HUMAN RIGHTS

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations states that "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. With reason and conscience, they must act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood".

The idea of "human rights" originates in the philosophical concept of natural rights that would be attributed by God; some maintain that there would be no difference between **human rights** and **natural rights** and see in the nomenclatures the faces of the same coin. Others argue that it is necessary to keep the terms separate to eliminate association with characteristics normally related to natural rights.

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First statement of HUMAN RIGHTS

One of the earliest documents binding on human rights is the **Cyrus Cylinder** which contains a statement by the **Persian king Cyrus II** made after his conquest of Babylon in **539 BC**. This document was discovered in 1879 and the United Nations in 1971 had it translated into all its official languages. The Cyrus Cylinder presented innovative features, especially in relation to religion. In it, **freedom of religion** was declared, but also the **abolition of slavery**. The Cyrus Cylinder has been valued for its humanistic meaning and has been described as the first human rights declaration.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN ANCIENT ROME

In ancient Rome, there was the legal concept of granting Roman citizenship to all Romans. Christianity during the Middle Ages was the affirmation of the defense of the equality of all men in the same dignity. It was also during this time that Christian philosophers collected and developed the theory of natural law, in which the individual is in the centre of a just social and juridical order, but

divine law has a prevalence over secular law as defined by emperor, king or prince.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE MIDDLE AGES

Documents such as the Magna Carta of 1215 and the Charter of Mandén of 1222 are considered first chapters in the history of human rights and the history of modern constitutionalism, serving as a model for our constitutions.
Human or collective rights have been forged throughout history through debates by philosophers and jurists.
The conquest of America in the sixteenth century by the Spanish initiated the debate on human rights in Spain and its discussion in Europe.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE MODERN AGE

With the modern age, the rationalists of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries reformulate theories of natural law, leaving it to be subject to a divine order. For the rationalists, all men are by nature free, and have certain innate rights that they can not be deprived from when they enter into society. It was this current of thought that ultimately inspired the current international system for the protection of human rights.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

But the most important moment in the history of human rights is when, in 1945, the states became aware of the tragedies and atrocities experienced during World War II, leading to the creation of the **United Nations (UN)** for the **establishment and maintenance of world peace**. It was through the Charter of the United Nations, signed on June 20, 1945, that the peoples expressed their determination "to preserve future generations from the scourge of war, to

proclaim faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person , equality of rights between men and women, as well as of nations, large and small, in promoting social progress and establishing better living conditions in greater freedom. The creation of the **United Nations** symbolizes the need for **a world of tolerance, peace and solidarity** among nations to advance the social and economic progress of all peoples.

Thus, on 10 December 1948, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**.