

A human rights calendar

The following calendar is a first attempt to compile a list of days on which people worldwide celebrate human rights. The key dates have been gathered from official UN International Days, World Days recognised by NGOs, anniversaries of historical events and birthdays of some prominent human rights activists. It is not to be taken as a complete or definitive list but as a starting point for work with young people. The activities in chapter three are listed for cross-referencing.

The calendar can be copied and made into a poster to hang on the wall to stimulate initial interest in human rights issues, especially as it gives a good indication of their range and variety. People can be invited to discuss selected issues and also to research their own local and national key dates. These can then be added to the calendar to make a resource which is personal to the group.

Each activity in chapter three has been assigned a key date. Thus it is possible to use the calendar as a tool for developing a year's human rights education programme. The starting point of each week or month could be a "topical" activity. For example on 3 May, World Press Freedom Day you could do the activity "Front page" (page 135) or on 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, you could do the activity "Domestic affairs" (page 114). Alternatively, the group may wish to "take action" by getting involved with events or activities being organised by other organisations on those dates, for example with an environmental group to celebrate Earth Day on 22 April.

Just as the understanding of human rights changes and develops every year, so should this calendar. The challenge for you - the users of this manual - is to find new ways of celebrating human rights every single day of the year.

Date	Celebration	Activity
8 Jan	World Literacy Day	<i>Education for all?</i>
20 February	Non-violent Resistance Day	<i>Power station</i>
21 February	International Mother Language Day (UNESCO)	<i>The language barrier</i>
8 March	International Women's Day	<i>Heroines and heroes</i>
21 March	World Poetry Day (UNESCO)	<i>Picture games</i>
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	<i>Responding to racism</i>
22 March	World Day for Water	<i>The web of life</i>
23 March	World Meteorological Day (WMO)	
24 March	World Tuberculosis Day (WHO)	
7 April	World Health Day (WHO)	<i>Just a minute</i>
8 April	World Roma Day	<i>Take a step forward</i>
22 April	Earth Day	<i>The web of life</i>
23 April	World Book and Copyright Day (UNESCO)	
30 April	Holocaust Memorial Day (Yom ha Shoah)	
1 May	International Workers Day	<i>Different Wages, Trade union meeting</i>
3 May	World Press Freedom Day (UNESCO)	<i>Front page</i>
8 May	World Red cross and Red Crescent Day	<i>Right's bingo</i>
15 May	International Day of Families	<i>Work and babies</i>
17 May	World Telecommunication Day (ITU)	<i>Impact of the Internet</i>
31 May	World No-Tobacco Day (WHO)	
4 June	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression	<i>Do we have alternatives?</i>

Date	Celebration	Activity
5 June	World Environment Day (UNEP)	<i>Garden in a night</i>
15 June	World Food Day	<i>Rich meal poor meal</i>
17 June	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	
20 June	World Refugee Day	<i>Can I come in?</i>
21 June	World Peace and Prayer Day	<i>All equal all different</i>
26 June	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	
26 June	United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	<i>When tomorrow comes</i>
26 June	UN Charter Day	<i>The language barrier</i>
1st Saturday July	International Day of Co-operatives	<i>Play the game</i>
11 July	World Population Day (UNFPA)	
6 August	Hiroshima Day (remembers victims of the first atomic bombing in Hiroshima, Japan, 1945)	
7 August	Transgender International Rights and Education Day	<i>Who are I?</i>
9 August	International Day of Indigenous People	<i>Makah whaling</i>
12 August	International Youth Day	<i>Our futures</i>
23 August	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition (UNESCO)	
Tuesday following second Monday September	Peace Day	<i>Money to spend</i>
8 September	International Literacy Day (UNESCO)	<i>Glossary of globalisation</i>
16 September	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer	
1st Monday October	World Habitat Day (Cities without slums)	<i>A tale of two cities</i>
2nd Wednesday October	International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction	
1 October	International Day of Older Persons	
1 October	International Music Day	<i>One world of song</i>
5 October	World Teachers' Day (UNESCO)	<i>Let every voice be heard</i>
10 October	World Mental Health Day	<i>Sport for all</i>
16 October	World Food Day (FAO)	
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	<i>Scramble for wealth and power</i>
24 October	World Development Information Day	<i>Beware we are watching</i>
24 October	United Nations Day	<i>Electioneering, Fighters for rights</i>
3 November	Men's World Day	<i>Heroines and heroes</i>
9 November	Kristallnacht, International Day Against Fascism and Anti-Semitism	
9 November	1989 Berlin Wall came down	<i>Making links</i>
11 November	International Day of Science and Peace	<i>Horoscope of poverty</i>
16 November	International Day for Tolerance (UNESCO)	<i>Violence in my life</i>
20 November	Universal Children's Day	<i>Children's rights</i>
21 November	World Television Day	<i>Picture games</i>
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	<i>Path to Equality-land</i>
29 November	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People	
1 December	World AIDS Day (WHO)	<i>Access to medicaments</i>
2 December	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	<i>Ashique's story</i>
3 December	International Day of Disabled Persons	<i>See the ability</i>
5 December	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development	<i>Where do you stand?</i>
10 December	Human Rights Day (1948)	<i>"Draw the word" game, Act it out</i>
18 December	International Migrants Day	<i>Take a step forward</i>
29 December	International Day for Biological Diversity	
?	The day on which universal suffrage became law in your country	<i>To vote or not to vote</i>