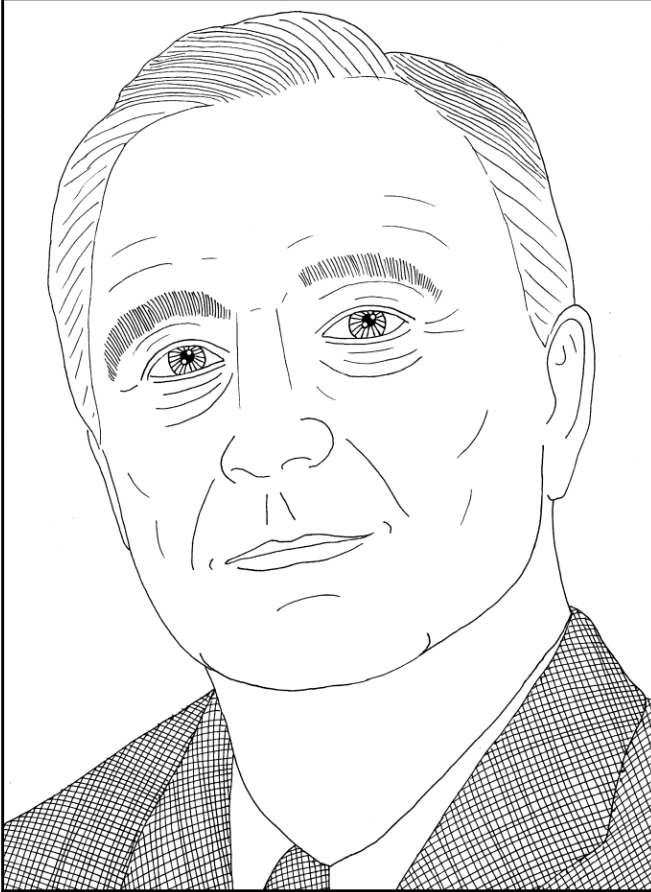


FREEDOM DAY - FEBRUARY 1



"Freedom means the supremacy of human rights everywhere. Our support goes to those who struggle to gain those rights or keep them."
-- Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Freedom is the most basic of all human rights, but throughout history many individuals and nations have had to struggle to be free. For this reason, the first ten Amendments, known as the Bill of Rights, were added to the American Constitution to guarantee basic freedoms for our new nation's citizens.

The Bill of Rights was a tremendous milestone in the pursuit of freedom for all, and yet when our nation was founded, not all Americans were allowed to be free. Slavery is the ultimate loss of freedom, and it was nearly another 100 years before Abraham Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery. **National Freedom Day** commemorates this momentous occasion on February 1, 1865.

The first article of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights states the most important starting point for all human rights - "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." Much progress has been made in helping to win freedom for all. But even though international law forbids slavery, it still exists in many parts of the world. In fact, there are more slaves today than ever before -- more than 27 million men, women and children are forced against their will to work as prostitutes or in sweat shops or agricultural fields. And even though all nations agreed to uphold basic human rights for their citizens, many people are not allowed these basic liberties.

Freedom Day, on February 1, is an opportunity to celebrate the victories for freedom that have been won and to re-dedicate our commitment to work for freedom for all.

Be a Hero for a Culture of Peace

1. Learn about history of slavery and human trafficking today
2. Hold an event to raise awareness that not all are free
3. Contribute to organizations working to promote freedom

Organizations Protecting Freedom

- American Civil Liberties Union (aclu.org)
- Amnesty International (amnesty.org)
- Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (catwinternational.org)
- Freedom House (freedomhouse.org)
- Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (gaatw.net)
- Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (wilpf.org)

For more information: www.peacecalendar.net/freedomday.htm

Be a Hero for a Culture of Peace - cultureofpeace.com

...every act of compassion makes a difference...every day counts for a better world...

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