

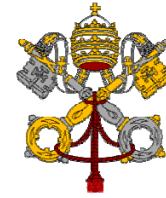
**Address  
of Pope Benedict XVI  
to the UN General Assembly  
on 18 April 2008**



**“Human rights are increasingly being presented as the common language and the ethical substratum of international relations”**

“Recognition of the unity of the human family, and attention to the innate dignity of every man and woman, today find renewed emphasis in the principle of the responsibility to protect. This has only recently been defined, but it was already present implicitly at the origins of the United Nations, and is now increasingly characteristic of its activity. If States are unable to guarantee ... protection, the international community must intervene with the juridical means provided in the United Nations Charter and in other international instruments. ...Indifference or failure to intervene ... do the real damage. What is needed is a deeper search for ways of pre-empting and managing conflicts by exploring every possible diplomatic avenue, and giving attention and encouragement to even the faintest sign of dialogue or desire for reconciliation.”

“Human rights, of course, must include the right to religious freedom, understood as the expression of a dimension that is at once individual and communitarian. The activity of the United Nations in recent years has ensured that public debate gives space to viewpoints inspired by a religious vision in all its dimensions, including ritual, worship, education, dissemination of information and the freedom to profess and choose religion. It is inconceivable, then, that believers should have to suppress a part of themselves – their faith – in order to be active citizens. It should never be necessary to deny God in order to enjoy one’s rights.”



***Symposium***

***to Commemorate  
the First Anniversary  
of the Address of  
Pope Benedict XVI  
to the General Assembly of  
the United Nations***

**Thursday, April 16, 2009  
3:00–5:00 pm**

United Nations Headquarters  
Conference Room # 1

Visitors’ Entrance  
First Avenue @ 46th Street

## PROGRAM

### Welcome Message

from

H.E. Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon

### Greetings

H.Em. Edward Cardinal Egan

Archbishop Emeritus of New York

### Keynote Speech

The Hon. Mary Ann Glendon

Former Ambassador of the United States of America

to the Holy See

### Address

*“Responsibility to Protect”*

The Hon. Terje Rød-Larsen

President of the International Peace Institute

*“Interreligious Dialogue”*

The Hon. Hilario G. Davide, Jr.

Permanent Representative of the Philippines

to the United Nations

### Moderator

The Hon. John K. Menzies

Dean, The Whitehead School of Diplomacy  
& International Relations, Seton Hall University

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Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (right) and Srjjan Kerim (left), President of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, welcome His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, upon his arrival.

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Permanent Representatives and delegates welcome His Holiness at the General Assembly.

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United Nations International School Students welcome His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI.

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