

Structure and content

The underlying structure of the Universal Declaration was introduced in its second draft, which was prepared by [René Cassin](#). Cassin worked from a first draft, which was prepared by [John Peters Humphrey](#). The structure was influenced by the [Code Napoléon](#), including a preamble and introductory general principles.^[5] Cassin compared the Declaration to the [portico](#) of a Greek temple, with a foundation, steps, four columns, and a [pediment](#).

The Declaration consists of a preamble and thirty articles:

- The preamble sets out the historical and social causes that led to the necessity of drafting the Declaration.
- Articles 1–2 established the basic concepts of dignity, liberty, equality, and brotherhood.
- Articles 3–11 established other individual rights, such as the [right to life](#) and the prohibition of [slavery](#), as well as a universal freedom of speech.
- Articles 6–11 refer to the fundamental legality of human rights with specific remedies cited for their defense when violated.
- Articles 12–17 established the rights of the individual towards the community (including such things as [freedom of movement](#)).
- Articles 18–21 sanctioned the so-called "constitutional liberties", and with spiritual, public, and political freedoms, such as freedom of [thought](#), opinion, religion and [conscience](#), word, and [peaceful association](#) of the individual.
- Articles 22–27 sanctioned an individual's economic, social and cultural rights, including [healthcare](#). Article 25 states: "Everyone has the [right to a standard of living](#) adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services." It also makes additional accommodations for security in case of physical debilitation or disability, and makes special mention of care given to those in motherhood or childhood.^[6]
- Articles 28–30 established the general ways of using these rights, the areas in which these rights of the individual cannot be applied, and that they cannot be overcome against the individual.

These articles are concerned with the duty of the individual to society and the prohibition of use of rights in contravention of the purposes of the United Nations Organization.