

Prayer Service on International Human Rights Day

10th December 2021

PREPARED by BRINELLE DSOUZA for
the JCoR GLOBAL COMMUNITY HOUR



Reading 1

Catholic Social Teaching

LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON
The good Samaritan recognized the dignity in the other and cared for him. (Lk 10:25-37)

FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND PARTICIPATION
We are one body, individually members of one another. (Rom 12:4-8)

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
Seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. (Isa 1:16)

OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE
Blessed are the poor, theirs is the kingdom of God. (Lk 6:20-23)


DIGNITY AND RIGHTS OF WORKERS
All workers should be paid a just and living wage. (Mt 20: 1-16)

SOLIDARITY
If one member suffers, all suffer. If one member is honored, all rejoice. (1 Cor. 12:12-26)

CARE FOR CREATION
Creation reveals the nature of God. (Rom 1:20)

"TO RECEIVE IN TRUTH THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST GIVEN UP FOR US,
WE MUST RECOGNIZE CHRIST IN THE POOREST, HIS BRETHREN."

WWW.USCCB.ORG/BELIEFS-AND-TEACHINGS/WHAT-WE-BELIEVE



“Human rights are the minimum conditions for life in community. In Catholic teaching, human rights include not only civil and political rights but also economic rights...This means that when people are without a chance to earn a living and must go hungry and homeless, they are denied their basic rights. Society (and church) must ensure that these rights are protected.”

–*Economic Justice for All* #17 (Catholic Social Teaching)

EACE is dynamism.
EACE is generosity.
s right and it is duty.



Reading 2

“God’s reign is already present on our earth in mystery. When our Lord comes it will be brought to perfection. That is the hope of Christians. We know that every effort to a better society, especially when injustice and sin are so ingrained, is an effort that God blesses, that God wants, that God demands of us.”

-Bishop Oscar Romero (a few minutes before his death)

Reading 3



“ What is happening to me is not something unique happening to me alone, it is a broader process taking place all over the country. We all are aware how prominent intellectuals, lawyers, writers, poets, activists, student leaders are all put in jail because they have expressed their dissent or raised questions about the ruling powers of India. So we are part of the process. As such, in a way, I am happy to be part of the process, because I am not a silent spectator, but **I am part of the game. I am ready to pay the price, whatever it may be.**”

-Father Stan Swamy, SJ, human rights activist while in prison

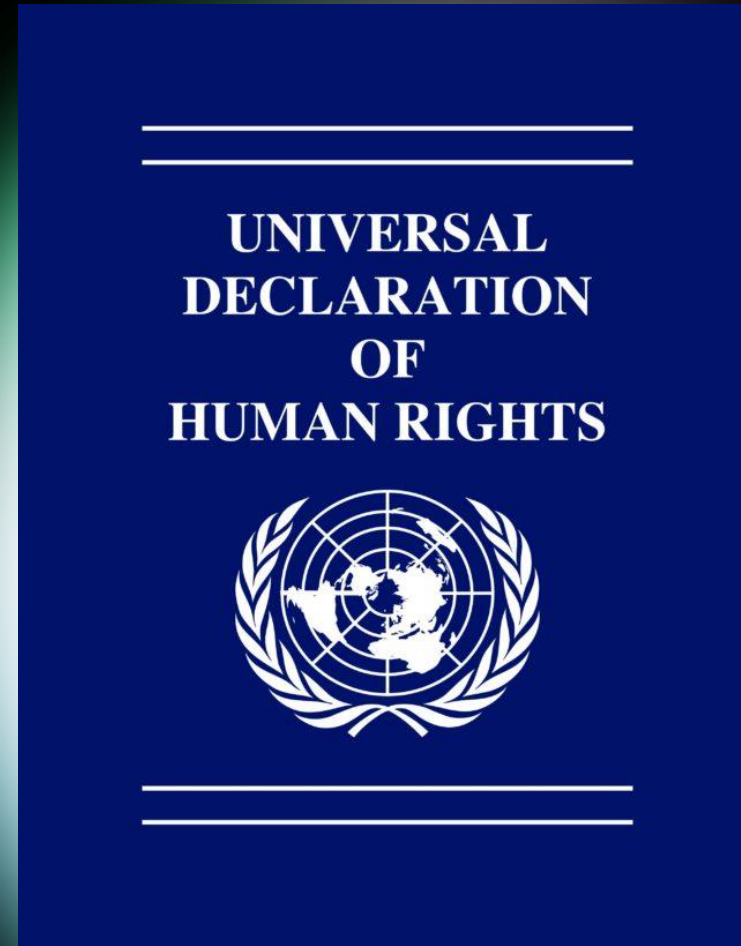


**Intercessory Prayer
Response:**
We pledge justice and rights
for all.

1.

We are called to announce the **Good News** that speaks of dignity & justice for all. We honour the courage of those who came before us, who sought to declare that regardless of any differences among peoples, we all share basic human rights

Response: We pledge justice and rights for all



2.



We pray that every human being enjoys the right to life, food, clothing, shelter, rest, healthcare and education. These rights are indispensable to the protection of human dignity.



Response: We pledge justice and rights for all

3.



May every person have the right to security in the event of sickness, unemployment & old age & the right to healthy working conditions, to wages & other benefits sufficient to provide individuals & their families with a standard of living in keeping with human dignity

Response: We pledge justice and rights for all

4.



Breathe peace into the world to dispel heated rhetoric and divisive politics that fan the flames of hate based on race, caste, religion, sexual identity and nationality. Breathe peace into cold hearts as a warming breeze to waken the seed of love that sits inside waiting to germinate and grow.



Response: We pledge justice and rights for all

5.

Poverty is not an accident. Like slavery and apartheid, it is man-made and can be removed by the actions of human beings.

- Nelson Mandela



Help us recognize that rampant poverty, pervasive inequalities and structural discrimination are human rights violations and among the greatest global challenges of our time. Help us develop a new social contract which more fairly shares power, resources and opportunities and sets the foundations of a sustainable human rights-based economy

Response: We pledge justice and rights for all

6.



I WANT A
PEOPLE'S
VACCINE,
NOT A PROFIT
VACCINE.

Help us to recognize that vaccine injustice through unfair vaccine distribution and hoarding contravenes international legal and human rights norms and the spirit of global solidarity. Gives us the wisdom to realize that *none of us is safe until all of us are safe*. May we work to ensure vaccine equity globally through reparative justice

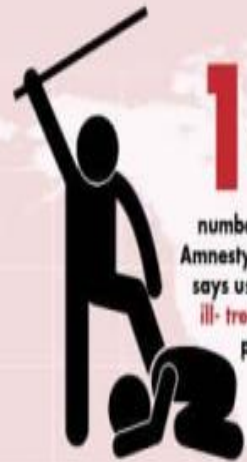
Response: We pledge justice and rights for all



7. Environmental degradation, including climate change, pollution and nature loss disproportionately impacts persons and groups in vulnerable situations thereby exacerbating existing inequalities. Help us to work to promote the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for all. May we work towards a green recovery from COVID-19

Response: We pledge justice and rights for all

TORTURE: A GLOBAL PROBLEM



141

number of countries
Amnesty International
says used **torture or
ill-treatment** in the
past five years



Since 1984,

155

nations have
adopted the
**UN Convention
Against Torture**

Amnesty International found that:

79

of the countries that have
adopted the convention
are **still using torture**

40

members of the United
Nations haven't signed
the convention yet



In a global survey of 21,000 people in 21 countries across every continent, Amnesty International reported that:



44%

fear they would
be **at risk of
torture or
ill-treatment**
if taken into
custody in their
country



82%

there should be
**"clear laws
against torture"**



36%

"still
thought
torture
could be
justified in
certain
circumstances"

8.

We pray that every generation may learn that there is no excuse for torture, that torture is always wrong. We pray for every life that has been touched by torture, both those tortured and the torturers. We pray for restoration and peace.

Response: We pledge justice and rights for all

9



Welcome Sudha Bharadwaj
the battle for democracy continues !



We pray for human rights defenders the world over and those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis, that they may see their sacrifice and their work bear abundant fruit

Response: We pledge justice and rights for all

We conclude this prayer service
with the hymn...

"[Here I Am, Lord](#)" by Dan Schutte, American composer
of Catholic liturgical music (1979)