


# Progressive Education Society's
# Modern College of Arts, Science and Commerce (Autonomous), Shivajinagar, Pune-05

## MOOC Course - Human Rights- I
## Subject Code - 23CpHrtP101
## PG Part –I Credit -1

***Contents Covered: Provision of the Charters of United Nation***
***Universal Declaration of Human Rights-Significance-Preamble.***

UNITED NATIONS • HUMAN RIGHTS

# UN Charter & Universal Declaration of Human Rights



Provisions of the UN Charter • Significance of the UDHR • Preamble

# Historical background: Why the UN and UDHR?

The Second World War brought widespread destruction, suffering, and serious violations of human dignity.

Countries wanted an international organization that could help prevent war and encourage cooperation.

The Charter was signed on **26 June 1945 in San Francisco, United States**, and came into force on **24 October 1945**. This is why 24 October is celebrated every year as United Nations Day.

n 1946, the United Nations began work on preparing an international statement of human rights. The UN Commission on Human Rights, chaired by Eleanor Roosevelt during the drafting process, played an important role in preparing the document.

On **10 December 1948**, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In 1948, the UN General Assembly adopted the UDHR to express a common standard of rights for all people.



Peace and dignity

# UN Charter: Nature and Main Aim

The UN Charter is the founding treaty of the United Nations and sets out the organization’s purposes, principles, and structure.

Its central aims include maintaining international peace and security and developing friendly relations among nations.

It promotes international cooperation on economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian issues.

It also commits the UN to encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination.

In simple terms, the Charter is the basic rulebook for cooperation between countries.



The UN framework

# Important Charter provisions related to human rights

Article 1: one purpose of the UN is to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

Article 55: the UN is to promote higher living standards, solutions to economic and social problems, international cooperation, and universal respect for human rights.

Article 56: members pledge to take joint and separate action in cooperation with the UN to achieve the purposes in Article 55.

Articles 13 and 62 support studies and recommendations on international cooperation, including human rights.

These provisions show that human rights are part of the UN's work, not a separate or unrelated issue.



Human-rights provisions

# Core Principles of the UN Charter

Sovereign equality: all member states are legally equal, even though their size and power differ.

Good faith: members should carry out the obligations they accepted under the Charter.

Peaceful settlement: international disputes should be resolved through peaceful means.

Non-use of force: states must not threaten or use force against another state's territorial integrity or political independence, subject to Charter rules.

Non-intervention: the UN generally does not intervene in matters essentially within a state's domestic jurisdiction, subject to Charter enforcement measures.



Rules between states

# UN organs: How the Organization Works

General Assembly: forum where all member states discuss global issues and make recommendations.

Security Council: has primary responsibility for international peace and security.

International Court of Justice: deals with legal disputes between states when it has jurisdiction and gives advisory opinions.

Secretariat: carries out daily UN work under the Secretary-General.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC): supports cooperation on economic and social issues.

Trusteeship Council: suspended operations in 1994 after its work on trust territories was completed.



UN institutions

# UDHR: Background and Basic Structure

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the UN General Assembly on **10 December 1948.**

It contains a **Preamble** and **30 articles**.

It describes civil and political rights as well as economic, social, and cultural rights.

It says rights belong to all human beings, regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or status.

The UDHR is a declaration rather than a treaty by itself, but it has strongly influenced later treaties, constitutions, and laws.



A common declaration

# Major rights protected by the UDHR

*Equality and freedom from discrimination; life, liberty, and personal security.

*Freedom from slavery and torture; recognition before the law and equal protection.

*Fair hearing, privacy, freedom of movement, nationality, family life, and property.

*Freedom of thought, conscience, religion, expression, peaceful assembly, and participation in government.

*Rights to social security, work, rest, education, and an adequate standard of living.

*The Declaration also recognizes cultural participation and the importance of an order in which rights can be realized.



Rights for everyone

# The Preamble-

A preamble is the introduction to a document; it explains the values and reasons behind it.

The UDHR Preamble recognizes the inherent dignity and equal, inalienable rights of every member of the human family.

It explains that respect for these rights is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world.

It imagines a world where people enjoy freedom of speech and belief, and freedom from fear and want.

It calls on individuals, institutions, and nations to promote respect for rights through education and effective measures.



**Purpose and values**

# Significance of the UDHR

It established a shared international standard for the treatment of all human beings.

It influenced constitutions, laws, courts, and later international human-rights treaties.

It helped make human rights a subject of international concern, not only a domestic matter.

It gives citizens, students, activists, and institutions a common language for identifying discrimination and abuse.

Its principles remain important, although violations continue and implementation can be uneven.

Its message is universal: people have rights because they are human, not because of wealth, citizenship, or social status.



**Why it matters**

# CONCLUSION -

The UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are two important documents that have shaped international cooperation and human rights protection.

The UN Charter establishes the purposes, principles, and structure of the United Nations. It emphasizes international peace, friendly relations, cooperation, and respect for human rights.

The UDHR, adopted in 1948, sets out a common standard of fundamental rights and freedoms for all human beings.

We have discussed the principal organs of the United Nations, the major rights protected by the UDHR, the meaning of its Preamble, and its significance in promoting equality, freedom, justice, and human dignity.

The most important lesson is that peace and development are closely connected with respect for human rights.