

Notre Dame University-Louaize's
Institute of Lebanese Thought and the Benedict XVI Endowed Chair of Religious,
Cultural and Philosophical Studies

Organize an International Symposium Celebrating

**The 70th Anniversary (1948-2018) of the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights:
The Achievements of Charles Malik**

December 10 2018
Abou Khater Auditorium

*“The twentieth century was the century of human rights—of their massive violation, but also of
humanity’s increased recognition of them.” (William Sweet)*



© Photo of Charles Malik on December 10, 1948

Rationale

Seventy years ago on 10 December 1948 in resolution 217 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed in Paris by the United Nations General Assembly. To call this event a milestone is an understatement; a revolution is more accurate. To be sure, human rights discourse had at least a two-hundred year history, but what emerged in the middle of the last century was unprecedented precisely because of its *universal* character. Nations from everywhere around the world, in spite of vast religious, cultural, historical, economic, ideological, and philosophical differences, agreed on a list of universal rights ranging from the “right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,” (Article 18) to the “right to a standard of living adequate for health and well-being” (Article 25). Cognizant of the almost insurmountable challenges of interpretation such a list presented, the masterminds of the document presented the hermeneutical key in the preamble, which virtually all the peoples of the world recognized and received, namely, the inherent dignity involved in being a human person. One of these masterminds, if not *the* mastermind, according to many experts in the field, was a brilliant, imposing, compassionate man from the mountains of Lebanon named Charles Malik. For Malik, as for the rich Abrahamic civilization in which he was born and raised, such dignity was cultivated in rest and leisure, the very basis of culture and society, which could suggest that the rights to rest and leisure (Article 24) were particularly connected to (Article 16) “the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society...”—an article which Malik directly and strongly influenced. This resonated well with Indo/China civilization, as P.C. Chang, Malik’s colleague, and another Asian mastermind of the document, made clear—although Malik and Chang were on opposite sides of the debate concerning the relation of individual rights to communal/group rights. And so seventy years later, Notre Dame University-Louaize in Lebanon, which now houses an important and substantial archive on Malik, second only to the archive at the Library of Congress, takes the time and the *leisure* to organize an International Conference in order to commemorate and celebrate this pivotal global achievement, and to honor the man without whom one of the most important international documents of the twentieth century, and perhaps one of the most important international documents in world history, would have been essentially different and certainly not as rich or effective.

Program

Monday, December 10, 2018

Abou Khater Auditorium

Opening Session

9:00-9:15 am	Registration
9:15-9:20 am	<i>Ameen Rihani</i> , Secretary General of the Institute of Lebanese Thought, NDU
9:20-9:25 am	<i>Nicolas Daoud</i> , Director of Nicolas Daoud & Co Pty Ltd
9:25-9:30 am	<i>Fr. Pierre Najem</i> , President of NDU

Session I

9:30-9:35 am	Moderator: Ameen Rihani, Institute of Lebanese Thought, NDU Announcement: launching of book on Charles Malik
9:35-10:45 am	Screening of documentary film, <i>Charles Malik: A Universal Person</i>

10:45-11:00 am	Coffee Break
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Session II

11:00-11:40 am	Moderator: Tony Nasrallah, Institute of Lebanese Thought, NDU Key-note Speaker: <i>Glenn Mitoma</i> , University of Connecticut, USA: “The Education of Charles Malik”
11:40-12:00 pm	Q&A
12:00-12:20 pm	<i>Hans Ingvar Roth</i> , Stockholm University, Sweden: “Charles Malik and P.C. Chang: The Philosophers of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights”
12:20-12:40 pm	<i>Sarhan Dhouib</i> , University of Kassel, Germany: “The Meaning of the Universality of Human Rights by Charles Malik”
12:40-1:00 pm	Q&A

1:00-2:00 pm	Lunch
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Session III

2:00-2:20 pm	Moderator: Chady Rahme, Faculty of Humanities, NDU <i>W. Kathy Tannous</i> , Western Sydney University, Australia: “Charles H. Malik and Religious Freedom: The Influence of Biography on Malik's Contributions to the Drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights”
2:20-2:40 pm	<i>Tony Nasrallah</i> , ILT, NDU: “Ahead of His Time . . . Again: Malik's Failed Battle for Minorities”
2:40-3:00 pm	Q&A

3:00-3:10 pm	Coffee Break
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Session IV

3:10-3:45 pm	Conversation/ Interview <i>Edward Alam</i> , Benedict XVI Chair, NDU and <i>Seyed-Masoud Moosavi-Karimi</i> , President of Mofid University, Qom, Iran
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Session V

3:45-4:25 pm	Moderator: Cedar Mansour, Dean, Faculty of Law & Political Science, NDU Round table with all speakers and Q&A
4:25-4:30 pm	Closing Remarks