



Human Rights Day 2018

Message from Gerald Leitner, IFLA Secretary General

Today is a remarkable day.

We are celebrating the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

It's an opportunity to reflect on one of the most crucial documents for our daily lives.

Because the Universal Declaration of Human Rights brings together the key principles, the key ideas, behind any successful, equitable society.

Of course we may not think about its 30 articles every time we wake up.

But I know that the work of libraries and librarians around the world is helping to make them a reality, every day.

Through promoting access to information and free expression.
Through resisting and helping to overcome discrimination.

Through promoting privacy.

Through ensuring that everyone can learn, whatever their age or life situation is.

Through giving everyone the opportunity to participate in the cultural life of the community.

Because this is libraries' mission – to give everyone, through access to information and the skills to use it, the tools to take charge of their futures.

There are few other institutions who can claim to be delivering on so many rights, for so many people, in so many places.

IFLA itself places human rights at the heart of our mission.

And we are proud to do so.

And I am proud of the work that you are doing.

So let's take the opportunity, today, to celebrate this contribution.

And to think about how we – at the individual, at the institutional, at the global levels – can continue to fulfil this role, now, and into the future.

IFLA looks forward to working with the library field, worldwide, to make this happen.

Happy Human Rights Day!