



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

Human Rights Day 2024

Message of Hon. Dhananjay Ramful, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade

Human Rights Day is observed annually on 10th December to commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. The 30 articles of the UDHR constitute a landmark document which sets out the fundamental rights and freedoms that are universally applicable to all.

Commemoration of the Human Rights Day is thus an opportunity to reflect on the progress made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the UDHR, a key framework that has inspired over 60 international human rights instruments.

The United Nations theme for Human Rights Day 2024 is *Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now*. It aptly emphasizes that Human Rights are a powerful tool that can empower both individuals and communities and reminds us that Human Rights can act as a protective and transformative force for the wellbeing of citizens.

Human rights are indeed the bedrock of a fair and just society. This Government will endeavour to strengthen our legislative and institutional framework so as to consolidate the provision of basic rights such as access to free public education, primary healthcare services, and universal pensions. Critical issues such as curbing gender-based violence, protecting our children from harm, ensuring the safety of our elderly and disabled, combatting human trafficking and adopting measures to cope with the devastating impacts of climate change need to be tackled upfront.

Measures to guard against the negative aspects of the digital world will be equally improved to protect citizens against cybercrimes and ensure the protection of their privacy and rights online. Our key priority is to improve the standard of living of one and all. To this end, Government will leverage on the use of emerging technologies to empower citizens and address their concerns.

To mark the Human Rights Day, an Awareness Programme is being organized in collaboration with the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children and the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office, for 50 young Ambassadors on "Child Online Safety". A publication in Kreol Morisien of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment is also being launched.

This Government is committed to the promotion and protection of human rights for a truly just, inclusive, and sustainable society where every individual's dignity is respected. Let us all, as individuals, communities, and as a nation, continue to strive for a society where human rights are fully protected and enjoyed.

Hon. Dhananjay Ramful
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional
Integration and International Trade
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