

FOREWORD

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Trapped at Europe's door: a little girl from Syria, in a makeshift asylum dormitory for asylum seekers in Bruzgi, Belarus, 20th Dec. 2021. About 1,000 people, fleeing conflict or starvation, are waiting for the chance to cross the border and enter to EU | Photography: [Alessio Mamo](#)

On 10 December 1948, a significant milestone was reached in the journey towards a fairer and more equitable future when the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Today, 75 years later, what initially began as a bold vision has evolved into a global pledge to safeguard the dignity of every human being, without distinction. This IDEES magazine special issue aims to commemorate this anniversary while encouraging critical reflection on the progress achieved and the challenges that still lie ahead on the path towards a world characterised by greater justice and equality

Since its inception, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the international humanitarian laws derived from it, has served as a beacon of hope for millions of people across the globe. It has inspired social movements, influenced national legislation, and guided the development of public policies aimed at protecting and promoting human rights. However, we cannot ignore the challenges that we still have to face. Threats to freedom, justice, and equality persist, and we have an ongoing responsibility to ensure universal respect for human rights.

Through this special issue, we invite the reader to embark on a critical exploration of human rights in 21st-century Europe. We will examine the advances, both discreet and noteworthy, in areas such as gender equality, diversity, social justice or freedom of

expression, and we will also address the threats and violations suffered especially by migrants as well as the implications of the digital society on the effective protection and defence of human rights.

This special edition of IDEES magazine aims to inspire critical reflection and a continued commitment to the cause of human rights in Europe. Human rights are not merely a written declaration but an enduring and universal mission that requires the active involvement of public authorities and organised civil society.

By commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through this collaborative effort between the Centre for Contemporary Studies and the Directorate-General for the Promotion and Defence of Human Rights, we aim to reaffirm our collective commitment to building a world where every individual can live in dignity, freedom, justice, and equality. This special issue urges us not to waver in our defence of these rights—a perpetual undertaking that is fundamental to constructing a better world.



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**Adam Majó**

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