

One of the great successes of the past century has been the popularity of the idea of universal human rights. But the full meaning of human rights is often not fully understood, namely equal human rights: not just rights for me and people 'like me', but for each and every one of us, whether you are like me or not. The real message of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is that everyone is entitled to the same human rights and to equal human dignity. No one can be denied their human rights because they are different from others, whether by sex, race or ethnicity, work or descent, caste, culture, religion, skin colour or other grounds. The struggle to ensure equality of treatment for everyone is thus at the centre of all efforts to promote the universal protection of human rights.