

“RIGHTS OF HUMAN BEINGS”

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In history, people had rights only because of their membership in a group, such as a family. Then, in 539 BC, Cyrus the Great, after conquering the city of Babylon, did something totally unexpected—he freed all slaves to return home. Moreover, he declared people should choose their own religion. The Cyrus Cylinder, a clay tablet containing his statements, is the first human rights declaration in history.

Human rights do not have to be bought, earned or inherited; they belong to people simply because they are human.

Human rights are inherent to each individual. Human rights are the same for all human beings regardless of race, sex, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin.

Human rights cannot be taken away; no one has the right to deprive another person of them for any reason. People still have human rights even when the laws of their countries do not recognize them, or when they violate them - for example, when slavery is practiced, slaves still have rights even though these rights are being violated. Human rights are inalienable.

What are human rights? All human beings know what our rights are. Everyone has the right to live. We are all born free and equal in dignity and rights. Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law. We have the right to education. We have the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State. We have the right to leave any country. We have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services. And we have the right to rest and leisure. These are some of human rights.