

# Celebrate Human Rights Day

Wed, Dec 10, 2008 at 3:23 PM



Dear Friends,

Today marks the 60th anniversary of the [United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#). The declaration recognizes that all people have fundamental rights and freedoms. "Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world," it starts. As a global community, we must continue to try to make this vision a reality for all people, no matter if they reside in Congo, Iraq, China, or the United States.

*Donate today to support  
Survivors of Torture  
International!*

Here at SURVIVORS, we find that there are two articles from the declaration that are particularly relevant to our mission:

#### Article 5

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

#### Article 14

1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Tonight at 7p.m., University of San Diego's Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice is hosting a discussion featuring William Aceves, associate dean, California Western School of Law; Marjorie Cohn, professor, Thomas Jefferson School of Law; and Dustin Sharp, senior program officer, Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. The panelists will examine how far human rights have come since 1948, and the future for their fuller implementation. Are more people free from torture? What obstacles do people face while seeking asylum from persecution? Please [RSVP online](#) if you would like to join us for this free event.

On behalf of the board and staff of SURVIVORS, I wish you a peaceful holiday season and a healthy new year.\*

Sincerely,



Kathi Anderson  
Executive Director

*\*To use our limited resources as prudently as possible, we will not be sending holiday cards through the mail this year. Thank you for your understanding.*

## Donate

### Year-End Campaign

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to our year-end campaign! If you have made a pledge, but you haven't received a donation envelope yet, please know that it is on its way. You can also make a secure, tax-deductible donation [online](#).

## Gifts that make a difference

**SURVIVORS' holiday gift cards:** The holiday season can bring as much stress as it does happiness. Whether you're walking through the mall or browsing online, it can be hard to find a meaningful present. This holiday season, you have the opportunity to give a gift that makes a difference. SURVIVORS has created gift cards that represent true holiday values of peace, kindness, and sharing.

Here's how it works:

1. You make a contribution through our donation page and contact Public Affairs Director [Maren Dougherty](#) with the recipient's name and address.
2. We send a holiday card (pictured) to the designated recipient.
3. Your donation goes toward SURVIVORS' torture treatment program.



Many of our clients arrive in America without any possessions or their loved ones. They have endured arduous challenges, then have traveled across continents to arrive on safe soil in San Diego, and at SURVIVORS' doorstep. You can spread holiday cheer to our clients by supporting our services with a thoughtful contribution.

**Lip gloss partnership:** As part of their company philosophy of giving back, Constantina, the founder of Constantina's Lip Goddess, and local Sales Representative, Stephanie Hanson, will donate 20% of your online purchase of [Lip Goddess and MANificent Products](#) to Survivors of Torture, International. Beat the holiday traffic and shop their [online store](#) for lip glosses, lipsticks, and a line of moisturizing products for men. To shop on behalf of SURVIVORS, select the items you want to buy, then go to checkout and input **Sales Rep** next to "Where did you hear about us?" and type **SURVIVORS** in the "Comments" section.

**GoodShop:** Shop online at [GoodShop.com](#) and a percentage of each purchase will be donated to Survivors of Torture, International. Stores include Amazon, Apple, Target, Sephora, Staples, Best Buy, and more! Just enter **Survivors of Torture, International** as the organization you want to support.



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## Upcoming Events

### Love and forgive. Change Everything.

SURVIVORS, in conjunction with KPBS and The Fetzer Institute, is sponsoring this series. Please join us on Mondays in January for four simple, yet potentially life-changing conversations.

Jan 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 6-7p.m.

San Diego County Health Services Complex

3851 Rosecrans St., San Diego, CA 92110

Please RSVP to Conversation Facilitator Crystal Green at [cgreenmft@hotmail.com](mailto:cgreenmft@hotmail.com) or 619-318-6573

For more information on the series, please go to the [campaign's web site](#).

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## News

### [ACLU Alleges Rights Abuses](#) (Boston Globe: 12/10/08)

*The report documented several cases in which medical care was delayed or denied to immigrants, reportedly because they were about to be deported.*

### [Rollback on Torture? Not So Easy for Obama](#) (Time Magazine: 12/5/08)

*Barack Obama won the White House with a firm promise to put an end to what critics called the Bush Administration's use of torture on terror suspects.*

### [Rejecting the Torture Legacy](#) (Washington Post: 12/3/08)

*Other immediate steps Obama could take are revoking presidential orders allowing the CIA to use harsh treatment, giving the International Red Cross access to all prisoners held by intelligence agencies and declaring a moratorium on taking prisoners to a third country for harsh interrogations.*

### [Number of Iraqi Refugees Admitted to U.S. Up Sharply](#) (Los Angeles Times: 11/29/08)

*After months of processing delays -- and widespread complaints by refugee advocates -- the U.S. government dramatically increased the number of Iraqi refugee admissions to more than 13,800 in the last fiscal year compared with 1,600 the previous year.*

**[UN Reports Murder, Rape and Torture by Congo Troops and Rebels](#) (Guardian: 11/25/08)**

*Government soldiers and rebels fighting in eastern Congo both have committed serious human rights abuses, according to the United Nations secretary-general.*

**Volunteer**

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who have contributed their time, energy, and skills. If you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities at SURVIVORS, please email Special Initiatives Manager [Sara Vaz](#).

You can also plan your own event or an online fundraising challenge by setting up a [personalized page](#). Then you can invite all of your friends, family members, and coworkers to support services for survivors of torture.



**Ongoing Opportunities**

**Social Networks:** Connect with SURVIVORS on [Facebook](#), [Myspace](#), [YouTube](#), and [Delicious](#).

**Goodsearch:** Support SURVIVORS by searching or shopping online through [Goodsearch.com](#).

**Ralphs & Food 4 Less:** Support SURVIVORS by linking your grocery store cards. Go to the [Ralphs](#) or [Food 4 Less](#) sites, select "Participant," and enter # 84761.

**Vehicle Donations:** Donate your car, truck, or RV to benefit SURVIVORS through the [V-DAC program](#).

**Recycle used Cell Phones and Ink Cartridges:** Do you have old cell phones, laser or ink cartridges? SURVIVORS collects these items to raise money for our programs. For more information contact [Charlene](#) at (619) 278-2425.

***Survivors of Torture, International:***

- *Facilitates the healing of torture survivors and their families;*
- *Educates professionals and the public about torture and its consequences;*
- *Advocates for the abolition of torture.*



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