

# *Guterres: Recognition of the Inherent Dignity and Equal Rights of Human Beings is Still Far from Universal*

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United Nations, December 11 (RHC)-- The Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres, has urged everyone to raise their voices and stand up for the rights of others, while celebrating the launch of a year-long campaign on the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

“Over seven decades, this mighty document has helped to profoundly change our world,” he said on Monday at a special UN Headquarters in New York event to commemorate Human Rights Day, observed annually on December 10.

“The Universal Declaration of Human Rights establishes the equality and dignity of every human being. It stipulates that every government has a duty to enable all people to enjoy their inalienable rights and freedoms. And it establishes that these rights are universal,” he added.

Guterres highlighted the progress achieved by humankind since the adoption of the Universal Declaration, including advancing and protecting the rights of women, children and victims of discrimination as well as in holding accountable perpetrators of gross human rights violations and abuses.

However, he also called for taking a stock in areas where progress has not been achieved.

“In practice, recognition of the inherent dignity and equal rights of human beings is still far from universal,” he said, noting that millions around the world continue to suffer human rights violations and abuses. “And human rights defenders still face persecution, reprisals are rising and the space for civil society action is shrinking in very many nations,” added Guterres.

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