



## The Creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

*“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”*



### Call for Volunteers

Quill Project at Pembroke College, Oxford, is launching a project to model the drafting of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The project will begin on 8 March 2017 (International Women's Day) and aims to publish its initial model of negotiations in October 2017. A workshop for volunteers will be held on 8 March 2017, as part of the launch event for the The Oxford Research Centre in Humanities Negotiated Texts Network (<http://torch.ox.ac.uk/negotiations>).



### About the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was written between 1946 & 1948 by a series of committees under the auspices of the United Nations. Influential members of the committee included Eleanor Roosevelt from the United States, who chaired the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, and Hansa Mehta from India. Although it is a declaration with only moral and not legal force, it is one of the foundational documents of the United Nations and the first globally agreed expression of the existence and nature of fundamental human rights.

### About the Quill Project

The Quill Project is an interdisciplinary research project that works to improve understanding of the way that the foundational texts of the modern world have been created, opening new avenues for research and teaching through the application of innovative technology. It works to engage the widest possible audience and promote the public understanding of democratic institutions, always critical and especially crucial at a time when they are under stress.

The project's bespoke software is designed to recreate the context within which constitutional conventions, legislative assemblies, or other formal groups have made their decisions. We combine this technological approach with the subject-matter expertise of legal and political historians, and outward-looking partnerships with educational non-profit organizations. This allows us to produce materials useful to researchers and in a much broader range of educational contexts. Our flagship project concerns the history of the 1787 Constitutional Convention, and is available on our website.

### Who can volunteer?

This work requires input from those who are interested in the human rights and their history, and who are keen to work closely with historical sources.

- No special technical knowledge is required, and training on the interpretation of the sources and use of our software platform will be provided.
- This project might suit students wishing to write an undergraduate thesis on the history of the Declaration, as it will provide an opportunity to explore the relevant archives in depth.

### For more information:

Visit our website at: [www.quillproject.net](http://www.quillproject.net)

To volunteer to help please email [olivia.griffiths@pmb.ox.ac.uk](mailto:olivia.griffiths@pmb.ox.ac.uk), including a brief Curriculum Vitae.