



10 DECEMBER

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2019

The commemoration of the Human Rights Day is definitely a momentous occasion to recall and reflect on our collective resolve to put human rights as the essence of our day to day action.

Indeed, the various treaties recorded in human history, from the Sumerian era right up to the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948, are testimonies of the constant struggle of our forefathers to put human dignity and fundamental human rights as the guiding principles and ultimate objective for the betterment of mankind in all spheres of life.

Mauritius will continue to lend its full support to those international multilateral organizations such as the United Nations and its various organs, the Bretton Woods Institutions, the African Union among many others, to collectively endeavour to uphold and further develop a conducive global environment that would enable every single human being to enjoy his indivisible human rights.

The commemoration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be seen as a sacred heritage that is both inspirational and demanding. Besides, since the Declaration has put human dignity at the centre of our daily activity, there is a constant need to challenge ourselves to find better ways to achieve our shared goal for a common human dignity.

The choice of this year's theme "Youth Standing up for Human Rights" is, therefore, befitting as it puts the youth at the core of human rights actions, especially since it is considered both as a vulnerable group as well as the torchbearer for the promotion and upholding of human rights.

The vitality, energy and creativity of the youth, have always been a catalyst for change. Recent events in various parts of the world have shown us that the youth continue to be major drivers for political, economic and social transformation.

Mobilizing youth activism in the promotion of human rights has become essential as we face new daunting challenges such as climate change, global warming and destruction of the ecosystem, violent extremism and cybercrime among others. Such threats have the potential of wiping out all the advances that humanity has known through the millennia.

As an Island State, we have found ourselves at the forefront confronting some of those challenges. In the face of such crisis, we have to empower our youth to step up and bring their fair share of creativity, activism and dynamism in combatting those threats.

In accordance with its front-line responsibility, Government has created a Ministry of Youth Empowerment precisely with the objective to galvanize the Mauritian youth to uphold and promote their fundamental human rights.

However, such laudable initiative can remain hollow if the targeted audience remain aloof. The youth has a common duty to ensure recognition of human rights and accept responsibility to secure them.

We, therefore, wish to seize today's commemoration to solemnly appeal to our youth to come forward in shaping our countries future through the crafting of more effective and principled policies that would strengthen human rights and mainstream such ideals in our daily lives.

Our rainbow nation will keep on shining as long as we unreservedly continue to join hands, as one nation and one people, to stand up for the rights of each other. We rely on our youth to steadfastly carry forward this daily struggle.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nandcoomar Bodha". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal dotted line.

***Hon. Nandcoomar BODHA, GCSK
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional
Integration and International Trade***