

*“Discrimination lies at the root of many of the world’s most pressing human rights problems. No country is immune from this scourge. Eliminating discrimination is a duty of the highest order.”*

*Navi Pillay,  
United Nations High Commissioner  
for Human Rights*



Production: [www.rota.com](http://www.rota.com)

## ABOUT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE

The United Nations Human Rights office, part of the UN Secretariat, has been given a unique mandate to promote and protect all human rights. Headquartered in Geneva, the Office is also present in some 50 countries. For more information please visit: [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org)



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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In collaboration with:



# 10 december

# Human Rights Day



United Nations  
Human Rights

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

## HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Human Rights Day 2009 on 10 December focuses on ending discrimination.

*“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”.*

These first few famous words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights established 60 years ago the basic premise of international human rights law. Yet today, the fight against discrimination remains a daily struggle for millions around the globe. The realisation of all human rights - social, economic and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights - is hampered by discrimination. All too often, when faced with prejudice and discrimination, political leaders, governments and ordinary citizens are silent or complacent.

Human Rights Day is observed by the international community every year on 10 December. It commemorates the day in 1948 when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

## PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The United Nations has since its very beginning set as one of its goals “to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person”<sup>1</sup> without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. Discrimination undermines that goal and its eradication has proven to be very difficult, as this phenomenon is more subtle, more corrosive and more resilient than anyone had thought. Discrimination is multi-layered. Groups who are discriminated against on the basis of their racial origins for example, then encounter further discrimination because they cannot access education, health and cultural facilities. Persons with disabilities make up the world’s largest and most disadvantaged minority, for example, 98 percent of children with disabilities in developing countries do not attend school.<sup>2</sup> Indigenous peoples represent 5 percent of the world’s population, but 15 percent of the world’s poorest people.<sup>3</sup> Women account for two-thirds of the world’s working hours and produce half of the world’s food yet they earn only 10 percent of the world’s income and own less than 1 percent of the world’s property.<sup>4</sup>

Despite the challenges and setbacks, there has been and continues to be a rejection of discrimination. There have been enough successes to demonstrate that this scourge can be eradicated.

<sup>1</sup> Preamble Universal Declaration of Human Rights

<sup>2</sup> UN Handbook, From Exclusion to Equality, Realizing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

<sup>3</sup> International Fund for Agricultural Development.

<sup>4</sup> World Bank’s World Development Indicators.

## PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

### Debate | Education and disability

**08.12.09**

**10:00 – 12:00**

Human Rights Centre of the University of Pristina  
Agim Ramadani St., Law Faculty, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Pristina

### Debate | Media focus on discrimination

**09.12.09**

**13:00 – 15:00**

Human Rights Centre of the University of Pristina  
Agim Ramadani St., Law Faculty, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Pristina

### TV Debate | Participation of women in Kosovo’s public and political life

**10.12.09**

**20:20**

Jeta në Kosovë - RTK

### Short film Screening | Stories on Human Rights by Filmmakers, Artists and Writers, 22 short movies on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**10.12.09**

**19:00**

Stacion, Centre for Contemporary Art of Pristina, Zija Prishtina St, p.n., Pristina

**20.12.09**

**19:00**

One World – 10<sup>th</sup> Human Rights International Film Festival  
ABC Cinema, Pristina