

Message from Dr. Arif Alvi
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
(On the occasion of Human Rights Day-2018)

This Day is celebrated with pride to acknowledge commitment of the global community towards human rights. This commitment was made in the form of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This year marks the 70th anniversary of UDHR and calls for renewed commitment and protection of basic human rights. Democratic struggle of the Muslims of sub-continent against colonialism led to the creation of Pakistan in 1947, it was galvanized by the ideals of fundamental freedom and human dignity. These ideals inspired our newly independent country to be amongst the first signatories of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the eve of its adoption in 1948.

As a member state of United Nations, Pakistan fully endorses the Charter of the United Nations which strives to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination of race, gender, language or religion. The words of Father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, are the guiding principle of our policy, “We are equal citizens of one State”. Hence, the Constitution of Pakistan guarantees freedom and fundamental rights to its all citizens.

The Government of Pakistan attaches high priority to advancing the objectives of development, human rights and democracy and is working hard to implement its international commitments through Treaty Implementation Cells that have been set up at both Federal and Provincial level. Pakistan continues to regularly report relevant Treaty Bodies on the implementation of conventions signed. Pakistan’s election as member of the Human rights Council for the term 2018-20 is reflection of our commitment to human rights.

I also want to draw the attention of the international community towards atrocities committed against the Kashmiri people in the Indian Occupied Kashmir. I urge the United Nations particularly to play its due role and ensure that Kashmiris also enjoy all their human rights as guaranteed under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the UN Security Council resolutions. The people of Kashmir are looking forward to the international community fulfilling their commitments to the Kashmiri people.

In the end, I would like to commend the UN for observing this day globally and also pay homage to all organizations and individuals who are striving for the noble cause of human rights. I would also like to appreciate the Ministry of Human Rights for working to give a holistic human rights perspective to governance structure and for their consistent effort to uphold and protect human rights in the country.
