**How long do human rights last?**

Nelson Mandela once said, - “To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity”. In today’s world, we, citizens of modern countries, take our rights for granted. We often do not think about the collective efforts of our ancestors that resulted in the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Now it is a perfect time for us to think about and question the foundation of our society - those 30 articles, which are complied to in all free modern countries. The document was written in 1948 and has not been changed since. Will it stay this way until the end of humanity, or will we have to add, remove or change some articles?

Philosopher Emile M. Cioran stated, - “The Universal view melts things into a blur”. I think, this is also the case with the Declaration. If we want it to last forever, it has to be really vague. The main problem of making it permanent - our society norms and technological possibilities change within years. Just a decade ago messaging a stranger via the Internet and getting into their car would be called death-seeking, but now we do not even question the existence of Uber or similar companies.

On the other hand, the spreading access to communication, tools and information imposes a problem of its own. If all information can only be found “online”, using a computer or a smartphone, how can people without such tools access it? As no person can be treated differently because of race, sex or religion, the same should apply to owned property. In other words, free access to information without the need of special tools or making them publicly available should be one of the Universal Human Rights or less wealthy citizens will be “cut out” of the society.

To me, the Declaration is not just some sentences on a paper signed by famous people. Even if I personally do not think about these articles often, they still have a big impact on my life. Every day I use the right to free education and freedom of speech, less often – medical care. Most importantly, I am constantly using the right to a nationality, movement and property without even realizing it. All these facts and many more show that the Universal Human Rights are making my life better.

Nevertheless, if we did not have people protecting human rights, we would probably quickly forget them. Even though, such articles as Equality Before the Law have to be enforced by the government to work, even students like me can step in to protect other rights, for example, by stopping and reporting any bullying.

In conclusion, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a marvelous agreement that lets us live and express ourselves freely. Nothing is perfect, even the Declaration can be changed for the better to keep up with modern technologies, but it still plays an important role in everyone’s life and we must protect it in any way.