



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

December 10, 2008


Dear Friends:

As the global community comes together to embrace the opportunities of the 21st century, it is imperative that we also renew our commitment to ensuring the fundamental human rights of every man, woman, and child. New York City is honored to join all those participating in the New York City Human Rights Initiative's campaign to raise awareness of fundamental human rights and our responsibility to uphold the laws that guarantee them.

As a world capital, our City draws its strength from its diversity, and its spirit of mutual support and respect has made it the beacon of hope for so many from around the world who have left their homelands in search of freedom, justice, and equality. In order to ensure such opportunity, I'm proud to say that the New York City Human Rights Law is one of the most comprehensive civil rights laws in the nation. It prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations in all its forms. And our Commission on Human Rights, the agency empowered to enforce this law, is dedicated to providing protection to those who need help.

We are committed to the principle that a society cannot be truly free until each and every person enjoys the rights that are their just due. On behalf of the City of New York, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the Urban Justice Center for organizing this campaign, and to all those who work tirelessly to ensure the rights of all.

Sincerely,


Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor



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WILLIAM C. THOMPSON, JR.
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Statement of Support

Today we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—one of the most important documents ever created. This declaration, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, for the first time in history established a set of universal human rights standards that have been protecting people worldwide for over 60 years.

In my role as New York City Comptroller, I'm proud of the work my office has done to uphold the principles set forth in the UDHR. Leveraging the New York City Pension Funds' significant stake in many multi-national corporations, we have been able to institute human rights employment standards for working people throughout the world.

The UDHR has served as one of our "blueprints", establishing the fundamental rights—such as the right to freedom, dignity, and equality—that every person on Earth deserves.