

Human Rights-Human Dignity



(Prepare a Mandala with white and light green cloth. Light a candle and place it in the center of the mandala. Place some pictures of Human Rights victims and Human Rights activists on the Mandala.)

Introduction: “The glory of God, the well-being of people and planet...this is my life” S.M.E. adapted. We have come together to pray and stand as one with people and planet, which face violation of their rights on a daily basis.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmrIDK03Hlg>
or read the universal declaration of human right

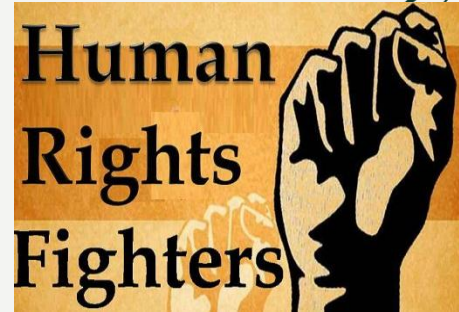
All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of community- (Universal Declaration of Human Rights-UDHR—1948). Human Rights violations span across every phase of world history. The idea, inspiration and initiative on Human Rights emerged onto the Global conscience after World War 2 atrocities against humanity emerged, specifically the Holocaust, where over six million Jews were killed by Nazi Germany. ‘Human Rights Day’ is observed annually on the 10th of December to honor the adoption of the UDHR in 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly. On October 8th, 2021 the [Human Rights Council](#) recognized for the first time, that having a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right. The UN General Assembly adopted the resolution in July 2022.

Holy One, millions of our sisters and brothers are caught in the chaos of this world, not by choice, but by desperation. We encounter their stories in the news and their faces in members of our own communities. We pray that we may lead the way to bring about The Holy One’s vision of peace and justice to all, and hope and love to those on the move near and far. For those forced to flee violence, we pray they find safety. For those seeking economic opportunity, we pray they find secure livelihoods. For those trying to support and protect their families, we pray they find communities to embrace them. For those searching for peace and hope, we pray that we may be bearers of The Good News. We are called to be prophetic advocates in this world. To call out injustice and be heralds of Truth and Love. We pray that all may find safe and loving communities and the opportunity to thrive. And we pray that we may have the courage to stand and act in defense of human rights and the dignity for all our brothers and sisters in need.

Q.10 – With Joyful Lips

Human Rights Activists Fighting for Change

The world is a dangerous place for human rights activists. In 2019, 300 were killed according to [Frontline Defenders](#), Colombia experienced the highest toll with 301 murders. The Philippines, Brazil, Honduras, and Mexico are next in line. All over the world, human rights activists are facing increased suppression and violence due to political and economic shifts. Who are these activists and what are they fighting for?



Instruction: Invite six people to read about the following Activists:

1. Nadia Murad

In 2014, ISIS abducted Murad, an Iraqi Yazidi, and took her to Mosul. There, she was forced to convert to Islam and held in sexual slavery for three years. After escaping, she began her life as an activist, speaking to the UN Security Council in 2015. She spread awareness about human trafficking and refugees, despite the dangers of speaking out. In 2017, she published her memoir and in 2018, she shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Denis Mukwege, another activist who fights against sexual violence as a weapon of war.

2. Raif (Raef) bin Muhammed Badawi

Badawi is a writer and activist from Saudi Arabia. He created the website Free Saudi Liberals where he wrote about free speech. In 2012, he was arrested and charged with insulting Islam and brought to court for charges involving apostasy. In his writings, he criticized religion in Saudi Arabia. He was originally given a death sentence but then sentenced to 1000 lashes and ten years in prison in 2014. In 2015, he endured 50 lashes in public. While in prison, he has undertaken hunger strikes to protest the conditions. His wife, Ensaf Haidar, lives in Canada and has accepted awards on his behalf.

3. Alexya Salvador

Alexya Salvador is a trans woman in Brazil, one of the most dangerous places in the world for the LGBTQ+ community and is also a pastor. In 2015, the Metropolitan Community Church appointed her as an assistant pastor, so she became the first Trans reverend in Latin America. In 2018, she ran for a state representative position. She's currently the vice president of the Brazilian Association of Homo trans affective Families. She speaks on issues like adoption, different family formations, and education.

4. Malala Yousafzai

Born in Pakistan, Malala Yousafzai comes from a family of human rights activists. At only 11, she began writing a blog. Over the next few years, she became well-known for her promotion of education as a right. In 2012, the Taliban attempted to assassinate her. The attack made her world-famous. She went on to share the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 at age 17, making her the youngest laureate. Malala is the co-founder of the Malala Fund and continues her human rights activism as she earns her degree from Oxford.

5. John Lewis

The U.S. Representative for Georgia's 5th congressional district, John Lewis has a long history of activism. He was one of the major leaders of the 1963 March on Washington and organized activities such as sit-ins, nonviolent protests, and bus boycotts. He was also one of the 13 original Freedom Riders.



In his later years, Lewis continued his work in civil and human rights as a politician. He's won many awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011.

6. Stanislaus Lourduswamy

Stanislaus Lourduswamy, SJ (26 April 1937 – 5 July 2021), popularly known as Stan Swamy, was an Indian Catholic priest, a member of the Jesuit order, and a tribal rights activist for several decades. Swamy was the oldest person to be accused of terrorism in India. On 8 October 2020, Swamy was arrested and charged by the National Investigation Agency under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, for his alleged role in the 2018 Bhima Koregaon violence and links to the Communist Party of India (Maoist). Swamy was suffering from Parkinson's disease and had requested bail on medical grounds, which was rejected multiple times. While incarcerated, his health deteriorated and he died on 5 July 2021. In January 2021, Swamy was awarded the Mukundan C. Menon award 2020 for human rights. In June 2022, The Martin Ennals Foundation, Geneva posthumously conferred the Human Rights Defenders award 2022 to Stan Swamy.

Reflection:

You can make a difference with the small things you do. The world always beckons you... you are the future of this world. The changes you bring may not be seen but you can give someone a chance to dream so get to something and that would be an answer for somebody, truly indeed. When things go wrong and you feel down, open your eyes and look around. Don't look for someone to blame... search for an inspiration to rise again.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDjQEoltGzQ>

or suitable song that will bring about the theme that we can change the world /or make a different.



Victims of human rights violations deserve more

Torturers and others who violate human rights should be brought to account – at the same time, we should not forget the victims. What they have gone through tends in many cases to cause distressing trauma, disruption of everyday life and destruction of the future. Justice requires that redress is achieved for the victims. The right to a remedy and reparation is indeed a basic human right. It is enshrined in numerous international human rights instruments and tribunals, including Article 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Victims of serious human rights abuses and humanitarian law have a right to redress for the suffering and harm caused to them.

Let us pray:

- ❖ For the rights of the living, for the dignity of the dead- time to end the plight of the missing migrants in Europe
- ❖ Support Russian and Belarusian civil societies and human rights defenders
- ❖ The need to reinforce the safety of journalists covering conflicts
- ❖ Addressing the visibility of girls and women with disabilities
- ❖ No space for violence against girls and women in the digital world
- ❖ Freedom of expression
- ❖ Gender Equality
- ❖ Economic Crisis
- ❖ Migration

Reflecting in silence – What have I contributed to protect Human Rights?



Word of The Holy One:

Galatians 3:28; There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Proverbs 31:8-9; Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.

⁹ Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of people who are poor and needy.

Micah 6:8; O people, the Holy One has told you what is good, and this is what the Holy One requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

Psalms 82:3; Defend the people in poverty and orphans fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.

Luke 14:13-14; But when you give a banquet, invite people who are poor, crippled, lame, blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Let us join our hands with one another to sing-Together we can change the world

CONCLUDING PRAYER

The Holy One of our sisters and brothers who face the violation of their rights, give us hearts that break open when our sisters and brothers turn to us. Then surely all these things will follow: ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices. Eyes will see a moment for grace instead of a threat. Tongues will not be silenced but will instead advocate. And hands will reach out—working for peace, working for rights and justice where they seek comfort. Lord, protect all. May they find a friend in me and so make me worthy that I have found in you to reach out to the unreachable.

Amen



Prepared by Taskila, RGS

Translated from English to Spanish by Victor Carrasco

Translated from English to French by Solange H-T