



ACTION BY CHRISTIANS AGAINST TORTURE

60th ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

**UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS**

WORSHIP MATERIAL AND READINGS

2008

**Articles from the United Nations Universal
Declaration of Human Rights**

- Article 1** All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards each other in a spirit of brotherhood.
- Article 3** Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.
- Article 5** No one shall be subjected to torture, or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- Article 14** Everyone has the right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
- Article 18** Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right includes freedom to change their religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others, and in public or in private to manifest their religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.
- Article 19** Everyone has the right to freedom of opinions and expression, this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.
- Article 20** Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

PREAMBLE TO UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of humankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people.

Whereas it is essential, human beings are not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law.

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations.

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for an observance of human rights and fundamental freedom.

Whereas a common understanding of those rights and freedoms is of greater
important for the full realisation of this pledge

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Old Testament Readings

Genesis	4	1-16	I am my brother's keeper
Exodus	3	1-12	Moses is sent to deliver his people from Oppression
Exodus	23	1-9	the requirements of justice
Isaiah	3	8-15	Judgement for those who oppress the poor
Isaiah	14	1-8	Promise to release Israel
Isaiah	40	1-8	Words of hope
Isaiah	42	1-7	the task of human rights workers
Isaiah	58	6-12	the strength of God and those who work for Justice
Isaiah	65	17-25	the ideal society
Jeremiah	37	11-21	Jeremiah is arrested and detained
Jeremiah	38	1-13	Ebedmelech rescues Jeremiah from the pit
Daniel	3	8-18	Refusal to obey unjust laws

Psalms

22	1-2 14-19	cry of anguish
31	1-6	A prayers of deliverance and rescue
	9-16	The oppressed man who trusts in God
55	1-7	Prayer in persecution
69	1-3	A cry for help and rescue
	13-21, 29	
88		An impassioned plea to God for help
102	1-11 19-20	A prayers of the afflicted
142		A prayer for rescue and freedom
143	1-11	A prayers for help for one who is oppressed
146		Praise the God who judges in favour of the oppressed and who sets prisoners free

New Testament Readings

Matthew	10	16-33	Jesus warns his disciples of further persecution
Matthew	25	25-46	Anything you do for one of my brothers you do for me.
Mark	10	42-45	the servant of all
Luke	4	14-22	Jesus' manifesto
Luke	10	25-37	who is my neighbour?
Acts	5	12-26	the disciples imprisoned for speaking the truth
Acts	6	8-10	
Acts	7	54-59	Stephen is killed for speaking the truth
Acts	12	1-9	Peter in prison
1 Cor	12	12-26	we are all members one of another
2 Cor	11	21-29	Paul's suffering for the Gospel
Ephesians	2	11-16	we are all one in Christ
Ephesians	6	10-20	Spiritual war against evil
Philippians	2	12-18	the nature of discipleship and it's cost
2 Timothy	2	8-10	our duty to bring good news to others
Hebrews	10	32-39	Sharing the suffering of prisoners
1 John	3	15-17	our duty to care for others
Revelation	7	9 to end	And God shall wipe away every tear
Revelation	22	1-5	the tree of life

Hymn List

For the Healing of the Nations

God of Freedom, God of Justice

God's Spirit is in My Heart

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Hark a Herald Voice is Calling

How can I keep from Singing

In Christ there is no East or West

Kumbayah

Make me a Channel of Your Peace

Now Thank We All Our God

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Oh Lord All the World Belongs to You

Peace is Flowing Like a River

Restore O Lord, The Honour of Your Name

Tell Out my Soul

The Spirit of the Lord

Thy Kingdom Come O Lord

We Turn to You, O God of Every Nation

Whatsoever you do

When I Needed a Neighbour

When Israel was in Egypt's Land

PRAYERS ETC.

Opening Sentences:

When the prisoners of the land are crushed underfoot, when human rights are perverted in the presence of the Most High, when one's case is subverted - does not the Lord see it? Lamentations 3 vv 340-36

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1v5

PRAYERS

Lord, you made the world and everything in it;
You created the human race of one stock
And gave us the earth for our possession.

All: Break down the walls that separate us and unite us in one body

Lord, we have been divisive in our thinking, in our speech, in our actions;
We have classified and imprisoned one another and ourselves.

All: Break down the walls that separate us and unite us in one body

Lord, you intend us to be a single people,
Ruled by peace, feasting in freedom,
Freed from injustice, truly human,
Responsive and responsible in the life we lead.

All: Break down the walls that separate us and unite us in one body

Lord we shall need ever-new insights into the truth
Awareness of your will for all humanity,
Courage to do what is right even when it is not allowed,
Persistence in undermining injustice until it crumbles into dust,
Grace to exercise a ministry of reconciliation.

All: Break down the walls that separate us and unite us in one body

Lord, share out among us the tongues of your Spirit,
That we may each burn with compassion for all who hunger for freedom and
humanness;

That we may be doers of your word
And so speak with credibility of the wonderful things you have done.

**All: Lord, direct us in ways we do not yet discern and equip us for the service
of reconciliation and liberation in your world. Amen**

Roger Williams

Father, you created a world in which all were to live in justice and peace.
Walking freely in the Garden of Eden, with food for all. We have built a world with
dark prisons for the innocent,
And where the rich may eat in luxury while the poor must starve.

All: We pray through Your Son, Lord have mercy

Father, you created men and women in your own image and likeness,
To respect and care for each other.

We have mutilated that image with terrible violence,
Hating the flesh into which you have breathed life.

All: *We pray through Your Son, Christ have mercy*

Father, you created your prophets to call us back from murder and oppression,
And we had them killed.

You sent your only Son, Our Lord, to preach liberty for captives, freedom for the poor

And we crucified Him for challenging our cherished principles.

All: *Christ have mercy on us*

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us into everlasting life. Amen

Spirit of the Living God

We thank You that You set us free from the power of sin and death

You have sent us out to be signs of your kingdom,

A kingdom bearing the marks of peace, justice and righteousness,

Give us grace and courage to struggle with those who are oppressed, tortured and denied their rights as human beings made in Your image.

May their sufferings be our sufferings

We name before You those places and those situations where the cry is for freedom -----

We name those individuals who cry out to be free -----

Spirit of the Living God, set our world free. Amen

Look on Him

Show us Father, what we do not want to see and yet must see
Let us look upon the One they pierced.

Show us the place of execution,
The torture chambers and the prisons,
Where skulls are crushed and minds distorted.

Show us the truth about brutality and violence,
About unjust sentences and miscarriages of justice,
When someone's quibble is another's death or life.
Show us the weeping and the agony
Of the family and the friends.
The ones who in their love, can only watch.

Show us the corpses, broken and bleeding,
Show us what humankind has accomplished in its fury.
Let us see so that we may know it is true.

Show us Father, what we do not want to see and yet must see.
Let us look upon the one they pierced,

And as we look, in terror and reproach.
Bearing the pain we dread,
Sharing the injustice,
Suffering the humiliation?
For only so, could we bear to look.

Susan and Michael Durber from URC Prayer Handbook

Heavenly Father

We bring to you all the deaths that we cannot understand,
And not the deaths only, but the pain.
We lay down all those deaths at your feet, so that you can keep them for us,
Since we are unable to understand them.
We cannot unravel by ourselves the tangled threads of pain and anger
And sadness in the world.
But we ask that you would help all who are afflicted to know that suffering
Can never claim the final victory,
Help us to know that you are at the centre and at all the boundaries,
And that you seek with all compassion,
The hurt, the maimed, the wandering and the lost.
And in the midst of sorrow and suffering
Help us to enter into the mystery of your cross,
Where you moved from life to death,
So that we might know how unbounded your love is for us. Amen
Loving Father

We give thanks for the vision of those who drafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

We give thanks for all who have kept the vision of a new order alive over the past 60 years.

Ordinary people, human rights workers, Christians, legislators - in times of difficulty and suffering.

We remember with heartfelt thanks the countless numbers who fought for justice and freedom.

And who gave their lives rather than compromise their belief in a better world.
We give thanks for freedom won, for rights gained for victories however small.

We remember with sorrow the many places where human rights have been ignored or where human rights have been abused,

We remember especially countries and ethnic groups which have suffered gross human rights violations, genocide or ethnic cleansing.

We pray for a world where human rights are respected, where justice and freedom are taken for granted and where all the tenets of the Universal Declaration are upheld.

We ask this in Jesus name

Amen www.nakedpets.co.uk