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Nobel Peace Laureate (1987)

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Grammy-winning singer and activist

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Former Director-General, UNESCO

**Neelakanta Radhakrishnan** (India)  
Founder, Council of Gandhian Studies

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Activist leader, Civil Rights Movement

**Ilya Prigogine**, in memoriam (Russia)  
Nobel Chemistry Laureate (1977)

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Human Rights Council  
48<sup>th</sup> session.  
10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration on  
human rights education.  
High level panel.  
Geneva, 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2021

Dear Human Beings,  
Dear Madam President,  
Excellency's,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Greetings of peace and of understanding,

You are greeted here because of your professional endeavors, congratulations. You are greeted here because of your present and future achievements, because through these and through human rights education, you shall forward the betterment of the human condition and as such, enhance the future of humanity. You are also greeted here because you are living and sentient human beings.

The right to life is at the core of all human rights: if life is cancelled, all human rights are cancelled.

The right to life shows the essence of any prevention program: life can only be protected through prevention means.

The right to life, fulfilling the promise of the right to life, assuring universal respect for life and having the means needed for a good life given to all; this is the central worth of any existence, *this shall be one of our central purposes*: the right to life and its fulfillment.

This is why we demand a greater integration of the right to life into human rights education and human rights practices.

Therefore, we call upon you, upon youth and future generations, upon every human being and unto all institutions to integrate "reverence for life" and "the nonkilling principle" into human rights education.

And we thank you, for the good and the better given to life. This is our common future.

Thank you Madam President.