

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS GUIDING PRINCIPLES
Resolution No. 89/2008-09**

WHEREAS, Carrboro is a leader among American cities in advancing human rights and human dignity; and

WHEREAS, Carrboro promotes an engaged citizenry that cares for the human rights and dignity of others; and

WHEREAS, the Human Rights Center of Chapel Hill and Carrboro have petitioned the Board of Aldermen to adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, promulgated by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948 and signed and agreed to by all countries, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will guide the spirit of the laws, practices, and policies carried out with and on behalf of the residents of Carrboro; and

WHEREAS, the Human Rights Center has asked that the Board to appoint an advisory committee to report to the Board on a semi-annual basis about the condition of human rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Section 1. The Board hereby adopts the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as guiding principles.

Section 2. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

To: The Alderpersons of Carrboro
From: Judith Blau

From the Eugene, Oregon web page

“One of the goals of the City of Eugene Human Rights Commission is that of “ensuring that human rights are a central part of every City program.” In 2006, the Commission put the “Human Rights City Project” on its bi-annual work plan, an action approved by City Council. The Project is exploring ways that City government can implement international human rights standards and principles in its overall operations.”

Edmonton Canada has declared itself a Human Rights City. Below is an extract

“By becoming a Human Rights City, Edmonton declares itself to be a city of imperfections. The citizens of the city are committed to remedy the deficiencies that exist between the reality of citizens’ lives and experiences and the inalienable human rights that are the common birthright of all humankind...It is a commitment to humility and to compassion, a commitment to act ethnically and morally as a community to better the Common Good. Most importantly, it is a lifelong commitment to work cooperatively in addressing the needs of fellow citizens who are unable to enjoy the full expression of their rights to be human.”

Washington, DC declared itself to be a Human Rights City on December 10, 2008

The Chicago City Council passed a resolution supporting the Convention on the Rights for the Child, on February 16, 2009

[This Convention is a Treaty that the US (and Somalia) have not ratified]

In 1998, San Francisco adopted as an ordinance the Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women.

[This Convention is a Treaty that the US has not ratified]

Carrboro and Chapel Hill celebrated Human Rights Week, which was 8 days and 15 events, between Dec. 3 and Dec 10th. We held forums at the Century Center, Hargraves, Homestead Community Center. We were informed that the community would need to demonstrate an interest in human rights and to generate discussions about human rights before we proposed to the two towns that they adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a perspective on laws, policies and practices. How better could we have responded to the challenges of the two town governments?

Finally, the UDHR has no legal force. It is a declaration of principles.

Resolution for a Human Rights City

January 14, 2009

Whereas Carrboro, North Carolina is a leader among American cities in advancing human rights and human dignity;

Whereas Carrboro, North Carolina promotes an engaged citizenry that cares for the human rights and dignity of others,

We petition the Aldermen of Carrboro to declare their town a Human Rights City and to adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, promulgated by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948 and signed and agreed to by the United States, thereby making Chapel Hill and Carrboro the first Human Rights Cities in North Carolina. The principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, will guide the spirit of the laws, practices, and policies carried out on behalf of the residents of Chapel Hill.

It is recommended that upon adoption of the resolution, the Aldermen of Carrboro will appoint an advisory committee to report on a semiannual basis to the town government about the condition of human rights in each town.

Signed,

Board members of the Human Rights Center:

- Judith Blau
- Lizzy Adkinson
- Sally Massengale
- Pluto Richards
- Iris Schwintzer

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, therefore,

The General Assembly,

Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by

teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11

1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.
2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier

penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Article 12

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.
2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14

1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15

1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17

1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 20

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
2. Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country.
3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
4. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.
2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.
2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.
3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.
2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.
3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 30

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.