The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration on 10 December 1948. Human Rights Day is now celebrated every year on 10 December.

The Declaration has been translated into more than 500 languages, making it the most translated document in the world.

The Declaration was drafted by a committee chaired by Eleanor Roosevelt (USA) and included representatives from the Republic of China, Lebanon, Australia, Chile, France, USSR, United Kingdom and Canada.

Where after all do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any map of the world. (...) Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination.

Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.

- Eleanor Roosevelt, Chair of the UDHR Drafting Committee

48 out of 58 Member States voted in favour of the Declaration. None voted against, 8 abstained and 2 did not vote.

The declaration has helped countless people achieve greater freedom

Human rights are more recognized and guaranteed for everyone

To protect the most vulnerable, explicit protections now exist in international law to cover, among others, children, women, victims of torture and persons with disabilities.

Since 1948, 18 treaties and optional protocols that advance human rights have been internationally agreed.

Today, 59% of countries have a national human rights institution. In 1948, such institutions were practically unheard of.

104 countries have now outlawed capital punishment. Only 9 countries had abolished the death penalty when the UDHR was adopted in 1948.

More democracy

Today most States have a national parliament. 70 years ago, there were only 26.

More freedom

Today, women have the right to vote in 198 countries versus 91 countries in 1948.

Freedom of information laws and policies have been adopted by 111 countries, with at least 15 countries adopting such laws over the past four years.

169 States have ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which states that every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives. Every person shall have the right to vote and be elected, and to have access to public service, as well as to free expression, assembly and association.

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www.standup4humanrights.org

Source: The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017
But its promise is yet to be fully realised

**Right to a free and fair world**
In 2015, 65 million men, women and children were forced from their homes by war and persecution. This represents one in every 113 people.

**Slavery**
Around 1 in 10 children worldwide are engaged in child labour.

**Detention**
Almost 1 in 3 people in detention are held without being tried or sentenced for a crime.

**Freedom of expression**
101 journalists were killed in the pursuit of a story in 2016, which on average constitutes one casualty every four days.

**Right to partake in public affairs**
Women represent only 24% of national parliaments.

**Right to marriage and to found a family**
1 in 4 women aged 20-24 were married before age 18 in 2015.

**Freedom of expression**
101 journalists were killed in the pursuit of a story in 2016, which on average constitutes one casualty every four days.

**Right to Education**
The proportion of primary school age children out of school has stagnated at about 9% since 2008.

**Adequate standards of living**
Worldwide, 880 million urban residents live in slums.

**Right to take part in cultural, artistic and scientific life**
In 2016, about 80% of the population in developed regions had Internet access, compared to 40% in developing regions and 15% in least developed countries.

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Source: The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017