

**Day 16, December 10<sup>th</sup>:**

## **UN International Human Rights Day**

Human rights (HR) are inherent to each person regardless of sex, colour, class or creed. They are stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as interrelated, interdependent and indivisible. (*Ratified December 10, 1948*)

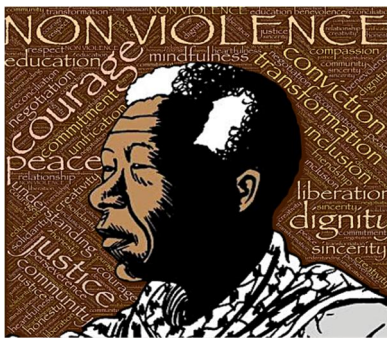
### **A Gift, or an Abuse of Human Rights?**

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!

Reflecting on this 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 for every person, yet access to it, is denied to millions in many countries...

### **Question:**

What human rights abuse am I aware of?



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

### **Global Facts about Human Rights**

Every country 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. This was evident in many conflict areas, where millions of people were forced to leave their homes, to seek basic conditions for life elsewhere.

(Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner of HR, 2016)

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

2015



<https://pixabay.com>

**Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** with 30 articles, was signed by every country 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:  
**a)** Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and  
**b)** Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) that develop the articles cited in the UDHR. They are therefore binding covenants. Countries must report to the UN their progress on HR and other Covenants.



2018 marked 70 Years of the UDHR with the theme:

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

For many of the 68.5 million refugees and internally displaced worldwide, access to basic Human Rights remains a dream!

<https://adra.org/beyond-the-crisis-global-refugee-facts>

### **Actions:**

**Read the UDHR at:**

[www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human](http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human)

What HR abuse are you most concerned about? How could you try to address it?

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

(Updated November, 2019)

## 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)

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

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/violence-against-women-cause-and-consequence-inequality>.

**“GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE - A GLOBAL EPIDEMIC** ... endangers the life of women & girls with negative consequences not only for them, but also for their children & communities. Ending this scourge is integral to the development of women’s human capital & unleashing their contribution to economic growth.” (Feb. 2018 - World Bank study)

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/02/01/more-than-1-billion-women-lack-legal-protection>

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



*DAY 16...*

*10<sup>th</sup>*

*December*

**UN International  
Human Rights Day**

## CHILD MARRIAGE....



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

New data (2018) confirm that practice of child marriage has continued to decline around the world, with accelerated progress in the last 10 years. However, **12 MILLION GIRLS** are still married in childhood each year (UNICEF 2018).

