

10 December 2009
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Poll question

This week's question: Which would be the most important human rights challenge during 2010?

- Freedom of expression
- Violence against women
- Children and education
- Refugees
- Climate change

To answer the question, [click here](#)

Previous question: What do you think will be most important to Obama and other leaders at COP 15?

- Signing a real deal
- Expenses of climate regulations
- Kyoto protocol
- Future impact of not signing a real deal
- Having talks about talks

Results: a. - 42.9%, b. - 14.3%, c. - 0%, d. - 28.6%, e. - 14.3%

Get involved

Every Human Has Rights campaign

Source: *Every Human Has Rights*

2009 was an amazing year of celebration and revival for the UN Declaration on Human Rights. Over 52,000 people signed a pledge and there have been activities across the world to promote its goals, revived by the 60th anniversary last December. Tell us what you did - please send your story and pictures to ehhr@civicus.org.

Amnesty International: Support & defend human rights worldwide

Source: *Amnesty International*

Amnesty International's mission: To undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression, and freedom from discrimination, within the context of our work to promote all human rights. For details on how you can help, [click here](#).

From the Desk of the Secretary General

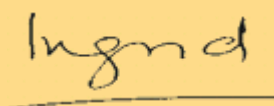
On it's 61st anniversary, we want to say a big thank you to the more than 52,000 people who, over the last year, have taken the pledge to support and promote the goals of the UN Declaration on Human Rights!

CIVICUS is proud to have been asked by the Elders to take forward the Every Human Has Rights Campaign from the end of 2009. We believe that every human has rights every day not just around special anniversaries, that's why we are now working hard to evolve this campaign and website to the next stage.

Please take a look at our website www.everyhumanhasrights.org for how people have taken action and let us know how you too have taken action – send us your stories, pictures and videos. And keep checking www.everyhumanhasrights.org for news and updates over the coming months.

This campaign would not be possible without the support of people like you. If you would like to be more involved or have any comments please send them to [ehhr\(at\)civicus.org](mailto:ehhr(at)civicus.org).

With faith, gratitude and solidarity,




Please note: We will not be publishing e-CIVICUS on 25 December 2009 or 01 January 2010.

News in brief

This week's issue is a Special Issue on International Human Rights Day. 10 December 2009

Elders call on world leaders to heed future generations

Source: *TckTckTck*

The Elders are a group of eminent global leaders brought together by Nelson Mandela and also the initiators of the Every Human Has Rights campaign. In an inspiring personal letter, The Elders have urged 192 world leaders to attend the Copenhagen climate talks in person and to reach a fair, ambitious, effective and binding agreement to reduce emissions and build a low-carbon, and sustainable future for us all. For details, [click here](#).

Ten million demand 'fair, ambitious and binding climate treaty'

Source: *Amnesty International*

Ten million people have signed a petition calling for a "fair, ambitious and binding climate treaty" to be signed by world leaders at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen this week. Commenting on the importance of this conference, Amnesty Secretary General Irene Khan, together with Mary Robinson – former President of Ireland, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and member of the Elders, says that "basic human rights for the world's poorest and most marginalised communities will hang in the balance. The rights to food, water, shelter and health all risk being undermined by climate change." To read more, [click here](#).

How politics subsumes the human rights agenda at the UN

Source: *Mandeep S. Tiwana, Civil Society Watch Programme, CIVICUS*

The 61st anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December provides occasion to reflect on the attitude of various UN member states in supporting one of the most important human rights institutions in the world – the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC). The UNHRC was created by the UN General Assembly on 15 March 2006 to replace the UN Commission on Human Rights which was largely viewed by many as a forum for selective finger pointing by countries seeking to advance their political interests. The then UN Secretary General Kofi Annan hoped that the new body would help in devolving politics from the human rights agenda at the UN. Although, the UNHRC has made some substantial gains, human rights concerns are being increasingly subsumed by politics in this important forum. For details, [click here](#).

We Welcome Contributions

e-CIVICUS is a useful channel through which you and your organisation can share your news, publicise your events and articulate the issues you face. Please send us your contributions by Monday for publication in the coming week to editor@civicus.org. To read the contribution guidelines, [click here](#).

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Events

Arts United 4 Iran

12 December, 2009, International locations

In celebration of International Human Rights Day, on Saturday December 12, 2009 United4Iran will facilitate Arts United 4 Iran, a day devoted to worldwide displays of musical, visual, and performing arts highlighting the issues of human rights in Iran. This is a non-partisan event focusing on human and civil rights in solidarity with the people of Iran. For details, [click here](#).

World human rights moot competition

9 December, 2009, Pretoria, South Africa

Students from around the world will celebrate Human Rights Day 2009 by taking part in the first World Human Rights Moot Competition, organised by the University of Pretoria with the support of UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Participants will argue a fictional human rights case on the principle of non-discrimination before a mock court of high level judges in South Africa. All universities are encouraged to participate. For details, [click here](#).

International conference on marginalised women

8 - 10 March, 2010, Fes, Morocco

To celebrate March 8, Isis Centre for Women and Development (based in Fes, Morocco and directed by Dr Fatima Sadiqi) is organising an international conference on marginalised women: single mothers, divorced women, widows, household breadwinners, in brief women without men in a globalised world seriously threatened by the impact of the financial crisis. For details, [click here](#).

Online workshop - The reckoning: Understanding the International criminal court

1 - 15 December, 2009

This workshop will use facilitated online activities, video clips, and speaker events, to give educators a chance to explore a variety of ways students can engage with this material and concepts. The workshop will allow interaction of participants with the films' producers, scholars, Facing History staff, and educators from around the globe. Background history, lesson ideas and resources will be shared. For details, [click here](#).

Book Reviews

Every Human Has Rights: What You Need to Know About Your Human Rights

Source: Amazon.com

Around the world people live different lifestyles, look different, act different and sometimes think differently, but we everyone has certain inalienable rights that we must all respect and protect. Sixty years ago a treaty was formed to lay out just what rights all of us are entitled to. These thirty rights, adopted by a United Nations General Assembly Resolution chaired by Eleanor Roosevelt, are not laid out in a law format, but rather an ethical one that all children need to learn at home and in their classrooms. Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, says in her preface notes that "we need to make our own pledge to live by the principles of the Universal Declaration." Everyone's voice needs to be heard and respected. For details, [click here](#).

CIVICUS partners join call of "End Impunity! Justice Now!" in Philippines

Source: CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Civil society organisations from around the globe and CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation join the loud calls by Philippines civil society of "End Impunity! Justice Now!" CIVICUS and its partners want the government of the Philippines to swiftly and transparently investigate the ongoing attacks facing opposition politicians, journalists and civil society advocates which on 23 November 2009 culminated in the slaying of at least 57 people in the violence-ridden Maguindanao province of the country. For details, [click here](#).

Discrimination: A root cause of statelessness that must be addressed

Source: Maureen Lynch and Angela Blake

The statement "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" may be true in theory but it is a far cry from the reality faced by the world's 12 million stateless. According to High Commissioner for Human Rights Navenethem Pillay, "Discrimination lies at the root of many of the world's most pressing human rights problems." There is no clearer example of this than statelessness. For details, [click here](#).

Embargoed until 10 December

Source: UN High Commission

Statement by the UN High Commissioner for human rights Navi Pillay on International Human Rights Day. For details, [click here](#).

Human trafficking and human rights

Source: Mary Anne Zammit

In the cycle of life there are days which pass unnoticed and others which leave an impact for eternity. Such was the 10th of December of 1948 which gave birth to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and brought to an end the atrocities, abuses to human dignity and the violence caused by war. Since then, several treaties and Conventions have been signed by states to bring peace and to protect the economic, political, social and cultural rights of individuals. For details, [click here](#).

Rights for the invisible: a UN human rights convention for older people

Source: Valerie Lipman

Older people are now the world's fastest growing population group: every month one million people turn sixty years of age. As yet their interests have not been overtly or formally acknowledged in any UN Conventions. There is today though a growing world wide movement, which includes civil society players, to establish an international legal framework that will promote the rights and protect the interests of older people. For details, [click here](#).

Everyone should be aware of their inalienable human rights

Source: Shulamith Koenig

It has been almost two months since Ted Kennedy died. Discussions about health care and a public option and/or the sad state of public education in the USA would have had much deeper moral dimensions and sane practical solutions had he been walking the corridors of the Senate today. He was a human rights senator! For details, [click here](#).

CIVICUS Member profile

COAST

COAST organises strategically important activities related to development, which in turn, will facilitate the sustainable and equitable improvement of life, especially of women, children and disadvantaged population of the coastal areas in Bangladesh through their increased participation in the socio-economic, cultural and civic life of the country. COAST Trust has two types of programmes core and non core. Core programmes consists the appropriate blending of micro finance, institution building, good governance and development education. In Micro Finance we do group formation, savings and credit, integrated to income generating activities and food security component. Non core programmes are as follows: Education and Advocacy, Influencing policy and practices in human right good governance, Income generating and food security, Primary health care, Community Based Disaster Management, Promotion of Appropriate Rural Technology. For details, www.coastbd.org.

Resources

CIVICUS CSI partner in Armenia findings on video

Source: Counterpart International Armenia

In past weeks, Counterpart International Armenia has been making significant progress in implementing the CIVICUS Civil Society Index in Armenia. Now, in a series of video updates, Lusine and Mane from Counterpart have been discussing and bringing to a wider audience some of the key findings. They discuss, among other items, the findings of the case study on volunteerism in Armenia, as well as strategies for supporting volunteerism in the future. To watch the videos, visit [click here](#).

Revolutionary Ideas for Revolutionary Times: Why is CSR a thing of the Past?

Source: Stephen B. Heintz

As we look out over the next decade and on toward mid-century, it is clear that we are living in revolutionary times as humankind faces a number of unprecedented social, economic, environmental, political, and security challenges. The reality of global interdependence is that people all across the globe will experience the profound challenges ahead, albeit in different ways and with variable intensity. Finding solutions to these problems will require innovative new forms of broader and deeper global cooperation, among nations, peoples, and the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Revolutionary times call for revolutionary ideas. For details, [click here](#).

New reports offer practical guidance on human rights reporting for companies

Source: Global reporting Initiative

Two new reports being released this week examine trends in corporate measurement and reporting on human rights performance and provide practical guidance for companies engaging on this emerging area

For more book reviews, [click here](#)

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<http://www.youtube.com/user/civicsworldalliance>

Appointments

This week, new civil society job openings have been added to the CIVICUS website. Please [click here](#). Should you wish to publish a New Vacancy, please click on [Add job](#). Please add an expiry date for applications.

Research and Monitoring Manager (Application Deadline: 11 December 2009)

Publish What You Fund
Location: London, England
For details, [click here](#).

Regional Training and Development Manager (Application Deadline: 11 January 2009)

International Network of Street Papers (INSP)
Location: International
For details, [click here](#).

Research Fellows

Institute of Development Studies
Location: Brighton, UK
For details, [click here](#).

DevNetJobs: International Development Jobs Network

<http://www.devnetjobs.org>
DevNetJobs.org lists jobs and consulting opportunities arising within NGOs and CSOs globally free of charge. The objective is to enable these organisations to attract qualified human resources for their projects and activities. Over 9000 NGOs currently benefit from its services at no cost. To post jobs within your non-profit organisation, simply email them to jobs@devnetjobs.org

of corporate citizenship and accountability. For details, [click here](#).

Opportunities

Call for papers: 2010 human rights essay award

Deadline: 1 February 2010

This annual competition seeks to stimulate the production of scholarly works in international human rights law. The Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law grants two Awards, one for the best article in English and one for the best article in Spanish. The Jury deciding the Award will be comprised of professionals with a recognized expertise in international human rights law. The best articles may be published in the American University International Law Review. For details, [click here](#).

Dorothy Marchus Senesh fellowship

Source: International Peace Research Association Foundation

This fund provides a biennial fellowship awarded to a woman from the developing world for studies in fields of peace and development. Larry Senesh (now deceased), a professor of Economics at the University of Colorado at Boulder, established this Fellowship in memory of his wife. For details, [click here](#).

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