

“21st century is regarded as “the century of human rights”
And the importance of respecting human rights has been
exclaimed. Exclaiming the importance of this matter, however,
turning our eyes to the world, we find wars and oppressions
killing innocent people, fatal criminal which rob the lives of
the people, ill-treatment to little children and seniors, unreasonable
discrimination and prejudice, etc.

Under these circumstances, what is required to us? Eleanor Roosevelt
said the following in the international conference to celebrate the
10th year since the universal declaration of human rights.

Where is the place to start universal human rights? It starts in
the close and small place . . . in the familiar small place which we
can find in no place on the map (omitted). This is the place where
every man, every woman, and every child finds not-discriminated
justice, equal opportunity and equal respect. If these rights are
meaningless there, there may be no place to respect them. If there is
no united citizens’ activity to instruct it close to us, our efforts
to put it in a bigger world will end up in vain.

As she said, even if very small the power of each person is, isn’ t
it required to us: do not be indifferent, do not lose our intention
to instruct equal justice, opportunity and respect?