

Process Paper

When I was exploring the topics my instructor recommended, I was immediately fascinated by the political instability and social injustice problems at my very first glance. Suddenly I aware that I could shield our legal rights from violations and disturbances by learning about human rights first. After I told my choice to my instructor, he informed me of a legal document that laid the cornerstone of almost every present human rights law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As I further watched videos and explored websites about the Declaration, I found out that the Declaration was born in the disastrous context of WWII, when millions and billions of people were urging for legal protection of their rights, which further aroused my curiosity to dig out why the Declaration had such a lasting and universal impact to every person.

Since the Declaration was drafted and discussed in the United Nations, it was unavoidable to achieve a consensus among the member states via debates and diplomacies, which right matched this year's NHD annual theme. As I searched and collected historical sources from the library and Internet about the Declaration, I noticed that the whole process of developing the Declaration was so comprehensive yet complex to learn and understand. Hence, I decided to adopt my professional skills of computer science to simulate the debates conducted in drafting the Declaration and create a website that could offer people an accessible and common medium to understand the significant document, which protected their juridical rights and born dignity.

Among the historical sources I read, two books significantly relieved me from immersing into the ocean of documents and figuring out the appropriate portion of the meeting I was seeking for. The first book was *A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* by Mary Ann Glendon, which provided me specific details when the Commission on Human Rights was debating on the phrase "by nature" and religious portion. The second one was *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Origins, Drafting, and Intent* by Johannes Morsink, which guided me to conduct my research on the debates on women's rights. Both topics spanned a long period, which meant it was nearly impossible to complete my research without the assistance of these two books.

The Declaration, which carved out a brand-new epoch of human rights, has been commonly regarded as the foundation of modern human rights standards. Owing to the hundreds of debates and diplomacies that took place and the immense energies the delegates devoted to the drafting of the Declaration, it's evident that the universal applicability and the worldwide acceptance of the Declaration have been guaranteed to be enduring and long-standing.