

## Day 16, December 10<sup>th</sup> UN International Human Rights Day

Human rights (HR) are inherent to each person without discrimination. They are set out in the Universal Declaration of HR Dec 10, 1948, as interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.

### A Gift or an Abuse of Human Rights?

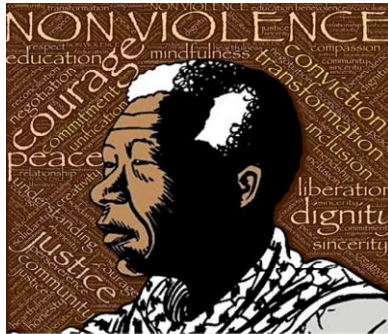
Whilst studying in a rural area of Zimbabwe, I was called to meet a tall, beautiful woman with a child on her back. She had a 20-litre tin of water on her head. As I approached, she elegantly took the tin from her head and placed it at my feet, indicating it was for me to wash whilst staying with my host family. Later I learnt that Sakhile had walked 4 kms to the pump, to bring me this precious gift of water!

As I reflected I began to get angry. Why should women and girls have to spend so many hours fetching water, because the government chooses to spend money on other things? The UN has confirmed that water is a basic human right, yet access is denied to millions, in many countries...

### Question:

What human rights abuse have I observed?

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<https://pixabay.com/en/non-violence-peace-transformation>

### Global Facts about Human Rights

- Every State must promote and protect all HR regardless of political, economic and cultural systems. (*Vienna World Conference on HR, 1993*)
- Respect for the three great bodies of international law, humanitarian law and refugee law were eroded in 2016. (*Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner of HR, 2016*)
- Conflicts remained intractable, driving out millions to seek basic conditions for life elsewhere. (*UN High Commissioner for HR, 2016*)

**Pope Francis:** "Human rights are not only violated by terrorism, repression or assassination, but also by unfair economic structures that create huge inequalities." 2015



<https://pixabay.com>

**Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** with 30 articles on rights, was signed by every State and is a binding document.

**Article 1:** All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

**Article 3:** Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

**Article 14** Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries, asylum from persecution.

**The International Bill of Rights** is the UDHR with the two International Covenants:

- Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)* and
- Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)*, which develop the articles in the UDHR. They are therefore binding covenants. Countries must report their progress to the UN on HR and other Covenants.



**December 10<sup>th</sup> marks 70 Years (1948-2018) of the UN Declaration on HR (UDHR).**

The theme for the year:

**'Let's Make Human Rights a Fact and Not a Dream'**

### Actions:

**Read the UDHR at:** [www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/](http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/)

**See:** <http://www.humanrights70.eu/>

What HR abuses are you most concerned about? How could these be addressed?

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Prepared by 'Future We Need' (FWN) a faith-based group with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Josephites, Mercy, Presentation and Salesians

## **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

is a systematic and widespread human rights violation. It cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries.



[www.google.ie/search?rlz=1C1EODB\\_enIE584IE584&biw=1920&bih=974&tbm=isch&sa=1&q=pixiebay](http://www.google.ie/search?rlz=1C1EODB_enIE584IE584&biw=1920&bih=974&tbm=isch&sa=1&q=pixiebay)

## ***16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence...***



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**Countries have no laws to protect women from domestic violence.**

***DAY 16...***

***10<sup>th</sup> December***

## **CHILD MARRIAGE....**



[www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay](http://www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay)

**UN International  
Human Rights Day**

**15 million girls under the age of 15 are married each year.**

**See:** [www.columbansisters.org](http://www.columbansisters.org)

