



# INITIATIVES FOR PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE



---

**1948 – 2018:  
Is There Anything to Celebrate?**

---

\*\*\*

Kigali Marriott Hotel, 10 December 2018

\*\*\*

## OVERVIEW

December 10, 1948 was an important moment for the protection of human rights around the world since it is the day on which the Assembly General of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This year, we are celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UDHR. At the time of its adoption, neither its drafters nor the United Nations General Assembly could anticipate the human rights standards and practice that would flow from this document for the peoples of the world.

Today, a lot has been achieved. In all countries, local activists and civil society organizations are fighting inequality on many civil, political, social, economic and cultural fronts. The 193 UN Member States are periodically reviewed under the UDHR. Nine fundamental human rights treaties and a number of additional optional protocols have been adopted to give legal force to the promises made in the UDHR. The governance of the international human rights system is monitored by treaty bodies, national human rights institutions and other United Nations organs.

Even though every day at each corner of the globe, aspects of the great human rights system is being challenged, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UDHR is an ideal opportunity to take stock of all that has been accomplished and what remains to do.

Placed under the theme of “**1948 - 2018: Is There Anything to Celebrate?**”, this conference aims to identify, analyze and comment on the various forms of implementation of this instrument as well as the major challenges to which age exposes it.

This will be done through presentations by leading researchers, practitioners from different backgrounds, representatives of civil society organizations as well as policy-makers at both the national and international level in the presence of students from the 30 universities based in the Great Lakes region.

This conference is the ending point of iPeace’s vast campaign of popularization of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which will include among others the following activities:

- Production of a 6-minute video on the UDHR in French, English and Kinyarwanda;
- A countdown starting on 9<sup>th</sup> November to publish an article of the UDHR on the website of iPeace and on all its social networks on a daily basis. These articles will be produced as a photo (illustration) + full text of the concerned article;
- International conference to reflect on the achievements and challenges of the UDHR.

This bilingual conference (French & English with simultaneous interpretation) will be attended by about 160 persons, including:

- Researchers and decision-makers from government, diplomatic missions, CSOs, and national and international institutions
- Students and lecturers from 30 universities based in Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Tanzania, Rwanda and DR Congo.
- Lawyers, members of the Rwanda Bar Association.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Initiatives for Peace and Human Rights (iPeace)** is a Rwanda-registered non-governmental organization that strives for sustainable peace in the Great Lakes region through human rights and good governance education.

Contact: Elvis Mbembe Binda, PhD | Tel.: +250-788-574-648 | Email: [president@iphr-ipdh.org](mailto:president@iphr-ipdh.org) | Web: [www.iphr-ipdh.org](http://www.iphr-ipdh.org)

*Shaping Aspirations*

## AGENDA

(Language: English & French. Simultaneous interpretation available)

- 09:30 – 10:00 : Registration and Coffee  
10:00 – 10:10 : Welcome Note – Dr. Elvis Mbembe, President & CEO of iPeace  
10:10 – 10:20 : Overview of the Great Lakes Regional Programme – Dr. Benjamin Traore, CCGL  
10:20 – 10:40 : Keynote Speech and Opening Remarks by the Ambassador of Germany to Rwanda  
10:40 – 11:00 : Family picture

### 11:00 – 12:20 : Selected General Issues on the UDHR

Chair: Dr. Aurélie Tardieu, University de Caen (France)

Discussions:

- The binding force of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – Me Philippe Currat, Cabinet Currat & Associés, Geneva (Switzerland)
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Africa – Dr. Catherine MAIA, Université of Porto (Portugal)
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and African Constitutions – Mr. Trésor M. Muhindo, University of Pretoria (South Africa)
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Protection of Peoples' Rights – Dr. Pacifique Manirakiza, University of Ottawa (Canada)

### 12:20 – 13:30 : Networking Lunch

### 13:30 – 15:00 : Selected Specific Contemporary Issues on the UDHR

Chair: Dr. Kenedy Kihangi, Université Libre des pays des Grands Lacs (DRC)

Discussions:

- Art. 8 of UDHR and the Access to Reparation for Victims of International Crimes – Mr. Yves Sezirahiga, University of Rwanda
- Art. 19 of UDHR vis-à-vis Social Medias and the Fight Against Terrorism - Dr. Médard Sanwé Kienou, University of Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)
- L'art. 14 de la DUDH: Du droit d'asile au droit à l'asile - Dr. Trésor Maheshe Musole, Université Catholique de Bukavu (DRC)
- Applicability of UDHR in Period of Armed Conflicts – Dr. Julia Grignon, Université Laval (Canada)
- Detention by Non-State Armed Groups and the UDHR – Dr. Pierrot Chambu, University of Goma (DRC)

### 15:00 – 15:30 : Health & Networking Break

### 15:30 – 17:00 : Roundtable on 'UDHR at 70 years: How Far in Its Implementation?'

Moderator: Mr. Eugene Anangwe, Africa Business News

Panelists:

- Ms. Madeleine Nirere, Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission
- Dr. Aimé Karimunda, President of the Court of Appeal (Rwanda)
- Dr. Irinel Cocos, Chief of Party | USAID Duteze Imbere Ubutabera
- Mr. Chris Mburu, Human Rights Officer – UN
- Mr. Paulin Muhozi, Country Director of iPeace

17:00 – 17:20: Concluding Remarks – Hon. Jonston Busingye, Minister of Justice

18:00 – 20:30: Cultural Evening 'Unity in Diversity'.

Shaping Aspirations