

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

FOREWORD FOR PUBLICATION  
OF UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
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On 10 December 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the full text of which appears in the following pages.

After this historic act, the General Assembly called on all Member States to ensure the Declaration is “disseminated, displayed, read, and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories”.

The pursuit of human rights lies at the heart of the mission of the United Nations. It underpins the hopes of millions of people for a life in freedom, security and prosperity. And the Universal Declaration of Human Rights remains as relevant today as it did on the day it was adopted. I hope you will make it part of your life.

*Ban Ki-moon*  
Ban Ki-moon

Foreword to UDHR  
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*Signed on 17/4*