

## **Year 12 & 13 Essay Competition: the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

2008 marks 60 years since the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Upheld as the first major international human rights instrument, the Declaration sets out a broad range of fundamental human rights and freedoms to which all men and women, everywhere in the world, are entitled.

The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary provides a timely reminder to emphasise the relevance of the Universal Declaration and its core values. The elaboration of human rights has made significant progress in the six decades since the Declaration was adopted but the challenges remain considerable. In light of these challenges, and the proliferation of other human rights instruments since 1948, is the Declaration still necessary and can it continue to play a meaningful role in securing the human rights of individuals across the planet. What do you think? Write a persuasive essay of up to 1000 words on the theme:

### **“The relevance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights today”**

Send it to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) by Tuesday 12 August and you and a parent/guardian could be guests at an event in Wellington celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The winner will also get the opportunity to read extracts from his or her essay at the event. The prize covers relevant expenses including, for a winner outside Wellington, travel and hotel accommodation. The winner's school will also receive a credit for library books to the value of \$1000.

Entry is limited to Year 12 and 13 students studying in New Zealand. Entries become the property of MFAT and may be used to promote UDHR 60<sup>th</sup> events. There will be only one winner, who will be contacted by Friday 22 August. The essay competition will be judged by a panel. The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into. Any inquiries please email [alana.messent@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:alana.messent@mfat.govt.nz).

Send your entry including full name, age, school, class and contact details (address, phone and email) by **5pm on Tuesday 12 August** to:

#### **UDHR 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Essay Competition**

United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Private Bag 18 901

WELLINGTON 5045

or email your essay to: [unhc@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:unhc@mfat.govt.nz)