

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS 1948

(Young people's version)

- 1** We are all born free. We all have our own thoughts and ideas. We should all be treated in the same way.
- 2** These rights belong to everybody; whether we are rich or poor, whatever country we live in, whatever sex or whatever colour we are, whatever language we speak, whatever we think or whatever we believe.
- 3** We all have the right to life, and to live in freedom and safety.
- 4** Nobody has any right to make us a slave. We cannot make anyone else our slave.
- 5** Nobody has any right to hurt us or to torture us.
- 6** We all have the same right to use the law.
- 7** The law is the same for everyone. It must treat us all fairly.
- 8** We can all ask for the law to help us when we are not treated fairly.
- 9** Nobody has the right to put us in prison without a good reason, to keep us there or to send us away from our country.
- 10** If someone is accused of breaking the law they have the right to a fair and public trial.
- 11** Nobody should be blamed for doing something until it has been proved that they did it. If people say we did something bad, we have the right to show this was not true. Nobody should punish us for something that we did not do, or for doing something which was not against the law when we did it.
- 12** Nobody should try to harm our good name. Nobody has the right to come into our home, open our letters, or bother us or our family without a very good reason.
- 13** We all have the right to go where we want to in our own country and to travel abroad as we wish.
- 14** If we are frightened of being badly treated in our own country, we all have the right to run away to another country to be safe.
- 15** We all have the right to belong to a country.
- 16** Every grown up has the right to marry and have a family if they want to. Men and women have the same rights when they are married, and when they are separated.
- 17** Everyone has the right to own things or share them. Nobody should take our things from us without a good reason.
- 18** We all have the right to believe in what we want to believe, to have a religion, or to change it if we want.
- 19** We all have the right to make up our own minds, to think what we like, to say what we think, and to share our ideas with other people wherever they live, through books, radio, television and in other ways.
- 20** We all have the right to meet our friends and to work together in peace to defend our rights. Nobody can make us join a group if we don't want to.
- 21** We all have the right to take part in the government of our country. Every grown up should be allowed to choose their own leaders from time to time and should have a vote which should be made in secret.
- 22** We all have the right to a home, to have enough money to live on and medical help if we are ill. We should all be allowed to enjoy music, art, craft, sport and to make use of our skills.
- 23** Every grown up has the right to a job, to get a fair wage for their work, and to join a trade union.
- 24** We all have the right to rest from work and relax.
- 25** We all have the right to a good life, with enough food, clothing, housing, and healthcare. Mothers and children, people without work, old and disabled people all have the right to help.
- 26** We all have the right to an education, and to finish primary school, which should be free. We should be able learn a career, or to make use of all our skills. We should learn about the United Nations and about how to get on with other people and respect their rights. Our parents have the right to choose how and what we will learn.
- 27** We all have the right to our own way of life, and to enjoy the good things that science and learning bring.
- 28** We have a right to peace and order so we can all enjoy rights and freedoms in our own country and all over the world.
- 29** We have a duty to other people, and we should protect their rights and freedoms.
- 30** Nobody can take away these rights and freedoms from us