

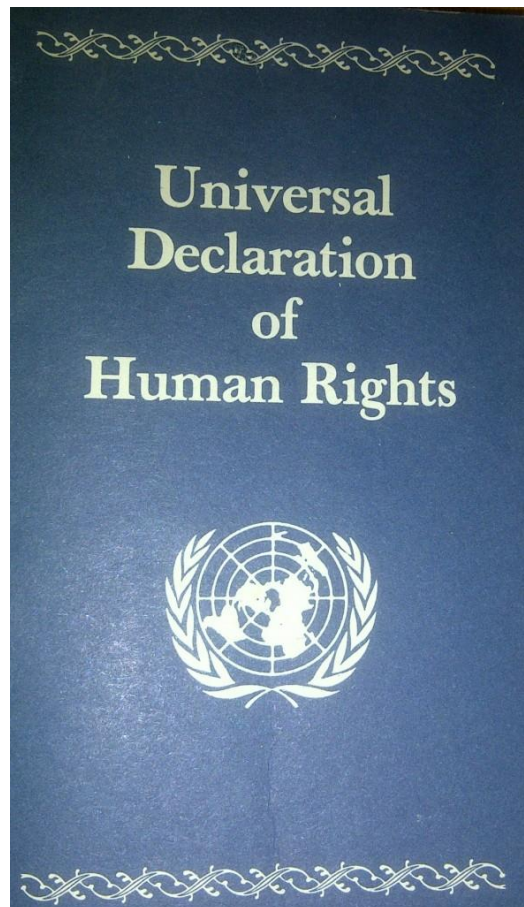
United Nations Represented in Independence Day Observance – Universal Declaration of Human Rights – excerpt read

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On 4 July 1977, Sri Chinmoy was invited as leader of the Meditation Group at the UN, to read from the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and lead a short meditation in an Independence Day Service on the theme of human rights held in New York City's historic Trinity Church.

Other readings by inter-denominational clergy included excerpts from President Carter's Inaugural Address, a section from the United States Constitution and additional national and religious statements.

The Preamble and Articles 1, 2 and 18 from the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights that were read by Sri Chinmoy follow .



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 ...

**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 the Member States themselves and among the people 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 . . .

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.