



Australian
Human Rights
Commission

everyone, everywhere, everyday

rightsED

Human rights
education resources
for teachers



Photo: Arthur Roy

Commemorate
Human Rights Day

Commemorate Human Rights Day: 10 December



Human rights education resources for teachers

Subjects: Civics and Citizenship, Society and Environment (all), Design and Technology, English, Legal Studies, International Studies

Level: Year 9 and up (14 years and up)

Time needed: 1–4 lessons

Introduction

December 10 is the anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations (UN) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The UDHR sets out a certain set of rights that are the basic and minimum set of human rights for all citizens.

Setting aside a day to commemorate, educate and reflect on the principles that form the UDHR means celebrating the rights we exercise everyday as Australians, and acknowledging that enjoying those rights carries with it the responsibility of promoting these rights for all people.

Things that many of us take for granted – such as the right to an education, the right to receive medical care, and the freedom to practice our chosen religion – are not equally available to all Australians and people in other parts of the world.

Many individuals and communities will be commemorating and celebrating December 10, and pledging a commitment to maintain and improve people's human rights wherever possible.

Aim

The resources are designed to provide a brief and interesting introduction to the topic of human rights.

They can be photocopied for class use and used individually or as an entire resource.

Learning outcomes

Students will be able to:

- identify the origins of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- develop an understanding of their own rights and responsibilities
- apply their own understanding of rights to the work and lives of others.

Activities/resources

- Resource sheet: Where did the Universal Declaration of Human Rights come from?
- Activity sheet: Where did the Universal Declaration of Human Rights come from?
- Activity sheet: What does the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognise?
- Activity sheet: How have international human rights developed?
- Activity sheet: Human rights scenarios
- Resource sheet: How can you commemorate human rights day in your school?

Teaching strategies

Each of the resource sheets and activities has been designed so that it can be used either as an individual lesson, or as part of a series. The final resource sheets provide students with ideas for further projects on the topic of human rights.

Note that more detailed information about human rights laws can be found using:

- Human Rights Explained Fact Sheets
- Lets talk about rights toolkit