



## Human Rights Day and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and must act towards each other in a spirit of brotherhood.**

Each year on **10 December**, Zonta International observes Human Rights Day, which commemorates the day in 1948 when the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (UDHR) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

Human Rights Day also concludes the [Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign](#) and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. [Click here](#) to be inspired by how our members advocated to end gender-based violence over the last two years.

Today, the United Nations is kicking off a [yearlong campaign](#) to promote and recognize the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UDHR, which will be celebrated in 2024

The UDHR has served as a “foundation for an expanding system of human rights protection that today focuses also on vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, Indigenous peoples and migrants,” [the UN said](#) in its observance of Human Rights Day.

It is widely known that Eleanor Roosevelt was the first chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights and played a significant role in drafting the UDHR. However, there were other [women who were crucial to the document's adoption](#), including Hansa Mehta, Minerva Bernardino, Begum Shaista Ikramullah, Bodil Begtrup, Marie-Hélène Lefaucheu, Evdokia Uralova and Lakshmi Menon.

Just as these women shaped the milestone document that enshrines the rights of all human beings, women continue to defend human rights and pursue gender equity.

On Human Rights Day, the Zonta Clubs thank the community for its support as they stand up for human rights and calls on others to join them in advocating for the rights of women, girls and all human beings.

