

APPENDIX

SAMPLE RESOLUTION'

SAMPLE OP-ED

SAMPLE EMAIL

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WHEREAS: The General Assembly of the United Nations approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948, declaring that “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;” and

WHEREAS: The United States played a pivotal role in the creation of the Universal Declaration; and

WHEREAS: A recommitment by the United States to the principles and ideals of the Universal Declaration is essential for its promise to ensure equality and justice for all at home; and

WHEREAS: The basic human rights addressed in the Universal Declaration include economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights, all considered to be equally important in fostering human dignity and freedom; and

WHEREAS: The Universal Declaration calls for all people and governments at all levels to promote and respect the rights that it recognizes, and provides a standard of achievement for governments throughout the world; and

WHEREAS: Each year on December 10, the international community commemorates this event and recommits itself to the broader achievement of human rights and lowering barriers to full public participation; and

WHEREAS: [City/County or State and name of your specific state, county or city human rights/human relations/community relations commission] are proud of their commitment to guarantee civil and human rights for all its residents; and

WHEREAS: Numerous community, civic, religious and non-profit organizations including the [names of state or local governmental organizations] and others work to ensure equal rights and protections for all residents; and

WHEREAS: December 10, 2010, is the 62nd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, _____, [Mayor or Governor] of _____, do hereby proclaim
December 10, 2010, as

Human Rights Day

in [City/County or State]

AND pledge that the [city/county/or state] affirms its stand for human rights by pledging to support any legislation or action that promotes those rights as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to direct all [city/county/ or state] departments and agencies to implement these rights accordingly.

AND pledge that the [city/county/or state] government will encourage all [city/county/ or state] departments to inform their employees of this day and to take one action to support the principles recognized in the Universal Declaration;

AND encourage all residents to work together in the coming year on ways that we can achieve greater progress in respecting, protecting, and fulfilling the full range of human rights contained in the Universal Declaration.

SAMPLE OP-ED

On December 10th, the world will celebrate International Human Rights Day. Sixty-two years ago, in San Francisco, the nations of the world came together to proclaim that every individual, no matter where he or she lives, has fundamental rights that deserve protection. Enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are, among others, the right to be free from racial discrimination, the right to think and write what you choose, and the right to fair working conditions. While the United States helped to draft the declaration and led the movement to pass it, today many people in this country now think that a human rights campaign means writing letters to a faraway land, rather than working to protect our own fundamental rights, that of our family and friends, and that of fellow Americans and all members of the human race.

The truth is that many of us have been working to promote and protect human rights for years, in our community and across America. These efforts reflect broad public support for human rights. In fact, recent polling shows that over eighty percent of Americans agree that “every person has basic rights regardless of whether their government recognizes those rights or not.”

At **[*local agency name*]**, we have **[*describe one or two local initiatives that promote human rights), highlighting what you have done for people in your community*]**. These efforts do not stand alone; in fact they are part of a growing national movement to bring human rights home.

A number of state and local governments use human rights standards to promote equality, dignity, fairness and opportunity in their communities. Chicago has adopted a resolution advancing policies that comply with the international treaty that protects children’s rights. Seattle is working to promote economic and social rights, and San Francisco has officially incorporated the language of treaties written to end sexual and racial discrimination. Just last month, the Eugene, Oregon city council unanimously approved an ordinance affirming the human rights of people in mental health treatment, offering them more choice in their treatment and care.

These local initiatives reflect the belief that protecting human rights begins at home. **[In our community, we can use a human rights framework to address [local issue/initiative].**

Eleanor Roosevelt, one of the founders of the human rights movement, understood that human rights not only begin at home, but are fundamental to how we function as a community and a country. She said that these rights occupy “the world of the individual person: the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination.” When we protect the rights of people in **[*locality*]** we are carrying on the mission and the message behind America’s participation in the drafting of the Universal Declaration.

International Human Rights Day is an opportunity to re-dedicate ourselves to further the goal of equality and fairness for all people in **[*locality*]**, America, and the entire world.

We ask you take a moment on December 10th to consider the importance of human rights to your country, your city, and your neighborhood and to join in the celebration of International Human Rights Day.

SAMPLE EMAIL

Subject: December 10 is Human Rights Day

Today is Human Rights Day!

On December 10, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaiming that “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.”

Today is an opportunity to re-dedicate ourselves to further the goal of equality and fairness for all people in [local area], and throughout the world. We urge each of you to take one action today to promote human rights at home. If you are interested in learning more about how you can support human rights in our community, please contact [List local organizations involved in promoting human rights] or go to [http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Take Action918.html](http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Take_Action918.html); [http://www.udhr60.org/udhr more.html](http://www.udhr60.org/udhr_more.html) [can insert websites that provide information and ideas on promoting international human rights standards locally].

[This Commission already addresses some of the fundamental rights recognized by the Universal Declaration by [ADD SOME OF YOUR ACTIVITIES].

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[Commission Contact Information]