

FOREWORD BY THE UN COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

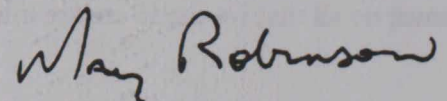
“For The Record 1998: The United Nations Human Rights System”

The commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1998 reaffirmed the aspirations and the spirit contained in that historic document. The Declaration remains an inspiration, for although the work of the United Nations in promoting and protecting human rights has made undeniable strides, there is still much to be done. We are called upon to renew our commitment to the ideals, principles and common international standard of human rights embodied in the Declaration. “All Human Rights for All”, the theme of the 50th anniversary, must remain at the top of the international agenda in the years to come.

Interest in the human rights work of the United Nations has increased markedly in recent years. The Organization’s human rights machinery has accumulated information and experience of remarkable breadth over the last half century. At the same time, this very wealth of information has impeded easy access to required data. We have learned from experience that United Nations human rights information needs to be categorized, structured and annotated for easier access and assimilation by Governments, organizations and groups, as well as by individuals. “*For the Record 1997: The UN Human Rights System*”, the first attempt to do just that, has proven to be an excellent tool for those who look for comprehensive information on human rights within the United Nations.

“*For the Record 1998*” continues this valuable work. It simplifies the access of a wider, non-specialized public to the labyrinth of United Nations official human rights documents available previously only to experienced researchers. I therefore wish to commend this initiative on the part of the Government of Canada, as well as the excellent work put in by the Human Rights Internet as a contribution to the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

I believe that this project will continue to provide those who are concerned with and work for the promotion and protection of human rights with a highly efficient working tool.



Mary Robinson
Geneva, 25 January 1999