



DHRM HR Highlights November 2020

Celebrate Universal Human Rights Month!

2020 has been an unprecedented year – it has been the year that we as a nation have experienced a heightened intensity in our political climate. We were reminded of the racial



inequities that have plagued our nation through the senseless killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and many others. These events in our nation's history continued to happen as the world was faced with the global pandemic of COVID-19, which continued to deepen and reveal the inequities of our nation including poverty, structural discrimination and other gaps in human rights protection.

This year's Universal Human Rights Month theme of *Recover Better – Stand up for Human Rights* serves as our call to action. “We will reach our common global goals only if we are able to create equal opportunities for all, address the failures exposed and exploited by COVID-19, and apply human rights standards to tackle entrenched, systematic, and intergenerational inequalities, exclusion and discrimination.” (United Nations)

Tuesday, December 1, 2020, the world celebrates Universal Human Rights Month. Initially distinguished as Human Rights Day by the United Nations (UN) in December 1950, former President George W. Bush declared the first Human Rights Week on December 9, 2001. It has since become a month long worldwide focus. Its origin, however, was the December 10, 1948 UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) outlining the basis rights and fundamental freedoms to which everyone is entitled.

The UDHR emphasizes human rights regardless of gender, age, political affiliation, or sexual preference. It has been translated into more than 500 languages – more than any other document in the world. These factors are cause for worldwide celebration via cultural events and exhibitions that speak to human rights issues that cannot be overstated.

Celebrating Universal Human Rights Month facilitates a reflection on the ways we treat fellow humans, and serves as a reminder of our ideals; inclusive of protecting individual freedoms. Moreover, empowers us to stand up for our rights and those of others. Join in the celebration by:

- Researching to understand the freedoms afforded by the Bill of Rights.
- Volunteering in charitable organizations that support and spread awareness of human rights.
- Giving back to your community. World change starts by locally helping those who are hurting.

As the world recovers from the effects of COVID-19, we are reminded that Human Rights must be at the center of the post COVID-19 world. We must close gaps and advance human rights to ensure we fully recover and build back a world that is better, more resilient, just, and sustainable. (United Nations) For more information, visit:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day>.