



HREA - The Global Human Rights Education Network

ANNUAL REPORT 2003

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2003 was a year of exciting growth for HREA, as we continue to expand our programming and reach. What has made this growth so enjoyable for our staff is the opportunity to collaborate with increasing numbers of human rights educators and organizations worldwide. We are continuously touched and inspired by efforts to promote human rights understanding and learning in schools, in communities and by individuals dedicated to the vision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This year's highlights include:

- *the formalization of partnerships with HRE organizations in all regions of the world*
- *training over 500 human rights advocates, educators and legal professionals*
- *the multilingualization of our website and e-services*
- *the development of learning and training materials for activists in the Middle East and North Africa*
- *reaching one million hits per month on our website*

HREA's expertise continues to be called upon in numerous international fora, including those organized by the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Amnesty International, UNESCO and the Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation). HREA is honored to be on the board of the newly established Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe (DARE) Network.

HREA's Board of Directors and staff completed a five-year strategic plan (2004-8). This strategic plan called for continuous work in partnership with others in all regions of the world, new, groundbreaking applications of ICTs for human rights education and training, and extended activities in training and materials development.

This effort has helped us to better articulate who we are and how we see human rights education enhancing the global human rights movement. We believe that education and training in human rights is a critical lynchpin for knowing and acting upon human rights. Human rights education empowers individuals and communities to advocate to secure and protect their rights. We see this most clearly in the participants attending our distance learning courses on human rights monitoring and human rights advocacy.

We are grateful for the opportunity to work with so many human rights advocates and educators worldwide, and to facilitate global networking. Human rights education is a joint effort, and never more needed than in these times.

Felisa Tibbitts  
Executive Director



HREA's Executive Director Felisa Tibbitts facilitated for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights a consultative meeting of human rights educators from Southeastern Europe in Skopje, Macedonia in July 2003.

## MISSION STATEMENT

HREA is an international, non-governmental and non-profit organization that supports human rights learning; the training of activists and professionals; the development of educational materials and programming; and community-building through on-line technologies.

HREA is dedicated to the understanding and application of human rights. HREA believes that quality education in and for human rights is an essential component of the global human rights movement, ensuring accountability, providing an ethical framework for the development of just and peaceable communities, and building a culture of human rights in everyday life. HREA recognizes that human rights education and learning has a special role to play in societies undergoing transformation, reconciliation and rebuilding in post-conflict situations.

Since its founding in 1996 as Human Rights Education Associates (HREA), HREA has become one of the leading human rights education organizations worldwide. The organization is the only one of its kind that builds networks and acts as a central resource among human rights educators and agencies worldwide, works in partnership with human rights educators in every region and uses information and communication technologies to forward human rights learning for activists.

*“You have been an indispensable service here in Zambia. Our organization, right in Central Africa, is kept abreast with issues of human rights because of the noble work of HREA.”*

- Charles Mulenga, Director, PDHRE-Zambia

# Dynamic programming to support human rights learning

## PROGRAMMING IN 2003

HREA works to support and implement human rights education through:

- *assisting in curriculum materials development*
- *training of activists and professionals*
- *developing policies and evaluating programming and practice*
- *enhancing organizational capacity*
- *facilitating community and learning among human rights educators and activists*

These approaches combine to build the capacity of individuals and organizations to facilitate human rights learning. HREA offers thousands of materials free of charge, provides direct technical assistance, has ongoing trainings, networks educational and human rights professionals and works with practitioners and policymakers in developing new strategies to enhance the effectiveness of human rights education.



Teachers from the primary school “Ujedinjene nacije” in Belgrade, Serbia-Montenegro. HREA was part of a feasibility study mission for the Council of Europe that took place in Belgrade in September 2003.

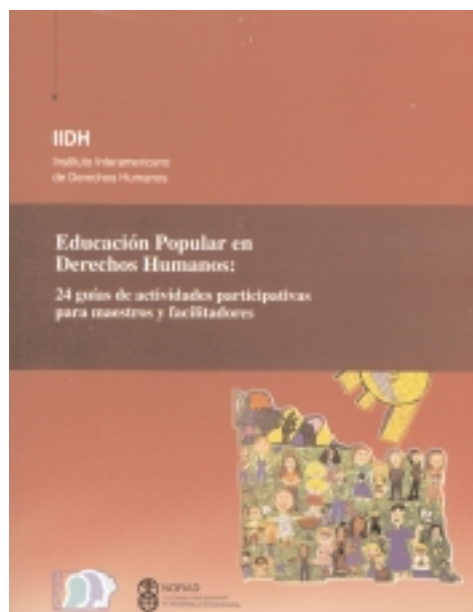
## Curriculum and Materials Development

HREA's products include training manuals, a resource book for human rights educators, policy papers and academic articles that have appeared in journals and books. No other organization has produced the range of human rights education-related publications that HREA has. This is in addition to the extensive on-line resource centre that showcases the work of others.

In 2003, HREA launched its series of on-line study guides. These guides, which provide an introduction to various human rights topics, are being supported by the Information Program of the Open Society Institute and the Dutch Foreign Ministry. HREA also developed a set of case studies on street law-type programming operating in community settings for the Open Society Justice Institute and began working with the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission on teaching manuals for the Bill of Rights. HREA's partner the Research and Training Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Citizenship in Zagreb (Croatia) printed its pre-primary school level manual, which will be distributed throughout the country.

*“Your training manual is the best I have encountered. It should be used like a Bible or Koran by human rights monitors”*

– Participant from The Philippines in distance learning course



**HREA and the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights (IIDH, Costa Rica) have published a Spanish edition of Popular Education for Human Rights: 24 Participatory Exercises for Facilitators and Teachers, written by Richard Pierre Claude. This 100-page training manual is available in Chinese, Dutch, English, Indonesian, Spanish and Turkish.**

### Training of Professionals

Human rights and development professionals have ongoing learning needs. They may lead organisations or departments without previous training in management or project administration. They may be asked to take on responsibilities that require new skills. Often, insufficient time and resources make it difficult to stay current in the human rights field.

In addition to its groundbreaking distance learning program, in 2003, HREA staff conducted trainings and made presentations in Canada, China, Egypt, Hungary, Macedonia, Northern Ireland, Thailand, and the United States. These trainings included capacity-building work with sister organizations to help them in launching regional HRE listservs, facilitation of “lessons learned” with human rights educators, and introduction of human rights education to human rights advocates, law professors and teachers. In 2003, HREA reached three hundred individuals through in-person trainings and sessions, and an addition of two hundred persons in intensive three-month distance learning courses.

*“Let me congratulate you from the bottom of my heart, you the professors and the staff who participated in the process of designing the curricula. It was exactly what people in the field needed.”*

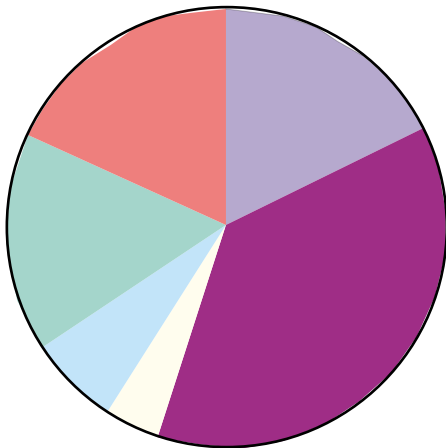
– Participant in Human Rights Monitoring course from UN Mission-Angola



### CHAT SESSION WITH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

As part of a distance learning course on the European human right system HREA hosted an on-line forum with the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Alvaro Gil-Robles. A former National Ombudsman in his native Spain, Mr. Gil-Robles answered questions about his work during a one-hour chat session on 13 November 2003. Mr. Gil-Robles was appointed the first Commissioner for Human Rights in 1999 by the government leaders of all 45-member states of the Council of Europe. ‘It was felt that added value might be accrued by providing an institution with a mandate to promote the “effective respect” for human rights, that is to say to intervene in respect of specific human rights problems, through investigation and mediation with national authorities,’ told Gil-Robles of his mandate to 30 enthusiastic course participants.

### Geographic distribution distance learning course participants in 2003



- Asia-Pacific
- Central and Eastern Europe/  
Newly Independent States
- Latin America and Caribbean
- North Africa and Middle East
- North America
- Western Europe

HREA's distance learning courses are designed to help human rights and development professionals with the practical challenges they face. The courses are led by practitioners who understand the conditions faced by professionals in these fields. Unlike most distance learning programmes, HREA's courses are not exclusively Web-based. HREA uses a dual system that makes it possible to participate in the distance learning courses via e-mail only.

In 2003 HREA offered seven distance learning courses, in which 215 participants from 69 countries were enrolled. Participants included staff members of, among others, international organizations like the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), UNICEF, UNIFEM and UNHCR. Staff from other international NGOs such as Amnesty International, International Alert, International Committee of the Red Cross, Lutheran World Relief, Oxfam GB, Open Society Institute, Save the Children and World Vision, as well as various representatives of national Ombudsmen offices and national NGOs also participated in the courses.

#### Distance learning courses offered in 2003

- *Human Rights Advocacy*
- *Project Development and Management in the NGO Sector*
- *Using the Internet for Human Rights Work- Introductory Course*
- *Leading to Choices: A Course on Participatory Leadership*
- *Using ICTs for Human Rights Work- Advanced Course*
- *Introduction to the European System of Human Rights Protection and Promotion*
- *Human Rights Advocacy (in Russian)*
- *Introduction to Human Rights Education*

## Global Partnerships

HREA's work with partners is central to its mission to promote the world wide human rights education effort. In addition to networking individuals doing human rights education, HREA works closely with a small number of organizations with strategic opportunities to work in their regions or in a specialized area of the HRE field.

In 2003, HREA and partners in the Asia-Pacific region, Central and Eastern Europe, francophone Africa, Latin America/Caribbean and the Middle East received support from the Dutch Foreign Ministry to develop and strengthen regional virtual networks. A multi-lingual web site was developed that includes the archives of the global and regional listservs and a global directory of network members. By the end of 2003 the network included over 10,000 human rights educators and advocates.

HREA started a partnership with the Arabic Network for Human Rights Information, the International Human Rights Law Institute at the DePaul University and the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center to create the Arab Portal for Human Rights. As part of this initiative e-learning and training materials are being developed for human rights advocates in the Middle East and North Africa.

## HREA partners in 2003

Amnesty International-USA, Arabic Network for Human Rights Information, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Council of Europe, HURIDOCS, Instituto Interamericano de Derechos Humanos (IIDH), International Human Rights Law Institute at DePaul University, Moscow School of Human Rights, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, Research and Training Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Citizenship-Zagreb, Union Interfricaine des Droits de l'Homme (UIDH), University of Minnesota Human Rights Center, and Women's Learning Partnership for Rights, Development and Peace (WLP).



Staff of the Asian Regional Resource Center for Human Rights Education in Bangkok during a training conducted by HREA to establish a regional electronic network for the Asia-Pacific region.

## Clearinghouse

HREA uses the Internet and its website to create a central information portal to human rights education. HREA has the premier website for human rights education resources, with over 1,500 training and learning materials able to be downloaded free of charge. Placement of training materials on the web not only makes them readily available to users, they also greatly enhance the shelf life of these resources. The HREA website receives over a million hits monthly, with 50,000 visitors from over 150 countries.

As of 2003, HREA's extensive education resources, human rights news, and human rights learning tools are available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. On Human Rights Day, HREA officially launched its multi-lingual website, now available in all official UN languages. [www.hrea.org](http://www.hrea.org)

**HREA has assisted HURIDOCs International with the implementation of a new search engine for human rights information. "HURISEARCH" allows searching sites of non-governmental human rights organizations in 58 different languages. [www.hurisearch.org](http://www.hurisearch.org)**



*“Browsing your site was a great experience...The books were worth the time taken to download them...and the list of human rights courses were the best resource I’ve ever discovered. Thanks a million for giving us that supreme service.”*

*– Bassem Hafez,  
Arab Program for  
Human Rights Activists (Egypt)*

## APPENDIX

### FUNDERS 2003

Council of Europe  
Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission  
Norwegian Human Rights House  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for  
Human Rights  
Open Society Institute – Information Program  
Open Society Justice Initiative  
Reebok Human Rights Foundation

### DONORS

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Government Spokesperson, Jordan

Jana Kviecinska, Human Rights Department,  
Government of Slovakia, Slovakia

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† Marek Nowicki (1947-2003), Helsinki Foundation for  
Human Rights, Poland

Aaron Rhodes, International Helsinki Federation, Austria

Arild Tjeldvoll, University of Oslo, Norway

Felice Yeban, Philippines Normal University, Philippines



### IN MEMORIAM: MAREK NOWICKI (1947-2003)

**We are saddened by the death of long-time human rights activist and educator Marek Nowicki. A nuclear physicist by training, Marek was active in the underground opposition movement in communist Poland in the 1970s and 1980s. In 1989, following the collapse of communism in Poland and throughout Eastern Europe, he was elected president of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights. Marek Nowicki inspired and actively supported the human rights movement in post-communist states. During his lifetime he became a symbol for the non-violent struggle for human dignity and civil rights. He was also a widely respected lecturer, trainer and advisor. Marek Nowicki died in Warsaw on 10 October 2003. He was a member of HREA's International Advisory Committee. We will remember Marek as a passionate educator and advocate for human rights.**

## HREA STAFF AND CONSULTANTS

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Nancy Flowers, *Course instructor*  
Krassimir Kanev, *Course instructor*  
Valerie Miller, *Course instructor*  
Asmita Naik, *Researcher*  
Gerd Oberleitner, *Course instructor*  
Olga Vovk, *Translator*

## VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS IN 2003

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Ode Belzile  
Caroline Buddenhagen, *Summer Intern*  
Ann Budner  
Erzulie Coquillon  
Catherine Dawson, *Intern*  
Andrea de Forest  
Meagan English  
Olga Fedorenko  
Jennifer Freeman  
Maria Alejandra Funes  
Sarah Gees, *Intern*  
Xue Han  
Joshua Handverger  
Eva Hathaway, *Intern*  
Ana Holzbach  
Diana Hughes  
Armando Ibarra  
Rania Jawad  
Anna Langenbach  
Susan Lowe  
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Avital Rabin  
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Rhonda Struminger  
Carlos Telles

HREA is a non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status.  
An audited financial statement is available upon request.



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