

Europe

As we look back in the 60th Anniversary year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, what we see in Europe is the enormous progress that has been made. This is a region, the European Union, the Council of Europe, is a region where human rights institutions have been set up - one of the best regional human rights system that exists today is here in Europe.

It should be a success story for human rights; it's a story to be sold around the world. Unfortunately, some European governments, member states of the European Union and others have actually actively worked to undermine those principles of human rights through their collusion in the CIA led renditions programme for instance, which is a shame because Europe has a success story on human rights to sell.

The message to European leaders would be to match their rhetoric on human rights, and what they say abroad with what they are doing at home. Within the European Union the systems to hold governments accountable remain weak and that needs to be strengthened. The European Union can play a very important role championing human rights abroad but in order to be able to do that effectively they have got to set their own house straight first.