

Pro media
A. Caple

EXCLUSIVELY: Marie Claire has hired these prominent Americans to share the facts on human rights abuses that you can help them stop.

you can make a

**Rape, genital mutilation,
unjust imprisonment.**

Fifty years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted, people around the world are still being persecuted every day. Join *Marie Claire's* campaign for change

Hillary Clinton

**WORLDWIDE
WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

First Lady of the United States

Fifty years ago, at the end of the Second World War, we acknowledged a new common standard for human dignity—a code for the people of the world to live by. In the wake of the most violent revelation of the extent to which human beings can dehumanize one another, the world as a whole was ready at last to accept an agreed-upon standard for human rights.

Yet despite half a century of progress in this arena, we have not expanded the circle of human dignity far enough. There are still too many of our fellow men and women who have been excluded ▷

difference

Let us say this so loudly that the entire world will hear us: **Violence** against women is not simply criminal. The full enfranchisement of women is **unfinished business.**—Hillary Clinton

from the fundamental rights proclaimed in the Declaration; too many against whom we have all hardened our hearts—those whose human suffering we fail fully to see, to hear, to feel.

Today, especially, we still choose not to hear the voices of women. In too many countries, women are blocked from participating in political life.

Too often, we choose not to see the injustice of legal systems around the world that continue to treat women as less than complete citizens. In too many places, female heirs receive less inheritance than male heirs. Inequitable divorce laws compel women to remain in cruel marriages. And courts of law require the testimony of two women to equal that of a man.

Our vision is limited in other areas; we choose not to see that women are discriminated against for bank loans, jobs and promotions. They are denied equal pay—or, sometimes, any pay at all. And they live in disproportionate poverty, making up 70 percent of the world's poor.

In too many places, girls and women never even learn to project their voices. Two thirds of the 130 million children not in school are girls. Two thirds of the 96 million people worldwide who can neither read nor write are women.

In too many places, the suffering of women is defined as trivial; explained away as a "cultural phenomenon."

Perhaps it is for this reason that women do not receive proper health care. Perhaps it is why genital cutting, which in some

countries more than 90 percent of women have undergone, is still practiced and why rape and sexual assault continue to be tactics of war. Perhaps it is why domestic and sexual violence remain the most serious, underreported and widespread human rights violations in the world.

Let us say this so loudly that the entire world will hear us: We do not believe that violence against women is simply a criminal phenomenon. The full enfranchisement of women is unfinished business for all of us in this turbulent century.

We must challenge ourselves to see more sharply, to hear more clearly and to feel more fully. We must rededicate ourselves to completing the circle of human rights once and for all.

When those
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Arthur Miller PROSECUTIONS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE

*Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright;
recipient Amnesty
International
Media Spotlight
Award, 1997*



Between '94 and
'96, 43 people
in Washington

State were charged with 29,726 counts of sexual abuse of 60 children. Sordid images of ritual orgies on a church stage, pedophile parents swapping children, and adults lining up to rape children made headlines.

But an investigation of the Wenatchee sex abuse cases, undertaken by Kathryn Lyon, a former public defender, has shown that the most frightening

abuses in the case may have been perpetrated by the police, child protection agents and prosecutors in that state. Lyon's research has raised troubling questions about the methods used by the authorities to prosecute dozens of poor and mentally disabled parents for child rape and molestation: scant medical evidence, appalling breaches of civil rights and interrogation techniques normally associated with police states.

Mistreatment of children is an emotional issue: The reaction to allegations of it is often hysteria. But it is the responsibility of those entrusted to guard the rights of children to ensure that parents' rights are not neglected either. One of our most basic rights is to have and raise our children. Another is freedom from unfair accusations.

The state of Washington wrongly took children away from their parents and subjected them to relentless questioning, though the allegations did not add up. In fact, every single aspect of the cases—from the initial accusations made by foster children living with the chief investigator to the gender of the accused and the results of the medical exams—was in direct contradiction to all known patterns of child sexual abuse. It is the responsibility of a community to protect its children from sexual predators, but the shameful tactics employed by both the Wenatchee police and the Department of Social and Health Services resulted not only in wrongful prosecutions of innocent people, but in the

likelihood that in the future, people will be less likely to come forward with suspicions that someone may be endangering children's welfare. When those in authority embark on a witch hunt, society as a whole pays the highest price.

Meryl Streep

RAPE AS A WAR CRIME



Actress; Academy-award winner

Rape under any circumstances is a humiliating and horrifying experience, but what Bosnian women were forced to endure throughout the war is unthinkable. In an attempt to wipe out the entire Muslim and Croatian population, the Bosnian Serb Army used not only murder but rape as an actual weapon of war.

Soldiers were ordered by their superiors to rape defenseless women of all ages, with a specific purpose: to demoralize them so that they would flee their homes and never return. It is hard to imagine that anyone could possibly carry out such a tactic against innocent women, and even more difficult to imagine that the men who committed these crimes could go unpunished.

Women lost everything during the three-year period of the Bosnian war. They lost their husbands, their fathers and their brothers, who are either dead or in detention camps. They lost their innocence and, in many cases, they lost their

virginity, which is held sacred by Muslim women.

The raping of Bosnian women was a political strategy not just aimed at women but designed to completely destroy a nation. And still, today, three years after the Dayton Peace Accord was signed, not one person has been held accountable for these crimes. No one has been arrested or convicted, and many of the criminals remain free in their native cities and towns.

Richard Gere

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE



Actor; recipient Amnesty International Media Spotlight Award, 1998

Ngawang Sangdrol, 21, is a Tibetan Buddhist nun who is undergoing an 18-year prison sentence. Her crime? Exercising the rights enshrined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Ngawang was first imprisoned in 1990 for taking part in a demonstration for Tibetan independence. She was detained without charge for several months and also forbidden to rejoin her nunnery.

Ngawang was rearrested in June 1992 for taking part in another demonstration against Chinese misrule in Tibet. Her sentence this time was three years of imprisonment. While in Drapchi Prison in 1993, Ngawang and 13 other imprisoned nuns covertly composed

Make your voice count

the member states of the United Nations pledged their commitment to the "promotion of universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms." Fifty years later, the world has moved closer to obtaining those rights and freedoms for everyone, but contempt for human rights continues to result in barbarous acts that offend the conscience of humanity. *Marie Claire* and Amnesty International are inviting readers to make a personal pledge to the principles contained in the Declaration. Your petition will be added to the millions that have been gathered from around the world, and will be presented to the United Nations on December 10, 1998. Fill out your pledge at www.marieclaire.com, and send a message telling those who suffer persecution that they have not been forgotten.

The raping of **Bosnian** women was a political strategy not just aimed at women but designed to completely **destroy a nation.** —Meryl Streep

and recorded pro-independence songs. A tape recorder had been smuggled into the prison and the tape was secretly circulated throughout Tibet. The tape contained songs in praise of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and asked the people of Tibet not to lose hope, because "A day will come soon when the sun will emerge from behind the clouds." This tape was discovered by the Chinese authorities, and Ngawang's sentence was extended to nine years.

In 1996 Ngawang was subjected to torture and beatings and her prison sentence was extended by another nine years, after she protested against China's "re-education campaign" and shouted, "Free Tibet." Her total term of imprisonment is 18 years, making her the longest-serving female political prisoner in Tibet.

Ngawang's case is just one instance of China's consistent denial of basic human rights to the Tibetan people, rights such as "right to freedom of opinion and expression" and "right to freedom of peaceful assembly," which are promised by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Madeleine K. Albright

UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS



U.S. Secretary of State

Human rights are universal: They must be enjoyed by everyone, everywhere. When we stand up for them, anywhere in the world, we are also standing up for ourselves.

It would be impossible to single out the specific human rights issue that I feel most strongly about, because they are all of equal significance. What is more, human rights abuses are usually interconnected. If people are not allowed to worship freely, chances are they are not allowed to speak freely or to pursue peaceful and democratic political change, for in the end all these rights go hand in hand. Moreover, when even one group of citizens lacks equality under the law, there is no guarantee that other groups will not lose their rights as well.

Therefore, whether the issue is expanding women's political participation, providing adequate health care or eliminating violence against women,

the evidence is clear that advancing the status of women is not just the right thing to do, but the smart thing.

When women gain full participation in a country's political life, that translates into a richer democracy and more representative policies for all.

When women gain the education and resources to be full partners in development, we know from experience that the cycle of poverty can be broken, that birth rates stabilize, environmental awareness increases, the spread of sexually transmitted diseases slows and socially constructive values are more likely to be passed along to the young.

When societies recognize a woman's right to be secure from violence and abuse, they move closer to making real the vision of justice and equality for all.

Yet around the world, women still suffer appalling human rights abuses, from domestic violence to dowry murders to mutilation to sexual slavery. Some people say that all of this is cultural, and that there is nothing we can do, or even should do, to change it. But I believe that it is criminal, and that we each have a responsibility to stop it. □

*No two women
are alike.
So we bottled the
differences.*

théorie

For every hair problem, there is a beautiful solution.
Our salon quality brand now available at fine drug, food and mass stores.
For specific store locations, call 1-888-794-6123.



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**Eleanor Roosevelt Medal Proposal
for the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights
50th Anniversary Commemoration**

We propose that the President create by Executive Order an "Eleanor Roosevelt Medal," in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), to honor outstanding Americans for their contribution to human rights advocacy at home and abroad. Eleanor Roosevelt served as the first Chairperson of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and played a leading role in the composition of the declaration. She also was a passionate advocate of "bringing the declaration home" to Americans, stating on the UDHR's 10th anniversary that "[T]he destiny of human rights is in the hands of all our citizens in all our communities."

Establishing an Eleanor Roosevelt Medal on the UDHR anniversary, December 10, would honor what is perhaps Mrs. Roosevelt's most significant legacy and would also permit the President to recognize and honor the work of outstanding Americans on behalf of human rights both at home and abroad.

The Medal also would help directly refute the arguments of those who say that the United States does not pay attention to human rights at home to the same degree that it does abroad. Whenever the United States is critical of human rights practices in another state or states, those who seek to shift the spotlight from their own problems frequently claim that the United States criticizes others while failing to take care of its own human rights problems at home. Such statements ignore a long and distinguished history of American human rights activists demanding that the U.S. Government adhere to the principles upon which this country was founded. From the civil war to the civil rights movement, Americans have fought for equality and justice.

Establishing the Medal

As was the case with the Presidential Medal of Freedom and similar awards, the Medal could be established by an executive order that outlines all measures relevant to the nomination and selection of candidates, design of the medal, and award oversight.

Selection of Recipients

Each year, the President would select up to five individuals to be honored with the Eleanor Roosevelt Medals in a ceremony at the White House coinciding with the December 10th anniversary of the UDHR. A call for nominations would be announced in the Federal Register. DRL would gather nominations and submit them to a panel consisting of representatives from State, Justice, Labor, Health and Human Services, and the National Security Council, which in turn would recommend up to ten individuals for the President's

the white house?

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consideration. The President would then select up to five awardees from the list or identify others of his own choosing.

Recipient Criteria

Although the Medal could honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of human rights either at home or abroad, DRL recommends that it focus on those individuals whose work has promoted the enjoyment of human rights in the United States. For example, the President could honor Rep. John Lewis for his contributions to the civil rights movement. Highlighting the work of Rep. Lewis and other human rights pioneers in the U.S. would help counter the arguments of those who claim the United States pays insufficient attention to human rights at home. As is the case with other Presidential honors, some Medals could be awarded posthumously.

Medal Design

The medal could be designed by the U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry. DRL proposes a simple medallion attached to a ribbon, with an obverse featuring the famous image of Eleanor Roosevelt holding a copy of the UDHR. The reverse could feature either an inscription related to the award, a quote from Mrs. Roosevelt, or a reference to (or a quote from) the UDHR.