

NO. R-102. Joint resolution designating December 10, 2009 as Human Rights Day.

(J.R.H.9)

Offered by: Representatives Wilson of Manchester, Ancel of Calais, Andrews of Rutland City, Bissonnette of Winooski, Bohi of Hartford, Botzow of Pownal, Clarkson of Woodstock, Frank of Underhill, French of Shrewsbury, French of Randolph, Gilbert of Fairfax, Head of S. Burlington, Hooper of Montpelier, Jerman of Essex, Leriche of Hardwick, Lorber of Burlington, Maier of Middlebury, Malcolm of Pawlet, Manwaring of Wilmington, Marek of Newfane, Martin of Springfield, Martin of Wolcott, Masland of Thetford, Milkey of Brattleboro, Miller of Shaftsbury, Mook of Bennington, Nease of Johnson, Nuovo of Middlebury, O'Brien of Richmond, Partridge of Windham, Pearce of Richford, Perley of Enosburg, Potter of Clarendon, Pugh of S. Burlington, Scheuermann of Stowe, Shand of Weathersfield, Sharpe of Bristol, Smith of Mendon, Spengler of Colchester, Stevens of Waterbury, Sweaney of Windsor, Till of Jericho, Turner of Milton, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Weston of Burlington and Wizowaty of Burlington

Whereas, in the aftermath of the brutality inflicted on millions of civilians during the Second World War, the recently established United Nations turned its attention to the topic of human rights, and

Whereas, after much intensive work, including a determined effort on the part of former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt who served as a member of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was completed, and

Whereas, a momentous event occurred on December 10, 1948 when the United Nations General Assembly formally adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and

Whereas, the preamble of the declaration provides in part “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,” and

Whereas, it further provides that “the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter (of the United Nations) 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

Whereas, the declaration states “all human beings are born equal” and that “everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration,” and

Whereas, among the fundamental rights enumerated in the declaration are the rights to life, liberty, and security, equality before the law, freedom of movement, to own property, freedom of expression, to peaceful assembly and association, and to a standard of living adequate for his or her well-being, and

Whereas, during the last century, governments have killed over 150 million persons, and

Whereas, in a world in which these rights, over 60 years after the declaration's adoption, are still not universally observed, it is important to reaffirm the principles which the declaration set forth, and

Whereas, setting aside a day to honor the declaration's adoption, and to promote educational programs that inform the public, especially young persons, of its continuing importance is a worthy endeavor for Vermonters and people everywhere, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates December 10, 2009 as Universal Declaration of Human Rights Day in Vermont.