Class 1

What is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

Class Aim:
To introduce the class to the origins and background of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights using a PowerPoint table quiz.

Instructions:
1. Set up your class into a table quiz scenario.
2. Distribute to each team a copy of the simplified version of the UDHR and an answering sheet template so the team can identify their consenting answers to the questions.
3. Present the class with the 15-question quiz using the PowerPoint presentation. It is possible to run this activity by calling out the questions and a text version is provided for this purpose. Each question is presented with four possible answers.
4. Each team consents to one answer for each question and identifies their answer on the template. For added difficulty, teams may be eliminated if they give the wrong answer as they take part.
5. After the teams give their answers, the teacher may read out the additional information associated with each question.

Additional Supporting Information:
Answer sheet template.
MS Word document version of quiz with answers.
Teachers’ notes.
UDHR simple version.
Powerpoint document of quiz with answers contained in notes.
Question 1
Leaders of the main world powers met between 1942 and 1944 to shape a new organisation. What was this organisation called?

a. Trócaire
b. Amnesty International
c. Red Cross
d. United Nations

Answer - d. The United Nations (UN) works for peace, for justice, and for equal rights of all human beings. The UN conducts peacekeeping operations, establishes local development projects, promotes environmental sustainability and provides humanitarian aid.

Notes
Trócaire was set up in 1973 to aid the world’s poorest and most oppressed people. It is the official overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland.

For over 40 years Amnesty International has worked towards creating a world where every person enjoys all of the rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights standards.

The Red Cross works both in Ireland and worldwide in countries that have been damaged by wars and natural disasters. As well as providing humanitarian
assistance, the Red Cross also provides first aid training, a rescue service and a tracing and messaging service.

**Question 2**

What was the first human rights treaty adopted by the United Nations?

a. The Convention on the Rights of the Child  
b. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights  
c. The Declaration on the Right to Development  
d. The Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples

**Answer - b.** Although the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is not legally binding among States, it is considered a landmark document and a set of human rights principles that everyone should aspire to follow. Membership of the UN represents an implicit acceptance of the UDHR. Although the UDHR began as an initiative of governments it has become a common goal and a recognised benchmark for everyone worldwide.

**Notes**

The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the United Nations in 1989 and ratified by Ireland in 1992. It defines a child as anyone below the age of 18 years, unless a national law in a country recognises that a person has reached maturity before 18 years.

The Declaration on the Right to Development was adopted by the United Nations in 1986. The objective of this declaration was to focus on improving the social, economic, political and cultural development of all people.

The Declaration on the Rights of the Child in 1959 was followed by the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples in 1965, and finally the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989, which was wider-reaching and reflected more contemporary issues.

**Question 3**

To whom does the Universal Declaration of Human Rights apply?

a. To people living in prison  
b. To racist people  
c. To migrant workers  
d. To all individuals

**Answer - d.** The 30 articles in the UDHR establish the civil, political, social and cultural rights of all people. As stated in the preamble of the UDHR, the declaration is ‘a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations’. The UDHR was the first international recognition that all human beings have fundamental rights and freedoms and it continues to be a living and relevant document today.
Question 4
How many languages has the Universal Declaration of Human Rights been translated into?

a. 12  
b. 25  
c. 100  
d. 360

Answer - d. The UDHR holds the Guinness World Record for being the most translated document in the world. During the World Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004), a project to have the Declaration translated into as many languages and dialects as possible was developed. There are now more than 360 different language versions.

Question 5
When was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted?

a. 1989  
b. 1948  
c. 1994  
d. 1961

Answer - b. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted on 10th December 1948.

Notes
In 1994 South Africa held its first free elections following the abolition of apartheid.  
In 1961 Amnesty International was founded.

Question 6
Which of the following people worked tirelessly to promote the message and implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights worldwide?

a. Eleanor Roosevelt (United States of America)  
b. Franklin D Roosevelt (United States of America)  
c. Taoiseach Eamon de Valera (Ireland)  
d. Dustin the Turkey (Ireland)

Answer - a. Eleanor Roosevelt is best known as someone who played an important role in the drafting process of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. She was renowned for being a social and political activist and supported of the Civil Rights Movement. At the age of fifteen years she was sent to school in England. The school principal took a special interest in Eleanor and introduced her to various charitable organisations. When Eleanor returned to America she married Franklin D. Roosevelt, the 32nd President of United States of America. As 'First Lady', Eleanor Roosevelt travelled extensively representing the President.
Question 7
In what country was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights initially adopted by the United Nations?

a. America  
b. United Kingdom  
c. France  
d. China

Answer - c. It was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, on 10th December 1948, at the Palais de Chaillot, in Paris, France.

Question 8
How many articles does the Universal Declaration of Human Rights contain?

a. 20  
b. 60  
c. 122  
d. 30

Answer - d. The UDHR contains 30 articles.

Notes
The UDHR does not have a single author. The most significant contributors were René Cassin, a French legal scholar, and John Humphrey, the UN’s first director of Human Rights. The initial draft of the UDHR was over 400 pages long. It was negotiated down to 30 articles over a two year period between 1946 and 1948. Before the final draft was voted upon by the General Assembly of the United Nations, over 168 amendments were proposed and debated.

Question 9
When is International Human Rights Day observed?

a. 17th March  
b. 10th December  
c. 20th June  
d. 27th January

Answer - b. International Human Rights Day is celebrated on 10th December. This is the date, in 1948, when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was voted upon by the General Assembly of the United Nations. It was adopted without any dissenting votes, though eight countries abstained at the time (South Africa, the USSR, Byelorussia, Ukraine, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Saudi Arabia).

Notes
On the 17th March we celebrate the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick.

20th June is World Refugee Day. The first World Refugee Day was celebrated across the globe on 20th June 2001.

Holocaust Memorial Day is marked each year on 27th January, in remembrance for the victims of the Holocaust and other genocides.
Question 10
Which of the following organisations works towards promoting the message of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights worldwide?

a. Focus Ireland  
b. Amnesty International  
c. Age Action Ireland  
d. Irish Refugee Council

Answer - b. Amnesty International’s vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards. Amnesty International has over 2 million members worldwide, in 150 countries, with 20,000 members in Ireland. They depend on subscriptions and donations from their members and supporters.

Notes
Focus Ireland aims to respond to the needs of people out of home or at risk of becoming homeless by providing a range of services including accommodation. They also lobby for the rights of their target group.

Age Action Ireland is a national organisation on ageing and older people. It promotes better policies for services for older people.

The Irish Refugee Council was set up in 1992. It works to promote the rights of refugees in Ireland. Their vision is of a just, fair and inclusive Irish society where people seeking refuge are welcome and valued.

Question 11
Where does the Human Rights Council of the United Nations meet?

a. Geneva  
b. New York  
c. Sydney  
d. Tokyo

Answer - a. The Human Rights Council, consisting of 47 member states of the United Nations, meets approximately three times per year at the United Nations Building in Geneva. Under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism, every UN member state will have their human rights record reviewed once every four years.

Notes
The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is also based in Geneva. It is the principle UN office for promoting and protecting human rights, which it does through research, education and advocacy.

Mary Robinson, the former President of Ireland was the High Commissioner for Human Rights until 2004. Louise Arbour, the current High Commissioner for Human Rights, is due to finish her term of office in 2008. A new High Commissioner will then be appointed.
Question 12
Who is a Goodwill Ambassador for UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency?

a. Victoria Beckham
b. Colin Farrell
c. Angelina Jolie
d. Roy Keane

Answer - c. Angelina Jolie has been a UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador since 2001 and has travelled the world with the UNHCR to help raise the profile of refugee issues.

Notes
Victoria Beckham supports the Children in Need Charity. 
Colin Farrell supports the Special Olympics.
Roy Keane works with the Irish Guide Dogs Association.

Question 13
Two international covenants were created to ensure that the aspirations of the UDHR became law:
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
When did these enter into force?

a. 1982
b. 1967
c. 1954
d. 1974

Answer - c. Both covenants were created in 1966 and entered into force in 1967. Ireland signed both covenants in 1973 but did not ratify them until 1989.

Notes
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, along with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, along with their protocols, are referred to as the 'International Bill of Human Rights'.

Question 14
The United Nations set up special tribunals to judge war crimes committed in which two countries?

a. Ireland and France
b. Rwanda and former Yugoslavia
c. Australia and China
d. Canada and Poland

Answer - b. The Security Council of the United Nations set up two special tribunals, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, specifically to prosecute violations of
the customs of war, genocide and crimes against humanity that occurred in those countries.

Notes
Because of the success of these tribunals, international legal experts began to believe that instead of creating ad hoc tribunals for specific cases, there was a need for a permanent international court to try individuals. As a result, the International Criminal Court (ICC) was established by the Rome Statute in 2002.

Question 15
List four rights listed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

a.

b.

c.

d.

Notes
The students identify any four rights they believe people are entitled to. Examples include: the right to education, the right to vote, the right to an identity, etc.
What is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

Preparation

1. Print out a copy of the simplified Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) for every student, from the CD-Rom.

2. The quiz is most effective when delivered from the PowerPoint presentation, for everyone to see. If this is not possible, print out copies of the questions for everyone.

3. If possible, appoint a scorekeeper or someone to read the questions. Alternatively, the teacher may take on these roles.

4. Arrange to take photographs of the class engaging with the materials.

Possible Follow Up Activities

1. Give students a copy of the UDHR and ask them to pick out the five most important articles and say why they made that choice.

2. Ask the students to find out more information on Eleanor Roosevelt and write a passage.
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

1. Everyone is born free and has dignity because they are human.

2. Everyone has equal rights regardless of differences between people such as gender, colour, religion, language, wealth or political opinion.

3. Everyone has the right to life and the right to live in freedom and safety.

4. No one shall be held in slavery.

5. Everyone has the right not to be hurt, tortured or treated cruelly.

6. Everyone has the right to be treated as a person under the law everywhere.

7. The law is the same for everyone and should protect everyone equally.

8. Everyone has the right to ask for legal help when their basic rights are not respected.

9. No one should be arrested, imprisoned or expelled from their country without good reason.

10. Everyone has the right to a fair trial, if accused of a crime.

11. Everyone has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, if accused of a crime.

12. Everyone has the right to privacy.

13. Everyone has the right to travel within and outside their own country.

14. Everyone has the right to seek asylum in another country, if they are being persecuted in their own country.

15. Everyone has the right to a nationality.

16. Everyone has the right to marry and have a family.
17. Everyone has the right to own property on their own or with others. No one should have their property taken from them without good cause.

18. Everyone has the right to their own free thoughts, conscience and religion including the right to practise their religion privately or in public.

19. Everyone has the right to say what they think and to share information with others.

20. Everyone has the right to meet with others publicly and privately and to freely form and join peaceful associations.

21. Everyone has the right to vote in regular democratic elections and to take part in the government of their country.

22. Every country must do its best to ensure that everyone has enough to live a life of dignity.

23. Everyone has the right to work for a fair wage in a safe environment and also has the right to join a trade union.

24. Everyone has the right to rest and leisure time.

25. Everyone has the right to a home, enough food and health care.

26. Everyone has the right to education and to free primary education.

27. Everyone has the right to take part in the cultural life of their community and the right to benefit from scientific and artistic learning.

28. National and international laws and institutions must make possible the rights and freedoms set out in this declaration.

29. Everyone has the responsibility to respect and uphold the rights of others in their community and the wider world.

30. No one has the right to take away any of the rights in this declaration.
Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Still RIGHT after all these years

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