

1.2 No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of an act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence in national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall anyone be liable to multiple punishment for the same offence. Nor shall anyone be subject to retroactive criminal law. **Article 12** No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile. No one shall be subjected to attacks upon their honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal in the present circumstances. **Article 13.1** Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each country, to leave any country, including their own, and to return to their country of origin. No one shall be denied the right of asylum from persecution. **Article 14.2** This right may not be invoked against a government which has acted in accordance with the provisions of the Charter from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of their nationality nor denied the right to change it. Everyone shall have the right to marry and to found a family, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry, during marriage and at its dissolution. **Article 16.2** Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses. **Article 16.3** The family is a fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others. **Article 18** Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, either alone or in community with others and in public or private life. Manifestation of religion shall not be subject to arbitrary interference. **Article 19** Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without restriction and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. **Article 20.2** No one may be denied the right to take part in the government of their country, directly or through freely chosen representatives. Everyone shall have equal access to public service in their country. **Article 21.3** The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, unless authentic free voting procedures, including universal suffrage, are employed. **Article 22** Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to participate in the cultural, economic, social and international effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the Charter to enjoy the benefits thereof. Everyone has the right to the highest attainable standard of cultural rights indispensable for their dignity and the free development of their personality. Everyone has the right to the choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to just and favourable remuneration which shall include equality of pay for equal work. **Article 23** Everyone has the right to equal pay for equal work. **Article 23.3** Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the purpose of protecting their interests. **Article 23.4** Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the purpose of protecting their interests. **Article 24** Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay, and to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and their family, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other circumstances beyond their control. **Article 25.2** Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. **Article 25.3** Mothers and children, whether married or not, shall enjoy the same social protection. **Article 26** Everyone has the right to the highest attainable standard of education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory and available to all. Higher education shall be equally available to all on the basis of ability. Technical and vocational education shall be made generally available and teaching thereof shall be encouraged. Scientific research and creative activity shall be freely pursued throughout the world. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

## ***Anniversary — an act of memory***

**solo, collective and multi-lingual recitations from memory  
of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**



# Anniversary—an act of memory



solo, collective and multi-lingual recitations from memory  
of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**Monica Ross and Co-Recitors**

**UK Tour 2011-2013**



## ***Anniversary—an act of memory***

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*Anniversary—an act of memory* is a performance series in 60 acts focusing on the importance and relevance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Launched in December 2008 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Declaration, it features solo, collective and multi-lingual recitations from memory of the entire UDHR by Monica Ross and Co-Reciters.

The *act of memory* series began in response to the shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes by police in London in July 2005; Ross challenged herself to learn the UDHR by heart and first attempted to publicly recite it from memory in the performance *rightsrepeated—an act of memory* at Beaconsfield, London 2005. *rightsrepeated* was subsequently presented by Live Art Development Agency in *Performing Rights*, London 2006 and National Review of Live Art, Glasgow 2008. From there the work evolved into the *Anniversary* series, beginning with a solo recitation by Ross during the British Library exhibition *Taking Liberties: the struggle for Britain's freedoms and rights* in December 2008. Her aim is to achieve a minimum of 60 solo, collective and multi-lingual recitations of the text from memory with co-reciters from different communities and contexts and in alliance with organisations, campaigns and anniversaries associated with human rights.

The tour marks a new phase of the project that will see *Acts 31-60* taken to new contexts throughout the UK and coincides with the release of *acts of memory 2005-2010*, a DVD of selected documentation from the *rightsrepeated* performances and *Acts 01-30* of the *Anniversary* series **which** is published by Live Art Development Agency and available through their online shop *Unbound* [www.thisisunbound.co.uk](http://www.thisisunbound.co.uk) / [www.thisisliveart.co.uk](http://www.thisisliveart.co.uk)

30 recitations were produced between 2008-2010 in collaboration with curators, activists, arts, educational, human rights and judicial organisations in the UK, Ireland and Germany, including solo recitations in Mikhail Karikis' *Xenon: an exploded opera* 2010 and the film *Xenon* 2011. Ross performed a special *act of memory* for the launch of Brighton Festival 2011, with the Festival Chorus singing *Sleep* by Eric Whitacre and conducted by John Hanson. A major collective recitation for the Festival launched the tour in May 2011.

Each recitation is shaped by the producers and co-reciters who deliver it. While the text and its aspirations remain the same, the different

voices reciting in different languages mean that each performance is specific to its context and community and nuanced, inflected and impassioned by the individuals who commit themselves to reciting the Articles from memory. The artist and co-recitors draw on oral traditions where memorisation and spoken repetition produce an embodied form of reproduction which is at once an act of witness and one of taking responsibility for the transmission of knowledge. The emphasis is not on perfect recall but on the attempt to remember, and the difficulty of fulfilling the Declaration's call to keep it 'constantly in mind' especially when under pressure.

The essence of the project is on performance as both a live and generative medium. Every recitation is recorded using photography and video which is edited in consultation with the co-recitors and posted on [www.youtube.com/actofmemory](http://www.youtube.com/actofmemory) as an open archive which can be freely shared with a wider community

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948 and is the world's most translated document, available in over 370 languages at [www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Pages/Introduction.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Pages/Introduction.aspx). To date more than 250 co-recitors have memorised and recited articles of significance to them in 30 languages. The *acts of memory* version in this booklet replaces the generic male pronouns of the original with non-gendered alternatives. A poster of this version is also available from Beaconsfield Editions [www.beaconsfield.ltd.uk](http://www.beaconsfield.ltd.uk)

The *Anniversary—an act of memory* UK Tour 2011-2013 is produced by Michelle Hirschhorn and financially supported by Arts Council England. For more information, tour schedule and details of participating venues and forthcoming recitations, please see: [www.actsofmemory.net](http://www.actsofmemory.net)

*Special Thanks to Beaconsfield and Live Art Development Agency for their continued support of the project; Bernard G Mills for photography and video; Jason E. Bowman for supporting early project development; all of the touring venues and collaborating partners; Arts Council England; Gemini Press; and most importantly, all of the Co-Recitors who demonstrate their courage and support for human rights by taking part.*

*Anniversary—an act of memory* is endorsed by Amnesty International and the British Institute of Human Rights.

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## **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,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of humankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if people are not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realisation of this pledge,

**Now, therefore,** The General Assembly, Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

#### **Article 1**

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a kindred spirit.

#### **Article 2**

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

#### **Article 3**

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

#### **Article 4**

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

**Article 5**

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

**Article 6**

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

**Article 7**

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

**Article 8**

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted them by the constitution or by law.

**Article 9**

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

**Article 10**

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of their rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against them.

**Article 11**

1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which they have had all the guarantees necessary for their defence.

2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

#### **Article 12**

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon their honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

#### **Article 13**

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.

2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including their own, and to return to their country.

#### **Article 14**

1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

#### **Article 15**

1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.

2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of their nationality nor denied the right to change their nationality.

### **Article 16**

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

3. The family is a natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

### **Article 17**

1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of their property.

### **Article 18**

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change their religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest their religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

### **Article 19**

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

### **Article 20**

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

### **Article 21**

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of their country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
2. Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in their country.
3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

### **Article 22**

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realisation, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organisation and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for their dignity and the free development of their personality.

### **Article 23**

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for themselves and their family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
4. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of their interests.

#### **Article 24**

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

#### **Article 25**

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and of their family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond their control.

2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

#### **Article 26**

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

### **Article 27**

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which they are the author.

### **Article 28**

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realised.

### **Article 29**

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of their personality is possible.

2. In the exercise of their rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

### **Article 30**

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.



they have had all the guarantees necessary for their defence. **Article 13.1** No act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national law, shall be subject to a heavier penalty than the one that was applicable at the time it was committed. No arbitrary interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence shall be permitted. No one shall be subjected to attacks on his honour and dignity to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks. **Article 13.2** Within the borders of each State. **Article 13.2** Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and to choose his residence within the borders of each State. **Article 14.1** Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution. In the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from offences of a common nature. **Article 15.1** Everyone has the right to a nationality. **Article 15.2** No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality. **Article 16.1** Men and women of full age, without any limitation because of race, marriage and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, including the choice of spouse. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses. **Article 17.1** Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in partnership with others. **Article 17.2** No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of their property. **Article 18** Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change religion or belief, as well as to manifest religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance. **Article 19** Everyone has the right to freedom of expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. **Article 20.1** Everyone has the right to freedom of assembly and of association. **Article 21.1** Everyone has the right to take part in the free elections of their freely chosen representatives. **Article 21.2** Everyone has the right to equal participation in the administration of the country. **Article 22** Everyone shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be exercised through the vote. **Article 23** Everyone has the right to equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent means. **Article 24** Everyone has the right to social security and is entitled to realisation, through national law, of the economic, social and cultural rights and of their personality. **Article 23.1** Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. **Article 23.2** Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work. **Article 23.3** Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration, including a minimum wage, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection. **Article 24** Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including periodic holidays with pay. **Article 25.1** Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services, and education. **Article 25.2** In the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control, he is entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection. **Article 26** Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the



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