

HUMAN RIGHTS INQUIRY

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to the Queensland Parliament Human rights inquiry.

I would like to base my submission under the terms of reference 3a. the objectives of the legislation and the rights to be protected; with regard to two specific issues.

1. The environmental determinants of health.

The market gives us things that many of us want, but it is the natural system that gives us things that we, as human beings absolutely need.

As human beings, the fundamental requirements for health as individuals and as a society are quite simple. They are clean air, clean water and uncontaminated nutritious food.

These fundamental needs are recognized in international human rights law and have been documented by the National Toxics Network in their submission¹ to the National Human Rights Consultation as far back as 2009.

In 2001, the United Nations Human Rights Committee found that *'living in a pollution-free world is a basic human right'* and those who pollute violate these rights. They noted that, *"Human rights cannot be secured in a degraded or polluted environment"* and that *"The fundamental right to life is threatened by exposures to toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes, and contaminated drinking water."*

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) recognises the dangers environmental pollution and places an onus on all parties to ensure the healthy development of the child, to the maximum extent possible. To achieve the epigenetic basis of health and disease must also be considered, for once there is a mutation in a gene, this intergenerational impact that cannot easily be remedied. Australia has agreed to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of children as described by the CRC.

The more recent Convention on the Rights of the Child 10 (CRC) does specifically describe a child's right to health, adequate food and clean water, *"taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution."* The CRC places an onus on all parties to ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child.

¹ ntn.org.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/human_rights09.pdf

In its rush to roll out the unconventional gas industry in Queensland, and to fulfill the needs of the market, the Queensland government failed to protect the basic human rights and needs of its citizens. Specific legislation to protect those human needs and rights is urgently needed.

There is currently a Federal Government Committee inquiring into the Unconventional gas industry. Their report is also due in June. I would like to bring to the attention of this human rights inquiry the 272 submissions currently posted on the Senate Committees web site.

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Gasmining/Gasmining/Submissions

I would like to include my written and oral testimony to the Unconventional Gas Committee as part of this submission, and in addition I would like to expand on a few examples of how the unconventional gas industry has been, and is subverting our basic rights to safe air, food and water.

The Darling Downs has long been regarded as one of our most precious food bowls. Clean water is and always has been of paramount importance. Access to ground water, particularly in times of low rainfall or drought is essential. For generations one of the standard sources of bore water for stock in the Darling Downs has been from the Walloon coal measures. It has long been recognised that it wasn't the best aquifer to get water from because it tended to be salty, but when it was the only one available particularly in drought, it was a lot better than nothing.

It is the Walloon Coal Measures that the Unconventional gas industry has targeted in Queensland. The methane gas at cellular level is intimately connected to the coal, held there by the hydrostatic pressure of the water surrounding it. In Coal Seam Gas production, the initial method of "stimulating" flow of methane gas is by depressurising the aquifer by dewatering the aquifer. When the gas stops flowing or slows, it is "stimulated" again by the process of fracking.

NICNAS (our national chemicals regulator the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme) were, back in 2012², tasked with investigating for safety the chemicals used in the gas industry. They have been dragging their heels for years with no outcome, and in the meantime thousands of wells have been drilled (with many fracked) My understanding is that of the 23 chemicals commonly used for fracking in Australia, only 2 of them have been assessed by NICNAS in any context, (unrelated to CSG) and nothing do date has been published by NICNAS regarding assessment of chemicals associated with CSG extraction.

Not only has NICNAS not fulfilled the due diligence required in determining the safety or otherwise of these chemicals, they have continued to fast track and

² <http://www.nicnas.gov.au/communications/issues/fracking-hydraulic-fracturing-coal-seam-gas-extraction/information-sheet>

given approval for chemicals to be used when over 95% of the ingredients are kept secret from the public under concessions of “commercial in confidence.”

One recent example documented in the local press³ is of the chemical Duratone HT manufactured in the United States by chemical giant Halliburton. It was approved ahead of an assessment of its potential health and environmental effects. According to Halibuton’s own documents certain local environmental regulators do not allow it to be used, and Haliburton have developed a more environmentally friendly alternative for use elsewhere. There are very real concerns about this chemical, for example in 2010, environmental chemist⁴ Dr Glenn Miller in his report on exploration wells in the Delaware Basin wrote that Duratone HT contained nonylphenol which is a bioaccumulative endocrine disrupter. Multiple chemicals are used in the gas extraction process and between 1.6 and 5.4 tons of this chemical may be used in each well.

The point is that the strata (the Walloon Coal Measures) that the unconventional gas industry are targeting and pumping full of massive volumes of unknown chemicals which have not been tested for safety, is the same strata that the farmers have and are drawing water from to produce the food that sustains us. That puts all of us at risk.

There is connectivity between the Walloon Coal measures, the shallow aquifers above and the deep aquifers below leading to the potential for widespread pollution of the whole ground water system.

Because there is connectivity, dewatering of the Walloons puts the future stability of the interconnecting groundwater in jeopardy with a potential loss of groundwater, both potable and for agricultural purposes, over a widespread area. This has already started to happen with many bores now rendered useless.

The industry has brought massive volumes of contaminated water and contaminated drilling fluids to the surface. For years evaporation ponds have been used, adding to the atmospheric burden of air toxins for local residents. Drilling fluids have been disposed of on agricultural land. Contaminated water has been deliberately and systematically sprayed on rural roads, subsequently running off into farm dams used for stock and crops. Potable water supply has been damaged as RO water has been pumped into rivers, creeks and town water supplies. In many cases, the only other source of potable water (collected rain water), had been contaminated by air toxins and particulate matter emanating from the gas industry’s activities settling on domestic roofs and in their rainwater tanks.

³ <http://www.qt.com.au/news/investigation-secrecy-surrounds-new-CSG-chemical/2988972/>

⁴ http://www.damascuscitizensforsustainability.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Miller-Report_R1.pdf

Gas is deliberately designed to leak from innumerable pieces of gas infrastructure including vents on water lines and risers. Gas is vented from wells; there are gaseous emissions from flares, compressor stations, pumps and power stations and all of this is into the shared air space of the gas field residents making their homes and living environments unsafe.

The Darling Downs are at one end of the geographic spectrum of harm wreaked by the unconventional gas industry in Queensland. Gladstone, Curtis Island and the Great Barrier Reef are at the other.

In 2011 during dredging of Gladstone harbour, in parallel with multiple reports of sick and dying fish, dolphins, crabs, shark and turtles there was a significant outbreak of serious skin infections and other illnesses amongst the fishermen in Gladstone. Dr Andrew Jerimijenko, the treating doctor for some of the fishermen said infections were so severe than in some cases they were limb threatening and some people were permanently disabled. *Shewanella* was identified in both catfish and mudcrabs from Gladstone harbour as well as fishermen. The commercial fishing industry in Gladstone was destroyed. The identified cause was a poorly constructed bund wall leaking contaminated dredge spoil into the harbour. The genesis of the CSG industry on Curtis Island seriously impacted the Gladstone fishermen, losing as they did their healthy occupational and environmental conditions, their physical health and their ability to support themselves and their family.

Unfortunately, the environmental and health harm did not end with the construction phase on Curtis Island.

The air pollution produced by the gas industry in the Darling Downs is mirrored by the pollution produced by their processing plants on Curtis Island. Gladstone residents have repeatedly complained about the massive pollution plumes of the LNG flare, which the Queensland government appears to just ignore. This weekend, data was released by the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) for the 2014/2015 reporting year. From a health point of view the figures are truly frightening.

The Curtis LNG plant is an export facility, which claims to give the world 'clean green energy' but in just one year it has released a 4,800 tonnes of deadly carbon monoxide, 4,300 tonnes of nitrous oxides, 620 tonnes of volatile organic compounds and 190 tonnes of carcinogenic formaldehyde into the air the people of Gladstone and surrounding area are breathing. Formaldehyde is known cause of leukaemia, nose and sinus tumour. 1.7 tonnes of benzene, also known to cause leukaemia in children, was emitted. There were 550 tonnes of particulate matter, which carries these toxic compounds and delivers them deep into the lungs of all that breathe them in. According to Dr Mariann Lloyd-Smith, Senior Advisor, National Toxics Network "These are all dangerous pollutants in their own right, but together, they make for a really toxic soup."

The adverse effects of exposure to particulate matter are well documented and there is no evidence of a safe level of exposure or a threshold below which no

adverse health effects occur. The combined air pollutants can result in serious health impacts such as cancer, respiratory disease, heart attacks and stroke. In 2013, the World Health Organization declared that outdoor air pollution is carcinogenic, yet there has been no comprehensive assessment of the health implications of UG air pollutants, particularly for residents living close to gas-fields and for the exposure of their children and babies who are much more vulnerable to the pollutants..

Published health studies indicate increased risk of cancer in people who live close to gas development as well as increased risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes including babies with congenital heart defects.

This is a screenshot from the NPI website for Curtis Island emissions

You are here: [NPI Home](#) » [NPI data](#) » [Search NPI data](#) » [Search by Form](#) » Curtis Island LNG Plant

Summary Emissions Transfers Download Map

2014/2015 report for QCLNG OPERATING COMPANY PTY LTD, Curtis Island LNG Plant - Curtis Island, QLD

A list of Substances for an individual report.

Substance	Air Total (kg) ^{[1][2]}	Air Fugitive (kg) ^[1]	Air Point (kg) ^[1]	Land (kg) ^[1]	Water (kg) ^[1]	Total (kg) ^[1]
Acetaldehyde ⓘ	29,000		29,000			29,000
Arsenic & compounds ⓘ	7.8	7.8				7.8
Benzene ⓘ	1,700	0.37	1,700			1,700
Beryllium & compounds ⓘ	0.39	0.39				0.39
Cadmium & compounds ⓘ	0.45	0.45				0.45
Carbon monoxide ⓘ	4,800,000	19,000	4,800,000			4,800,000
Chromium (III) compounds ⓘ	90	90				90
Copper & compounds ⓘ	39	39				39
Cumene (1-methylethylbenzene) ⓘ	0.0085	0.0085				0.0085
Cyclohexane ⓘ	0.0018	0.0018				0.0018
Ethylbenzene ⓘ	180	0.0020	180			180
Fluoride compounds ⓘ	260	260				260
Formaldehyde (methyl aldehyde) ⓘ	190,000		190,000			190,000
n-Hexane ⓘ	3,900	0.0028	3,900			3,900
Lead & compounds ⓘ	45	45				45
Mercury & compounds ⓘ	0.078	0.078				0.078
Nickel & compounds ⓘ	65	65				65
Oxides of Nitrogen ⓘ	4,300,000	12,000	4,300,000			4,300,000
Particulate Matter 10.0 um ⓘ	490,000	430,000	53,000			490,000
Particulate Matter 2.5 um ⓘ	56,000	3,600	52,000			56,000
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (B[a]Peq) ⓘ	1.2	0.58	0.61			1.2
Sulfur dioxide ⓘ	3,600	31	3,500			3,600
Toluene (methylbenzene) ⓘ	1,700	0.0052	1,700			1,700
Total Volatile Organic Compounds ⓘ	620,000	16,000	610,000			620,000
Xylenes (individual or mixed isomers) ⓘ	770	0.0051	770			770

The way the unconventional gas industry has been rolled out in Queensland is a striking and ongoing example of how in Queensland our human needs and rights to clean air, water and food has been recklessly subjugated to the perception of economic imperatives.

There is an absolute need to protect in law our human rights to clean air, clean water and safe nutritious food. That means it is also essential to protect in law the natural systems, the environment from which those necessities are derived with appropriate penalties for those that cause harm.

On a larger scale, the biggest threat to global health, to all of humanity in the coming decades is from escalating climate change. We in Australia will not be

immune. We must see it also as a human rights issue, and in order to give our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren some hope of a liveable future we need to write into law now their right to climate protection.

2. The rights of refugees.

One might have assumed that our civilization had progressed to such a degree that in the year 2016 it would not be necessary to state or legislate for the obvious, but it would appear that is not the case. It is obvious to me that for a nation to routinely and systematically put men, women and children in de-facto concentration camps and to leave them there for months and years without charge, without trial, without sentence for the crime of seeking sanctuary on our shores is simply and absolutely wrong. This period in our history will, I believe, be remembered with shame. For a nation to legislate for silence, with penalties against those who would try to expose the specific human rights abuses endured by asylum seeker is to compound our national shame.

The human rights of those who seek sanctuary on our shores are no different to the human rights applicable to each and every resident of this or any other country. However the evidence gathered by human rights advocates such as Julian Burnside⁵ AO QC shows that asylum seekers on our shores have, under the “protection” of the Australian government, been subjected to every human rights abuse imaginable. Below are just three testimonies from his website.

Manus Island

STATEMENT OF “WITNESS A”

I, **[WITNESS A]** of [ADDRESS WITHHELD], resident in Australia, can give evidence as follows:

1. I am a Medical Doctor, formerly employed at an Offshore Processing Centre (the “**Manus Island OPC**”) for some months. Whilst employed at the Manus Island OPC, my duties were mainly the supervision of the provision of medical care as provided by other doctors employed there, as well as the provision of medical care myself.
2. My professional experience includes the provision of health care services in maximum-security prisons in Australia.
3. On the whole, the conditions of detention at the Manus Island OPC are extremely poor. When I first arrived at the Manus Island OPC I was considerably distressed at what I saw, and I recall thinking that this must be similar to a concentration camp.

⁵ <http://www.julianburnside.com.au/cruelty-in-australias-offshore-detention-camps/>

4. The detainees at the Manus Island OPC are detained behind razor wire fences, in conditions below the standard of Australian maximum-security prison.
5. My professional opinion is that the minimum medical requirements of the detained population were not being met. I have no reason to believe that the conditions of detention have improved since I ceased employment at the Manus Island OPC.
6. The conditions of detention at the Manus Island OPC appeared to be calculated to break the spirit of those detained in the Manus Island OPC. On a number of occasions the extreme conditions of detention resulted in detainees abandoning their claims for asylum and returning to their country of origin.
7. At the Manus Island OPC, bathroom facilities are rarely cleaned. There was a lot of mould, poor ventilation, and the structural integrity of the facilities is concerning.
8. No soap is provided to detainees for personal hygiene.
9. When detainees need to use the bathroom, it is standard procedure that they first attend at the guards' station to request toilet paper. Detainees would be required to give an indication of how many 'squares' they will need. The maximum allowed is six squares of toilet paper, which I considered demeaning.
10. A large number of detainees continue to be in need of urgent medical attention.
11. Formal requests for medical attention are available to the detainees. The forms are only available in English. Many of the detainees do not have a workable understanding of English and the guards will not provide assistance.
12. The medical request forms are collected in a box throughout the week, and then on the weekend the box (together with its contents) is disposed of in a waste bin without having been reviewed. I witnessed this on a number of occasions, and understood it to be common practice.
13. On some occasions when I was given access to particular detainees to provide medical treatment, they told me that they had filled out and submitted more than 15 forms over many months but until now had not received treatment. The medical complaints they had were serious and in urgent need of attention.
14. I have personally witnessed a number of instances of trickery and deception on behalf of Manus Island OPC guards. Medical treatment is often used as bait for removing detainees from their compound where a particular detainee has complained about conditions. Once removed, and prior to the provision of any form of acceptable medical attention, the relevant detainees are transported to the local prison as a form of punishment for agitation.

15. I often expressed my concern about the lack of medical treatment provided to the detainees. Never were my concerns addressed.

Nauru:

STATEMENT OF “WITNESS E”

I, [WITNESS E] of [ADDRESS WITHHELD], resident in Australia, can give evidence as follows:

1. I work for a refugee advocacy organisation. I deal with many refugees who have been held at Offshore Processing Centres, including many from the Nauru Offshore Processing Centre (the “**Nauru OPC**”).
2. At the Nauru OPC, womens’ sanitary pads are considered a fire hazard, and so the detainees are forced to ask for them often.
3. Women seek also to use the sanitary pads as make-shift nappy’s given the high rates of bed wetting.
4. Women are also terrified of going to the toilets at night because of the male guards present there. They prefer to wet themselves.
5. Showers are restricted to extremely short periods at the Nauru OPC. A male guard sits outside a plastic sheet, and has control of the water.
6. Often, the male guard will stop the flow of water while young girls are washing their hair and ask the girls to expose themselves in before turning the water back on. This is a common complaint amongst former and current detainees. It has not been addressed.
7. The guards at the Nauru OPC have also on a number of occasions asked to see nude children. On at least on occasion a naked child was placed on the guards lap and rubbed in a way that I would consider to be inappropriate.
8. On one occasion a child (on seeing a psychologist) was asked to draw a picture of what made him upset. The drawing appeared to be a dark-skinned man with an erect penis.
9. A number of parents have similar complaints about their children being abused.
10. Male guards continue to loiter around the toilets, often offering lollies in exchange for the young children cleaning the toilets, which are filthy and covered in mould and excrement.
11. The guards forcibly restrained fathers who protested about their children being asked to clean the toilets in exchange for lollies.
12. On one occasion a 22 year-old girl (who has the physical appearance of a much younger child) attended the toilet facilities late at night. A male guard seriously sexually assaulted her. The victim feels she cannot report the identity of the guard to authorities as the

guard is still working at the Nauru OPC where the remainder of her family is detained, and she believes that this will put her family in additional danger.

STATEMENT OF “WITNESS F”

I, **[WITNESS F]** of [ADDRESS WITHHELD], resident in Australia, can give evidence as follows:

1. I am a Medical Doctor, formerly employed at the Christmas Island Refugee Processing Centre (“**Christmas Island**”). Whilst employed at Christmas Island, my duties were mainly to determine whether or not a particular refugee was fit to be transferred to the Manus Island Offshore Processing Centre or the Nauru Offshore Processing Centre.
2. I was employed on Christmas Island for an extended period, and was working there during July 2013, when boat arrivals were at their peak.
3. When asylum seekers arrived, they were usually badly sunburned, starving, and incontinent of urine and faeces. Often they had vomited on one another.
4. I was frustrated to see that it was standard procedure to strip these asylum seekers of their belongings on arrival. In my view, this policy became unreasonable when it extended to removing glasses and hearing aids with no discretion.
5. Asylum seekers were taken to the “induction shed” immediately on arrival.
6. There were so many asylum seekers and so little staff, so we were forced to sacrifice the quality of our health assessments.
7. The primary purpose of the health assessments was to ensure the asylum seekers were fit enough for detention on Nauru or Manus Island. Our health assessment checklists included a box that we could tick if we thought that the person was not fit for detention.
8. On a number of occasions I recall being instructed verbally to “never tick that box”.
9. On the electronic medical records, we were restricted to changing information about allergies. We were restricted from providing further medical assessment.
10. At one point when the centre was extremely busy, we were made aware that the government wanted to have as many asylum seekers transferred to the Nauru and Manus Island OPCs as possible. We were to make an example of the children who were fit to travel.
11. I recall being upset, as were my medically trained colleagues, when I was heard that a four year-old boy with cerebral palsy and a young mother with twins were sent to Manus Island without medical advice.
12. These were the first people sent with the intention of demonstrating, for the other recently arrived asylum seekers, who would be considered fit for detention.

13. On one occasion, a new member of the medical team refused to certify an asylum seeker for detention for medical reasons. My understanding is that she was removed from the medical certification process, and the asylum seeker was reassessed (positively) and sent to the Manus Island OPC or the Nauru OPC.
14. It is also my understanding that, generally speaking, in the transportation process from Christmas Island to Manus Island or Nauru, medical records were usually lost. As a result of the loss of medical records, some women received between 18 and 19 separate, unnecessary vaccinations.
15. I know that five pregnant women were given vaccinations that were unsafe for expectant mothers. Of these women, I know that four suffered miscarriages.
16. I know also that a young boy who I considered to be inappropriate for detention on Manus Island or Nauru was sent to Manus Island where I understand he was repeatedly subject to sexual abuse, including rape.

What is so shocking is that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁶ which has been so routinely flaunted and broken by our governments with regard to our treatment of refugees has since 1948 been one of the cornerstones of our society. Do we simply need to enact the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, or do we need to take every single article of the Declaration below and write it into our domestic legislation?

Article 1.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2.

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3.

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

⁶ <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

Article 4.

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5.

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

Article 6.

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7.

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8.

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9.

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10.

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11.

(1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

(2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Article 12.

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13.

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.

(2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

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.

Article 15.

(1) Everyone has the right to a nationality.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16.

(1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

(2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

(3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17.

(1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18.

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with

others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19.

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 20.

- (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
- (2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21.

- (1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
- (2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.
- (3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22.

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23.

- (1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
- (2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
- (3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
- (4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24.

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25.

(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

(2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26.

(1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

(2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

(3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27.

(1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

(2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28.

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29.

(1) Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

(2) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

(3) These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 30.

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

Dr Geralyn McCarron

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17th April 2016