

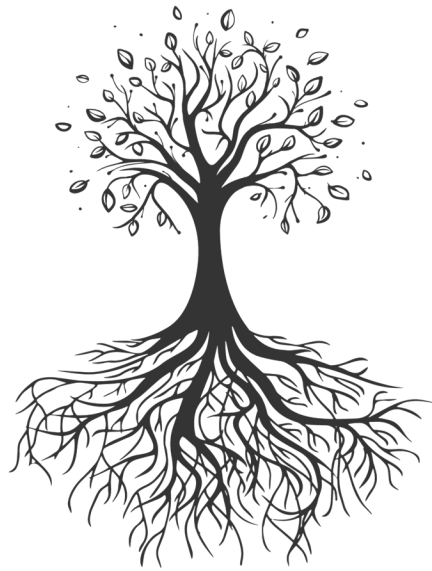
The

Tennessee Human Rights Commission;
Metro Human Relations Commission;
Scarritt Bennett Center;
Tennessee United for Human Rights;

*With
Present*

Partner Organizations
The Tennessee Celebration of...

International Human Rights Day



Our Shared Humanity: Rooted in Hope

Celebrating the 72nd Anniversary of the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights

December 10, 2020

International Human Rights Day



On October 24, 1945, in the aftermath of World War II, the United Nations came into being with the purpose of saving future generations from the devastation of international conflict.

United Nations representatives formally adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948. The Declaration was drafted by representatives of all regions of the world and encompassed all legal traditions. It is the most universal human rights document in existence, delineating the thirty fundamental rights that form the basis for a democratic society.

Following this historic act, the Assembly called upon all Member Countries to publicize the text of the Declaration and “to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories.”

Today, the Declaration is a living document that has been accepted as a contract between a government and its people throughout the world.

This year marks the 72nd anniversary of the Declaration. Tennessee is celebrating with the theme Our Shared Humanity: Rooted in Hope.

In Tennessee, the Human Rights Day celebration has become a time to reflect and look to the future. During the event, we honor those who have given a lifetime of service to making human rights a reality, those who have demonstrated outstanding service to forward human rights and those who are picking up the torch and carrying it forward.

Program Agenda

Master of Ceremonies — Beverly Watts
Executive Director, Tennessee Human Rights Commission

Gubernatorial Proclamation Presented by — Robin Derryberry
Chair, Tennessee Human Rights Commission

Mayoral Proclamation Introduction — Dr. Marisa Richmond
Chair, Metro Human Relations Commission

Mayoral Proclamation—Hon. John Cooper
Mayor, Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County

Special Remarks — Melody Fowler-Green
Executive Director, Metro Human Relations Commission

2020 Rising Advocate Award Recipient
Ms. Alora Young

Greetings from the UNA —Bob Teague
President, United Nations Association Nashville Cordell-Hull Chapter

2020 Outstanding Service Award Recipients
Dr. James Hildreth
Rev. Becca Stevens

Spoken Word Piece “Hope”—Rashad thaPoet

Panel Discussion ~ Our Shared Humanity: Rooted in Hope
Moderator—Beverly Watts, Director, Tennessee Human Rights Commission
Justin Jones, Past Human Rights Rising Advocate Honoree
Jocelyn Wurzburg, Former Commissioner, Tennessee Human Rights Commission

2020 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients
Rev. V. H. “Sonnye” Dixon
Mr. Ernest “Rip” Patton

Closing Remarks—Beverly Watts
Executive Director, Tennessee Human Rights Commission

Unity Prayer—Rev. Brian Fesler
Pastor, Church of Scientology Nashville

Master of Ceremonies Beverly Watts



Nashville native **Beverly Watts** was appointed the Executive Director of the Tennessee Human Rights Commission in July, 2007. Prior to her current appointment, she served as Special Advisor to the Chair at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission responsible for state and local relations. She has more than 25 years of civil rights enforcement and education experience in the public and private sector. Beverly is the recipient of numerous awards including the July 2005 Induction to the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame. She is the recipient of the 2005 Louisville Metro MLK Freedom Award; 2003 Women Leading Kentucky Martha Layne Collins Leadership Award and the 2003 EEOC/FEPA Award for Innovative Outreach to name a few. She is a graduate of Tennessee State University, Southern Illinois University, and has attended Duke University Leadership Program for State Executives and the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Special Remarks Melody Fowler-Green



Melody ("Mel") Fowler-Green is the Executive Director of the Metro Human Relations Commission. Prior to taking the helm at the Commission, Mel was a public interest and civil rights attorney. She represented workers from many service industries including restaurant staff, cable installers, landscapers, construction workers, and farm workers in wage & hour actions (including large class actions) and in employment discrimination cases. Mel also served as the first staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee. Mel graduated cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center in 2000. She also holds an MA in Women's Studies from the University of Cincinnati, and a BA in Theatre from the University of Michigan-Flint.

Greetings from the UNA Bob Teague



Bob Teague is the President of the United Nations Association Nashville Cordell-Hull Chapter. He's an exceptional entrepreneur and musician, with more than 2,000 original copyrights. Bob has traveled extensively and wants everyone to appreciate and cherish the opportunities we have to combine our cultures and languages into a world of caring and sharing, peace and prosperity, with love and respect for the environment and each other.

Rising Advocate Award



Alora Young is a junior at Hillsboro High School in Nashville, Tennessee. Alora is the founder of AboveGround, an organization that strives to increase the accessibility of advanced academics to students of color through creative writing. Alora noticed a glaring discrepancy in the number of students of color who attended Hillsboro in relation to the number of students in advanced placement courses, and that this problem began as early as elementary school with an advanced placement course called "Encore." AboveGround introduced

children of color at Eakin Elementary School, who did not participate in the Encore course, to creative writing in order to develop a love of art and encourage higher-level thinking and a drive towards advanced academics. Each week the students would participate in a writing prompt, read a book featuring a main character of color, and hear about an "artist spotlight" introducing a successful artist of color. Alora has personally worked with over 20 students in her AboveGround program and released a literary magazine featuring a compilation of their works that reached many more. She has seen children with no passion for writing become amazed by poetry, and has seen these children grow and prosper as students in this program. She strives to expand the program's effects to every elementary school in Metro Nashville Public Schools. Outside of school, Alora serves as Nashville's youth poet laureate, spreading activism through creative writing in Davidson County.

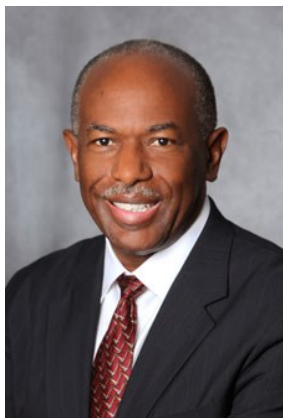
Spoken Word Piece Rashad thaPoet



Rashad thaPoet Rayford has been hailed as one of the most consistent artists in Nashville. He has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, NPR, The Huffington Post, The Tennessean and the Nashville Scene among others. Rashad's company Elevate Your Vibe, LLC is a non traditional speaking company that blends spoken word poetry, inspirational speaking and business talk to help companies tell more concise stories. Rashad has taken that same drive and attention to detail that he used as a poet and become one of the most sought after speakers in the market. He has the innate ability to transform any crowd in

any industry and Elevate their vibe through his wordplay and high energy talks. His goal is to leave people more inspired and more in tune with their own stories and their own authentic voice.

Outstanding Service Awards



Dr. James Hildreth Ph.D., M.D., graduated from Harvard magna cum laude in chemistry in 1979. That fall, Dr. Hildreth enrolled at Oxford University in England, graduating with a Ph.D. in immunology in 1982. In 1987 he obtained his M.D. from Johns Hopkins and joined the Hopkins faculty as assistant professor. In 2002, Dr. Hildreth became the first African American in the 125-year history of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine to earn full professorship with tenure in the basic sciences. Hildreth has been inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame and the Johns Hopkins University Society of Scholars. Dr. Hildreth began research on HIV and AIDS in 1986 and his research has been funded through NIH grants for almost two decades. His work focuses on the role of host proteins

and lipids in HIV infection. He has published more than 90 scientific articles and is the inventor on 11 patents based on his research. A protein discovered by Dr. Hildreth as a graduate student was the basis for an FDA-approved drug (Raptiva) that was used to treat psoriasis. A primary focus of his research currently is the development of a vaginal microbicide to block HIV transmission in women. Dr. Hildreth has also been a leader in the effort to engage churches and faith leaders in the fight against AIDS. He received a major grant from the CDC to support his HIV prevention and treatment partnership with church leaders. In 2015, Dr. Hildreth returned to Meharry Medical College to serve as the 12th president and chief executive officer of the nation's largest private, independent historically black academic health sciences center. Dr. Hildreth has been married to his wife Phyllis Drennon King for 36 years.



Rev. Becca Stevens is a speaker, social entrepreneur, author, priest, founder, and President of Thistle Farms. As an entrepreneurial leader, she has established 10 justice enterprises and has raised over \$55M dollars in private funds. She walks the line between pragmatism and poetry in her message that love is the strongest force for change in the world. Stevens founded Thistle Farms in 1997 with a single home for survivors of trafficking, and addiction. Twenty three years later, it is a global movement for women's freedom. Today the Nashville flagship includes a residential program that serves as a national model for women's recovery, and three justice social enterprises that provide jobs to survivors—

amounting to \$4M in earned income last year. Rev. Stevens also developed the Thistle National Network to provide tools, workshops, and conferences to support young organizations wanting to follow its holistic model of recovery, as well as Thistle Farms Global Shared Trade, which supports 1,400 artisan survivors in 20 countries. Additional enterprises Stevens has helped establish include the Center for Contemplative Justice and Larkspur Conservation in the U.S., as well as Escuela Ann Stevens and Sibimbe in Ecuador, Moringa Madres in Mexico, and Love Welcomes in Greece. She has been profiled on PBS NewsHour, The Today Show, CNN, ABC World News and in The New York Times. Her many awards include CNN Hero, White House Champion of Change, and Tennessee Women's Hall of Fame.

Panel Discussion

Our Shared Humanity: Rooted in Hope



In 1968, Memphis was a focus of the nation's turmoil following the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. **Jocelyn Dan Wurzburg** stepped forward to take constructive action. She became familiar with an organization called the Panel of American Women, and she single-handedly brought its services to Memphis. The Panel's purpose was to eliminate racial and religious prejudice. Many groups took personal issue with the message and the messengers. Jocelyn headed a group of about 40 women — black, white, Catholic, Jew, Protestant — who labored to learn new skills and educate each other on issues. The Panel led her into other human rights work, including project director for the Memphis Martin Luther King Memorial 1976-77 and service on the Social Action Commission. She was appointed to the National Commission for the Observance of International Women's Year and to the State Advisory Committee of the Civil Rights Commission. Jocelyn Wurzburg received the Shelby County Diversity Award in 2008. She also won the NAACP Lifetime Achievement award in 2017. The Tennessee Human Rights Commission established the Jocelyn Dan Wurzburg Civil Rights Award in her name. Today, she offers Mediation Services as a saner way of dealing with conflicts.



Justin Jones is an activist, graduate student, and community organizer in Nashville. Justin came to Fisk University in 2013, where he received the John R. Lewis Scholarship for Social Activism. Inspired by its legacy of the student-led movement for civil rights, Justin became involved on campus and in community groups and spent his four years organizing student campaigns for the expansion of healthcare in Tennessee, the repeal of restrictive state voter ID laws, and community accountability in cases of police brutality against unarmed black victims. He served on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Healthcare Campaign and has led actions at the Legislature, and across the South, for the expansion of Medicaid. In 2015, Justin helped file a federal lawsuit against the State of Tennessee for its restrictive voter ID laws that targeted students. He has chaired the Nashville Student Organizing Committee and is a recipient of awards from the Tennessee Human Rights Commission, ACLU of Tennessee, Tennessee Alliance for Progress, Fisk University Alumni Association, the Vanderbilt Organization of Black Graduate Students, and the Nashville NAACP.

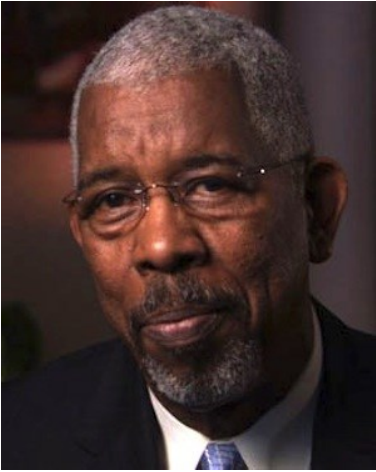
Lifetime Achievement Award



V. H. "Sonnye" Dixon, the lead pastor at Hobson UMC, a licensed local pastor in the Tennessee Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, is known as a passionate advocate for public education, a champion of human and civil rights for all people, and a person unafraid to speak truth to power in political, social, education and religious communities. He first came to Hobson as an unpaid lay minister and he has grown into one of the most prophetic, risk-taking, caring pastors in Nashville. Pastor Sonnye

has long felt God's call to provide pastoral support and hospitality especially to people pushed to the margins of society, including children, people struggling with addiction, people who are homeless or living in poverty, people of color, gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender persons, the elderly poor and those without health care who are mentally and physically ill. With this in mind, a typical day in the life of our pastor may find him in court or at the county jail, praying with a church member who has run afoul of the law; praying with a friend going into surgery; reading to or having lunch with children in a local public school; meeting a father at a crack house to convince his addicted daughter to go into treatment; leading a vigil in opposition of capital punishment on the night of a scheduled execution; volunteering to accompany police to tell a mother that her child has been shot in a gang fight; or speaking at a rally to support U.S. immigration reform and loving the strangers among us. Pastor Sonnye declares that Christians are called "to love everyone, without exception, because God's love for us is unchanging, unconditional and unshakeable." A native of Nashville, Tenn., Pastor Sonnye and his late wife, Metro Nashville educator Gail Dixon, raised two adult children, Sonja, a Metro Nashville teacher, and Trey (V.H., III), a human resource manager.

Lifetime Achievement Award



Mr. Ernest "Rip" Patton, Jr. is a civil rights activist and a veteran of the Freedom Riders. He was born in 1940 in Nashville, Tennessee, and from a young age, Patton desired to see societal change due to his childhood memories of observing the harsh effects of racial segregation in his neighborhood. He attended Tennessee State University in 1960 (then called Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial University) where he was a drum major in the marching band. His goal was to become a music teacher or band director. However, he was also eager for change in his hometown, and he put his music interests aside when he had an

opportunity to fight for racial equality by joining the newly formed Nashville branch of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1960. Patton participated in the Nashville student movement through sit-ins, stand-ins, and boycotts. The first of four sit-ins occurred on February 13, 1960, just over a week after the February 1 sit-ins in Greensboro, North Carolina, which were considered the first direct protest action of the 1960s. Patton and other students in the Nashville nonviolent, direct action campaign made notable progress, as they successfully integrated downtown lunch counters by the end of 1960. However, it took civil rights activists like Patton four years to desegregate the whole city. Protests in Nashville prepared students to continue their activism in the larger movement sweeping the south. As a twenty-one-year-old student, Patton traveled to Montgomery, Alabama, to provide assistance to the Freedom Riders which he officially joined on May 24, 1961, in the Greyhound bus traveling from Nashville to Jackson, Mississippi. The Freedom Riders were intergenerational and interracial men and women who courageously traveled together on buses and trains to challenge segregation in the interstate transportation system. Due to widespread racism and, in particular, opposition to racial integration, the Freedom Riders met ongoing mob violence, bombings, and imprisonment. When Patton's bus reached Jackson, he was arrested. Along with three hundred other African Americans, Patton was taken to the notoriously brutal Mississippi State Penitentiary, also known as Parchman Prison Farm. Today, Patton, a renowned community leader, spends time sharing his experiences from the Nashville student movement and Freedom Riders to various civil rights tours of the Deep South. Patton also regularly speaks to groups around the country, especially young students. Through telling his personal story, Patton brings light to the stories other important foot soldiers he worked with during the American Black freedom struggle.

Acknowledgements

Event Chair

Rev. Brian Fesler, *Church of Scientology*

Planning Committee Members

Julie Brinker, *Church of Scientology*

Lynn Cothren, *Tennessee Human Rights Commission*

Melody Fowler-Green, *Metro Human Relations Commission*

Barbara Gunn-Lartey, *Metro Human Relations Commission*

Frank Guzman, *Tennessee Human Rights Commission*

Cherisna Jean-Marie, *Scarritt Bennett Center*

Veronica McGraw, *Tennessee Human Rights Commission*

Beverly Watts, *Tennessee Human Rights Commission*

Performances

Thank you to Rashad thaPoet Rayford for providing inspirational words during our program.

Audio Visual

A very special thank you to Julian Walker for assisting in the production of our virtual program this year, and to Lynn Grassmeyer for introductory voiceovers.

Awards

Thank you to the Tennessee Human Rights Commission for providing the awards.

Program Booklet

Thank you to the Church of Scientology for program design and publication.

More Information

Visit www.TnUHR.org, join our mailing list, and see photos from this year and past events, the Award-ee Interview Videos, the full version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and much more!

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected and it has been translated into over 500 languages.

It is here presented in its entirety.

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 co-operation 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 of 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.