

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2018

MESSAGE TO UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS
WFUNA SECRETARY-GENERAL, BONIAN GOLMOHAMMADI

Dear Friends,

This year on its 70th anniversary, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is perhaps an even more crucial and pertinent document to the times we are living in. As the Declaration turns 70 this year, I recognize how important it has been to promote human rights around the world. Nonetheless, 70 years into its adoption, a lot remains to be done to make the content of the UDHR a reality for all.

On this Human Rights Day, I am honored and delighted to be able to commend our member Associations for upholding those rights in their respective countries.

Your commitment was further showcased through the adoption of several human rights-related resolutions at our [42nd Plenary Assembly](#), held in the Dominican Republic on 17 - 21 October 2018 including resolution 42/9/B12: Strengthening the fight against sexual exploitation and abuse in un peace operations. I also commend the Associations that took part in the 8th edition of our [Human Rights in Action](#) capacity building program. As this message is being drafted, projects are being implemented by 16 participants to the program, with the help of their UNAs, in as many UN member-states. I am amazed at the speed with which youth become actively engaged and dedicated to promoting human rights in their communities. As an example of this, human rights in action participant Andrea Calzada Morales from UNA-Mexico was nominated and won WFUNA's Young Leader of the year award at our 42nd Plenary Assembly.

With rising sentiments of unbridled nationalism and increasing numbers of world leaders tempted to turn a blind eye toward human rights atrocities, the time now is more pressing than ever to inspire those around us and into upholding universal, inalienable, indivisible and interdependent human rights. As we face this next year, I encourage you to view each of its 365 days as an opportunity to impact human rights effectively.

In UN Secretary-General's António Guterres' words "Human Rights – civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights -- must never be seen as a luxury or "saved for later", after peace and development have been achieved.



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Human rights are an intrinsic part of all that we do – and all that we are.

Let us assimilate these words and reflect on them in our everyday lives
and let us #standup4humanrights.