

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

DRAFTING COMMITTEE

DRAFT INTERNATIONAL DECLARATION OF RIGHTS SUBMITTED
BY WORKING GROUP OF DRAFTING COMMITTEE
(PREAMBLE AND ARTICLES 1-6)

PREAMBLE

We, the Peoples of the United Nations,

CONSIDERING

1. that ignorance and contempt of human rights have been among the principal causes of the sufferings of humanity and of the massacres and barbarities which outraged the conscience of mankind before and especially during the last world war; and
2. that there can be no true peace unless human rights and freedoms are respected; and only by abolishing war and the threat of war can human freedom and dignity be assured to all mankind; and
3. that it has been proclaimed as the supreme aim of the recent strife that human beings shall be free in speech and in worship and free from fear and want; and
4. that the Charter begins by reaffirming our faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women; and
5. that it is one of the purposes of the United Nations to achieve international co-operation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and
6. (There were two points of view: (1) that the wording as submitted by

/Professor Cassin

Professor Cassin, "that the enjoyment of such rights and freedoms by all persons must be protected by the commonwealth of nations and secured by international as well as national laws", be retained and modified; (2) that the previous and following paragraphs covered the substance and that it was more suited to the preamble of a Convention.)

NOW, THEREFORE, we the Peoples of the United Nations have resolved to define in a solemn Declaration the essential rights and fundamental freedoms of man, so that this Declaration, being forever present in the minds of all men, may constantly remind them of their rights and duties and that the United Nations and the Member States may constantly be inspired by the principles so formulated to translate them into reality; and

HAVE THEREFORE adopted the following Declaration:

ARTICLE 1

All men are brothers. Being endowed with reason, members of one family, they are free and possess equal dignity and rights.

ARTICLE 2

The object of society is to afford each of its members equal opportunity for the full development of his spirit, mind and body.

ARTICLE 3

Man is essentially social and has fundamental duties to society and to his fellow-men. The rights of each are therefore limited by the rights of others.

(Alternative)

As Human beings cannot live and develop themselves without the help and support of society, each one owes to society fundamental duties which are: obedience to law, exercise of a useful activity, willing acceptance of obligations and sacrifices demanded for the common good.

ARTICLE 4

In the exercise of his rights, every one is limited by the rights of others.

/ARTICLE 5

ARTICLE 5

All are equal before the law. It applies to public authorities and judges as well as to individuals. Everything that is not prohibited by law is legally permitted.

ARTICLE 6

There shall be respect for human life. No one, even when guilty of crime, shall be subjected to torture.
