

## Bürger- und Menschenrechte / Civil and Human Rights

PLEASE READ THIS TEXT INDEPENDENTLY AND VERY CAREFULLY. USE A BILINGUAL DICTIONARY WHILE READING THE TEXT. HIGHLIGHT, UNDERLINE, AND PUT NOTES AT THE MARGINS. YOU CAN PUT TRANSLATIONS WITH A PENCIL ABOVE NEW AND IMPORTANT WORDS.

### The Universal Declaration of Human Rights - History of the Document

1 The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the UN General  
2 Assembly on 10 December 1948, was the result of the experience of the Second World  
3 War. With the end of that war, and the creation of the United Nations, the international  
4 community vowed<sup>1</sup> never again to allow atrocities<sup>2</sup> like those of that conflict happen  
5 again. World leaders decided to complement the UN Charter with a road map<sup>3</sup> to  
6 guarantee the rights of every individual everywhere. The document they considered,  
7 and which would later become the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was taken up  
8 at the first session of the General Assembly in 1946. [...]

9 The first draft<sup>4</sup> of the Declaration was proposed in September 1948 with over 50  
10 Member States participating in the final drafting. By its resolution 217 A (III) of 10  
11 December 1948, the General Assembly, meeting in Paris, adopted the Universal  
12 Declaration of Human Rights with eight nations abstaining from the vote but none  
13 dissenting<sup>5</sup>. Hernán Santa Cruz of Chile, member of the drafting sub-Committee, wrote:

14 *“I perceived clearly that I was participating in a truly significant historic event in which a*  
15 *consensus had been reached as to the supreme value of the human person<sup>6</sup>, a value that*  
16 *did not originate in the decision of a worldly power, but rather in the fact of existing—*  
17 *which gave rise to the inalienable right<sup>7</sup> to live free from war and oppression and to fully*  
18 *develop one’s personality. In the Great Hall...there was an atmosphere of genuine*  
19 *solidarity and brotherhood among men and women from all latitudes<sup>8</sup>, the like of which*  
20 *I have not seen again in any international setting.” [...]*

Source: UN, <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/history.shtml> [accessed: 04.07.18]

<sup>1</sup> to vow – geloben, schwören

<sup>2</sup> atrocities – Greuelthaten

<sup>3</sup> road map – hier: ein Plan/ Konzept

<sup>4</sup> (first) draft – (erster) Entwurf

<sup>5</sup> abstain – erhalten; dissent – nicht zustimmen

<sup>6</sup> the supreme value of the human person – der Mensch als der allerhöchste Wert (die Menschenwürde als der absolute Maßstab)

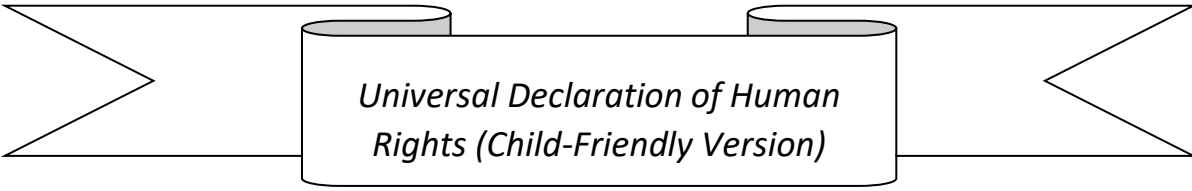
<sup>7</sup> the inalienable right – das unveräußerliche Recht

<sup>8</sup> from all latitudes – hier: aus allen Teilen (der Welt)

**Tasks:**

- 1.) Explain with a partner the significance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- 2.) Take the copy of the child-friendly version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see below). Your partner should refer to the German version of Articles 1-19 of the German Basic Law (*Grundgesetz der Bundesrepublik Deutschland*). Try to match as many articles as possible of both of the documents.

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*Universal Declaration of Human  
Rights (Child-Friendly Version)*

Article 1, Right to equality:

You are born free and equal in rights to every other human being. You have the ability to think and to tell right from wrong. You should treat others with friendship.

Article 2, Freedom from discrimination:

You have all these human rights no matter what your race, skin colour, sex, language, religion, opinions, family background, social or economic status, birth or nationality.

Article 3, Right to life, liberty and personal security:

You have the right to live, to be free and to feel safe.

Article 4, Freedom from slavery:

Nobody has the right to treat you as a slave, and you should not make anyone your slave.

Article 5, Freedom from torture and degrading treatment:

Nobody has the right to torture, harm or humiliate you.

Article 6, Right to recognition as a person before the law:

You have a right to be accepted everywhere as a person according to law.

Article 7, Right to equality before the law:

You have a right to be protected and treated equally by the law without discrimination of any kind.



Article 8, Right to remedy by capable judges:

If your legal rights are violated, you have the right to fair and capable judges to uphold your rights.

Article 9, Freedom from arbitrary arrest and exile:

Nobody has the right to arrest you, put you in prison or to force you out of your country without good reasons.

Article 10, Right to fair public hearing:

If you are accused of a crime, you have the right to a fair and public hearing.

Article 11, Right to be considered innocent until proven guilty:

- 1) You should be considered innocent until it can be proved in a fair trial that you are guilty.
- 2) You cannot be punished for doing something that was not considered a crime at the time you did it.

Article 12, Freedom from interference with privacy, family, home and correspondence:

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

Article 13, Right to free movement:

- 1) You have the right to come and go as you wish within your country.
- 2) You have the right to leave your country to go to another one, and you should be able to return to your country if you want.

Article 14, Right to protection in another country:

- 1) If someone threatens to hurt you, you have the right to go to another country and ask for protection as a refugee.
- 2) You lose this right if you have committed a serious crime.

Article 15, Right to a nationality and the freedom to change it:

- 1) You have the right to belong to a country and have a nationality.
- 2) No-one can take away your nationality without a good reason. You have a right to change your nationality if you wish.

Article 16, Right to marriage and family:

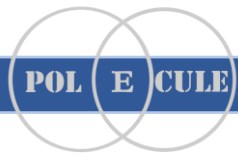
- 1) When you are legally old enough, you have the right to marry and have a family without any limitations based on your race, country or religion. Both partners have the same rights when they are married and also when they are separated.
- 2) Nobody should force you to marry.
- 3) The family is the basic unit of society, and government should protect it.

Article 17, Right to own property:

- 1) You have the right to own things.
- 2) Nobody has the right to take these things from you without a good reason.

Article 18, Freedom of thought, conscience and religion:

You have the right to your own thoughts and to believe in any religion. You are free to practise your religion or beliefs and also to change them.



Article 19, Freedom of opinion and information:

You have the right to hold and express your own opinions. You should be able to share your opinions with others, including people from other countries, through any ways.

Article 20, Right to peaceful assembly and association:

- 1) You have the right to meet peacefully with other people.
- 2) No-one can force you to belong to a group.

Article 21, Right to participate in government and elections:

- 1) You have the right participate in your government, either by holding an office or by electing someone to represent you.
- 2) You and everyone has the right to serve your country.
- 3) Governments should be elected regularly by fair and secret voting.

Article 22, Right to social security:

The society you live in should provide you with social security and the rights necessary for your dignity and development.

Article 23, Right to desirable work and to join trade unions:

- 1) You have the right to work, to choose your work and to work in good conditions.
- 2) People who do the same work should get the same pay.
- 3) You should be able to earn a salary that allows you to live and support your family.
- 4) All people who work have the right to join together in unions to defend their interests.

Article 24, Right to rest and leisure:

You have the right to rest and free time. Your workday should not be too long, and you should be able to take regular paid holidays.

Article 25, Right to adequate living standard:

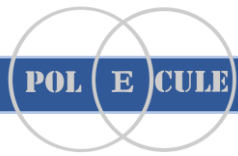
- 1) You have the right to the things you and your family need to have a healthy and comfortable life, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and other social services. You have a right to help if you are out of work or unable to work.
- 2) Mothers and children should receive special care and help.

Article 26, Right to education:

- 1) You have the right to go to school. Primary schooling should be free and required. You should be able to learn a profession or continue your studies as far as you can.
- 2) At school, you should be able to develop all your talents and learn to respect others, whatever their race, religion or nationality.
- 3) Your parents should have a say in the kind of education you receive.

Article 27, Right to participate in the cultural life of community:

- 1) You have the right to participate in the traditions and learning of your community, to enjoy the arts and to benefit from scientific progress.
- 2) If you are an artist, writer or scientist, your work should be protected and you should be able to benefit from it.



Article 28, Right to a social order:

You have a right to the kind of world where you and all people can enjoy these rights and freedoms.

Article 29, Responsibilities to the community

- 1) Your personality can only fully develop within your community, and you have responsibilities to that community.
- 2) The law should guarantee human rights. It should allow everyone to respect others and to be respected.
- 3) These rights and freedoms should support the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 30, Freedom from interference in these human rights:

No person, group or government anywhere in the world should do anything to destroy these rights.

*Source: Compasito, [http://www.eycb.coe.int/compasito/chapter\\_6/1.html](http://www.eycb.coe.int/compasito/chapter_6/1.html) [accessed: 24.01.18]*

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