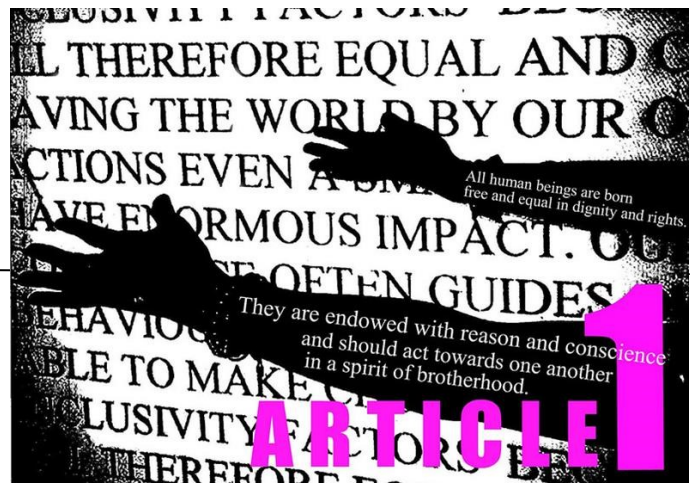


Touchstones Theme: Worth & Dignity

Dignity /'dignitē/ noun. / The moment you stop comparing yourself to others because it undermines your worth, education and your parent's wisdom. / ...The moment you live your dreams, not because of what it will prove or get you, but because that is all you want to do. People's opinions don't matter. / The moment you realize that no one is your enemy, except yourself. / The moment you realize that you can have everything you want in life. However, it takes timing, the right heart, the right actions, the right passion, and a willingness to risk it all. ... / ...The moment you believe that love is not about losing or winning. It is just a few moments in time, followed by an eternity of situations to grow from. / The moment you realize that you were always the right person. Only ignorant people walk away from greatness. *Shannon Alder*

...Why think the concept of human dignity is tenuous? In the first place, it is very young. The term is not in any existing copy of the Magna Carta (1215). It does show up much later in the English Bill of Rights (1689), but not with a moralized meaning. People were not yelling 'Liberté, égalité, dignité!' during the French Revolution. And for all its fiery rhetoric about equality and "inalienable" rights, the US Declaration of Independence does not speak of human dignity. Nor does the US Constitution. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights used dignity to justify itself: a conceptual watershed. You won't find any moralized talk of human dignity in any of the old slave narratives. And it isn't in the passionate abolitionist speeches, pamphlets and newspaper editorials of the 19th century. Ditto for suffrage. ...We have not been talking about human dignity for long. *Remy Debes*



Join us in exploring Worth & Dignity

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