



### DATES



### CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY! 10 DECEMBER 2006

#### What are human rights?

They are rights which exist because you are human. Nobody has given them to you. Nobody can take them away. They are a part of being human.

Therefore all people have them, equally. They do not vary with your intelligence or race or politics or gender. Some may be restricted until you are a certain age. But they are held equally, universally and forever.

There are other limits on them – they are not unfettered or unrestricted. Every right involves a responsibility – to not act in a way which would infringe somebody else's rights.

Also, the state may impose some limits on their exercise – e.g. freedom of movement can be taken away for prisoners.

#### What is International Human Rights Day?

On 10 December 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which has become a universal standard for defending and promoting human rights.

Every year on 10 December, Human Rights Day marks the adoption of the Universal Declaration. On Human Rights Day it is celebrated around the globe that "All human beings are born with equal and inalienable rights and fundamental freedoms".

#### Why celebrate International Human Rights Day?

Setting aside a day to celebrate, educate and reflect on the principles that form the UDHR means celebrating the rights we exercise everyday, 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 practise our chosen religion – are not equally available to all people in 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.



*"Today, poverty prevails as the gravest human rights challenge in the world. Combating poverty, deprivation and exclusion is not a matter of charity, and it does not depend on how rich a country is. By tackling poverty as a matter of human rights obligation, the world will have a better chance of abolishing this scourge in our lifetime... Poverty eradication is an achievable goal."*

Louise Arbour  
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

### NGO's REVIEW



#### HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION ASSOCIATES

Human Rights Education Associates (HREA) is an international non-governmental organisation that supports human rights learning; the training of activists and professionals; the development of educational materials and programming; and community-building through on-line technologies. HREA is dedicated to quality education and training to promote understanding, attitudes and actions to protect human rights, and to foster the development of peaceable, free and just communities. HREA works with individuals, non-governmental organisations, inter-governmental organisations and governments interested in implementing human rights education programmes. The services provided by HREA are:

- assistance in curriculum and materials development;
- training of professional groups;
- research and evaluation;
- clearinghouse of education and training materials;
- networking human rights advocates and educators.

<http://www.hrea.org>

### UNESCO NEWS

#### UNESCO Digital Arts Award 2007

Young artists around the world are invited to submit creative projects based on the theme "STILL LIFE - Art, Ecology and the Politics of Change". They should reflect on how urban spaces and city environments could be transformed into creative outlets cultivating artistic innovation and new forms of expression.

Entry form should be sent to DigiArts by 31 December 2006; the deadline for final material submissions is **16 February 2007**.

The UNESCO Digital Art Award 2007 is organised in association with the Sharjah Biennial 8 (4 April - 4 June 2007, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates) on the theme of "STILL LIFE - Art, Ecology and the Politics of Change".

Further information:

[http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-](http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=32309&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

[URL\\_ID=32309&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=32309&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

### EUROPEAN YOUTH PORTAL NEWS



#### Erasmus celebrates its 20th year

2007 marks the 20th anniversary for Erasmus, the world's largest university exchange programme. Celebrations started in Brussels with the opening of an Erasmus exhibition last 6th December 2006 and will run throughout 2007 with a number of special events.

More than just an education programme, Erasmus has become a social and cultural phenomenon. It creates a space for openness and tolerance and brings people together in a natural way. It promotes inter-cultural dialogue and encourages young people to think "European" and to be mobile.

Find out more on how to take part in the Socrates-Erasmus programme:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/erasmus20\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/erasmus20_en.html)