

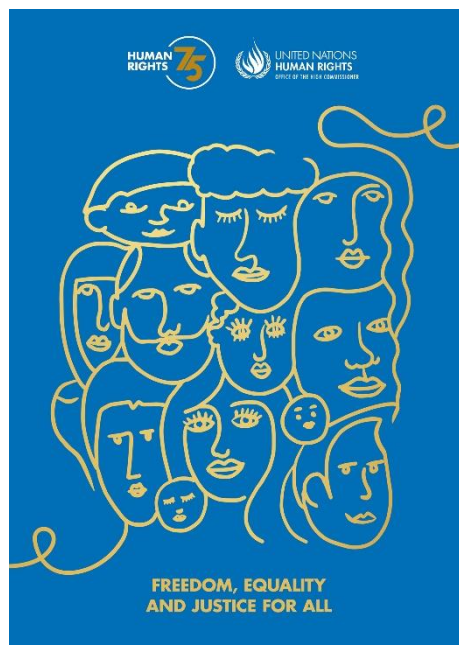
PRESS RELEASE

10 December 2023



Freedom, Equality and Justice for All – Human Rights Day 2023

COSW joins [IFSW](#), IASSW and many social workers around the world to celebrate World Human Rights Day today, Sunday 10th December 2023.



10 December 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of one of the world's most groundbreaking global pledges: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This landmark document enshrines the inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being - regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

The Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on [10 December 1948](#) and sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected.

Available in more than 500 languages, it is the most translated document in the world.

'Yet in this jubilee year, the concept of human rights and the global human rights instruments are under attack as never before', said David N Jones, COSW Main Representative to the Commonwealth Institutions.

'Social work is a human rights profession', continued David N Jones. 'Social workers often work at the intersection of individual and community human rights. We know from experience what it means when people's rights are ignored and when there is a need to mediate between conflicting rights. Respecting human rights of individuals and groups is frequently tough work. That struggle is at the heart of good social work.'

'On this momentous day, recognising the achievement embodied in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), COSW calls on all states and public agencies to renew their commitment to respecting the Declaration, encourages all people of goodwill to reflect on ways in which the Declaration can be further strengthened and encourages social workers to reflect on their practice and recommit to respecting human rights', David Jones concluded.

ENDS

NOTE FOR EDITORS: COSW is an organisation for citizens of the Commonwealth who are interested in supporting social work and social development. It is supported by social work associations in the Commonwealth. It aims to promote and support communication and collaboration between social workers and social work associations of Commonwealth countries, and to uphold and promote the code of ethics of the International Federation of Social Workers.

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