**UNIT 7- HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Jigsaw reading: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

**In groups, read the following texts and answer the questions.**

**TEXT A**

1. **What was Eleanor Roosevelt’s role in formulating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?**
2. **How would you describe her as a person, based on what you read in the text? Justify your opinion with reasons and examples.**

*“Freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being. With freedom comes responsibility. For the person who is unwilling to grow up, the person who does not want to carry his own weight, this is a frightening prospect.”*  
—Eleanor Roosevelt, American Delegate to the United Nations

Champions of Human Rights  
Eleanor Roosevelt (1884–1962)

As the Chair of the United Nations Human Rights Commission, Eleanor Roosevelt was the driving force in creating the 1948 charter which will always be her legacy: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Born in New York City, Eleanor married rising politician Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1905 and became fully immersed in public service. By the time they arrived in the White House in 1933 as President and First Lady, she was already deeply involved in human rights and social justice issues. Continuing her work on behalf of all people, she advocated equal rights for women, African-Americans and Depression-era workers bringing inspiration and attention to their causes. Courageously outspoken, she publicly supported Marian Anderson when in 1939 the black singer was denied the use of Washington’s Constitution Hall because of her race. Roosevelt saw to it that Anderson performed instead on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, creating an enduring and inspiring image of personal courage and human rights.

**As United Nations Delegate**

In 1946, Roosevelt was appointed as a delegate to the United Nations by President Harry Truman, who had succeeded to the White House after the death of Franklin Roosevelt in 1945. As head of the Human Rights Commission, she was instrumental in formulating the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which she submitted to the United Nations General Assembly with these words:

“We stand today at the threshold of a great event both in the life of the United Nations and in the life of mankind. This Declaration may well become the international Magna Carta for all men everywhere.”

Called “First Lady of the World” by President Truman for her lifelong humanitarian achievements, Roosevelt worked to the end of her life to gain acceptance and implementation of the rights set forth in the Declaration. The legacy of her words and her work appears in the constitutions of scores of nations and in an evolving body of international law that now protects the rights of men and women across the world.

*“Do what you feel in your heart to be right—for you’ll be criticized anyway. You’ll be damned if you do, and damned if you don’t.”*  
Eleanor Roosevelt

**Source**: <https://www.youthforhumanrights.org/voices-for-human-rights/champions/eleanor-roosevelt.html>

**Watch**: Beacon of Hope - Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights   
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lp-3CQ6ZD4k>

**TEXT B**

1. **Match the following articles from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the titles (a-h). There are TWO EXTRA titles.**
2. The Right to Education
3. Freedom of Expression
4. Marriage and Family
5. The right to Life
6. Don’t discriminate
7. Freedom of Thought
8. Social security
9. We are all born free and equal
10. **Summarise IN YOUR OWN WORDS each of the following articles, in 1 or 2 sentences.**

United Nations: Extracts from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

##### **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…

##### **Article 16.**

##### 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.

##### Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

##### The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

##### **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 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.

**Source**: <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html>

You can read a simplified version of the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and watch the relevant videos here:

<https://www.youthforhumanrights.org/what-are-human-rights/universal-declaration-of-human-rights/articles-1-15.html>

**TEXT C**

**Read the text below and complete the notes:**

* 1939 – 1945: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* April 1945: Delegates from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ meet in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in order to form an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to promote \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and prevent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* October 24, 1945: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ goes into effect – the day is celebrated as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* 1948: the United Nations’ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Commission, under the chairmanship of Eleanor Roosevelt sets out to draft the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* December 10, 1948: the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is adopted by the United Nations – the document includes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ articles of human rights which are today part of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The history behind the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**



Fifty nations met in San Francisco in 1945 and formed the United Nations to protect and promote peace.

**The United Nations (1945)**

World War II had raged from 1939 to 1945, and as the end drew near, cities throughout Europe and Asia lay in smoldering ruins. Millions of people were dead, millions more were homeless or starving.

In April 1945, delegates from fifty countries met in San Francisco full of optimism and hope. The goal of the United Nations Conference on International Organization was to fashion an international body to promote peace and prevent future wars. The ideals of the organization were stated in the preamble to its proposed charter: “We the peoples of the United Nations are determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind.”

The Charter of the new United Nations organization went into effect on October 24, 1945, a date that is celebrated each year as United Nations Day.

**The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)**



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights has inspired a number of other human rights laws and treaties throughout the world.

By 1948, the United Nations’ new Human Rights Commission had captured the world’s attention. Under the dynamic chairmanship of Eleanor Roosevelt—President Franklin Roosevelt’s widow, a human rights champion in her own right and the United States delegate to the UN—the Commission set out to draft the document that became the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Roosevelt, credited with its inspiration, referred to the Declaration as the international Magna Carta for all mankind. It was adopted by the United Nations on December 10, 1948.

In its preamble and in Article 1, the Declaration unequivocally proclaims the inherent rights of all human beings: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”

The Member States of the United Nations pledged to work together to promote the thirty Articles of human rights that, for the first time in history, had been assembled and codified into a single document. In consequence, many of these rights, in various forms, are today part of the constitutional laws of democratic nations.

**The Universal Declaration of Human Rights - Glossary**

1. (to be) entitled to: δικαιούμαι
2. (to be) involved in: εμπλέκομαι
3. accessible (to): προσβάσιμος
4. advocate for: προασπίζομαι, υποστηρίζω
5. aspire (to sth/ to do sth): πασχίζω, προσπαθώ, φιλοδοξώ - aspiration: στόχος, προσδοκία, φιλοδοξία
6. brotherhood: αδελφικότητα, συντροφικότητα
7. cause: στόχος, αγώνας
8. Chair / chairperson: επικεφαλής, προεδρεύων
9. champion: υποστηρίζω, προασπίζομαι
10. charter: καταστατικός χάρτης
11. combat: μάχομαι, αντιμάχομαι
12. committee: επιτροπή
13. conscience: συνείδηση
14. consent: συγκατάθεση
15. constitution: σύνταγμα
16. declaration: διακήρυξη – declare: αναγγέλω, δηλώνω, ανακηρύσσω
17. delegate (for): απεσταλμένος, εκπρόσωπος
18. dignity: αξιοπρέπεια
19. distinction: διάκριση
20. endow (with): προικίζω
21. era: εποχή
22. formulate: διαμορφώνω
23. fundamental: θεμελιώδης
24. general assembly: γενική συνέλευση
25. humanitarian: ανθρωπιστικός
26. immerse yourself into sth: (to be completely involved in sth) βυθίζομαι, απορροφώμαι από κτ
27. impart (vb): μεταδίδω, αποκαλύπτω (share knowledge or information, tell a secret)
28. implementation: εφαρμογή
29. independent: ανεξάρτητος
30. inspire: εμπνέω – inspiration: έμπνευση
31. instrumental (in): καίριος, καθοριστικός
32. jurisdiction (n): δικαιοδοσία, αρμοδιότητα – jurisdictional (adj): relating to legal authority
33. legacy: κληρονομιά
34. merit: αξία
35. observance (n): κανόνας, έθιμο, ιεροτελεστία (religious custom)
36. on behalf of: εκ μέρους
37. pledge (to do sth): υπόσχομαι, δεσμεύομαι
38. preamble: προοίμιο
39. prevent: εμποδίζω
40. proclaim: ανακηρύσσω, διακηρύσσω - proclamation: διακήρυξη
41. promote: προάγω
42. requirement: προϋπόθεση, προαπαιτούμενο
43. responsibility: ευθύνη
44. set (sth) forth: περιγράφω
45. tolerance: ανεκτικότητα, ανοχή
46. unequivocally: απόλυτα, εντελώς