



RESOURCE SHEET 1 (v1)

Human Rights Day newspaper article

WORLD UNITES TO MARK HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Nations around the world are today marking Human Rights Day, with parades, conferences and exhibitions to remember the moment when the world's governments signed up to respect 30 basic human rights.

Young people in the UK are being asked to do their bit too, with a special Amnesty International-inspired competition to find the best young human rights reporter of the year.

The 30 human rights include the right to speak freely, the right to enough food and health care, the right to education, and the right not to be jailed unfairly, or tortured.

Everyone in the world, no matter where they live, if they are male or female, or what colour their skin, should have his or her rights respected and not abused.

These rights were laid out in an important document

called the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (or UDHR). The document was agreed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, just as the world was recovering from the horrific loss of life and freedom during the Second World War.

But human rights abuses still go on in many parts of the world, affecting millions of people.

Hundreds of people are in prison because of their beliefs or opinions. Torture is used in more than 100 countries. People die from diseases which could be treated if they had the right medicines. In some countries, children are forced to work instead of going to school.

The United Nations has also written other human rights documents, for example, the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This defines 42 different

children's rights including the right to education, the right to play and the right to a family.

Human Rights Day, which takes place every year on 10 December, reminds people of the importance of human rights to everyone. It also underlines how easily many human rights are abused in many places.

Getting young people to think about human rights is key to making sure these rights are better protected and respected in the future.

The Amnesty International Young Human Rights Reporter of the Year competition, held in conjunction with The Guardian newspaper and MA Education, aims to encourage young people to write about human rights issues from their perspective.

■ To find out more, see [amnesty.org.uk/youthawards](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/youthawards)