



Prime Minister  
Republic of Mauritius

Message

*Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December to commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.*

*This year's Human Rights Day theme, "Stand up for someone's rights today!" is based on the Declaration's fundamental proposition that each one of us, everywhere and at all times, is entitled to the full range of human rights, and that it is everyone's responsibility to uphold them.*

*This year's theme fits in particularly well as we stand up for the rights of our brothers and sisters of Chagossian origin whose human rights have been violated when they were forcibly removed by the UK from the Chagos Archipelago, in the wake of its illegal excision from the territory of Mauritius, prior to independence. The denial of the right of Mauritians, particularly those of Chagossian origin, to settle in the Chagos Archipelago is a manifest breach of international law and a blatant violation of their human rights. We strongly condemn the purported unilateral action of the UK Government aimed at denying Mauritian citizens of Chagossian origin their legitimate right of return to the Chagos Archipelago, on this Human Rights Day.*

*At the international level, we have translated our strong adherence to human rights principles by being party to the main UN Human Rights Instruments. Our commitment to Human Rights at the regional level is demonstrated by the fact that Mauritius is party to major African human rights instruments including the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights as well as its Protocol Establishing the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.*

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*A lot has been done by my Government for the promotion and protection of human rights. Upholding human rights is not the sole responsibility of the Government. Each and every one of us has a part to play in promoting human rights. Let us take a step forward and defend someone's rights. Each one of us can make a difference.*

*On this Human Rights Day, my Government reiterates the great importance it attaches to the promotion and safeguard of human rights. We renew our pledge to make human rights prevail in all circumstances.*



*The Rt Hon Sir Anerood Jugnauth, GCSK, KCMG, QC  
Prime Minister*

*09 December 2016*