



MC No. 23, s. 2018

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

TO : HEADS OF CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES,
DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS AND AGENCIES OF THE
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENT
UNITS, GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR CONTROLLED
CORPORATIONS WITH ORIGINAL CHARTERS, AND
STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

SUBJECT : 2018 National Human Rights Consciousness Week Celebration

Proclamation No. 177, s. 1988 declares December 3 to 10 of each year as National Human Rights Week. Subsequently, Republic Act No. 9201 or the *National Human Rights Consciousness Week Act of 2002* was enacted stating that December 4 to 10 shall be the country's National Human Rights Consciousness Week.

The celebration aims to raise the awareness of the people on the basic and fundamental human rights and propagate a human rights culture towards a sustainable development in the country.

This year's celebration with the theme "*Manindigan Para Sa Karapatang Pantao*" enjoins all government offices to observe the following activities as recommended under Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Circular No. 1, s. 2018 dated October 31, 2018:

A. Common to All Agencies

- Holding of the 30-day countdown to the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
- Display of celebratory streamer for the 2018 National Human Rights Consciousness Week and the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
- Pledging of Commitment to Human Rights during Monday's flag raising ceremonies
- Inter-agency forum or public dialogue discussing the importance of human rights
- Inter-agency seminar on human rights of vulnerable groups as identified in the Magna Carta of Women
- Production of Frequently-Asked Questions on Human Rights and dissemination of the same to schools and other audiences
- Roadshow and exhibit of UDHR materials in every agency's strategic areas



Bawat Kawani, Lingkod Bayani

- Other activities to raise the awareness of the general public on human rights such as those listed in the attached “Other recommended activities”.

B. Agency-Based Activities

Agencies are to initiate various celebratory activities that shall raise the awareness of their own employees and clientele on their human rights in relation to the services of their agencies.

C. Celebratory Activities by Attached Agencies and in the Field

Similar activities shall be spearheaded by attached agencies of NGAs as well as by regional and provincial offices of member-agencies and partners for the 2018 National Human Rights Consciousness Week commemoration.

For more information, you may coordinate with the **Advocacy and Campaign Division, Human Rights Education and Promotion Office, Commission on Human Rights, Philippines** at telephone numbers 927-6225, 925-3878, 925-3879, 928-4471 or through mobile number 0916-7040401 or through email at **chrp.hrepo@gmail.com**.


ALICIA dela ROSA-BALA
Chairperson

29 NOV 2018



**Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

**CIRCULAR NO. 1, s. 2018
October 31, 2018**

**in consultation with the
National Steering Committee for National Human Rights Consciousness Week**

**TO : ALL HEADS OF CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES;
DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS AND AGENCIES OF THE
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT (NGAs); LOCAL
GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs); GOVERNMENT-OWNED
OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS (GOCCs) WITH
ORIGINAL CHARTERS; AND STATE UNIVERSITIES
AND COLLEGES (SUCs)**

**SUBJECT : 2018 NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONSCIOUSNESS
WEEK**

I. Rationale and legal basis

On 10 December 1948 the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* as common standard of achievement. Subsequently on 04 December 1950, the General Assembly resolved during its 317th Plenary Meeting to adopt December 10 of each year as *International Human Rights Day*.¹ Since then, the UN has annually been releasing the theme and logo for the celebration of the International Human Rights Day. In response to this resolution, former President Corazon C. Aquino issued in October 1988 *Proclamation 177* that declared December 3 to 10 as *National Human Rights Week*. Subsequently, the Philippine government enacted *Republic Act No. 9201* otherwise known as the "*National Human Rights Consciousness Week Act of 2002*".² The law

¹ See UN General Assembly Resolution No. 423 (V), 317th Plenary Meeting, 04 December 1950

² See Republic Act No. 9201 (approved 01 April 2003).

stipulates that December 4 to 10 shall be the country's National Human Rights Consciousness Week.³ It also mandates all government agencies, including government-owned and controlled corporations, to celebrate the period through various simple and appropriate activities that shall raise the awareness of the people on their basic human rights in relation to the services of these agencies.⁴ Learning institutions, both public and private, are mandated to observe human rights week to propagate, particularly among the students, a human rights culture that aims at sustainable development in the country.⁵ The Week culminates on December 10, the anniversary day of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and celebrated as the International Human Rights Day.

II. Objectives

To facilitate the yearly conduct of activities, Section 5 of RA 9201 created the national committee which consists of ten government agencies and at least two NGOs as members. The Committee Chair is the head of agency of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and the Vice-Chair is the head of agency of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

Guided by the State policy under the 1987 Constitution that "[t]he State values the dignity of every person and guarantees full respect for human rights,"⁶ this circular is issued to ensure that the annual celebration of the human rights week shall:

1. Strengthen cooperation among member agencies of the national committee and other institutions for the observance of National Human Rights Consciousness Week scheduled on December 4 to 10 of every year;
2. Ensure the dissemination of the theme for the observance of human rights week to all constitutional bodies, government agencies, State universities and colleges, and the general public;

³ *Ibid.*, Section 2

⁴ *Ibid.*, Section 3

⁵ *Ibid.* Section 4

⁶ See 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article II, Section 11

3. Ascertain that the organized activities shall result in deeper understanding by the public of the ideals and principles of human rights;
4. Utilize the occasion as opportunity to impress upon the private sector that human rights is a shared responsibility with the State; and,
5. Promote human rights as universal and applicable to all, especially to all members of the vulnerable and marginalized sectors.

III. Recommended Activities

A. Common to all agencies

1. Holding of the 30-day Countdown to the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR);
2. Display of celebratory streamer for the 2018 National Human Rights Consciousness Week and the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR);
(For the specifications, please see "*Annex 1*")
3. Pledging of commitment to human rights during Mondays' flag ceremonies;
(For the text of the Pledge of Commitment to Human Rights, please see "*Annex 2*")
4. Inter-agency forum or public dialogue discussing the importance of human rights;
5. Inter-agency seminar on human rights of vulnerable groups as identified in the Magna Carta of Women;
6. Production of Frequently Asked Questions on Human Rights and dissemination of the same to schools and other audiences;
7. Road show and exhibit of UDHR materials in every agency's strategic areas;
8. Other activities to raise the awareness of the general public on human rights such as those listed in the attached "Other recommended activities".

B. Agency-Based Activities

Agencies are to initiate various celebratory activities that shall raise the awareness of their own employees and clientele on their human rights in relation to the services of their agencies. For example, in the context of UDHR, the Department of Labor and Employment shall focus their discussion on labor rights, rights at work, and how to get remedies for any form of labor rights violations.

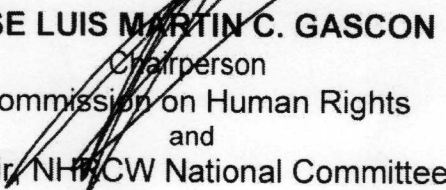
C. Celebratory Activities by attached agencies and in the Field

Similar activities shall be spearheaded by attached agencies of NGAs as well as by regional and provincial offices of member-agencies and partners for the 2018 National Human Rights Consciousness Week commemoration.

IV. Effectivity

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.

Signed on 21 October 2018 in Quezon City.


JOSE LUIS MARTIN C. GASCON
Chairperson
Commission on Human Rights
and
Chair, NHRCW National Committee

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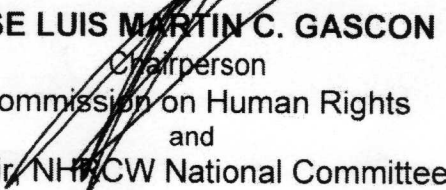
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MANINDIGAN PARA SA KARAPATANG PANTAO

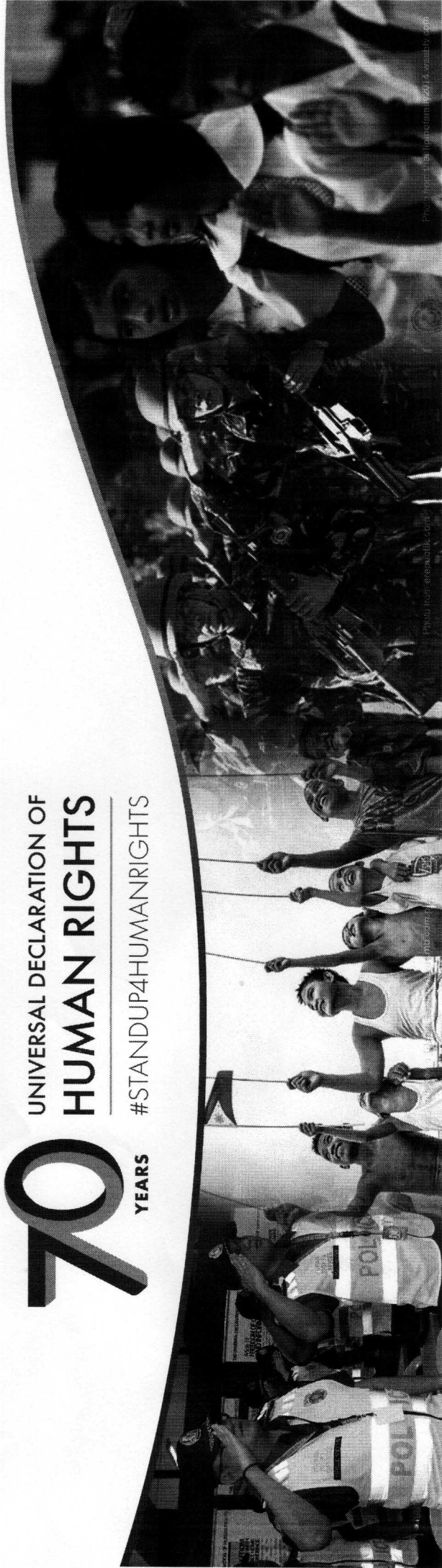
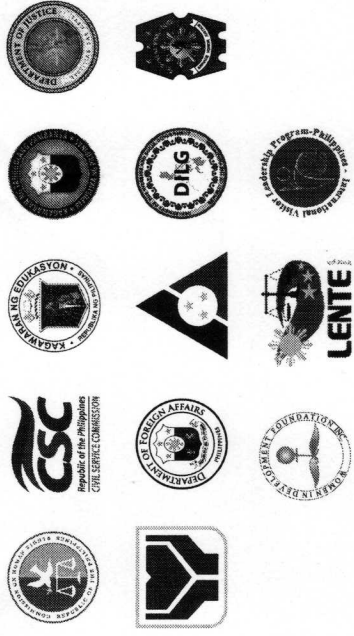
4-10 December 2018

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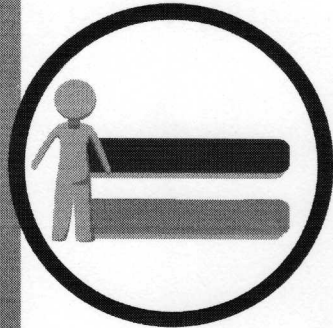
YEARS

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS

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UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS



Article 1

BORN EQUAL AND FREE

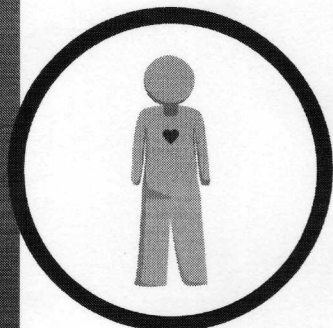
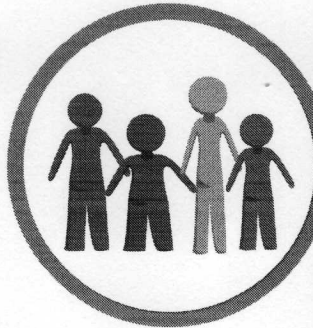
All human beings are born FREE and EQUAL in dignity and rights

Article 2

FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION

Everyone is entitled to all the RIGHTS and FREEDOMS

regardless of our race, colour, sexuality, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.



Article 3

RIGHT TO LIFE

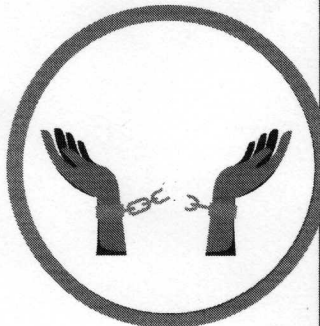
Everyone has the right to LIFE, LIBERTY, and SECURITY OF PERSON

Article 4

NO SLAVERY

NO ONE shall be held in SLAVERY or SERVITUDE

Slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.



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Article 5

FREEDOM FROM TORTURE

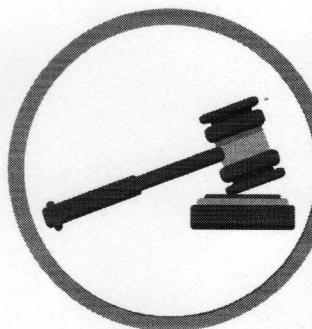
NO ONE shall be subjected to TORTURE

or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6

RIGHT TO BE TREATED EQUALLY BY THE LAW

Everyone has the RIGHT TO RECOGNITION

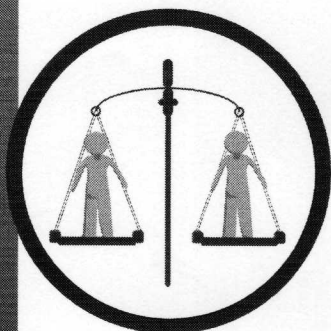


Article 7

RIGHT TO EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW

ALL ARE EQUAL before the law

and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.



Article 8

RIGHT TO REMEDY BY COMPETENT TRIBUNAL

Everyone has the right to an EFFECTIVE REMEDY

by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted to them by the constitution or by law.



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Article 9

RIGHT TO DUE PROCESS

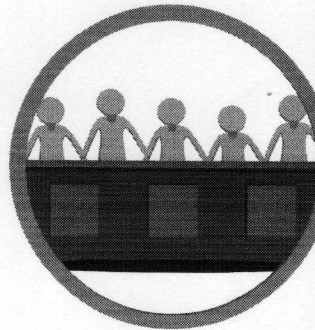
No one shall be subjected to ARBITRARY ARREST, DETENTION, or EXILE

Article 10

RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL

Everyone is entitled to a FAIR and PUBLIC TRIAL

by an independent and impartial tribunal.

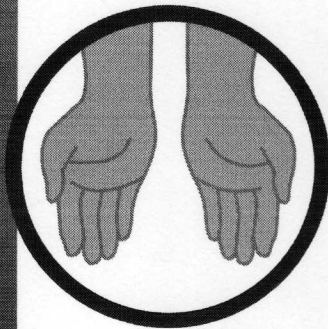


Article 11

RIGHT TO PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE

Each accused has the right to be DEEMED INNOCENT

according to law until due process has convicted them of their crime.

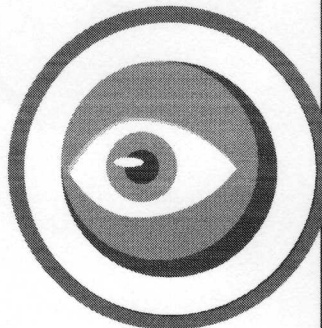


Article 12

RIGHT TO PRIVACY

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with their PRIVACY,

family, home, or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation.



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Article 13

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

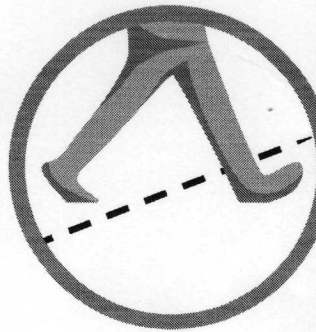
Everyone has the right to FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Everyone has the right to leave any country, including their own, and to return to their country.

Article 14

RIGHT TO SEEK ASYLUM

Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries ASYLUM FROM PERSECUTION

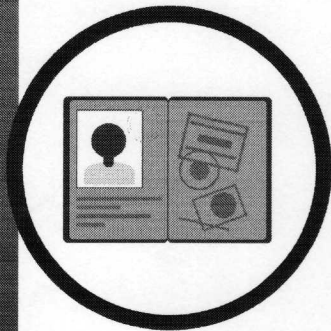


Article 15

RIGHT TO A NATIONALITY

Everyone has the right to a NATIONALITY

No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

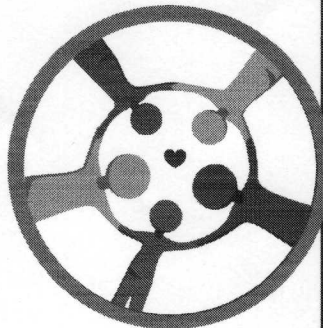


Article 16

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Every adult has the RIGHT TO MARRY and have a family

*All people have the same rights
before marriage, during marriage,
and at its dissolution.*



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Article 17

RIGHT TO OWN PROPERTY

Everyone has the right to OWN PROPERTY alone as well as in association with others

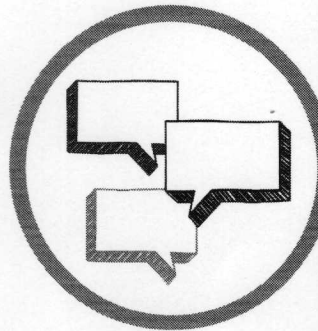
Nobody has the right to take your property without a good reason.

Article 18

FREEDOM OF THOUGHT

Everyone has the right to FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION

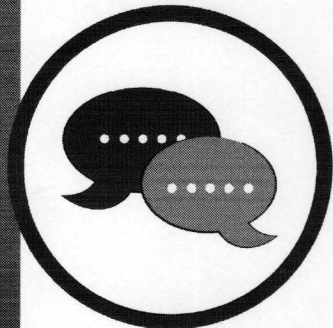
including the freedom to change your religion or belief—alone or in community with others and in public or private.



Article 19

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Everyone has the right to FREEDOM OF OPINION AND EXPRESSION

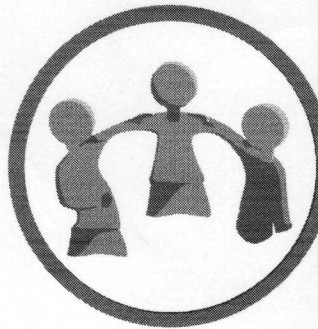


Article 20

RIGHT TO PUBLIC ASSEMBLY

Everyone has the right to freedom of PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY and association

No one may be compelled to belong to an association.



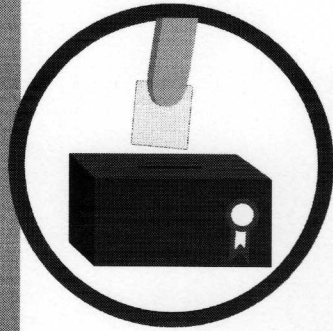
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Article 21

RIGHT TO DEMOCRACY

Everyone has the right to TAKE PART IN THE GOVERNMENT of their country,

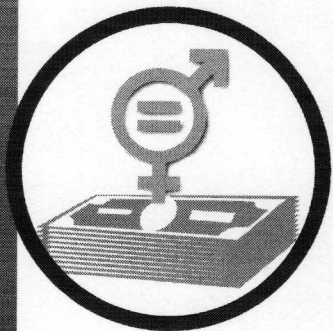
directly or through freely chosen representatives.

Article 22

RIGHT TO SOCIAL SECURITY

Everyone, as a member of society, has the RIGHT TO SOCIAL SECURITY

and is entitled to its realization.



Article 23

RIGHT TO WORK

Everyone has the RIGHT TO WORK

to a fair wage, without discrimination, and to form and to join trade unions for the protection of their interests.

Article 24

RIGHT TO LEISURE AND REST

Everyone has the right to REST AND LEISURE,

including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.



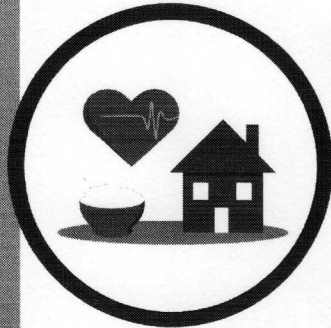
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Article 25

RIGHT TO ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING

Everyone has the right RIGHT TO A DECENT LIFE

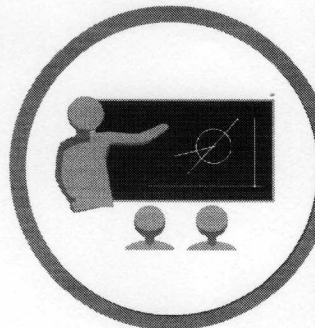
including enough food, clothing, housing, medical care, and social services.

Article 26

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Everyone has the RIGHT TO EDUCATION

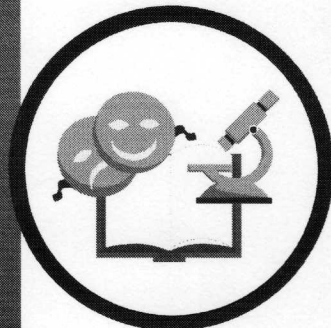
towards the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.



Article 27

RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CULTURAL LIFE OF COMMUNITY

Everyone has the RIGHT TO FREELY PARTICIPATE IN THE CULTURAL LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY



Article 28

RIGHT TO A FAIR AND FREE WORLD

Everyone is entitled to a FREE and PEACEFUL WORLD where all rights and freedoms can be fully realised.



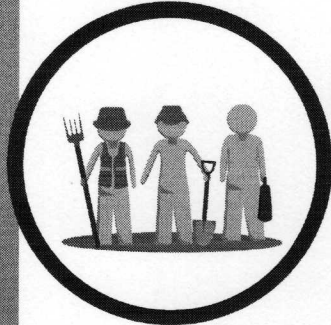
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Article 29

A FREE COMMUNITY

We have a DUTY TO OTHER PEOPLE

We should protect and stand up for their rights and freedoms.

Article 30

RIGHTS ARE INALIENABLE

NO ONE can take away your human rights



Human rights are the SUPREME, INHERENT and INALIENABLE rights to life, to dignity and to self-development. It is the essence of these rights that makes all persons human.



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PANATA SA MGA KARAPATANG PANTAO

Ako ay Pilipino.

Kikilalanin ko, igagalang, ipagtatanggol at isasakatuparan ang dignidad at karapatan ng bawat tao nang walang pagtatangi sa kasarian, lipi, pananampalataya at katayuan sa buhay.

**Igagalang ko ang iyong mga karapatan maging sino ka man.
Maging magkasalungat man tayo ay paninindigan ko ang mga karapatan mo.**

Diringgin ko ang tinig ng kabataan, kababaihan, nakatatanda, katutubo at mga may kapansanan nang may paggalang at pagkilala sa kanilang kakayahan.

Titiyakin ko na ang bawat bata ay hindi salat sa pagkalinga, at may matiwasay na lipunang ginagalawan.

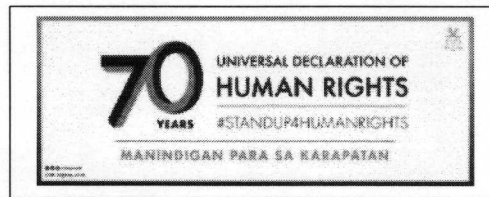
Tututulan ko ang anumang pagmamalabis sa kapangyarihan, katiwalian, at pagyurak sa karapatan ng mga manggagawa, mga mahihirap, at mga sektor na higit na nangangailangan.

Babantayan ko na gagampanan ng pamahalaan ang kaniyang tungkulin na igalang, ipagtatanggol at isakatuparan ang mga karapatang pantao ng lahat.

Paninindigan ko ang aking pananagutan sa aking kapwa. Kung mayroon mang Karapatang Pantao na ipinagkakait o di-binibigyang halaga, ako ay MANININDIGAN.

**Sisigaw ako. Kikilos ako.
Gagamitin ko ang aking mga karapatan para MANINDIGAN sa mga Karapatan ng aking kapwa tao.**

Stand up for human rights



Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December. It commemorates the day on which, in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a groundbreaking document which outlined the 30 fundamental rights that people are entitled to across the world. In 1950, the General Assembly passed resolution 423 (V), inviting all States and interested organizations to observe 10 December of each year as Human Rights Day.

This year, Human Rights Day calls on everyone to stand up for human rights! It is everyone's responsibility to uphold human rights. Every one of us should take a stand. Step forward and defend the rights of a child, an elderly, a person with disabilities, an LGBT person, a woman, an indigenous person, an internally displaced person, a refugee or migrant or anyone else at risk of discrimination or violence.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, together with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, form the **International Bill of Human Rights**, setting out the civil, political, cultural, economic, and social rights that are the birth rights of all human beings.

10 Possible Campus Ways to Celebrate Human Rights Day on December 10

How is your School/University going to celebrate Human Rights Day on December 10th?

Here are 10 great suggestions for celebrating Human Rights Day on your campus that some college students came up with.

1. Pass a student government resolution: Work with a member of your student government or student council to pass a resolution in honor of Human Rights Day.
2. Write an op-ed or article in your school's newspaper: School newspapers can be a great place to talk about the importance of human rights around the world.
3. Stage a public reading: Set up a microphone in your student center or, if the weather's right, outside and read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in full.
4. Set up a free expression wall: Set up a blank wall or giant piece of paper and encourage your friends to write about what human rights mean to them.
5. Make a viral video about human rights day: Film your student organization while doing something to celebrate human rights and put the video online: it'll go viral in a matter of minutes.
6. Start a Facebook campaign: Encourage your friends to change their profile pictures to an individualized Human Rights Day banner.
7. Hand out t-shirts and other gear: If you have the funds, buy t-shirts, sunglasses, or even 90's-style sweatbands featuring a slogan about human rights to give to your classmates.
8. Coordinate an extra-credit lecture: Work with professors in the NSTP, history department, the law school, or the international relations program to host a lecture about human rights, and work with other professors in the department to get attendees extra credit—trust us, your friends will thank you.
9. Hold a candlelight vigil or other commemorative event: While it's important to have fun, human rights are serious business. Consider holding a vigil or other event to commemorate those who have suffered human rights abuses and those whose human rights are still violated.
10. Hold a talent show, dance, or party: Big social events are a great way to bring awareness to an issue, so why not have a human rights-themed party? Free admission if you dress up like the UN Secretary General, CHR chairperson, or defender of indigenous peoples rights.

Human Rights Day is awfully close to time for final exams, so commemorate it earlier or later if it works better for your campus. Remember that the Commission on Human Rights or human rights NGOs, such as Amnesty International and International Visitor and Leadership Program, may be able to help support any events you want to hold. Ask them to join in!