

## HRE 2020 Newsletter Issue #1 September 2014

*We are pleased to share with you HRE 2020's inaugural newsletter. It contains information about the global coalition's activities at the UN Human Rights Council and at national levels to strengthen commitments and implementation of human rights education. We hope you find the information about recent and upcoming activities interesting and feel inspired to work with HRE 2020 in the future to ensure greater access to quality human rights education for all. Please check out our [website](#) or [contact us](#) for more information.*

*Best wishes, HRE 2020 Coordination Group*



### **HRE 2020 presentation at the Annual Meeting of Chairpersons of Human Rights Treaty Bodies**

HRE 2020 called for treaty bodies to strengthen the reporting on human rights education obligations at the Annual Meeting of Chairpersons on 26 June 2014. The focus of the meeting was the treaty bodies strengthening process that was adopted in

resolution A/RES/68/268 in April 2014, which aims to enhance the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system through the streamlining of reporting procedures and the harmonization of the Committees' methods of work.

HRE 2020 welcomed the resolution to improve the functioning of the treaty bodies and emphasized that treaty bodies are central to ensuring government implementation of human rights education. Human rights education is relevant to all treaties, and in the absence of a separate legally binding reporting mechanism the treaty bodies must 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.

Chairpersons of several treaty bodies responded to HRE 2020's presentation, addressing the opportunities and challenges of mainstreaming human rights education within the treaty body system. Emmanuel Decaux, Chairperson of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, emphasised that treaty bodies must keep a long term vision for ensuring the observation of human rights, with human rights education being central to achieving this vision. "It is a significant risk to put human rights education on the backburner" said Decaux. Chairpersons of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Human Rights Committee both acknowledged the importance of reporting on human rights education and holding government accountable for their obligations and commitments.

[Read more](#)



### **HRE 2020 statement on girls'/women's right to education**

HRE 2020 delivered an oral statement during the 58th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women on the day of general discussion on girls'/women's right to education held in Geneva on 7 July 2014.

HRE 2020 highlighted the importance of human rights education within article 10 of the Convention to respect, protect and fulfil the right of women and girls to education. "We need to move beyond equal access to education and equality in education, to education for equality", said Cecilia Thompson (Equitas), who made the statement on behalf of HRE 2020.

The purpose of the discussion was to help develop a "General Recommendation on girls'/women's right to education" as part of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which the CEDAW Committee monitors. The General Recommendation is expected to provide appropriate and authoritative guidance on the measures to be adopted with a view to ensuring full compliance with the obligations under article 10 of the Convention to respect, protect and fulfil the right of women and girls to education.

HRE 2020 called for integrating reference to the right to human rights education of women and girls. This will help to shift equal rights of women and girls from the margins to the core of education strategies and mainstream gender equality into educational content. Human rights education is a key component of the right to education, in particular 'quality education', and reflects a rights-based approach to education. If rights-based, education can be a means to attain gender equality.

[Read the HRE 2020 statement](#)

## **Upcoming HRE 2020 Activities**

*This section contains information about HRE 2020 international advocacy activities and HRE 2020 national initiatives by members.*

## Human Rights Council side-event "The Right to Human Rights Education", Geneva 10 September 2014



HRE 2020 is participating in the side-event "The Right to Human Rights Education" at the 27th Session of the Human Rights Council. The event, organised by the Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), will launch the web resource *The Right to Human Rights Education*, a compilation of provisions of international and regional instruments highlighting commitments made by States with regard to human rights education and training. HRE 2020 will speak on a panel, together with the inter-governmental Human Rights Education Platform, the International Contact Group on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education, the International Coordinating Committee for National Human Rights Institutions, and the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning of CoNGO, and HRE 2020.

*The Right to Human Rights Education* promotes human rights education and training, and is an important resource to support a number of initiatives, for example, comparing national legislation and international commitments, with a view to bringing national laws into conformity with international standards; designing, implementing and evaluating human rights education and training programmes in all sectors in line with international commitments; as well as advocating for human right education and training.

The side-event will take place on Wednesday, 10 September 2014, 13:00 to 15:00, at Palais des Nations, Room XXI, HRC. Contact [HRE2020@HRE2020.org](mailto:HRE2020@HRE2020.org) for more information



### HRE consultation for UPR in U.S.A.

HRE USA, a HRE 2020 coalition member, is currently coordinating a national consultation on the state of human rights education in the United States, in collaboration with the US Human Rights Network. Three consultation meetings are taking place in New York, San Francisco and Boston between June and September 2014, as well as a

comprehensive online survey that has already been completed by 120 human rights education practitioners throughout the country.

The focus of HRE USA's submission to the Universal Periodic Review process is human rights education and training within the formal education sector in U.S. The submission will focus on the implementation of curriculum standards and teacher training, as well as follow up on three recommendations related to human rights education the US government accepted in the first cycle of the UPR. HRE USA are proposing further recommendations to ensure quality human rights education for all in the US.

**The full UPR submission on human rights education and reflections from HRE USA will be included in the next HRE 2020 newsletter.**

# Member Profile: HURIGHTS OSAKA

*Each edition of the HRE 2020 newsletter will include a profile of a coalition member.*

The Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center, better known as HURIGHTS OSAKA, is a local institution based in Osaka city, Japan with a regional (Asia-Pacific) program.



Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2014, HURIGHTS OSAKA has two main objectives:

1. to support international exchange between Osaka and countries in the Asia-Pacific region through collection and dissemination of information and materials on human rights
2. to promote human rights in the Asia-Pacific in cooperation with national and regional institutions as well as the United Nations.

HURIGHTS OSAKA achieves these objectives through engaging in the following activities: information collection and dissemination; research; education; publications; and consultancy.

## Human Rights Education Publications

During the last five years, HURIGHTS OSAKA has published "*Human Rights Education in Asia-Pacific*", its annual report on human rights education. It is now printing its fifth volume with reports from various Asian and Pacific countries. This publication succeeded the "*Human Rights Education in Asian Schools*" series.

See more information, including the fifth volume of the publication [\*Human Rights Education in Asia-Pacific\*](#) and other publications [here](#).

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***HRE 2020 is a global civil society coalition that promotes human rights education through advocacy, capacity building and resource development. It works with civil society, governments and international organizations to support and strengthen the monitoring and implementation of international standards and commitments on human rights education.***

HRE 2020 welcomes suggestions and contributions for our newsletter. Please contact us at [HRE2020@HRE2020.org](mailto:HRE2020@HRE2020.org)