



THE UNITING
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA

Human Rights Day 10 December 2021

Human Rights Day is celebrated annually around the world on 10 December every year.

The occasion was chosen to commemorate the United Nations General Assembly's adoption and proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This is the initial international expression of human rights and one of the first major achievements of the new United Nations, established on 24 December 1945.

South Africa's Human Rights Day marks a day where Black citizens fought for equality in the apartheid era. Although apartheid ended three decades ago, there are still many vulnerable and marginalized communities whose rights are violated every day, not just in South Africa, but around the world. To achieve each of the UN's Global Goals, to end poverty and its systemic causes, we must achieve equality, and activists raising their voices for human rights are essential in this effort.

Human Rights Day is a national day that is commemorated annually on 21 March in South Africa for the sacrifices that accompanied the struggle for the attainment of democracy in South Africa. The five fundamental rights as constituted by the government of South Africa human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education. Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discrimination.

The United Nations Articles of human rights are as follows.

- All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are awarded reason and conscience and should act towards one another for the furtherance of humanity.
- Everyone is entitled to all the rights, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or another opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made based on the political, jurisdictional, or international status of the country.
- Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of a person.
- No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.
- No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

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The Deep River
160, 200 and 300 Years, 2017
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