A PRAYER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

**Leader:** God of justice and mercy, help us remember this day that you have created each and every person with dignity and worth.

**People:** In all that we do, help us treat one another with the respect and honor due to each person.

**Leader:** This day we remember and give thanks for the 66th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**People:** We honor the courage of those who came before us, who sought to declare that regardless of any differences among peoples that we all share basic human rights.

**Leader:** We also remember this day the adoption of the Convention Against Torture by the UN General Assembly.

**People:** We pray that every generation may learn that there is no excuse for torture, that torture is always wrong.

**Leader:** We pray for every life that has been touched by torture, both those tortured and the torturers. We pray for restoration and peace.

**People:** We pray for fortitude in the face of fear and that we might do what is right and just.

**Leader:** We pray for governments and persons who seek to prevent torture and who support survivors of torture.

**People:** We pray for strength and steadfastness in the work of repairing the world. In all things may we honor you, O God, and honor the dignity of each person.

All: Amen.

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture mobilizes people of faith to end torture in U.S. policy, practice and culture. We are a coalition of over 300 diverse religious organizations from national entities to local congregations across the country.
Human Rights Day

In 1945 when the United Nations (UN) was created, its charter affirmed the “dignity and worth of the human person.” On December 10, 1948, the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which affirmed this basic tenet of the UN charter. There are 30 articles in the UDHR. Article 5 states clearly:

“No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”

The prohibition against torture derives from the agreement by the nations in the UN that the principle of honoring the dignity of human beings – a principle shared by all major religions – is an underlying principle for both nations and individuals. On December 10, 1984, the UN General Assembly adopted the text of the Convention Against Torture, a treaty ratified by the U.S. in 1994. We celebrate December 10 as Human Rights Day.

Read about the Convention Against Torture at http://www.nrcat.org/CAT

WHAT YOU CAN DO

People of faith have a critical role to play in ending U.S.-sponsored torture. Join in the national movement to end torture in U.S. policy, practice and culture.

NRCAT’s work to end torture in U.S. prisons, jails and detention centers is focused on confronting the use of solitary confinement. On any given day in the U.S., roughly 80,000 incarcerated adults and youth are held in conditions of solitary confinement. Get involved at www.nrcat.org/prisons

After 9/11, the U.S. engaged in torture of detainees. From its beginnings, NRCAT has played a significant role in working to stop that policy and ensure that the country would never engage in torture during interrogations again. Get involved at http://www.nrcat.org/post-911-detainees

LEARN. PRAY. ACT.

facebook.com/nrcat  @nrcattweets
@nrca1photos  pinterest.com/nrcat/