[Human rights 'success stories' shared at the UN to serve as example, and inspire others](#)

The [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (UDHR) is 70 this year and since then, it's helped improve the rights of vulnerable women, children and men worldwide. The "Good Human Rights Stories" initiative was launched by 14 countries and the European Union to highlight the strengthening of rights, and inspire nations worldwide to follow suit.

At a high-level event held in that spirit on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, in New York, on Thursday, UN [Secretary-General António Guterres](#), drove home that point: "We should never forget the profound progress that has been made over the decades — and, indeed, that is happening as we speak."

"Progress in one corner of the world plants a seed of hope in another," he stated, referencing his own personal story. "I grew up under the Salazar dictatorship in Portugal and did not know democracy until I was twenty-four years old…But it was the human rights struggles and stories of others around the world that inspired and moved us to believe in change at home."

[Michelle Bachelet](#), the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, who also delivered opening remarks cited recent human rights advancements across the world including in India, the Horn of Africa, South Africa, Georgia, Liberia, Tunisia and Chile.

"In many countries, things are moving in the right direction, sometimes not quickly enough, sometimes it's not perfect, but nevertheless, they are moving and the broader impact is clear," she said.

The event went on to showcase several initiatives and progress made to strengthen human rights in various countries, including the promotion of diversity in Indonesia, the role played by civil society in Korea, new legislation for gender equality in Tunisia, and prison reform in Georgia, to name a few.

On Wednesday, the UN held another high-level event marking the 70th anniversary of the UDHR, to highlight how making the text a reality, can be [a powerful tool](#) for nations across the world to prevent conflict and poverty.