

International Human Rights Day December 10, 2009

Embrace Diversity, End Discrimination is the theme for Human Rights Day 2009, commemorated December 10. Each person, made in the image and likeness of God, has an inalienable and transcendent human dignity which gives rise to human rights.



“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights,” the first words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, established the foundation of international human rights law. Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) sets out a broad range of fundamental human rights and freedoms to which all women and men, everywhere in the world are entitled, without any distinction. The UDHR and its core values of inherent human dignity, non-discrimination, equality, fairness, and universality apply to everyone, everywhere and always.

However, the realization of human rights is hindered often by discrimination, which persists as a source of great suffering for millions and lies at the root of many pressing global problems. The call to everyone is to join hands: to embrace diversity and end discrimination; to promote the common good and work for just and equal treatment for all; and to recognize the unity of the human family and realize a new vision of solidarity.

*The unity of the human race, a communion transcending every barrier,
is called into being by the word of God-who-is-Love...
God's love calls us to move beyond the limited and the ephemeral,
it gives us the courage to continue seeking and working for the benefit of all.*
(Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, 34, 78)

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