



*Human Rights*

*The Italian Constitution*

*Literature*

# Index



**Introduction**



**History of human rights**



**Italian constitution**



**Human rights in literature**



**Personal comment**

*“All human beings are born free and  
equal in dignity and rights”*



# THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF Human Rights

**WHEREAS** recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

**WHEREAS** disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

**WHEREAS** it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

**WHEREAS** it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

**WHEREAS** the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the

human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

**WHEREAS** Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

**WHEREAS** a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

**NOW THEREFORE** THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

ARTICLE 1 All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

ARTICLE 2 Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

ARTICLE 3 Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

ARTICLE 4 No one shall be held to slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

ARTICLE 5 No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

ARTICLE 6 Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

ARTICLE 7 All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

ARTICLE 8 Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

ARTICLE 9 No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

ARTICLE 10 Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

ARTICLE 11 (1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence. (2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

ARTICLE 12 No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

ARTICLE 13 (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State. (2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

ARTICLE 14 (1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution. (2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

ARTICLE 15 (1) Everyone has the right to a nationality. (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

ARTICLE 16 (1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights in marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution. (2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses. (3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

ARTICLE 17 (1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others. (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

ARTICLE 18 Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his or her religion, to teach, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

ARTICLE 19 Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

ARTICLE 20 (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. (2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

ARTICLE 21 (1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives. (2) Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country. (3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

ARTICLE 22 Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

ARTICLE 23 (1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. (2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work. (3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family

an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection. (4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

ARTICLE 24 Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

ARTICLE 25 (1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control. (2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. Adolescents, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

ARTICLE 26 (1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit. (2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace. (3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

ARTICLE 27 (1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits. (2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

ARTICLE 28 Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

ARTICLE 29 (1) Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible. (2) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing the recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society. (3) These rights and freedoms may not be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

ARTICLE 30 Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein, or to engage in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

## What are human rights?

“HUMAN RIGHTS”: The rights you have simply because you are human, it is something to which you are entitled by virtue of being human.

## What is The Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

The UDHR is a milestone document in the history of human rights. The Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected.

## What are the fundamentals of the UDHR?

- Dignity
- Freedom
- Equality
- Fraternity



# The background of human rights

Cyrus Cylinder

539 B.C.



The Magna Carta

1215



Petition of Right

1628



US Declaration of Independence

1776

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.  
A DECLARATION  
BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

WE the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled, do hereby declare that the United States are, and of right ought to be, a free and independent State, separated from all other dependence, and that all political connections with Great Britain are hereby dissolved.

Constitution of USA and Bill of Rights

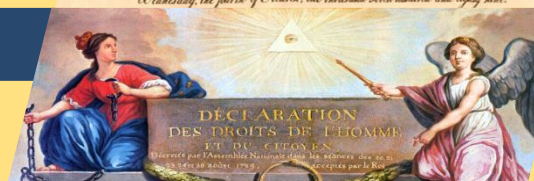
1787-1791

Bill of Rights

Congress of the United States,  
begun and held at the City of New York, on  
Wednesday, the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.

Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen

1789





## Why were the United Nations born in 1945?

The extermination by Nazi Germany of six million Jews, Sinti and Romani, homosexuals and people with disabilities horrified the world. Thus in 1945, 50 nations created an international body to promote peace and prevent future wars.

## The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

The goal of the United Nations was to create a text to bolster international peace preventing conflict. They wanted to ensure that never again would anyone be unjustly denied life, freedom, food, shelter and nationality.

## How is it organized?

It is arranged in to 30 articles.

# Italian Constitution

It represents the act by which the fundamental principles of civil coexistence are established in democratic and republican Italy.

## When?

After World War II, on June 2, 1946, Italian citizens voted in a referendum that would change their country forever. They decided two issues. First, they voted to make Italy a republic instead of a monarchy. Second, they elected a Constituent Assembly to write a new constitution for their renewed country.

## What are the essential values of the Constitution?

The respect for the human person's dignity, equality, freedom of opinion, of press, of meeting, of association, of religion, right to education, to health, to justice, the protection of work and family.

# COSTITUZIONE DELLA REPUBBLICA ITALIANA

## IL CAPO PROVVISORIO DELLO STATO

VISTA la deliberazione dell'Assemblea Costituente, che nella seduta del 22 dicembre 1947 ha approvato la Costituzione della Repubblica Italiana;

VISTA la XVIII disposizione finale della Costituzione;

## PROMULGA

la Costituzione della Repubblica Italiana nel seguente testo:

## PRINCIPÌ FONDAMENTALI

### Art. 1.

L'Italia è una Repubblica democratica, fondata sul lavoro.

La sovranità appartiene al popolo, che la esercita nelle forme e nei limiti della Costituzione.

### Art. 2.

La Repubblica riconosce e garantisce i diritti inviolabili dell'uomo, sia come singolo sia nelle formazioni sociali ove si svolge la sua personalità, e richiede l'adempimento dei doveri inderogabili di solidarietà politica, economica e sociale.

### Art. 3.

Tutti i cittadini hanno pari dignità sociale e sono eguali davanti alla legge, senza distinzione di sesso, di razza, di lingua, di religione, di opinioni politiche, di condizioni personali e sociali.

È compito della Repubblica rimuovere gli ostacoli di ordine economico e sociale, che, limitando di fatto la libertà e l'uguaglianza dei cittadini, impediscono il pieno sviluppo della persona umana e l'effettiva partecipazione di tutti i lavoratori all'organizzazione politica, economica e sociale del Paese.

### Art. 4.

La Repubblica riconosce a tutti i cittadini il diritto al lavoro e promuove le condizioni che rendano effettivo questo diritto.

Ogni cittadino ha il dovere di svolgere secondo le proprie possibilità e la propria scelta, un'attività o una funzione che concorra al progresso materiale o spirituale della società.

### Art. 5.

La Repubblica, una e indivisibile, riconosce e promuove le autonomie locali; attua nei servizi che dipendono dallo Stato il più ampio decentramento amministrativo; adegua i principi ed i metodi della sua legislazione alle esigenze dell'autonomia e del decentramento.

### Art. 6.

La Repubblica tutela con apposite norme le minoranze linguistiche.

### Art. 7.

Lo Stato e la Chiesa cattolica sono, ciascuno nel proprio ordine, indipendenti e sovrani.

I loro rapporti sono regolati dai Patti Lateranensi. Le modificazioni dei Patti, accettate dalle due parti, non richiedono procedimento di revisione costituzionale.

### Art. 8.

Tutte le confessioni religiose sono egualmente libere davanti alla legge.









Le confessioni religiose diverse dalla cattolica hanno diritto di organizzarsi secondo i propri statuti, in quanto non contrastino con l'ordinamento giuridico italiano.





*Art. 2. The Republic recognizes and guarantees inviolable rights of man, for the individual, and for social groups where personality is expressed, and demands the fulfilment of the fundamental duties of political, economic, and social solidarity.*

Article 2 of the Constitution express the Italian State's solemn acknowledgement of human rights. The rights include civil, family and social rights.

Principles	Articles of the Italian Constitution
 <b>EQUALITY</b>	Art. 3. "All citizens have equal social dignity and are equal before the law[...]"
 <b>FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE, RELIGION</b>	Art.8-9-20-21. "All religious confessions are equally free [...]" "All have the right to profess freely their own religious faith [...]" "All have the right to express freely their own thoughts by word, in writing and by all other means of communication [...]"
 <b>FREEDOM AND PERSONAL SAFETY AND RIGHT TO HEALTH</b>	Art. 11- 13. "Personal liberty is inviolable. [...]" Art. 32. "The republic safeguards health as a fundamental right of the individual [...]"
 <b>RIGHT TO THE RESPECT FOR PRIVATE AND FAMILY LIFE</b>	Art. 14-15-29 "The home is inviolable [...]" " The Republic recognizes the rights of the family as a natural association founded on matrimony [...]"
 <b>RIGHT TO WORK AND ASSOCIATION</b>	Art. 35-36-37-38/ 18-39-49 "The republic protects labour in all its forms and applications [...]"
 <b>RIGHT TO EDUCATION</b>	Art. 30-33-34 "The arts and sciences are free, as their teaching [...]"
 <b>RIGHT FOR IMMIGRANTS</b>	Art. 10 " [...] A foreigner shall not be extradicted for political offences"
 <b>RIGHT OF ACTION IN ORDER TO PROTECT ONE'S RIGHTS</b>	Art. 24-27-101-111

# Human rights in The Reluctant Fundamentalist



Article 9. (UDHR) *"No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."*

→ Changez has been blocked at the airport because he had Pakistani features



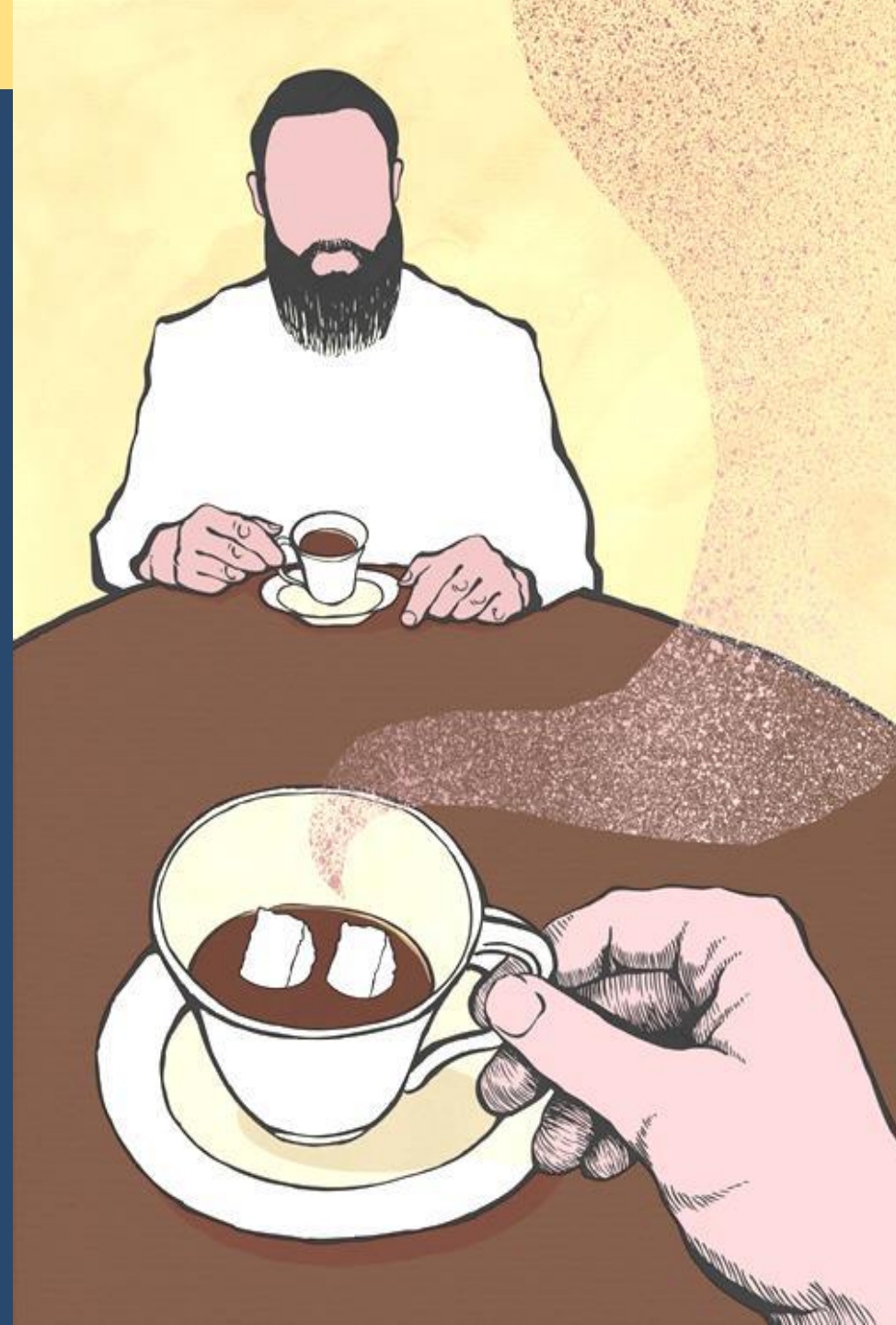
Article 15. (UDHR) *"(1) Everyone has the right to a nationality. (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality."*



Article 26. (UDHR) *"(1) Everyone has the right to education. [...] higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.*

*(2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. [...]"*

→ Changez had the possibility to study and to reach goals thanks to meritocracy





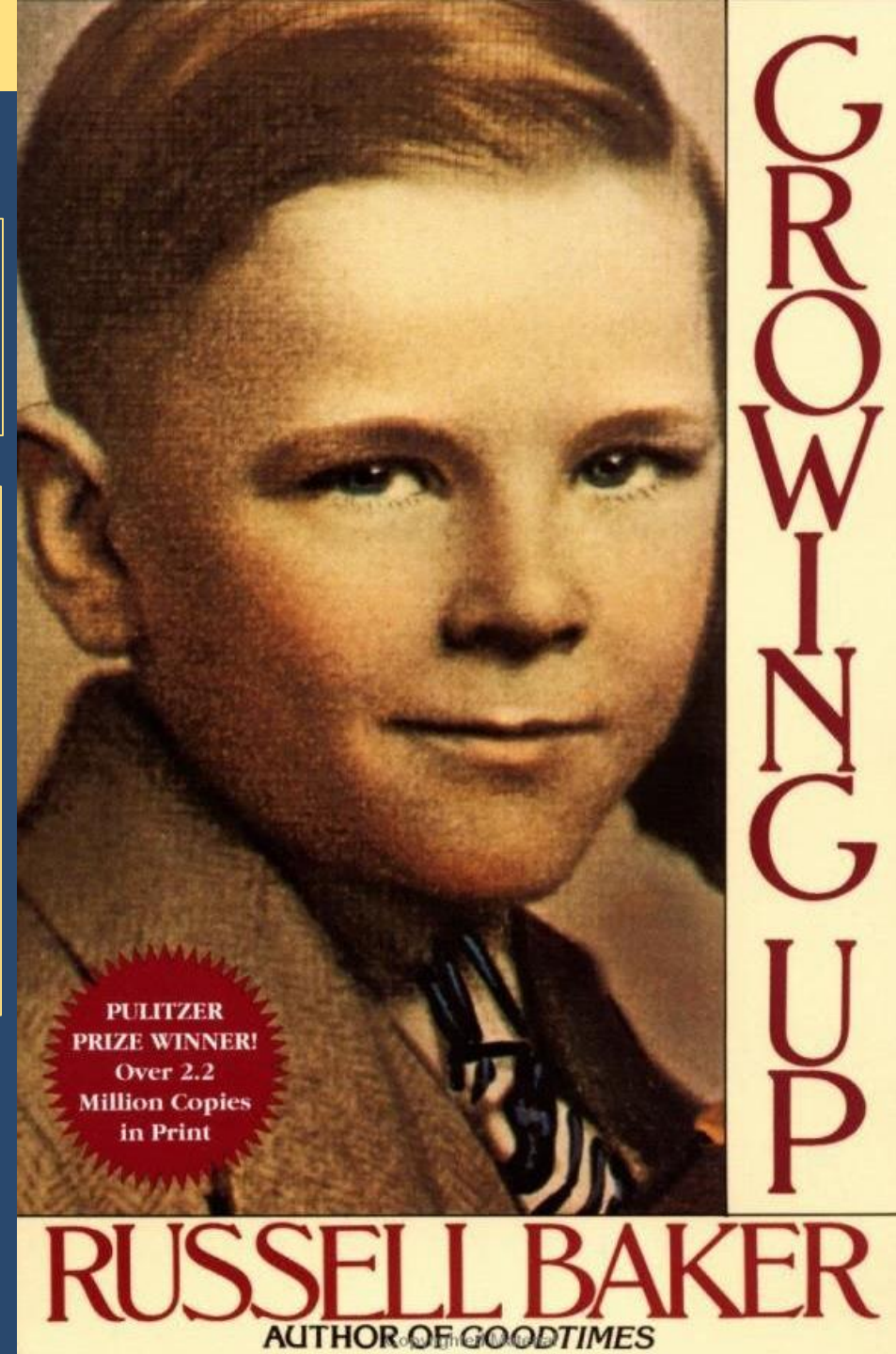
# Human rights in Growing Up



Article 1. (UDHR) *“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”*



Article 23. (UDHR) (1) *Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. (2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work. (3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection. (4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.*



## Human rights in Lispeth



Article 4. (UDHR) *“No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.”*



Article 12. (UDHR) *“No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.”*



Article 16. (UDHR) (1) *“Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution. (2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses. (3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.”*

# RUDYARD KIPLING



# LISPETH



# Human rights in Oliver Twist



Article 3. (UDHR) *"Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."*



Article 4. (UDHR) *"No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms."*



Article 25. (UDHR) *"(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control. (2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection."*



Article 26. (UDHR) *"(1) Everyone has the right to education. [...] higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit."*

# OLIVER TWIST

Charles Dickens



With an Introduction  
by Irving Howe



# CONCLUSION

Human rights are the basis of our lives today, we take them for granted and unconcerned about their value, their past, their history, their presence or absence in the Constitution of the state in which we live. The privilege of enjoying such a well established constitution is little appreciated by everyone. Just think of the places on earth, not far from our Italy, where human rights are not respected at all. Even today children are enslaved as Oliver Twist was, even today women have no right to decide their marriage, as Lipeth, and have no right to choose their profession as in Growing Up.

