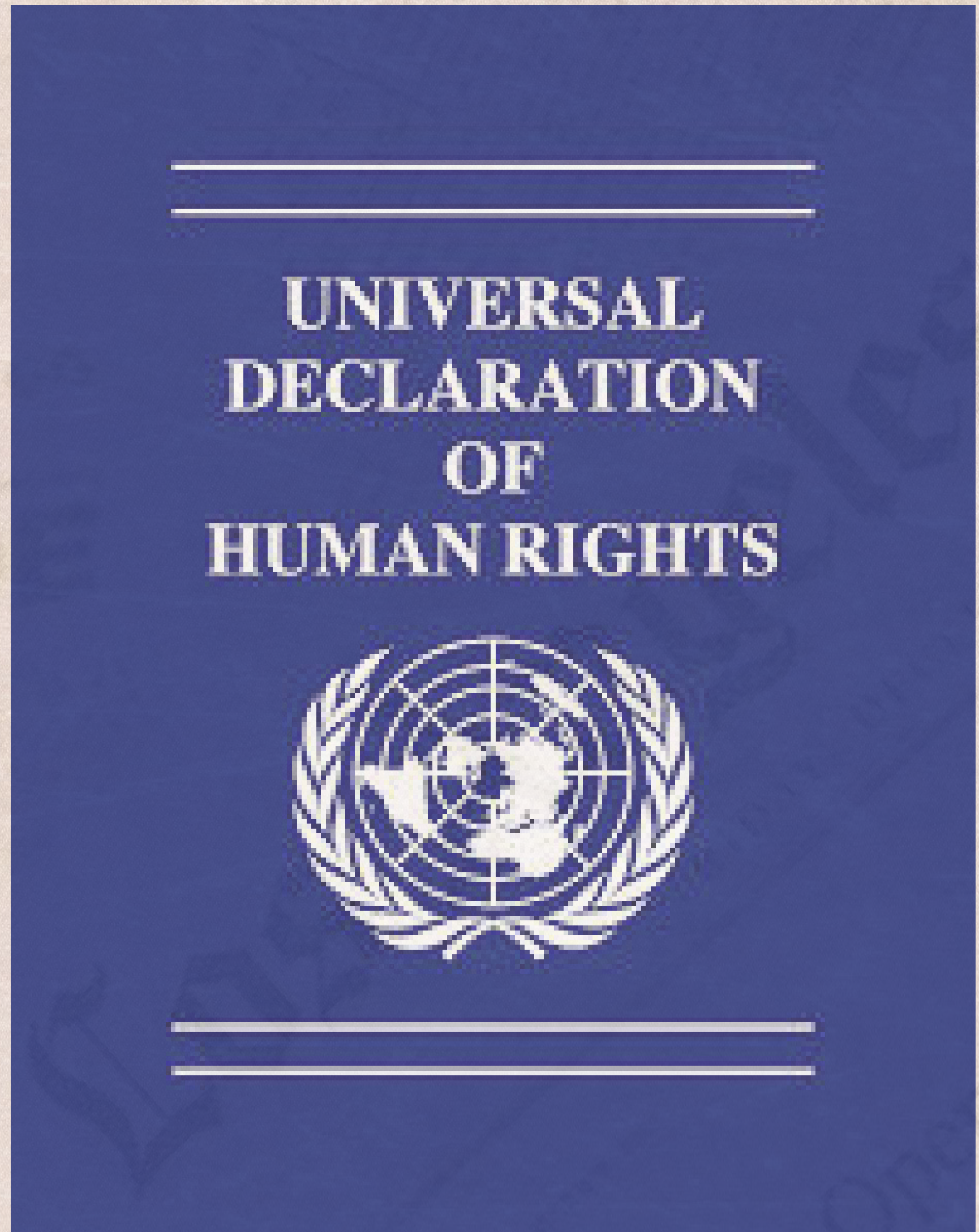


# FILMS AND HUMAN RIGHTS



# HIDDEN FIGURES

"Hidden Figures" is an extraordinary film that takes us into the heart of the civil rights struggle in 1960s America, offering an intimate and powerful look at the lives and challenges faced by people of color in a nation marked by prejudice and discrimination.

The plot follows the true story of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, three brilliant African-American scientists working for NASA who made fundamental contributions to the success of the Apollo 11 space mission. Through their lives and struggles, the film not only showcases the scientific genius of these women but also their determination to overcome the obstacles imposed by racial segregation and to gain the recognition they deserve.

"Hidden Figures" is not only a celebration of the talent and determination of these extraordinary women but also a condemnation of the injustices and human rights violations they had to endure.



In terms of human rights, "Hidden Figures" highlights several violations of the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). For example:

Article 1, which states that "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights," is clearly violated by the racial and social inequalities depicted in the film;

Article 2: "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."

# HIDDEN FIGURES

Furthermore, Article 23, which enshrines the right to work, to free choice of employment, and to protection against unemployment, is often ignored for black women working as maids who are subject to exploitation and discrimination.

Personally, "Hidden Figures" deeply moved, inspired, and made me reflect on the importance of perseverance and the fight for equality and human rights. It's a film that tells a story of hope, resilience, and triumph over adversity, and one that I highly recommend to anyone who believes in the importance of social justice and equality.

**Filippo Caio - 5C ART**



# THE IMITATION GAME

"The Imitation Game" is a cinematic masterpiece directed by Morten Tyldum, skillfully blending historical drama, narrative tension, and thought-provoking insights on the ethical and moral themes. The film provides a glimpse into the life of Alan Turing, a brilliant mathematician, and his team's efforts to break the Enigma code used by the Germans during World War II. Turing's unconventional methods and personal struggles are intertwined with the race against time to decode the messages and help the Allies win the war. The film also explores Turing's personal life, including his experiences with prejudice and his eventual tragic fate.



Through Turing's story, the film shows how several human rights settled by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) are violated. Here there are the articles which were violated:

**Article 1 - Right to Equality:** Alan Turing faces discrimination and prejudice due to his unconventional behavior and sexual orientation, highlighting the violation of his right to equality.

**Article 5 - Freedom from Torture and Degrading Treatment:** Turing undergoes chemical castration as a punishment for his homosexuality, which can be interpreted as a form of degrading treatment.

**Article 9 - Freedom from Arbitrary Arrest, Detention, or Exile:** Although not explicitly depicted in the film, Turing's arrest and prosecution for "gross indecency" under anti-homosexuality laws represent a violation of his right to freedom from arbitrary arrest.

**Article 12 - Right to Privacy:** The surveillance and invasion of privacy depicted in the film, both by the government and society at large, call into question Turing's right to privacy.

# THE IMITATION GAME

These violations and themes underscore the broader societal challenges surrounding discrimination, privacy, and the protection of individual rights during Turing's lifetime.

Despite historical inaccuracies, such as the name of Turing's computing machine, the film captivates with its acting and screenplay. Moments depicting wartime scenarios or Turing's past memories intertwining with present events are particularly engaging. The film also narrates events related to the birth of computing tools, presenting various technologies considered precursors to modern technology. These include the "Bomb," developed by Turing's team to decipher Enigma, representing one of the earliest examples of electromechanical computers.

Overall, "The Imitation Game" is a powerful exploration of human nature, discrimination, and the quest for understanding and acceptance, while also shedding light on the violation of human rights during Turing's lifetime.

**Mattia Drogo - 5C ART**



# THE HELP

The Help is a 2011 American historical drama film set in Jackson, Mississippi, during the Civil Rights Movement of the early 1960s, the film tells the story of a young white woman, Skeeter, who decides to write a book about the lives of the black maids who work for white families in the city. The Help is a powerful film that shines a light on the racism and inequality that black women faced in the United States during the Civil Rights Movement. The film is told from the perspective of the black maids, which gives the audience a unique and often heartbreaking look at their lives. The film is also notable for its strong female characters. Skeeter, Aibileen, and Minny are all complex and well-developed characters who refuse to be victims of their circumstances. They are strong, independent women who are determined to fight for their rights.



The Help depicts a number of violations of the UDHR, including:

Article 1: 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.

Article 2: Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4: No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

# THE HELP

---

Article 5: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 7: All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 23: Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.



I thought *The Help* was a powerful and moving film that shone a light on the often-overlooked experiences of African-American maids during the Civil Rights Movement. The film was beautifully shot and well-acted, and I found the story to be both heartbreaking and inspiring. I was particularly struck by the performances of Viola Davis and Octavia Spencer, who both gave Oscar-worthy performances. Davis was incredible as Aibileen Clark, a maid who is forced to confront the racism and injustice she faces on a daily basis. Spencer was also excellent as Minny Jackson, a maid who is determined to speak her truth, no matter the consequences. I think *The Help* is an important film that everyone should see. It is a reminder of the struggles that African-Americans have faced in this country, and it is a testament to the strength and resilience of the human spirit.

**Daniel Ippolito - 5C ART**