



Cayman Islands Human Rights Commission

promoting, protecting and preserving human rights

Date: 7 December 2016

Human Rights Commission Celebrates Standing Up for Someone's Rights **International Human Rights Day – 10 December 2016**

International Human Rights Day (IRHD) is celebrated annually on 10 December – the anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This year's theme is "Stand Up for Someone's Rights Today", a message reminding us that human rights are a shared responsibility and upholding another person's rights is just as important as upholding our own.

2016 marks the 68th year since the adoption of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which continues to remain as relevant as ever. According to the United Nations IHRD website, "Many of us are fearful about the way the world is heading. Disrespect for basic human rights continues to be wide-spread in all parts of the globe. Extremist movements subject people to horrific violence. Messages of intolerance and hatred prey on our fears. Humane values are under attack. We must reaffirm our common humanity. Wherever we are, we can make a real difference. In the street, in school, at work, in public transport; in the voting booth, on social media."

The Cayman Islands' own Bill of Rights, Freedoms and Responsibilities, enshrined in Part 1 of the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009 ("the Constitution"), is in part based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In turn, the Universal Declaration is based on the Four Freedoms—freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from fear, and freedom from want—which can be seen as the most basic elements of all human rights. These Freedoms are reflected in our own Bill of Rights in rights and freedoms such as Expression (section 11), Conscience and Religion (section 10), and freedom from Torture and Inhuman Treatment (section 3), amongst others.

The United Nations states: "This year's Human Rights Day slogan, "Stand up for someone's rights today!", is based on the Declaration's fundamental proposition that each one of us -- everywhere and at all times -- is entitled to the full range of human rights, and that it's everyone's responsibility to uphold them. Take a stand. Defend someone's rights. Human rights belong equally to each of us. They bind us together as a global community. Each one of us can make a difference."

Several suggestions for how to stand up for someone's rights are provided, including the following:

- Combat myths with facts: in online and daily conversations, challenge harmful stereotypes.
- Urge your community's leaders (e.g. religious, local, sporting, cultural leaders) to make public commitments to human rights.
- Donate to organizations that support victims of human rights abuses.
- If you see someone being harassed, bullied or ridiculed on the street, on public transportation, while shopping or at school, stand with them.

- Promote stories on your social media about people that you know have stood up for rights.

The Commission reiterates the importance of promoting, protecting and preserving human rights in the Cayman Islands and encourages all members of the public to join us in celebrating International Human Rights Day 2016. For more suggestions on how you can stand up for someone's rights, visit <http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/background.shtml>.

Ends.

Attached Images:



Caption: Former First Lady of the United States and First Chairwoman of the UN Commission on Human Rights, Eleanor Roosevelt, examines the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1949.



Caption: 2016's International Human Rights Day theme reminds us that the rights of others are also our own.