



UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMANKIND RIGHTS

Special newsletter

10 years of the Universal Declaration of Humankind Rights
An anniversary celebrated at the United Nations



Association of Friends of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
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On 13 May 2025, many experts, NGOs, institutions, local authorities, representatives of civil society and personalities committed to the Universal Declaration of Humankind Rights (UDHR) met at the United Nations in Geneva to celebrate the 10th anniversary of this text. It was a high point of exchange, commitment and mobilization for a more ethical and sustainable future.

This landmark event, organized by the Association of Friends of the Declaration, was an opportunity to take stock of the last ten years, to discuss the major issues raised by the Declaration, to share concrete initiatives inspired by this text and to work together to draw up ambitious action plans for the years to come.

Many of us followed the event closely: over 400 people attended the conference and more than 4,000 followed the live broadcast on the UNFTV channel.

Throughout the day, the conference was punctuated by remarkable speeches from inspiring personalities and players from the world of associations, institutions, politics and business, all committed to promoting the values and principles enshrined in this text.

Opening



The conference began with a solemn opening sequence. Christophe Giovannetti, Secretary General of the Association of Friends of the Declaration and President of the Union Nations Federation (UNF) opened the conference with a welcome address. Corinne Lepage, President of the Association of Friends of the Declaration and initiator of the Declaration, then took the floor to deliver a powerful and visionary speech, underlining the growing importance of this text.



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The day was hosted by Guila Clara Kessous, UNESCO Ambassador for Peace, who brilliantly took on the role of Master of Ceremonies.

First round table

Managers and the UDHR: what do they think?

Moderator: Corinne Lepage



The first-round table of the day brought together an exceptional panel of political decision-makers to discuss a key question: how do leaders and local authorities perceive the UDHR and integrate its principles into their actions?



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We were honored to listen to outstanding contributions from Bruno Fuchs, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly; Chantal Chambu Mwavita, Minister for Human Rights of the Democratic Republic of Congo; Maty Diouf, Deputy Mayor of Nice; Patrice Trovoada, former Prime Minister of São Tomé and Príncipe; Marianne Berete, Project manager to the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire; and Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris.



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Second round table

Young generations, sport, the environment and human rights

Moderator: Driss Guerraoui



This round table, chaired by Driss Guerraoui, President of the International Youth Network for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, explored the role of sport as a lever for education, peace and environmental commitment, in line with the values of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Among the speakers we were lucky enough to meet Jean Jérôme Perrin-Mortier, Managing Director of Peace and Sport; Marlène Harnois, Peace and Sport Ambassador and Olympic medalist; and Cheick Cissé Sallah Junior, Olympic taekwondo champion.



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Third round table

The UDHR and international law

Moderator: Christian Huglo

This round table, chaired by Christian Huglo, lawyer and doctor of law specialized in public law and environmental law, brought together eminent law professors to debate the rights and duties of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the light of the international legal framework.



Contributors to the debate included Dominique Bourg, philosopher and professor at Lausanne; Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, professor at the University of Geneva; and Philippe Sands (video), lawyer and professor in London. There were also speeches by Nicolas de Saadeler, professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, and Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadi.



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We were also treated to a performance by China Moses and our Mistress of Ceremonies, Guila Clara Kessous, who gave an exclusive performance of an unreleased song supported by Rolling Stone France.

Fourth round table

Health, safety, education and human rights



This round table highlighted the links between human rights and public health issues.



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Contributing their expertise to the debate: Isabelle Wachsmuth, Art Impact for Health and SDGs initiative at WHO; Kareem Ali, UNF Health Ambassador; Rémy Barbe, Head of the Hospitalization Unit at the SPEA of the HUG; Taher Mahmoud, from the London Osteoporosis Clinic and Adam Perlman, Integrative Medicine expert, Medical Manager at Pendulum Therapeutics (video intervention).





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Fifth Round Table

Local authorities and institutions

Moderator: Maddy Gilbert



This round table, moderated by Maddy Gilbert, CFE-CGC National Confederal Secretary, highlighted the decisive role of local authorities, trade unions and institutions in promoting and applying the principles of the UDHR.



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Sergio Piazzi, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (video); Bruno Fuchs and Dominique Attias, former President of the European Bars Federation and Vice-Baronière of the Paris Bar Council.

Sixth round table

NGOs and businesses for sustainable and equitable development

Moderator: Ricardo Espinosa



This round table, chaired by Ricardo Espinosa, Director of the NGO IAHRAG, illustrated how NGOs and economic players are now tackling the challenges of sustainable development.



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Among the speakers, we were lucky enough to meet : Sam Abu Ahmad, Chairman of Sam Precious Metal; Sébastien Jan, Secretary General of Africa 21; Yannick Monget, environmental futurist; Jean Claude Fontanive, Chairman of the Institut Supérieur Européen du lobbying and Henri Nidecker, Founder of D'Equip and CEO of Groupe Nidecker and Hicham Kasraoui, who gave a brilliant presentation on the Young Ambassadors of the UDHR.



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Closing allowance
"UDHR: more relevant than ever!"



Bettina Laville, Honorary State Councillor, Honorary President of Comité 21 and President of the Institut d'Etudes Avancées de Paris, brought the conference to a close, emphasising the extent to which the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is more relevant than ever in the face of today's ecological, social and geopolitical challenges. She called for a collective mobilisation to ensure that the values and principles enshrined in the UDHR live on.

Signature of the UDHR

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The remarkable quality of the discussions with the speakers at the many round tables on this symbolic day largely contributed to its success. Thanks to their commitment, we were able to collect over 100 new signatures in support of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This is a strong signal for the future of the Declaration and a testament to the growing interest in it throughout the world.

Celebrating 10 years is another important step in the promotion of human and environmental rights. The proposals put forward at the conference will feed to future thinking and action.





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We would like to highlight the remarkable commitment of our young ambassadors, who honored us with their presence, and thank them for their contributions, which made a valuable contribution to the discussions. Their involvement testifies to the crucial importance of the voice of young people, not only in responding to current issues, but also in conveying the vision of future generations.



We are delighted to have presented the UDHR Ambassador nominations to Bruno Fuchs, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly, Sam Abu Ahmad, Chairman of Sam Precious Metal, Jumana Abu Baker, President of the Foundation for the Development and Protection of the Environment, Cheick Cisse Salah, and Patrice Trovoda, former Prime Minister of Sao Tome and Principe.

On this occasion, Corinne Lepage and Christophe Giovannetti presented the UNF Peace Medal to Michel Innocent Peya for his works on the Congo Basin and his efforts to preserve and keep intact the Congo Basin, the planet's second largest lung.



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If you were unable to attend the conference live, or would like to watch certain moments again, the replay of the event is available here: [Full replay on YouTube](#)

You can also view the highlights of the day in our online gallery: [Access the photo album](#) Dropbox

We hope that you will continue to bring this Declaration to life around you, by sharing it, disseminating it and encouraging others to sign it. Together, we can build a humanity that is aware of its responsibilities towards present and future generations.

You can continue to support the Declaration by signing it online and sharing the link with others: www.ddhu.org