

WORLD YOUTH ALLIANCE BOOK LIST

A World Made New

By Mary Ann Glendon

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is one of the great documents of the 20th century, a document that should be read and understood by everyone. Unfortunately, over 50 years after its creation, it remains a document that is not widely known or appreciated by the general public. *A World Made New* tells the story of the creation of this document by the UN Human Rights Commission in the years immediately following World War II. Particular attention is given to the significant efforts of Eleanor Roosevelt as chair of the Human Rights Commission during the drafting of the Declaration. The book discusses the deliberations and struggles of the commission in creating a document deserving of being considered "universal."

About Mary Ann Glendon

Mary Ann Glendon is the Learned Hand Professor of Law at Harvard University. She writes and teaches in the fields of human rights, comparative law, constitutional law, and legal theory.

Glendon currently serves as a member of the U.S. President's Council on Bioethics. She is also a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the International Academy of Comparative Law, and a past president of the UNESCO-sponsored International Association of Legal Science. By appointment of Pope John Paul II, she is a member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences and the Pontifical Council for the Laity. In 1995, she headed the 22-member delegation of the Holy See to the Fourth U.N. Women's conference in Beijing.

A native of Berkshire County, Massachusetts, USA, she lives with her husband, Edward R. Lev, in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. They have three daughters.

Guide questions for discussion groups

- Why was/is the Declaration important?
- Why is it that a declaration so few placed any importance on in the beginning has had such a far-reaching impact?
- One of the issues disputed throughout the forming of the Declaration was whether to make it a morally binding declaration or a legally binding covenant. Why was this issue so contentious?

- Was the final solution the right one?
- Why is it that the human rights commission was able to produce a document that was approved in the General Assembly with such little opposition? Did you learn any negotiation tactics from reading the book?
- Can there really be full agreement and cooperation in promoting these rights even without agreement on why these rights exist?
- Discuss the Declaration.
- Discuss the Declaration, thinking in particular about its application in your country.