



## Human Rights Shabbat

2010 - 5771

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Preamble

“Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world”

Pirkei Avot 3:14:

Beloved is all humankind for they were made *b'tzelem Elohim* (in the image of God). Doubly beloved are they, for they were told that they were made in the image of God. As it says: "In the image of God was humankind made."  
(Genesis 9:6)

Rabbis for Human Rights - North America  
[www.rhr-na.org](http://www.rhr-na.org)

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Dear Friends,

We read in Pirkei Avot 3:14: *Beloved is all humankind for they were made b'tzelem Elohim (in the image of God). Doubly beloved are they, for they were told that they were made in the image of God.* Humans are not just shown favor by God through creation in God's image but also by being made aware of this favored status. We cannot ignore that each of us is a reflection of the Creator, and we should celebrate that blessing each day of our lives.

Human Rights Shabbat, now in its third year, is a moment of celebration, a *yom tov* for human rights. Once again, over 100 communities around the world will come together to recognize the connections between Jewish values and human rights, and pledge to honor our obligations to ensure the human rights of every individual. It has been sixty-two years since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed on December 10, 1948. While we are far from a world where the ideals of the UDHR are fully realized, it is important to celebrate this groundbreaking document and its proclamation of shared values of human equality and dignity.

It is my pleasure to present Rabbis for Human Rights-North America's resources for Human Rights Shabbat 2010. We have pulled together exciting new programs, including a text study on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a creative human rights prayer, an interactive lesson for children, and model sermons on different areas of human rights. I am especially pleased to be able to present *Masekhet Zechuyot Ha'Adam*, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with Jewish sources. This is meant to be a collaborative work: please send any texts you think we might have missed to [office@rhr-na.org](mailto:office@rhr-na.org). I would like to thank Rabbis David Freidenreich, Rebecca Rosenthal, Debora Gordon, and Baruch Leff for their contributions, and to Emma Missouri for her graphic design and layout.

All the 2010 Human Rights Shabbat material can be found at <http://www.rhr-na.org/hrs2010>

For additional resources, including an interfaith prayer for Human Rights Day from the National Religious Campaign Against Torture and highlights of previous years' material, please visit <http://www.rhr-na.org/hrs2010/more>

Sincerely,

Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster  
Director of Education and Outreach