

X-1.-402

U.S. Embassy to the Holy See For Everyone, Everywhere: Universal Human Rights and the Challenge of Diversity

Istituto Maria Santissima Bambina
October 16, 2008

The question of how any rights can be said to be universal in a world marked by profound cultural differences has long haunted the international human rights movement. In the U.N. Charter, the founders of the U.N. affirmed their "faith" in fundamental human rights. But they left the problem of foundations for another day. Today, the need to explore and affirm the bases for the faith that certain rights belong to everyone everywhere is greater than ever. But the challenges for cross-cultural dialogue on human rights have intensified even as the need has increased. The 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides an occasion to reflect anew on these challenges, to draw inspiration from the great generation of diplomats who achieved approval of this historic document, and to look ahead.

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Ambassador Glendon opens the conference



Ambassador Glendon and Cardinal Martino

The views expressed herein are those the authors and do not necessarily represents those of the U.S. Government;

***"For Everyone, Everywhere: Universal Human Rights
and the Challenge of Diversity"***

A forum brought to you by the Embassy of the United States of America to the Holy See

At the Istituto Maria Santissima Bambina
Oct 16, 2008

- 8:30-9:00 Registration and Coffee
- 9:00-9:15 Welcoming Remarks:
H.E. Ambassador Mary Ann Glendon, U.S. Embassy to the Holy See
- 9:15-10:15 Session I:
"Universal Human Rights in a Post-Modern World"
Speaker:
Prof. Jean Bethke Elshtain, University of Chicago
- 10:15-10:30 Coffee Break
- 10:30-10:45 Screening of Video "Human Rights Voices at the United Nations:
1948 and 2008"
- 10:45-11:30 Session II:
"The Universal Declaration of Human Rights—Then and Now"
Speaker:
H.E. Ambassador Mary Ann Glendon, U.S. Embassy to the Holy See
- 11:30-1:00 Session III:
"The Universal Declaration of Human Rights – A 'Western' Document?"
Chairman: H.E. Ambassador Kagefumi Ueno, Embassy of Japan to the Holy See
Speakers:
Prof. Hsin-chi Kuan, Chinese University of Hong Kong
Prof. Habib Malik, Lebanese American University, Beirut
- 1:00-2:00 Catered Lunch at Conference site
- 2:00-3:00 Session IV:
"Human Rights: Filling the Gap between the Letter and the Spirit"
Speaker:
Cardinal Renato Martino, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace
- 3:00-3:45 Session V
"Universal, Interdependent, and Indivisible" or Rights a la Carte?"
Chairwoman: Ambassador Mary Ann Glendon
Speaker:
Prof. Janne Matlary, University of Oslo (former Deputy Foreign Minister
of Norway)
- 3:45-4:15 Musical Interlude
- 4:15-5:00 Session VI
"A Universal Foundation for Universal Rights"
Speaker:
Prof. Thomas Williams, L.C., Pontifical University Regina Apostolorum
- 5:00 Conference Wrap-Up: H.E. Ambassador Mary Ann Glendon

This conference is made possible through the support of the Knights of Columbus.

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AND THE CHALLENGE OF DIVERSITY"**

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BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Professor Jean Bethke Elshtain is the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Social and Political Ethics at the University of Chicago. She received her Ph.D. in politics from Brandeis University in 1973 and then joined the faculty of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. In 1988, she became the first woman to hold an endowed professorship in the history of Vanderbilt University. She was appointed to her current position at the University of Chicago in 1995, and has been a visiting professor at Oberlin College, Yale University, and Harvard University. Professor Elshtain was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1996. In 2006, she was appointed by President George W. Bush to the Council of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and also delivered the prestigious Gifford Lectures at the University of Edinburgh, joining such previous Gifford Lecturers as William James, Hannah Arendt, Karl Barth, and Reinhold Niebuhr. In addition, she has been a Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, a Scholar in Residence for the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Conference and Study Center in Como, Italy, and a Guggenheim Fellow. She is the recipient of the Ellen Gregg Ingalls Award for excellence in classroom teaching. She served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton and is on the Board of Trustees of the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park in North Carolina.

Ambassador Mary Ann Glendon was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the new U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See on December 19, 2007. Ambassador Glendon was the Learned Hand Professor of Law at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In March 2004, Pope John Paul II named her president of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, marking the first time a woman has headed one of the major pontifical academies. In 1995, Pope John Paul II appointed her head of the Vatican delegation to the U.N. Conference on Women in Beijing. Ambassador Glendon has also served as a consultant to the U.S.