**Background information of the images used for the activity Timeline of Human Rights.**

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| **Image/ year** | **Background** |
| Magna Carta (1215) | Magna Carta or “the Great Charter” is an ancient document mentioning such human rights, as the rights of all free people to own property and be protected from excessive taxes. King John of England was pressured by his subjects to sign under Magna Carta in 1215 and limit his own monarchical power. [More information.](https://www.bl.uk/magna-carta) |
| American Declaration of Independence  (1776) | American Declaration of Independence was adopted by the United States Congress on the 4th of July 1776. The text was developed by Thomas Jefferson, and stresses, in particular, individual rights, – right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. [More information.](https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration) |
| Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (1789) | Adopted as an aftermath of the Great French Revolution. All citizens should be guaranteed the rights of “liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression”, it said. The document has been used as a source and inspiration for development of the several national constitutions. [More information](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Declaration-of-the-Rights-of-Man-and-of-the-Citizen) |
| Bill of rights (1791) | Bill of Rights contains amendments to the constitution of the USA, one the oldest national constitutions. Bill of Rights protects such political rights, as freedom of speech, freedom of belief and freedom of assembly. [More information.](https://billofrightsinstitute.org/founding-documents/bill-of-rights/) |
| Geneva Convention, (1864) | The first Geneva Convention was adopted in 1864 as to protect wounded soldiers and give them medical treatment, regardless of the side for which they had fought. There are four Geneva Conventions that constitute what is called the International Humanitarian Law. [More information](http://www.icrc.org/) |
| Suffrage movement  (Early 20th century) | British activists fought for women’s rights early in the twentieth century. The women in the movement were called “suffragettesˮ. Women were first granted the right to vote in New Zealand in 1893. [More information.](https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/timeline/womenunite/en/index.html#/1900) |
| Clara Zetkin and Rosa Luxemburg  (Early 20th century) | Zetkin and Luxembourg were social-democratic political activists in Germany. At the International Socialist Women’ s Conference (1910) they proposed to celebrate an annual Women’s Day in order to bring more attention to women’s struggle for the right to vote. In 1977, the General Assembly ( United Nations) proclaimed the 8th of March to be the International Women’s Day. Gender equality is one the Sustainable Development Goals. [Read more.](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/).) |
| The International Labour Organisation  (1919) | The image is symbolizing trade unionism or labour movement, which had intensified in the Great Britain in the 19th century. Goal:make the working conditions of the workers better and safer, and to make payment more just. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) was established in 1919 in order to argue for decent working conditions and social justice in the world.  [Film A short history of trade unions (6 min):](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPPeDO4dMRA) [ILO](https://www.ilo.org/global/lang–en/index.htm) |
| Nansen passport  (1922) | The Nansen passport the first identity document in the world, protecting refugees. It was issued by the League of Nations (forerunner of the United Nations) in 1922. Named after Fridtjof Nansen, Norwegian polar explorer and diplomat, who advocated for saving people fleeing from hunger and conflict. The UN Refugee Convention was one of the first international treaties, adopted by the United Nations after the World War II, in 1951. [More information](https://www.unhcr.org/1951-refugee-convention.html) |
| Human zoo  (1870-1930) | The so-called “human zoos” were common in Western Europe and the USA in the period from 1870 to 1930. Indigenous people were brought together and shown as “primitive” in their outlook and lifestyle. Aborigines, Indians, Sami, people of the Philippines, Fiji and several African countries were “shown” in this way. Such show-off is considered to be pure racism today. This image is from the World’s Fair in Belgium in 1958, where people from Congo were brought to Belgium to show a Congolese village. [UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) was adopted in 1965, and is ratified per 2020 by 182 states.](https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cerd.aspx) |
| Holocaust  (1933-1945) | Children at the Auschwitz concentration camp at the time of camp’s liberation in  January 1945. Mass killing of Jews, the Holocaust, and atrocities of the WW II led to the establishment of the United Nations (UN) in 1945. The main goal of the UN is to preserve peace in the world and reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights. For the first time in history human rights were written down in the statutes of the international organisation. 193 countries are members of the UN today.[The United Nations](http://www.un.org/), [Virtual tour, Auschwitz concentration camp](http://panorama.auschwitz.org/) |
| The Universal Declaration of Human Rights  (1948) | On the 10th of December in 1948 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted. UDHR is the first international document, which states that human rights are inalienable rights of all people, no matter their background, belief, gender or colour of skin. The UN working commission, led by Eleanor Roosevelt (on the picture) used two years for collecting opinions, suggestions on the rights from all the continents in order to include them into the UDHR. Human rights mentioned in the UDHR are the minimum standards people need in order to live a decent life. UDHR is considered to be the foundation of the international human rights law. [Text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights](https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/), [Film.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaHwy5tdLOY) |
| Rosa Parks  (1955) | Rosa Parks was an activist of the Civil Rights Movement (USA) in the 1950s, led by Martin Luther King. Parks is known for participation in the Montgomery bus boycott (1955), when she rejected to give a seat to a “white” person in the bus. The boycott lasted for almost one year in Montgomery, Alabama, as a protest to racial segregation in public transportation in the USA. It was one of the many actions of civil disobedience, carried out in the USA in 1950-60s as reactions to a highly segregated society. Film on the History of the American Civil Rights Movement (6 min), URL Cartoon film “I am Rosa Parks” (15 min) |
| Independence of Ghana  (1957) | Ghana was the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to gain independence in 1957. The decolonization of Africa took place in the mid-to-late 1950s to 1975. The African Union was established in 2002, pursuing the aim of peace, security and protection of human rights in accordance with the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights (1986) and international human rights law on the African continent.  [African Union](https://au.int/en), [African Charter on Human and People’s Rights](https://au.int/en/treaties/african-charter-human-and-peoples-rights) |
| The European Court of Human Rights  (1959) | The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) was established in 1959, by the Article 19 of the European Convention of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1950). ECHR is placed in Strasbourg (France), which is also the seat of the Council of Europe (Goal: uphold human rights, democracy and rule of law in Europe) [Film on the European Court of Human rights](https://www.youtube.com/user/EuropeanCourt),  [Council of Europe](https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/home)  [Text of the European Convention of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms](https://www.echr.coe.int/pages/home.aspx?p=basictexts), |
| Amnesty International  (1961) | Amnesty International is one of the largest non-governmental organisations, working on human rights worldwide. Amnesty was founded by the British lawyer Peter Benenson in 1961, and is an example of a grassroot initiative, which role is crucial for development of a free and just society. Having more than eight million supporters all over the world, the organisation works on the fulfilment of human rights in accordance with the international human rights law. [More information](http://www.amnesty.org/) |
| Unknown man at the Tiananmen Square  (1989) | A man standing in front of a tanks at the Tiananmen Square in Beijing (June 1989) is an iconic picture. Tanks were on their way to suppress mass protests at the Tiananmen Square, where thousands of students, workers and intellectuals had gathered demanding political freedoms and democratic reforms in China.  For further reading: Peter Li, Marjorie H. Li, Steven Mark Culture and Politics in China: An Anatomy of Tiananmen Square, 2011 |
| Trial of Slobodan Milosevic | Trial of Slobodan Milosevic, the former President of Yugoslavia, was held at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in Hague (2002). ICTY was established in 1993 by the UN’s Security Council Resolution in order to investigate war crimes on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.  The main charges against Milosevic were crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes. War atrocities on the territory of former Yugoslavia were the most tragic events in Europe after the World War II. Hague is also the seat for the International Criminal Court (ICC), established in 2002. Mandate: to prosecute individuals for crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes. [International Criminal Court](https://www.icc-cpi.int/) |
| Lgbtq+  (2009) | In 2009, Johanna Sigurdardottir (Iceland) became the world’s first openly gay prime minister. In 2013, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) launched [UN Free & Equal – a global UN public information campaign aimed at promoting equal rights and fair treatment of LGBTI people.](https://www.unfe.org/) |
| Fridays for future  (2018) | #FridaysForFuture is a movement started by Greta Thunberg (SWE) in 2018. Ignoring going to school and sitting for three weeks in front of the Swedish Parliament, Greta and her friend showed their protest against lack of actions on the climate crisis. Movement spread worldwide, when thousands of schoolchildren demand concrete actions by politicians to reverse global climate change. A side effect of the protests are attempts of the environmental NGOs to bring national authorities into court (e.g. [Urgenda Foundation](https://www.urgenda.nl/en/home-en/) vs the Netherlands, 2019 ; [Natur og Ungdom vs Norway](https://nu.no/stikkord/klimasoksmal/), 2020). |