



NYU

Global Citizenship
Commission

“The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at Seventy: A Discussion with the Global Citizenship Commission”

13 April, 9.30-11.00 am at the Trusteeship Council

Overview

Since 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has stood as a beacon and a standard for a better world. Yet the work of making its ideals real is far from over. Hideous and systemic human rights abuses continue to be perpetrated at an alarming rate around the world. Too many people, particularly those in power, are hostile to human rights or indifferent to their claims.

Bringing together world leaders and thinkers in the fields of politics, ethics, and philosophy, the Global Citizenship Commission was convened under the auspices of New York University to renew the Declaration for the twenty-first century. The report – which was published and presented to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in April 2016 – reaffirms the fundamental commitments of the UDHR; and proposes ways in which these commitments can be carried forward to meet new challenges. Above all, it identifies the UDHR as a pillar of our global ethics and our global responsibilities. The report can be read [here](#), and the Executive Summary is attached as Appendix A.

In the 70th anniversary of the Declaration, members of the Commission – including the Commission’s chair, former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown – will discuss how we can realise the ideals of the Declaration, and ensure recognition and respect for the human rights of all citizens of the world today. In particular, the event will explore the Commission’s recommendations that:

- An international children’s court should be established, and the UN Security Council should convene a “Children’s Council” – an annual review on violations of children’s rights.



- The international community should strengthen the refugee protection system and establish a new international convention on refugees and migrants aimed at achieving the SDG Goal 10.7 of “safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration.”
- Permanent members of the UN Security Council should voluntarily suspend their veto in situations involving mass atrocities.
- New mechanisms should be developed to ensure corporate compliance with human rights.
- All governments, international organizations, and NGOs should encourage and support human rights education.

With the participation of former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Mr. Gordon Brown, and Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Mr. Andrew Gilmour, and members of the Global Citizenship Commission.

Programme

9.30-9.35	Welcome (and Moderator) Mr. Andrew Gilmour , Assistant Secretary General, OHCHR
9.35-9.45	Opening Remarks Mr. Gordon Brown , Chair, Global Citizenship Commission, Former Prime Minister UK
9.45-10.15	Panelists Ms. Fonna Forman , Professor of Political Theory and Founding Director of the Center on Global Justice at the University of California, San Diego Mr. Craig Calhoun , President of the Berggruen Institute Ms. Grace Forrest , Founding Director of the Walk Free Foundation Mr. Paul Boghossian , Silver Professor of Philosophy, New York University Mr. John Sexton , President Emeritus of New York University, and Chief Executive of the Catalyst Foundation Ms. Shaheed Fatima QC , Barrister at Blackstone Chambers, London
10.15-10.45	Interactive Dialogue: Question and answers



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10.45- 11.00	Wrap-up and closing remarks by the Moderator
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The event is organized by the Global Citizenship Commission, and will be open to all.

If you or your guests need access to UNHQ for this event, please contact Nenad Vasic at vasic@un.org by CoB on Tuesday, 10 April 2018.