

# The preconditions of lasting peace

A statement by Endeavour Forum, Inc., a non-government organisation (NGO) with special consultative status with the Economic & Social Council of the UN (ECOSOC).

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Web site: [www.EndeavourForum.org.au](http://www.EndeavourForum.org.au)

The pursuit of lasting global peace is a noble cause supported by Endeavour Forum, Inc.

However, it is important how we define peace. It cannot be a mere suspension of hostilities between nations, ethnic groups or ideological movements (a temporary ceasefire). It cannot be a militarily-enforced “peace” imposed on a subject population by curfews and terror. Nor should it be — worst of all — the peace of the graveyard, i.e., genocide.

Peace, in order to be genuine and beneficial for all, must be characterised by freedom. This broader and more satisfactory conception of peace was famously encapsulated in former President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s State of the Union speech, of December 8, 1941, in which he espoused what he called **the Four Freedoms**. These were:

1. Freedom of speech.
2. Freedom of worship.
3. Freedom from want.
4. Freedom from fear.

These freedoms were incorporated in the Atlantic Charter, a statement issued on August 14, 1941, which set out American and British goals for the world after the end of World War II, months before the U.S. entered the war. American artist Normal Rockwell famously illustrated the Four Freedoms in 1943 in a series of four oil paintings.

The **United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)**, in its preamble, recognises that “the inherent dignity” and “the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family” are “the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world”. It proclaims that the highest aspiration of the common people is to live in “a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want”.

Australia’s Endeavour Forum, Inc., endorses the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, especially the following clauses:

**Article 3:** “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.”

**Article 16,** clause 3: “The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.”

**Article 18:** “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.”

**Article 25,** clause 2: “Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance.”

**Article 26:** 1). “Everyone has the right to education”; 2). “Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality”; and 3). “Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.”

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