The Tennessee Human Rights Commission; Metro Human Relations Commission; Tennessee United for Human Rights; and others

Present...

The Tennessee Celebration of
International Human Rights Day

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights:
Foundation for Dignity

Celebrating the 73rd Anniversary of the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights

December 9, 2021
International Human Rights Day

On October 24, 1945, in the aftermath of World War II, the United Nations came into being as an intergovernmental organization, 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 73rd anniversary of the Declaration. Tennessee is celebrating with the theme: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Foundation for Dignity.

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 given 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 presented by—Rev. Davie Tucker
Chair, Metro Human Relations Commission

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

2021 Human Rights Rising Advocate Awardees
~ Joseph Gutierrez
~ Timothy Hughes

Memoriam Honoring Fallen Human Rights Leaders

2021 Human Rights Outstanding Service Awardee
~ Judge Rachel Bell

Discussion~ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Foundation for Dignity
Moderator—David Plazas, the Tennessean
Speaker—Zulfat Suara, Metro Council Member At-Large

2021 Human Rights Lifetime Achievement Awardees
~ Andrea Conte
~ Rev. Enoch Fuzz

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

Unity Prayer—Rev. Brian Fesler
Pastor, Church of Scientology
Master of Ceremonies Beverly Watts

Nashville native Beverly L. Watts has been Executive Director of the Tennessee Human Rights Commission since 2007. Previously, she served as Special Advisor to the Chair at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission responsible for state and local relations. Beverly served for more than 12 years as the Executive Director of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights and was one of the first Title IX Coordinators in the US at the Office for Civil Rights. Beverly is a past President of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies where she currently serves as the 1st Vice President. She also serves on the Equal Educational Opportunities Group and the National Community Reinvestment Coalition Boards. She is a member of the TN Access to Justice Commission. She is a past Chair of Women Executives in State Government, has served on CABLE Nashville and the YWCA of Middle Tennessee boards. Beverly is the recipient of numerous awards and honors including the 2019 CABLE Power of Inclusion Champion Award, 2018 YWCA Academy of Women, the ECHO 2014 Dreamers Award, and the 2005 induction into the KY Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

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.
Discussion: Foundation for Dignity

David Plazas is an award-winning, passionate journalist, mentor, speaker, DEI leader and conversation facilitator with a specialty in civil discourse and democratic renewal. He writes editorials, curates two weekly newsletters and hosts a podcast. He is the Opinion and Engagement Director for the USA TODAY Network Tennessee. He frequently moderates community conversations and statewide and local political and policy debates. He chairs The Tennessean's Diversity and Inclusion Task Force. He wrote an acclaimed yearlong series on affordable housing, “The Costs of Growth in Nashville” (2017), and leads a statewide campaign, “Civility Tennessee” (starting in 2018), to encourage, promote and practice civil discourse and effective citizenship. He has worked on multiple national projects for Gannett most recently the Table Stakes challenge. As a coach, he worked with the Louisville Courier Journal, which won a Pulitzer Prize for its politics coverage in 2020. Plazas leads The Tennessean's Table Stakes engagement challenge. He has also worked on projects with the American Press Institute, the Online News Association and the Kettering Foundation. In March 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic cancelled events and forced many employees to work from home, he created and launched the Tennessee Voices video podcast, a show focused on connecting the community with thinkers, creators, innovators and leaders across Tennessee. In 18 months year, he has produced more than 220 episodes.

Zulfat Suara was elected an At-Large Council Member in September 2019. With over 34 thousand votes from a very diverse population (Muslim, Christians, Jews, Black, White, Gay, Straight, Old and Young), she became the first Muslim to be elected to the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County and the first immigrant elected to an at-large position. She is the first Muslim woman elected in the State of Tennessee and the first Nigerian woman elected to any office in the United States. Zulfat Suara is originally from Nigeria, but came to the U.S. in 1993 and chose to make Tennessee her home when the opportunity for her husband to do a fellowship at Vanderbilt presented itself. She has been active in community service and leadership since she moved here in 1998, all while working full-time as a CPA. Zulfat founded an accounting firm that has worked with county governments in Hardeman, Haywood, Lake, and McNairy counties. She is currently the Assistant Controller of a local university in Nashville.
**Rising Advocate Awards**

**Joseph Gutierrez** is the Education Program Officer at the Maddox Fund, a nonprofit foundation that supports organizations that improve the lives of young people and further wildlife conservation in Middle Tennessee. Prior to moving to Nashville in 2014, he taught English in South Korea. Outside of his work at Maddox, Joseph is also the Executive Director of API Middle Tennessee, an Asian and Pacific Islander-serving organization that is working towards racial justice by building API community, lifting API voices, and unpacking API identities.

**Timothy Hughes** is a cum laude graduate of Fisk University in Nashville, TN. He is an activist, advocate, blogger, commentator, columnist, community organizer, educator, innovator, and intellectual. He works at the intersection of public policy and social justice, and is actively engaged with community-based coalitions as well as statewide and national organizations, including but not limited to the Black Voters Matter Fund, The Brother’s Roundtable, Corporate Diversity Initiatives, Gideon’s Army, The Equity Alliance, NAACP – Nashville Branch, and many more.

**Outstanding Service Award**

Shortly after taking the bench in 2012, **Judge Rachel Bell** started working on pilot projects to establish the General Sessions Music City Community Court, Division VIII (8), by joining the TDOT Adopt-A-Highway program committing to a portion of Highway 41A (Clarksville Pike) in Davidson County establishing the Judge Rachel L. Bell Beautification Project. She also established a summer literacy program called R.E.A.C.H. (Reaching Every Aspiring Child’s Horizon) for rising 1st-4th graders and the FUTURE internship program hosted during the fall, spring and summer for rising 11th & 12th graders. The Music City Community Court’s mission is to focus on preventive, diversionary and restorative justice initiatives to move the needle for marginalized people. In 2014, the court started conducting Saturday Court Dockets, bringing Expungement/Legal Clinics & Resource Fairs to the community. In 2016, the court expanded its reach by partnering with the TN Administrative Office of Courts and the TN Supreme Court’s Faith and Justice Alliance initiative for better access to justice.
Lifetime Achievement Award

As Nashville and Tennessee’s First Lady, Andrea Conte has worked to serve human rights for more than 30 years. Ms. Conte’s calling began in an unusual place. She had a cookware store in Nashville, Tennessee, in the late 1980s, where crime victims came to share their own experiences. Ms. Conte listened carefully to the many stories, stories filled with self-blame and “system” insensitivity. In 1993, Ms. Conte made a personal commitment to change how victims were treated by launching and leading a nonprofit agency called You Have the Power (YHTP), the first agency in the state of Tennessee to give voice to the needs of crime victims. Later, she took that passion to the top of Tennessee’s government leadership as she served as First Lady of Nashville and Tennessee when her husband served as Mayor and Governor. In addition to providing direct support to individual crime victims, Ms. Conte’s nonprofit educates the public on how crime happens, how to prevent it, and what people should do if they become victims. In addition, YHTP also works with Tennessee offenders and parolees to help them understand the cause and impact of their actions and future choices. Ms. Conte’s insertion of domestic violence as a serious priority was the single spark that ignited the fire for Nashville’s entire domestic violence movement. This shift ushered in a wave of lasting changes for victims of domestic violence, including the creation of the city’s first police domestic violence division, a specialized prosecution division, and specialized domestic violence judges. Ms. Conte’s work for victims went well beyond her work as First Lady and founder of YHTP. In 1998, Ms. Conte decided that Tennessee needed to adopt a Victims’ Bill of Rights. She met with district attorneys and legislators across the state to educate them on the bill’s importance, which helped the bill pass resoundingly. In addition to advancing significant systemic changes to help crime victims, Ms. Conte created the city’s “A Season to Remember” ceremony, an event honoring homicide victims. Attendance grew so fast that the event was moved to a city park where hundreds could comfortably attend by its third year. The ceremony remains one of our largest and most treasured events to this day. When Ms. Conte became Tennessee’s First Lady, she ensured that “A Season to Remember” was replicated Statewide. Tennessee’s Season to Remember has been held in Nashville for the past 18 years. In 1996, Ms. Conte led a team of volunteers to plant Nashville’s Children’s Memorial Garden, a place of comfort (more so than a cemetery) for parents of child homicide victims.

Ms. Conte was instrumental in creating Nashville’s first Child Advocacy Center, which opened in 1992 and remains a thriving nonprofit, located in the city’s new Family Justice Center. Ms. Conte made it her objective, as First Lady of Tennessee, to have at least one Child Advocacy Center in every judicial district, so in 2004, Ms. Conte walked across the entire state supporting Child Advocacy Centers which resulted in Tennessee now having over 45 child advocacy centers and a statewide data collection system for child victims of sexual assault and severe physical abuse.
Reverend Enoch Fuzz, the Pastor of Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church, is known as a prophetic gospel preacher, a selfless servant to people, a community leader and organizer and proud father and grandfather. Through his work as a minister and a leader, Rev. Fuzz has long played an important role in supporting and strengthening Nashville’s African-American community, serving as pastor of Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church since 1976. He has hosted the radio talk show, "Just Talkin’," on WVOL 1470 AM and has served as an organizer of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday March and Rally, the Nashville City Association Juneteenth Festival, African-American Church Day on Capitol Hill and the Women’s Day Health Forum. He served as president of the Interdenominational Ministers Fellowship and a member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board, NAACP Executive Committee, General Hospital Community Advisory Committee, Health Disparities Coalition, the Tennessee Healthcare Campaign, and the Tomorrow's Hope and Hadley Park Neighborhood Associations. In March of 2020, tornadoes ripped through Nashville, then the world came to a standstill with the Coronavirus Pandemic. Rev. Fuzz immediately began working on the distribution of food boxes and other needs of families affected by the storms and COVID-19. This lasted until he fell ill and was diagnosed with stage four cancer, but throughout his cancer fight, Rev. Fuzz continued to put the community first, raising funds for the food pharmacy at Nashville General Hospital. The Rev. Enoch Fuzz Legacy Fund was established in 2020 within the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee and honors Rev. Enoch Fuzz as a noted community activist and organizer with an unparalleled record of connecting individuals and organizations for a plethora of “whatever the cause may be.” He has dedicated himself to helping the Nashville community come together to grow as a fully integrated whole and to encourage individuals and families of all races to excel personally and intellectually. As this Fund was created, he remains a stalwart pillar of North Nashville and what the Donors believe to be “Nashville's University”: Tennessee State University. The Rev. Enoch Fuzz Legacy Fund is dedicated to all students and student athletes at TSU with the belief that solid, honestly run athletic programs managed with integrity and skill are an integral part of the educational experience of a university whether by participation or by observation. While this Fund is not intended to act as a source of scholarships, student athletes may benefit collectively and individually from it. In 2021, Rev. Fuzz dedicated his birthday to remembering the victims of the Collierville Kroger shooting. His 66th birthday celebration began with a prayer for Collierville, remarks from Mayor John Cooper, and a moment of silence. Collierville has a special meaning to the Reverend. Down the street from the Kroger is the church where he preached in his early days of ministry, and even led revival efforts at the grocery store. In addition, the house he grew up in and his elementary school were all within a mile of the Kroger.
The 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 December 10, 1948 as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and 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 presented here 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.
Acknowledgements

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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.

Next Year
If your organization would like to participate in the planning for 2020, please contact the Chair at info@tnuhr.org.

More Information
Visit www.tnuhr.org, join our mailing list and see:
• The full Universal Declaration of Human Rights
• Educational videos and videos of award winners
• A resource directory of Tennessee human rights organizations
• Information about past and upcoming events
• And more!