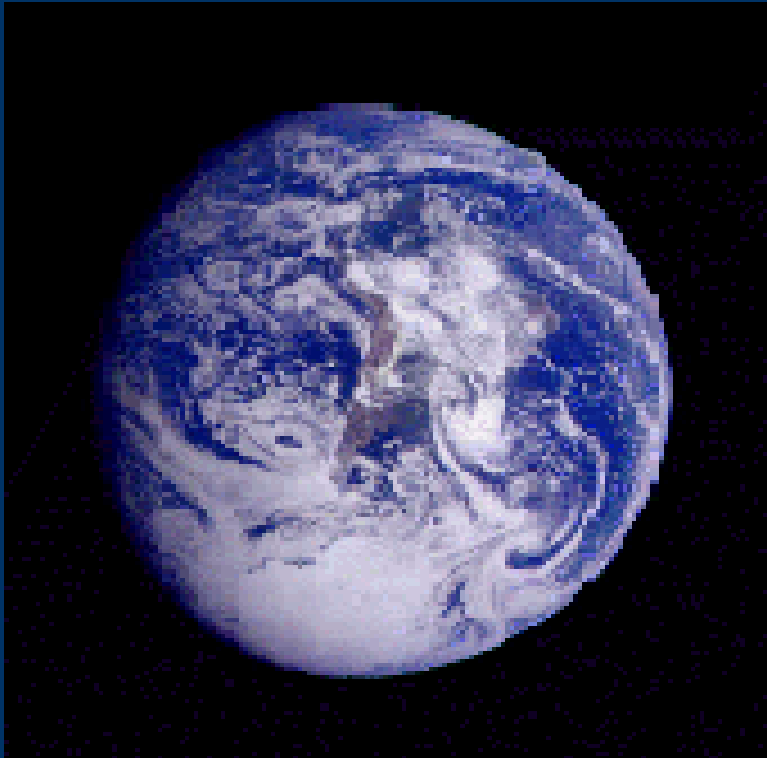


The African System of Human and People's Rights



- ◆ December 4, 2001
- ◆ Human Rights Center

Common Myths about Human Rights




- ◆ Human Rights = civil rights.
- ◆ Human Rights violations occur only in poor, foreign countries.
- ◆ Human Rights are only concerned with violations.
- ◆ Only adults and lawyers can understand the significance of Human Rights.

Human Rights Are:



- ◆ the rights that someone has simply because he or she is a human being.
- ◆ Inalienable/ Universal
- ◆ Interconnected
- ◆ Indivisible
- ◆ Both Rights and Responsibilities

Precursors to 20th century Human Rights Documents

- 
- ◆ 1750 B.C.E.
 - Code of Hammurabi, Babylonia
 - ◆ 1200 - 300 B.C.E.
 - Old Testament
 - ◆ 551 - 479 B.C.E.
 - Analects of Confucius
 - ◆ 40 - 100 C.E.
 - New Testament
 - ◆ 644 - 656 C.E.
 - Koran
 - ◆ 1215
 - Magna Carta, England
 - ◆ 1400
 - Code of Nezahualcoyotl, Aztec
 - ◆ 1648
 - Treaty of Westphalia, Europe
 - ◆ 1689
 - English Bill of Rights, England
 - ◆ 1776
 - Declaration of Independence, United States
 - ◆ 1787
 - United States Constitution
 - ◆ 1789
 - French Declaration on the Rights of Man and the Citizen, France 1791 -United States Bill of Rights

19th and 20th Century Human Rights Documents and Foundations



- ◆ 1863: Emancipation Proclamation, United States
- ◆ 1864 & 1949: Geneva Conventions, International Red Cross
- ◆ 1919: League of Nations Covenant, International Labor Organization (ILO) Created
- ◆ 1920: Women gain the right to vote in the U.S.
- ◆ 1926: Slavery Convention
- ◆ 1945: United Nations Charter, San Francisco
- ◆ 1947: Mohandas Gandhi uses non-violent protests leading India to independence.

UDHR History and Current Status



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was drafted by the UN Commission on Human Rights chaired by, then first lady, Eleanor Roosevelt. The UDHR was adopted by the 56 member nations of the UN General Assembly on December 10, 1948.

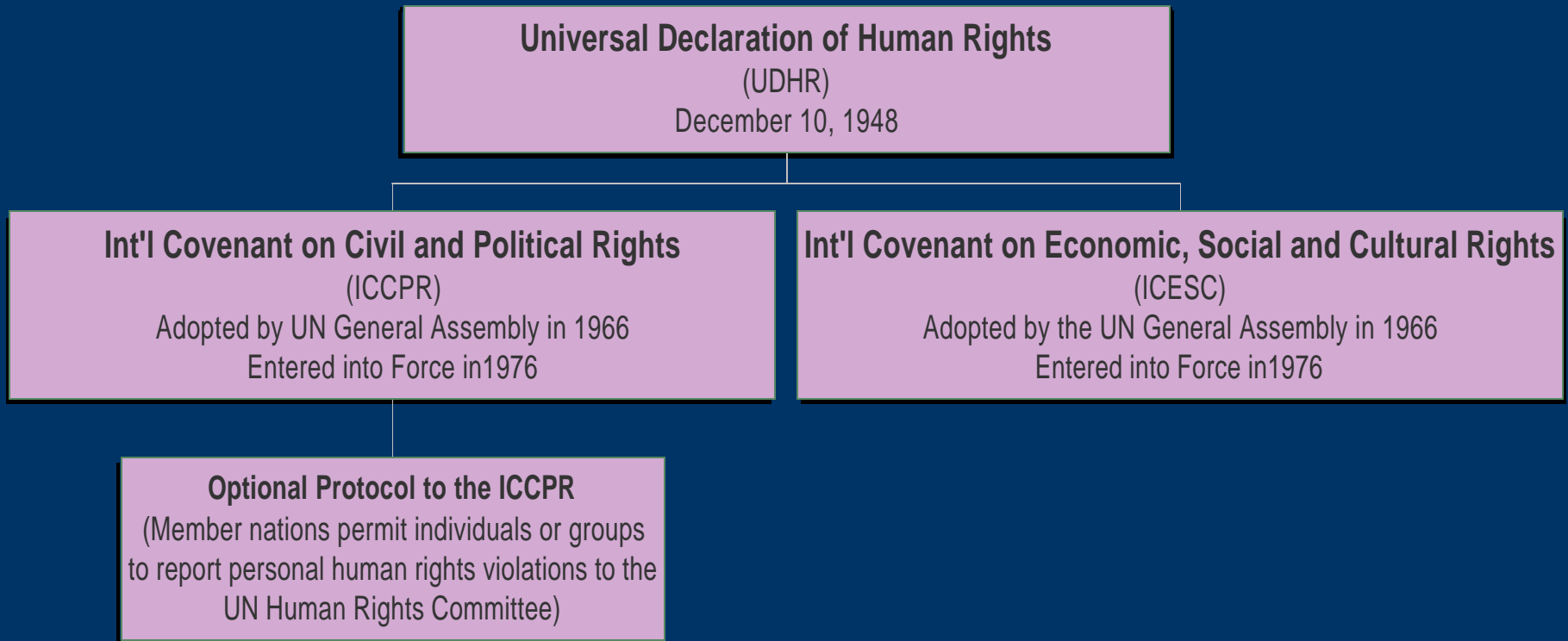
December 10th is now celebrated around the world as International Human Rights Day. There are now 188 member states in the United Nations that, upon membership, agreed to educate their citizens about the principles of the UDHR. Most of these countries have incorporated the principles of the UDHR into their constitutions.

Five Primary Categories of Human Rights:



- ◆ Civil Rights
- ◆ Political Rights
- ◆ Economic Rights
- ◆ Social Rights
- ◆ Cultural Rights

International Bill of Human Rights



Human Rights Definitions



◆ Declaration

- Document stating agreed upon standards or principles, but which is not legally binding

◆ Covenant/Convention/ Treaty

- Legally binding agreement between states

◆ Ratification

- Formal process by which the legislative body of a state confirms a government's action in signing a treaty

◆ Reservation

- The exceptions that states parties make to a treaty (e.g., provisions within the treaty that the member does not accept)

Selected Human Rights Conventions



- ◆ Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948
- ◆ Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951 Slavery Convention of 1926, Amended by Protocol, 1953
- ◆ International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, 1966
- ◆ ***Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979**

Selected Human Rights Conventions



- ◆ Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984
- ◆ ***Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989**
- ◆ ***Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and the Members of their Families, 1990**

*** = Not ratified by US**

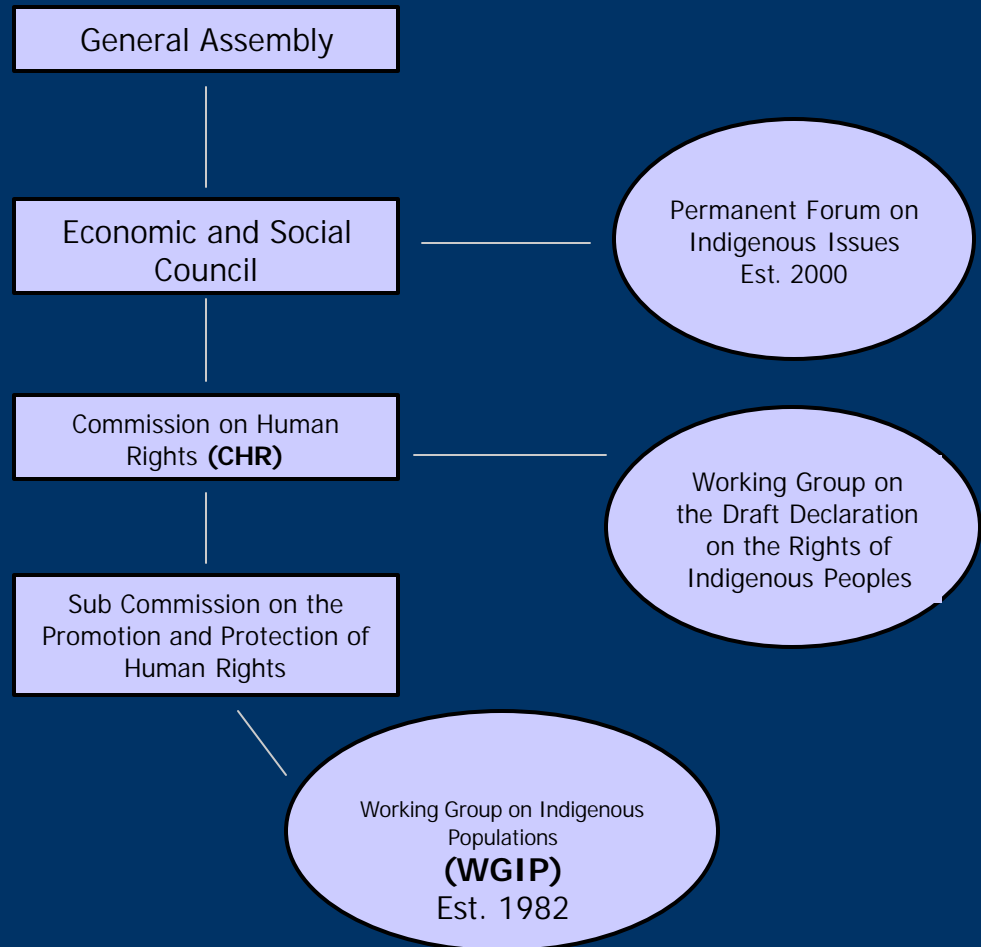
Note: Date refers to the year the UN General Assembly adopted the convention; more than 25 Conventions have now entered into force.

From Declaration to Convention




Chart of the United Nations

◆ Structures as they pertain to Indigenous Peoples



Systems for the Protection of Human Rights

- 
- ◆ **The United Nations Human Rights System**
 - ◆ **The European System for the Protection of Human Rights**
 - ◆ **The Inter-American Human Rights System**
 - ◆ **The African System of Human and Peoples' Rights**

African [Banjul] Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights



- ◆ Adopted: June 27, 1981
- ◆ Entered into force: Oct. 21, 1986

African [Banjul] Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights



- ◆ Part I: Rights and Duties
 - Chapter I: Human and Peoples' Rights
 - Chapter II: Duties

African [Banjul] Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights



- ◆ Part II: Measures of Safeguard
 - Chapter I: Establishment and Organization of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
 - Chapter II: Mandate of the Commission
 - Chapter III: Procedure of the Commission
 - Chapter IV: Applicable Principles