

70  
YEARS

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS

#STANDUP4HUMANRIGHTS



# United Nations Declaration of Human Rights

## Activities for Schools



Australian Library and  
Information Association



## Introduction

Show symbol of UN. Do the students recognise it? Explain that 2018 is the birthday of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (English).

## Pre-activity

Some words in English have the same sound but different spelling, like **write** and **right**. These are called homophones.

Some words have the same spelling, but have different meaning, like **right** and **right**.

## Match a meaning to the correct word

Word	Meaning
write	correct
right	A moral or legal entitlement
right	For directions or position
right	Use a pen or pencil to make marks on paper

In pairs make sentences using these different definitions of write and right.

Which right is being talked about in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights?

## Activity

1. Connect to the school wifi on your device.
2. Click on Chrome on your phone (if you don't have Chrome, use your internet browser).
3. Type in 70 years UN (if it doesn't work, here is the link: [www.un.org/en/udhr-video/curated.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/udhr-video/curated.shtml))
4. In top left corner, find the box with Filter by Language
5. Click on the arrow and scroll down to find your language
6. Click on the play button on one of the videos in your language and listen.
7. Find the article that is most important to you and practice reading it aloud in your language
8. If you would like to record yourself reading this article, click on the **RECORD YOURSELF NOW** button and follow the instructions.

## Post activity

In groups, discuss the article you chose and why.

Make a list of other homophones and homonyms in English.



# TASK 2

## Introduction

Show symbol of UN. Do the students recognise it? Explain that 2018 is the birthday of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (English).

## Pre-activity

### Read this information about The Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an international document that states basic rights and fundamental freedoms to which all human beings are entitled. The Universal Declaration was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 December 1948. Motivated by the experiences of the preceding world wars, the Universal Declaration was the first time that countries agreed on a comprehensive statement of inalienable human rights. The Universal Declaration begins by recognising that 'the inherent dignity of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world'.

It declares that human rights are universal – to be enjoyed by all people, no matter who they are or where they live.

The Universal Declaration includes civil and political rights, like the right to life, liberty, free speech and privacy. It also includes economic, social and cultural rights, like the right to social security, health and education.

The Universal Declaration is not a treaty, so it does not directly create legal obligations for countries.

However, it is an expression of the fundamental values which are shared by all members of the international community. And it has had a profound influence on the development of international human rights law. Some argue that because countries have consistently invoked the Declaration for more than sixty years, it has become binding as a part of customary international law.

**Make a list of 5 words that are new to you and look up their meaning.**

New word	Meaning

## Activity

1. Connect to the school wifi on your device.
2. Go to Chrome (or your internet browser) on your phone.
3. Type in 70 years UN (if it doesn't work, here is the link: [www.un.org/en/udhr-video/curated.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/udhr-video/curated.shtml))
4. In top left corner, find the box with Filter by Language
5. Click on the arrow and scroll down to find your language
6. Click on the play button on one of the videos in your language and listen.
7. Find the article that is most important to you and practice reading it aloud in your language
8. If you would like to record yourself reading this article, click on the **RECORD YOURSELF NOW** button and follow the instructions.

## Post activity

### In groups, discuss:

- » the article you chose and why
- » should the Universal Declaration of Human Rights become a treaty, so it becomes legally binding?
- » if you could change anything about the Declaration of Human Rights, what would it be? Why?
- » The Universal Declaration of Human Rights have been described as "the highest aspiration of the common people". Are they impossible aspirations for humans to have?