

## HRE 2020 Newsletter Issue #3, August 2015



### **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights brings human rights education to the fore**

HRE 2020 commends UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, for highlighting the importance of human rights education. Since assuming his post in September 2014, Mr. Al Hussein has repeatedly advocated for human rights education, highlighting its role in preventing human rights violations, promoting equality and sustainable development, and enhancing people's participation in decision-making processes.

Over the past year, Mr. Al Hussein has integrated the theme of human rights education into multiple speeches, calling for "a newer and deeper form of education [...] that goes beyond arithmetic to include skills and values that can equip people to act with responsibility and care." In his keynote address at the Education and Peace conference in Geneva on January 15th, Mr. Al Hussein proposed that, "From the earliest age, human rights education should be infused throughout the program of every school – in curricula and textbooks, policies, the training of teaching personnel, pedagogical methods and the overall learning environment".

Words like these, coming from the principal human rights official of the United Nations, reaffirm the centrality of human rights education in the UN mandate as well as reinforce our overriding concern to strengthen the implementation of human rights education at the national level and to hold governments accountable for their commitments.

## **Upcoming HRE 2020 activities**



## HRE 2020 to present in side event at the Human Rights Council

HRE 2020 Coordination Group Member Sneh Aurora (Amnesty International) will represent HRE 2020 at the side event "Human Rights Education in the Post-2015 Agenda: A New Opportunity" during the 30th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The side event, scheduled for Tuesday, 22 September 2015, will be organized by the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning and co-sponsored by the Platform of member states for Human Rights Education and Training. The event aims to remind states and all stakeholders of the relevance of human rights education and training, particularly in the context of the forthcoming adoption by the General Assembly of the post-2015 development agenda (the Sustainable Development Goals).

At the side event, HRE 2020 plans to officially launch its guide on Human Rights Education and Training Indicators, developed in order to monitor and measure the presence, scale and quality of human rights education policies and practice. Following the event, the HRE 2020 Human Rights Education and Training Indicators will be available for download at [www.hre2020.org](http://www.hre2020.org).

## HRE 2020 to organize panel at 6th International Human Rights Education Conference

HRE 2020 will organize and moderate a panel at this year's International Human Rights Education Conference, held from 17 to 19 December 2015 in Middelburg, the Netherlands. The panel, tentatively entitled "Mainstreaming Human Rights Education in the International Human Rights System," will bring together academics and practitioners to discuss promoting human rights education through UN mechanisms. "We hope this cross-sectoral dialogue will contribute to the development of strategies for using UN mechanisms to strengthen the monitoring and implementation of human rights education," said HRE 2020 Coalition Coordinator Sophie Feintuch (HREA). HRE 2020 members will determine panel presenters in the September 2015 HRE 2020 Member Meeting.

The International Human Rights Education Conference is an annual event that attracts practitioners and scholars of human rights education from all over the world. Through keynote addresses, panels and poster sessions, the three-day conference will explore global trends in human rights education, translating the UN framework on human rights education into practice, the role of different key actors and current themes in human rights education. For more information on registering or submitting an abstract, please visit: [www.ihrec2015.org](http://www.ihrec2015.org).

In the shadow of the conference, HRE 2020 will hold its first in-person member meeting on 17 December 2015. More information on the meeting agenda and time will be available in the upcoming months.



# Member profile: People's Watch

*Each edition of the HRE2020 newsletter includes a profile of a coalition member.*

People's Watch is a program unit of the Centre for Promotion of Social Concerns based in Madurai, in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It undertakes programs on human rights education through its sub-unit the Institute of Human Rights Education.



HRE 2020 Member People's Watch has recently announced that its human rights education sub-unit, the Institute of Human Rights Education (IHRE), has entered a new phase where it will be established as an independent institute for human rights education. IHRE started in 1997 in a few schools in Tamil Nadu and has since expanded to have a national reach. In the past two decades, it has trained 4,525 teachers in 3,909 schools involving 314,494 children in almost half of India. IHRE has additionally oriented several agencies to monitor and implement human rights education in schools in other states.

After a difficult period of having to suspend its programs from 2012-2014 when its host organization lost its grant receiving license, IHRE now has had its grant receiving license restored through an order from the High Court of Delhi and is set to become an independent institute. IHRE has just completed its national strategic plan for the next five years and plans to focus on advocating for the right to education and human rights education and building a bridge between the two. For information on the areas in which IHRE works or its objectives, please visit: <http://www.peopleswatch.org/ihre/>.

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

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

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