

**Background Document for:**

***United Nations Teachers Conference  
on Human Rights***

**Friday, March 15, 2013**



**A Better World through Human Rights Education**

**Program Synopsis**

*Human rights education is both a lens through which to observe the world and a methodology for teaching and leading others. - Amnesty International*

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**Consider this question:** Is the statement below comprehensive in expressing a cross cultural perspective on *what* needs to be done to help create a better world through human rights education? The *when* and *where* are up to you. You are the *who*, finding answers to the what, when and where of comprehensive questioning across cultures to help move society towards universal human rights.

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**We the People**

We the People, all educators, recognize that human rights education is an important part of creating a better world for everyone. Human rights awareness, and working toward the creation of a universal culture for human rights, is an educational prerogative.

We the People must be committed to support, enhance, and universalize human rights in schools and local communities to help lift people out of poverty and injustice. 21<sup>st</sup> Century commitments needs to involve the community-at-large to help ensure that learning across cultures helps everyone broaden their perspectives on human rights, helping to create a universal culture for human rights. We need to do it with open lines of communication, cross cultural collaborations, creative human rights learning, and critical social problem solving.

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On March 15<sup>th</sup>

1. Does the We the People statement say what is needed to summarize everyone’s thinking on what needs to be done to help create a culture of peace in our world? Discuss it with your colleagues and change it to fit into an agreed-to commitment for universal human rights.
2. Inform your colleagues in the videoconference about what you know works and does not work, to support human rights learning.
3. Make commitments to work over the next year to help achieve human rights goals.
4. Come to the UN, or a videoconferencing site near you, to present your accomplishments in the spring of 2014.

## **Draft of Program for March 15<sup>th</sup>**

Emphasis of March 15<sup>th</sup> UN Teachers Conference on Human Rights is on international dialogue on human rights education. More support papers for this conference will be forwarded to all sites a few days before the conference. It will include the final program for March 15<sup>th</sup>. Here is a draft.

Times are Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

- Program is facilitated from Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia, PA (US).
- Participating videoconferencing sites by country are: Canada, Kuwait, Mexico, Philippines and the United States.

9:30AM	Welcome and Background on the Day
9:45AM	Session One: Opening Remarks from each site (5-7 minutes)
10:20AM	Annual Global Educator Award
10:30AM	Session Two: Keynote Remarks – Education Specialist/UNICEF Q&A with VC sites
11:30AM	Session Three A: Visit to VC sites for presentations and interactive discussion
12:30PM	Break for food and/or on-site meetings
1:15PM	Session Three B: VC sites continuation of previous session
1:45PM	Session Four Reporting on Agreements and Developing Plans
2:20PM	Final Site Remarks
2:35PM	Closing Remarks from CHC
2:45PM	Adjourn

Work then begins towards the United Nations conference in the spring of 2014 to present results of commitments from NYC or by participating at videoconferencing sites.

### **Recommended Human Rights Education Resources**

Here are major links to important human rights documents and links to related work at the national level and at the United Nations.

- I. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)  
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml>
- II. The Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC)
  - Amnesty International (<http://amnesty.org/en/children>)
  - Campaign for U.S. Ratification of the Convention <http://childrightscampaign.org> for advocacy
  - Child Rights Information Network (<http://www.crin.org>) subscribe to news updates via email.
  - Human Rights Watch (<http://www.hrw.org>)
  - Human Rights Education Associates (<http://www.hrea.org>) teaching resources on children's rights
  - SCREAM – Supporting Children's Rights through Education, Arts, and Media ([www.ilo.org/ipecc](http://www.ilo.org/ipecc)) an educational resource from the international Labor Organization
  - Teach UNICEF (<http://www.teachunicef.org>) free lesson plans for all age groups
  - UNICEF (<http://www.unicef.org>) – video clips, teaching resources, specific focus on rights etc.
  - University of Minnesota Human Rights Library (<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/education>) lessons and activities for teaching children's rights

### III. United Nations Resources

UNICEF <http://www.unicef.org/crc/>

Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights -

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc.htm>

[www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org)

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/training/national-actions-plans.htm>

<http://www.unicef.org/voy/>

<http://www.unesco.org/en/human-rights-education/>

[http://www.amnestyusa.org/education/teaching\\_guides/](http://www.amnestyusa.org/education/teaching_guides/)

<http://www0.un.org/cyberschoolbus/humanrights/declaration/index.asp>

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/training/programme.htm>

<http://www.tolerance.org/>

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/training/decade.htm>

[http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/advisorycommittee/HR\\_education\\_t](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/advisorycommittee/HR_education_t)

[raining.htm](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/advisorycommittee/HR_education_t)

[http://library-hchr.unog.ch/cgi-](http://library-hchr.unog.ch/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&PAGE=First)

[bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&PAGE=First](http://www.un.org/apps/news/subject.asp?SubjectID=5)  
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/subject.asp?SubjectID=5>

### IV. National Human Rights Movements

#### **Brazil**

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/wha/154496.htm>

#### **Canada**

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/wha/154497.htm>

#### **China**

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/eap/154382.htm>

<http://www.humanrights.dk/focus+areas/research/results/human+rights+education+in+china>

#### **Colombia**

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/wha/154499.htm>

#### **Mexico**

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/wha/154512.htm>

[http://www2.ohchr.org/english/ohchrreport2011/web\\_version/ohchr\\_report2011\\_web/pages/introduction.html](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/ohchrreport2011/web_version/ohchr_report2011_web/pages/introduction.html)

#### **Cuba**

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/wha/154501.htm>

#### **Japan**

[http://www.hurights.or.jp/archives/human\\_rights\\_education\\_in\\_asian\\_schools/section2/2000/03/japan-human-rights-education-in-schools.html](http://www.hurights.or.jp/archives/human_rights_education_in_asian_schools/section2/2000/03/japan-human-rights-education-in-schools.html)

#### **France**

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/eur/154424.htm>

**India**

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/sca/154480.htm>

<http://www.sichrem.org/>

[http://www.hurights.or.jp/archives/human\\_rights\\_education\\_in\\_asian\\_schools/section2/1999/03/human-rights-education-in-india-needs-and-future-actions.html](http://www.hurights.or.jp/archives/human_rights_education_in_asian_schools/section2/1999/03/human-rights-education-in-india-needs-and-future-actions.html)

**Ireland**

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/eur/154430.htm>

**United States**

<http://www.hks.harvard.edu/centers/carr/programs/human-rights-in-educatio>

**Kenya**

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/af/154352.htm>

**Kuwait**

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/nea/154465.htm>

**Nigeria**

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/af/154363.htm>

**Philippines**

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/eap/154399.htm>

**Russia**

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/eur/154447.htm>

**South Sudan**

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/af/154371.htm>

**V. Other Human Rights Education Resources**

<http://issues.tigweb.org/youthrights>

<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/>

<http://www.humanrightsaction.org/index.php>

**For more information and to register contact:**

**Global Education Motivators**

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