

# Human Rights Day Observed in Prague

Prague, The Czech Republic, 11. December 2014



Traditionally, the Czech UPF chapter celebrated the Human Rights Day in Prague on Dec. 11, 2014 by convening a conference followed by a panel discussion. The conference took place in the Cevro Institute in Prague and was organized together with the Civic Institute as a partner organization. Over thirty people participated in spite of a very busy time before the Christmas. Surely they were attracted not only to the topic itself but also to the presence of high level speakers including 2 members of the Czech Parliament.

The conference had three panels. Interestingly there was no brake for about three hours from the beginning until the end because the speeches and discussions were very interesting and kept the attention of the audience and nobody wanted to interrupt the atmosphere.



In the first panel the topic was "**The Significance of the Human Rights in Present Time.**" Dr. Juraj Lajda, secretary general of UPF-Czech Republic, outlined the

basic ideas and problem areas when dealing with human rights. He mentioned four areas: the definition of a human being as both spiritual and physical being, what is the origin of human rights (derived from the Creator or from the society), definition of human rights (what are and what are not human rights) and finally he tried to outline the base for the definition of human rights and their applications. In the end he emphasized the importance of a healthy family as the primary and primordial environment where we can learn about human rights, to respect others and have sympathy and solidarity with our neighbours.



The second speaker, **Mrs. Nina Nováková**, member of the Czech Parliament and member of the Subcommittee for Human Rights of the Czech Parliament tied up the topic and spoke about the human rights in the family. In her illustrative presentation she advocated the idea that the human rights can be executed only in the relationship. The

quality of the relationship is very important. She analysed the relationships in the family especially among the husband and wife and parents and children. The quality of these relationships forms the base for human rights in the society. In the family we can grow together.



The second panel focused on **"How to Apply the Human Rights in Politics and the Economy."** Dr. Roman Joch, director of the Civic Institute, spoke about the true and false human rights. He emphasized that there are natural human rights and social

rights The natural rights such as the right for life, freedom of speech, religious freedom etc. should be guaranteed for everybody. Social rights, on the other hand are based on consensus in the society and

depend on the fact if the society can afford to grant them (e.g. right for living, work etc.) There is a difference between them and we need to differentiate them.



The next speaker **Mr. Marek Benda**, member of the Czech Parliament

and member of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs of the Czech Parliament spoke about the application of human rights from the perspective of a leftish and conservative politics. He mentioned that if we have social rights then our ownership rights have no meaning. Too many various rights limit the



freedom. We have the right for life but on the other hand there is a lot discussion about the abortion and euthanasia.

**"Human Rights in the Social Context"** was the theme of the last panel. **Mr. Vít Zvánovec** from the The Office for

Personal Data Protection spoke about the national system of the courts. He specified the responsibility of each level of the legal institutions including the Constitutional, regional and local courts. He mentioned also the European legislature and the system of courts. This was very illustrative because we could see how the legal system operates and how the human rights can be secured through this system. He mentioned that a judge should be a mature person.

The conference was successful. It was important that we could held this conference because very little attention was dedicated in the public to observe the Human Rights Day this year.

