other country - in newspapers, books, on television and radio.

20

You have the right to organise peaceful meetings or to take part in meetings in a peaceful way. No one can be forced to belong to a group.



Alaoud

" Political Activity "

Thadisa

21

You have the right to take part in your country's political affairs either by belonging to the government yourself or by voting for the leaders you want. You also have the right to join the public service. There should be regular elections in your country. Who you vote for must be secret and elections must be free. Everybody in your country must have the right to vote.

22

Each person has the right to social security. The government should help you make the most of the benefits your country can offer. This will depend on how much your government can offer.

23

You have the right to work and to be free to choose your work. You have a right to good working conditions and to protection against unemployment. Men and women, people of all races and people with disabilities, all have the right to earn the same amount for doing the same work. All workers have the right to a salary that allows you to support your family with dignity. If the salary is not enough, other kinds of social security should be added to it. All workers have the right to join or form trade unions to fight for their rights.

24

The working day should not be too long, since everyone has the right to rest and should be able to take paid holidays.



A/100

"Culture"

JHadsia
91

25

You have the right to a standard of living that protects you and your family against sickness and hunger. This includes food, clothes and medical care. You also have the right to be protected and given help if you are unemployed, sick, old, disabled or widowed. Mothers and babies should get special help. All children have the same rights, whether or not the mother is married when the child is born.

26

You have the right to go to school and everyone must attend primary school. As far as possible, education should be free, especially primary schooling. Universities, technikons, training colleges and so on should be open to all, and you should be able to learn a profession or continue your studies as far as you wish, as long as you can cope with the work. The aim of teaching and learning should be to develop the person as well as to strengthen respect for human rights and freedom. Education should help people to understand each other, be tolerant, and be friendly to other people, no matter what their race, nationality or religion. Parents have the right to choose how and what their children will be taught at school.

27

You have the right to share and enjoy your community's arts and sciences, and any benefits they bring. Your work as an artist, a writer, or a scientist shall be protected, and you should be able to benefit from it.



A/proof

" Respect for Human Dignity "

J Hadisia
91

28

To protect the rights in this Declaration, there must be an "order" which can protect these rights. This "order" should be recognised worldwide.

29

You have duties towards the community within which your personality can fully develop. While you have the right to enjoy your rights and freedoms, laws can be made to make sure that while enjoying your rights, you do not hurt other people's rights and freedoms. You cannot claim rights and freedoms that go against the aims of the United Nations.

30

No society, government or human being may act in such a way as to destroy the rights that you have just been reading about in this Declaration.



A/proof

"Property ownership"

JHladis
21

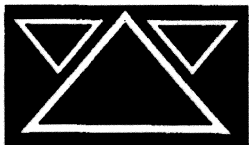


Alperof

"Liberty"

JH. m. c. m. 91

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