

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND THE TREATY BODIES

26 JUNE 2014

HRE 2020 is a recently formed global coalition of civil society organizations. We aim to promote human rights education by supporting and strengthening the implementation of existing international standards and commitments.

HRE 2020 welcomes Resolution A/RES/68/268 to strengthen the effective functioning of the treaty bodies. We expect a more harmonized treaty body reporting system will result in not only greater efficiency and efficacy, but also greater accountability of member states to deliver on their human rights commitments, including commitments to implement human rights education.

The treaty bodies are central to ensuring government implementation of human rights education obligations as it is a cross-cutting issue that is relevant to all treaties. In the absence of a separate legally binding reporting mechanism specifically on human rights education, HRE 2020 looks to the treaty bodies to uphold the principle that a comprehensive education in human rights provides knowledge, imparts skills and empowers individuals to promote, defend and apply human rights in daily life. This principle is affirmed in provisions such as Article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and Article 10 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) – all of which highlight the importance of education to strengthen respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Article 13 of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training prescribes that international mechanisms should take into account human rights education and training within their respective mandates. States should include, where appropriate, information on the measures they have adopted in the field of human rights education and training in their reports to relevant human rights mechanisms.

In relation to the resolution to strengthen working methods of the treaty bodies and in connection with the agenda of this Annual Treaty Bodies Chairpersons meeting, HRE 2020 has the following observations:

1. **Referring to paragraph 1 and 2 of Resolution A/RES/68/268, a simplified reporting system should include an analysis of the implementation of human rights education.** HRE 2020 is developing a framework of simple indicators, questions and recommendations that will support the effective assessment of human rights education in diverse contexts. We hope this tool can be used by treaty bodies in their review processes to assess state reports.
2. **Referring to paragraph 5 of the resolution, constructive interactive dialogue must include meaningful engagement with civil society during the review process.** HRE 2020 provides a platform of civil society organizations that are working at national level and are able to provide reliable information about the state of human rights education and recommendations for more effective implementation.

3. **Referring to paragraph 6 of the resolution, concluding observations must reinforce the implementation of existing commitments relating to human rights education within the treaties.** Further to these commitments, the concluding observations should also require member States to implement commitments made in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, with guidance from the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

HRE 2020 is committed to raising public awareness of the important role of treaty bodies in ensuring that State parties take necessary action to realize all human rights and prevent human rights violations and abuses. In this regard and in pursuit of the aims enshrined in Resolution A/RES/68/268, HRE 2020 offers support and tools to assist the work of treaty bodies to ensure that State parties fulfil their commitments relating to human rights education.

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HRE 2020 seeks to ensure a systematic monitoring of State parties' implementation of human rights education commitments in international instruments, including human rights treaties, as well as the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training and the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

There are currently 14 coalition members of HRE 2020:

1. Amnesty International
2. Arab Institute of Human Rights
3. Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe (DARE Network)
4. Equitas - International Centre for Human Rights Education
5. Forum Asia
6. Human Rights Education Associates (HREA)
7. Human Rights Educators USA (HRE USA)
8. Hurights Osaka
9. Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)
10. Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA)
11. People's Watch
12. Peruvian Institute for Human Rights and Peace (IPEDEHP)
13. Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
14. Soka Gakkai International



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