



HRE USA

Human Rights Educators USA

HRE

USA

2019/2020

ANNUAL REPORT

In Memoriam

Kirby Edmonds

08/17/1951 - 8/22/2020

In August of 2020, Human Rights Educators USA lost one of its sustaining sources of inspiration and committed leadership - Kirby Edmonds. Kirby was with HRE USA from its foundational meeting in 2011. As his partner and comrade, Laura Branca recalled:

"I remember being in Cambridge years ago ... On the second day, people had come out of our working group with the idea of a consortium of human rights educators, a national network, a motley crew on an impossibly audacious mission to share our various resources and approaches, and nurture solidarity and mutual support across the boundaries of where we place ourselves. And we were onto next steps and there was a request for a show of hands from those who wanted to work on it. Knowing how many, many things we were working on in DCI [The Dorothy Cotton Institute] and beyond, I was saying to myself, 'Yeah, I get it, but Hell No!' I was sitting next to Kirby and I think I grasped his forearm and under my breath said 'Kirby, don't raise your hand! Kirby, don't do it. You know you have enough to do already...' And then his hand was in the air, and the rest is history!"

Drawing on his years of community organizing, Kirby was instrumental in the establishment of "this impossibly audacious mission" that became HRE USA, directly shaping our mission statement, organizational structure, and most importantly our values framework and the consensus-based policy for decision-making. He served as co-Chair of HRE USA for nearly a decade.

HRE USA was only one of Kirby's lifelong efforts toward social justice. As his obituary in the Ithaca Journal says, "Kirby was a mighty river that flowed through our community and far beyond, watering the positive seeds of possibility." He was currently the Program Coordinator and a Senior Fellow with the Dorothy Cotton Institute (DCI) and the Cradle to Career Initiative, yet the scope of his work reached well beyond these roles. As his obituary described:



Everywhere that people of goodwill united to tackle problems or cultivate opportunities, Kirby was quickly pulled into the center. He took on many roles-- contributor, connector, or designated leader, but always encouraged folks to plan actions that would get more power and resources into the people's hands. Soft-spoken and kind, Kirby was skilled in the art of posing incisive questions, ever asking folks to consider who else should be at the table. He had a keen understanding of power and the courage never to shy away from issues of violence, racism, poverty, hunger, and intergroup conflict.

Kirby was born on August 17, 1951 in Huntsville, Texas. As a youth he was educated in Glastonbury, Connecticut; Nairobi, Kenya; and Beirut, Lebanon. He held two degrees from Cornell University, a B.A. in History and an M.P.A. with a major in community and rural development.

HRE USA is pleased to announce the new Kirby Edmonds Fellowship to support students with hands-on leadership experience in human rights education and further Kirby's work to engage young people in building human rights-friendly schools and communities. Donations to support this new student fellowship can be sent to the Center for Transformative Action with "HRE USA Edmonds Fellowship" in the memo line and mailed to the Center for Transformative Action, 119 Anabel Taylor Hall, Ithaca, NY14853 or donate online at givegab.com/campaigns/kirby-edmonds-fellowship.



“

Human rights education is much more than a lesson in schools or a theme for a day; it is a process to equip people with the tools they need to live lives of security and dignity.

- KOFI ANNAN

”

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Co-Chair Message



In honor of the late, Rep. John Lewis, some of his powerful words come to mind:

“Nothing can stop the power of a committed and determined people to make a difference in our society.”

Throughout the direct violations of human rights this past year and amongst the set-backs to human rights education across our communities, our HRE USA has remained steadfast in its commitment to building a “national network dedicated to building a culture of human rights.” In fact, in 2019 our network grew, with over 200 individuals and organizations joining HRE USA as new members. 200 more community members from across the country who are joining our movement for human rights education.

Collectively, we accomplished so much together this year. Some of these highlights include:

Building a more robust network of human rights educators and tools to support human rights education: HRE USA currently has a network of 27 regional representatives across the country that work locally on human rights. Regional representatives, along with all HRE USA members, have access to our Human Rights Education Resource Library, to use as they educate their communities around human rights in their schools, universities, and organizations.

Collaborations and partnership building: In 2019, HRE USA exhibited at the National Progressive Education Network Conference (PEN) in Minneapolis and also the National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference (NCSS) in Austin, reaching out to hundreds of human rights educators, many of which have become new members.

Advocacy on pressing human rights issues: Among other issues, HRE USA members focused on creating events and resources around bringing awareness for the need for the U.S.' ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and also on immigration reform.

Celebration of human rights defenders and movement organizations: This past year, HRE USA honored the Human Rights Watch Student Task Force (STF) for their work and also awarded Professor David Shiman, Monica Curca, and the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center for their contributions to the field of human rights education through our annual Edward O'Brien Human Rights Education Award.

Funding the next generation of human rights defenders: Lastly, in 2019, HRE USA awarded four human rights practitioners through the Flowers Fund, in order to support innovation and mentorship in human rights education in their own communities.

These are just a few examples of our work this past year. As you read further, I hope that you will be just as inspired by the dedication of our members across the country. Together we have accomplished great things as a committed and determined group of people who are committed to ensuring that human rights doesn't just exist on paper, but is rather embedded into the very fabric of our society.

While the new year will undoubtedly bring more unexpected challenges, I also believe that it will provide opportunities for us to further grow this movement. I cannot wait to see what we will do together. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey.

Onwards,



Marissa Gutierrez-Vicario
Co-Chair, Human Rights Educators - USA

Executive Summary

2019/2020
BY THE
NUMBERS



35,000



The average number of visitors to the HRE USA website every year.

8

>200



The number of individuals and organizations who joined HRE USA as new members.

3,029



The number of in-kind volunteer hours contributed by Committee members, Regional Representatives, and partners.

1,054



The number of resources available in our curated online HRE library.

93%



Percentage of individuals who have joined as professional members.

Mission

The mission of Human Rights Educators USA (HRE USA) is to promote human dignity, justice, and peace by cultivating an expansive, vibrant base of support for human rights education (HRE) within the United States.

HRE USA was founded in 2011 by leaders in the field of Human Rights Education (HRE), including seasoned educators, students, higher education faculty, members of non-profit organizations, representatives from both major national teacher unions, and other stakeholders. The network draws inspiration from the Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, adopted by the UN General Assembly in December, 2011. The Declaration underscores the globally recognized importance of human rights in every person's education.

To fulfill our mission, we facilitate mutual collaboration and support to maximize our members' efforts to:

- integrate international human rights standards into formal and non-formal educational settings
- promote the inclusion of HRE in national and state education policies, standards, curricula, and pedagogy
- develop training and education resources
- promote and conduct scholarly research on HRE
- empower educators, learners, and members with the knowledge, skills, and values they need to promote HRE
- participate in global networks and forums to share best practices

OUR VALUES

HRE USA is committed to the basic human rights principles of human dignity, equality, and non-discrimination as articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In all our undertakings we value diversity, inclusiveness, transparency, integrity, accountability, responsibility, and respectful, honest communication and sharing. Regardless of varying perspectives, HRE USA expects that its members will operate from the same values in their dealings with each other.

Leadership



The Steering Committee consists of eighteen members. There are twelve seats for organizations and individuals that are nominated by the Executive Committee as a slate, and six at-large seats that are chosen through election by HRE USA members. The Executive Committee consists of two co-chairs, two vice co-chairs, (at least one of each must be selected by membership), a treasurer and a secretary. Steering committee members serve three-year terms and officers serve two-year terms.

* HRE USA CO-CHAIR

Rosemary Ann Blanchard

HRE Community of NCSS

Kristina Eberbach

Columbia University

Kirby Edmonds *

Dorothy Cotton Institute

Elana Haviv

Generation Human Rights, Inc.

Cynthia Gabriel Walsh

Amnesty International USA

Bill Fernekes

Rutgers University

Marissa Gutiérrez-Vicario *

Art and Resistance Through Education

Page Hersey

University of San Francisco

Lina Lenberg

University of San Francisco

Harry Lawson

National Education Association

Madeline Lohman

The Advocates for Human Rights

Laura Michalski

Chicago Public Schools

Glenn Mitoma

University of Connecticut

Kristi Rudellius-Palmer

HRE Consultant

Lindsey Shelton

Teaching Tolerance

David Shiman

University of Vermont

Sandra E. Sohcot

The World As It Could Be

Yvonne Vissing

Salem University



As a volunteer-led organization, our mission is only made possible by volunteers. HRE USA has six main volunteer committees. Each committee meets regularly by teleconference. All members are welcome to join.

Committees

COLLABORATIVE ACTION, POLICY AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (CAPAC)

This committee develops, reviews, and undertakes collaborative action projects in conjunction with HRE USA partner organizations. Projects include submitting shadow reports on HRE in the USA to the United Nations, developing a HRE Curriculum Guide, and advocating with State Education Agencies to integrate HRE into their education standards.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

This committee develops ongoing strategies to engage and grow the involvement of HRE USA individual and organizational members. This includes outreach to regional representative groups, management of the HRE resource library, and communication on how to get involved within the network.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

This committee develops and carries out the fundraising goals of HRE USA including establishing relationships with and soliciting funding from prospective donors, identifying and submitting grants, and cultivating major gifts prospects for the organization.

EDWARD O'BRIEN AWARD COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for administering, selecting, and arranging the awards ceremony for the recipients of the annual Edward O'Brien Human Rights Education Award for recognition of an outstanding contribution to human rights education in the United States.

FLOWERS FUND GRANTS COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for selecting the recipients of and administering the annual Flowers Fund Grants that support innovation and mentorship in human rights education (HRE) in the United States.

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD WORKING GROUP

This group is working to galvanize support towards the long-term goal of U.S. ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the short-term goal of the endorsement of the CRC at state, local, and school district levels, and the overall goal to increase awareness of the importance of the CRC and how the U.S. falls short in fulfilling the rights of the child.

Membership



HRE USA is a coalition of hundreds of members across the country, and we continue to grow daily. We are academics, activists, parents, educators, students, unions, policy makers, social scientists, software engineers, professors, artists, and non-profit organizations united with a common mission: education about, for, and through human rights. This past year, over 200 individuals and organizations joined HRE USA as new members, increasing our membership from 851 members to 1057 members by the end of December 2019.

To better connect with members, the Membership committee conducted an extensive membership survey, held a volunteer orientation webinar, and tabled at key conferences.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY:

In May of 2019 HRE USA conducted an extensive membership survey aimed at improving the quality of our membership experience. Through the survey we were able to learn more about who our members are and their hopes for the network. Here is what members told us they want:

- More training and professional development opportunities
- Easier paths for volunteer involvement
- More ways to connect locally on HRE

HRE USA 101 WEBINAR

In direct response to the survey, HRE USA held an “HRE USA 101” orientation webinar in March 2019 for members interested in taking the next step towards involvement. Participants heard from Regional Representatives and Steering Committee members about volunteer options and what opportunities might be the best fit for them.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Since 2011, Human Rights Educators USA has actively worked to connect practitioners and supporters of human rights education in the United States through networking, resource sharing, curriculum development, and training. Whether you are new to the world of human rights education or are a seasoned veteran, HRE USA is your forum to connect with colleagues across the USA and stay up to date on what other educators, activists, and organizations are doing to harness the power of human rights education to ensure dignity, justice, and peace for all.

CONFERENCE OUTREACH:

Throughout the last year, HRE USA had the opportunity to connect with folks from all over the country who share our dedication to teaching about and advocating for human rights. In October 2019, HRE USA exhibited for the first time at the **National Progressive Education Network Conference (PEN)** in Minneapolis, MN. In November 2019, HRE-USA also exhibited at the **National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference (NCSS)** in Austin, Texas.

HRE USA leaders also led a number of workshops and events at NCSS including the HRE USA and NCSS Human Rights Education Community co-sponsored scholar session entitled *Human Rights at the U.S.-Mexico Border and Beyond—Legal Challenges and Human Costs*. Luis Zayas, Dean of The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work and Elissa Steglich, Professor of Immigration Law in The University of Texas at Austin School of Law, provided a human rights context and on the ground updates about the trauma experienced by migrant children and children living in immigrant families threatened with deportation. The scholar session was followed by a successful reception where existing and new members engaged in conversation and networking. Other workshops examined using the arts to teach human rights education and advocacy on the rights of the child. Through presentations, workshops and conversations in the exhibit hall, HRE USA added over 160 new members at the conference.



**HRE USA MEMBER, EMILY FARELL
EXHIBITING AT PEN CONFERENCE**



**HRE USA STEERING COMMITTEE
MEMBERS, PAGE HERSEY AND KRISTI
RUDELIUS-PALMER AT NCSS**



**RECEPTION AT NCSS HOSTED BY HRE USA
& THE NCSS HRE COMMUNITY**

HOW HRE USA SERVES MEMBERS

HRE USA offers memberships for both individual and organizations. HRE USA members are a special part of our network. While we open our events and activities to anyone interested, our HRE USA members are uniquely engaged in what we do. Through an annual fee, members provide HRE USA with consistent revenue and receive several benefits in return.

MEMBER BENEFITS

● NEWSLETTER

Be the first to be informed of upcoming events, current news, HRE resources, urgent advocacy and job opportunities through our monthly newsletter.

● RESOURCES

Receive a free set of 10 UDHR booklets and a UDHR poster of your choice through our online shop and receive a 20% discount on all items.

● EVENTS

Receive free or discounted access to HRE USA and partner events, webinars, trainings, and conferences.

● NETWORK

Connect with HRE USA members around the country through our members only HRE USA Discussion Forum.

● SUPPORT

Receive specialized support for human rights education initiatives in your schools, university, and community through our professional HRE experts.

● INFLUENCE

Elect members of the Steering committee or drive HRE USA's policy, advocacy, outreach and development by joining a committee or Regional Chapter.

ORGANIZATION BENEFITS

Organizational members receive all of the above benefits for their employees as well as:

● RECOGNITION

Name & logo included on HRE USA website, organizational directory, and annual report. Promotion of your organization's news, updates, and fundraisers on HRE USA social media and e- newsletter.

● EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT

Recruit talent directly from HRE USA members via targeted dissemination of your organization's open positions.

● PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Attend and present webinars to entire network. Collaborate on HRE-related projects and advocacy opportunities.



Regional Chapters

HRE USA has a national network of **Regional Representatives** (Regional Reps) who volunteer as contact persons for human rights educators in their region, state or city. They help area members connect, share ideas, and support each other's HRE efforts. In turn, Regional Reps provide feedback on regional members' interests, needs, and concerns. Reps are involved in HRE advocacy, serve on HRE USA committees, and come from schools, universities, and organizations that work locally on human rights. Presently, HRE USA has 28 reps across the nation. In the past year, HRE USA established new reps in Alabama, Connecticut, New England, New Jersey, and Washington, DC.

HRE USA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

ALABAMA

Angelica Brooks

CALIFORNIA (Central)

Maureen McCorry

CALIFORNIA NORTH

Jazzmin Chizu Gota

Lina Lenberg

CALIFORNIA SOUTH

Pam Bruns

Kristin Ghazarians

CHICAGO AREA

Laura Michalski

CONNECTICUT

Chris Buckley

Jacob Skrzypiec

WASHINGTON, DC

Karen Hopkins

Rachel Bergsieker

FLORIDA

Laura Finley

HAWAII

Joshua Cooper

MINNESOTA

Kathy Seipp

Kristi Rudelius-Palmer

NEW ENGLAND

David Shiman

Yvonne Vissing

NEW JERSEY

Bill Fernekes

John Terry

NEW YORK CITY

Michelle Chouinard

Benil Mostafa

IOWA

Brian Farrell

ROCKY MOUNTAINS

Ellen Moore

SOUTHEAST

Rick Halperin

SOUTHWEST

Rosemary Blanchard

VIRGINIA (Eastern)

Gail Barker

VIRGINIA (Western)

David Brunisma

WEST VIRGINIA

Bill Price



Policy & Advocacy



HRE USA is focused on advocating for the inclusion of human rights in the education standards of every state and ensuring that the United States abides by their treaty commitments to teach the US population about human rights and international humanitarian law.

STATE STANDARDS WORK

In 2019, HRE USA's Collaborative Action, Policy, & Advocacy Committee (CAPAC) continued to advocate for stronger human rights education, and international humanitarian law, content in the learning standards of several US states that are presently revising their learning standards. We offered support to a CAPAC member who served on the committee that revised the New Jersey learning standards, with several of our CAPAC members also participating in the public comment period offered by the state of New Jersey as a part of that process. As in 2018, we again offered informal input to the process in Kansas, via a Kansas contact of one of our CAPAC members. Several CAPAC members also provided public comments to help with the revision process in Nebraska. Also in 2019, we began outreach efforts in New Mexico to learn how we can be a helpful part of the next New Mexico revisions. In 2020, although the pandemic has complicated state revision processes, we will continue to identify states that will soon be reviewing and revising their learning standards, so that we can participate there as well. We plan to actively participate in the revision process in Minnesota in 2020 and 2021, with a CAPAC member in the state having volunteered to work as our liaison there. Also in 2020 and beyond, we hope to develop a "how-to" guide for states to con-

sult as they think about incorporating more HRE into their standards when those standards are revised/updated. We also hope to help incorporate HRE into teacher accreditation standards so that teachers have the tools and training required to implement HRE in the classroom, across subjects and ages of students.

INCREASING HRE IN DC PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In 2019, we worked with allies in the DC area to continue to advocate for a revision of DC's social studies standards, and our members and allies provided additional testimony to DC's State Board of Education (SBOE) on the importance of HRE and international humanitarian law. That process has paid off, as DC has now begun the process of revising its standards, and has emphasized the importance of human rights in the new standards. A CAPAC member has been invited to participate in the process as a member of the Advisory Committee that will review the current standards, consider where they are in need of revision, and make recommendations on how they should be revised. The Advisory Committee will also help articulate values and essential principles for social studies standards in recommendations it will deliver to the SBOE in December 2020. Other CAPAC members will provide logistical support, as part of the process, on an as-needed basis in 2020 and beyond.

NATIONAL ADVOCACY

HRE USA joined a coalition of civil society leaders calling for the immediate disbandment of the U.S. State Department’s “Commission on Unalienable Rights,” due to serious concerns over the commission’s purpose, process, and membership. In a public letter organized by Human Rights First, signatories expressed alarm at the extreme views of many of the Commission’s members and noted that the body’s stated purpose will harm the global effort to protect the rights of all people.

The commission was ostensibly formed to examine how the existing international consensus on human rights aligns with an interpretation of the American “founders’ ideas of individual liberty and constitutional government,” Secretary of State Pompeo said when announcing its creation earlier this month. In a letter—signed by 179 non-governmental organizations and 251 individuals, including former senior government officials, faith community leaders, scholars, educators, and advocates—HRE USA calls on Secretary Pompeo to immediately disband the body.

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) turned 30 in November 2019. In honor of the 30th Anniversary, HRE USA created the *Every Right, Every Child Campaign* that includes a resource kit for teaching and learning about the CRC and an advocacy campaign calling for the ratification of the CRC.

The campaign has focused on partnering with individuals, organizations, institutions, and communities to achieve the short-term goal of the endorsement of the CRC at state, local, and school district levels, with the ultimate long-term goal of ratification at the federal level. Overall we hope the campaign will increase awareness of the importance of the CRC and how the U.S. falls short in fulfilling the rights of the child.

The online resource kit includes a complete list of every city and state CRC Resolution across the United States, an updated CRC Advocacy Toolkit produced by the Human Rights Watch Student Task Force, two new Human Rights Here & Now Bulletins on the CRC, a curated list of teaching tools and lessons on the CRC, and a video sharing site through which folks can upload and share why the CRC is important to them.

As part of the campaign, HRE USA participated in UNICEF USA Child Friendly Cities to build a coalition for the adoption

of the CRC and presented our work with child rights experts. HRE USA also mobilized their network to take action by calling the Mayor’s office for CRC resolution support at the US Mayors Conference held in Honolulu, Hawaii on June 28-July 1, 2019. Some of our members were able to reach Senators and Mayors, who expressed their commitments.

As part of this work, HRE USA honored the **Human Rights Watch Student Task Force** (STF), based in Los Angeles, with a special **HRE USA Youth Engagement Recognition Award** for their exceptional leadership in the promotion of children’s rights and its youth activism locally, nationally, and internationally.



STF LEADERS LAUNCHING THEIR CAMPAIGN TO CELEBRATE THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CRC.

Photo by Patricia Williams

IMMIGRATION REFORM

In May HRE USA cosponsored an event with the Human Rights and Humanitarian Policy Concentration at SIPA, the Human Rights Working Group, and Art and Resistance Through Education (ARTE), to raise awareness on immigration and detention in the United States. The event entitled, “Immigration, Detention, & Resistance Through Art” was organized by HRE USA Regional Representative, Michelle Chouinard and brought together community-based artists and organizers, academics, immigration advocates and attorneys to discuss insights and intersections between their work. It was a lively night of art creation and human rights advocacy.

The night ended with a panel discussion moderated by Khalil A. Cumberbatch, New Yorkers United for Justice. The panelists included Marissa Gutierrez-Vicardo, ARTE; Pastor Isaac Scott, The Confined Arts and Justice-in-Education Scholar; Professor Geraldine Downey, Columbia University Center for Justice; Angy Rivera, New York State Youth Leadership Council; Ximena Ospina, Undocumented student group at Columbia University; and Tsion Gurm, Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI).

Awards & Grants



THE EDWARD O'BRIEN HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AWARD

This award was established in honor of Edward O'Brien, a pioneer in the field and founding member of HRE USA who died in 2015. The award is presented each year to one individual and one organization to recognize their significant contributions to human rights education in the United States.

The 2019 O'Brien Award for individual contribution went to Monica Curca, founder of Activate Labs. The award for an organizational contribution went to the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center (HHREC) of White Plains, NY. The award was accepted by HHREC Executive Director Mille Jasper. This year HRE USA also presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to David Shiman, a founding member and Steering Committee member of HRE USA in recognition of his many years of service to human rights education in the United States.



MONICA CURCA

Monica is the founder and director of Activate Labs, a non-profit dedicated to building a global creative force for peace and justice. Herself a refugee from Romania, she has become a human rights defender, especially for those who have been marginalized.



HOLOCAUST & HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION CENTER

Since 1994, the HHREC has brought the lessons of the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights crimes to more than 1750 teachers, and through them to thousands of middle and high school students.



DAVID SHIMAN

Professor emeritus at the University of Vermont, David is the author of several groundbreaking curricula in HRE. His work significantly shaped the design and delivery of HRE in the US and marks him as one of the few indispensable leaders in the field.

These awards were presented on November 22, 2019, in the Four Freedoms Room of Roosevelt House, Hunter College, New York City. HRE USA co-founder Nancy Flowers hosted the event at which both O'Brien Award winners made presentations about their work. A reception followed sponsored by the HRE USA and the Human Rights Program of Hunter College. In November HRE USA also hosted a reception and awards ceremony along with University and College Consortium for Human Rights Education and the Roosevelt House Human Rights Education Program at Hunter College to honor the 2019 winners of the Edward O'Brien Award for Human Rights Education.

THE FLOWERS FUND GRANT PROGRAM

The Flowers Fund was established in 2017 in honor of Nancy Flowers, founding HRE USA member and international leader in Human Rights Education. Every year, the Fund provides small grants of up to \$1000 to support innovation and mentorship in human rights education (HRE) in the United States. The fund aims to encourage new philosophic and theoretical thinking, new pedagogies, and new outreach methods for HRE, as well as emerging leadership in the field.

We had a rich pool of applicants this past year and were delighted with our four award winners with projects ranging from addressing immigration issues through comic strips to empowering young human rights defenders through podcasts. The Grantees for the 2019-2020 academic year are:



NATHAN EMBRETSON

Arroyo High School, San Lorenzo, CA

Project: Podcasting for Social Justice” with ELL students exploring issues of immigration, education, and child rights through personal narratives and interviews with community members and families.



BRIAN FARRELL

The University of Iowa, College of Law

Project: Workshop for college/university teachers from across the state of Iowa focused on integrating human rights into their curricula.



BAYARD NIELSEN

Notre Dame High School, San Jose, CA

Project: Transformation of interviews with day workers into bilingual narratives and superhero comic strips to be used to teach cultural differences and empathy.



SABRINA SANCHEZ

Human Rights Connected, Washington, DC

Project: A youth-centered human rights podcast that will explore the intersections of civil resistance, activism and the role of youth in movements.

Projects

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION RESOURCE LIBRARY

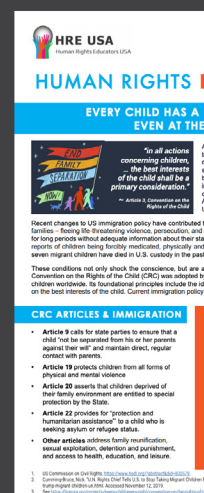
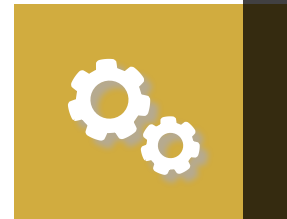
In 2019, HRE USA continued to curate and update their online human rights education resource library which offers a detailed overview on how to get started in HRE and provides a vast library of HRE resources, lesson plans, curricula, and other materials that have been vetted for quality, usefulness, and relevance. Visitors to the library can access resources by topic and subject matter.

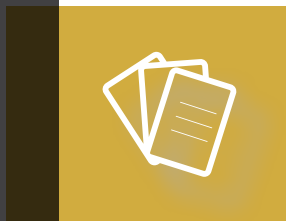
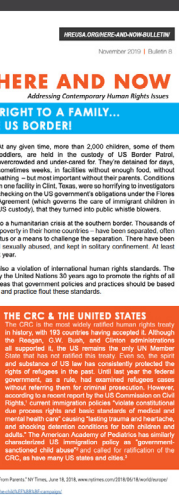
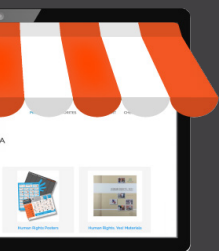
HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATORS USA ONLINE SHOP

In May 2019, HRE USA launched their new online store featuring human rights education materials. Our products include human rights treaty booklets, curriculum, and more. The resources include HRE USA's original human rights-themed posters featuring the UDHR that can be used to promote and educate about human rights in the classroom and the community.

HUMAN RIGHTS FRIENDLY SCHOOLS PROJECT

HRE USA partners with Amnesty International USA to bring the "Human Rights Friendly Schools" project to schools in the United States. The Dorothy Cotton Institute (DCI) is leading the piloting of this initiative in five schools in the Ithaca, New York area.





Publications

HRE CURRICULUM INTEGRATION GUIDE

Four new lessons were added to the HRE Curriculum Integration Guide. All of the lessons are available for free to download. The new lessons include:

- Human Rights & the South African Constitution by Malcolm Coates, a social studies teacher at Ridge HS, Bernards Twp. (NJ) public schools.
- Human Rights & Justice: An Ancient & Modern Case Study by Mary Backman, a middle school teacher in West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District (NJ) public schools
- Human Rights Socratic Seminar by Jacob Torsiello, a high school social studies teacher in the Belvidere (NJ) public schools.
- The Industrial Revolution & Workers' Rights by John Terry, a high school social studies teacher in the Wayne Twp. (NJ) public schools.

Phase Five of the guide will be initiated beginning in September 2020, with a web mounting date for new lessons during spring 2021.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) now features eight lessons from the Guide in their Education for Justice (E4J) Library.

HRE USA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The monthly e-newsletter highlights the latest news, action alerts, publications, events and partner announcements related to human rights education in the United States.

HUMAN RIGHTS HERE AND NOW BULLETIN

A periodic publication that provides background information, educational resources, and lessons to address contemporary human rights issues. Our 2019 bulletins focused on the Rights of the Child. The first entitled, "For Every Child, Every Right," provided an overview on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and why it is still important after 30 years. The second, entitled, "Every Child Has a Right to a Family, Even at the Border" focused on how the humanitarian crisis related to family separation on the U.S. southern border was a violation of the rights of the child. The bulletin include lessons, resources, and ways to take action in the classroom.

Partnerships



HRE USA collaborates with member organizations on advocacy initiatives, research projects, curriculum development, and collective action.

HRE USA continued its active engagement with the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) through our partnership with the NCSS Human Rights Education Community and, in 2019, through maintaining an Exhibit booth at the 2019 NCSS Annual Conference in Austin, TX. HREUSA also held an introductory webinar for new members who joined HRE USA at the conference. HRE USA members who also belong to NCSS were instrumental in establishing an HRE Community within NCSS in 2014 and continue to contribute to efforts to influence NCSS policies, positions and publications.



In 2019, HRE USA worked with the NCSS HRE Community to promote NCSS' re-commitment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child during the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the CRC by the UN General Assembly (although the USA remains the only hold-out to CRC ratification). Also at the 2019 NCSS Annual Conference, HRE USA and the NCSS HRE Community honored the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice of the University of Texas Austin for their contributions to interdisciplinary, practice-based human rights education and their work defending migrants at the US-Mexico border.

The University and College Consortium for Human Rights Education (UCCHRE), an affiliate of HRE USA, is a network of higher education



communities globally engaged in human rights education. In 2019, the UCCHRE submitted shadow reports to the UN Human Rights Council as part of U.S. Universal Periodic Review highlighting the need for greater human rights education across higher education institutions in the United States. These reports provided evidence for the need for greater HRE to occur within U.S. higher education institutions and state-level teacher training programs as well as integrating HRE in state curriculum standards. A gap is apparent between understanding what HRE means and how HRE may be enacted in the United States.

Throughout 2019-2020, UCCHRE hosted monthly webinars which provided a forum to discuss a variety of issues of common concern among human rights educators in colleges and universities.

HRE USA is a member of the US Human Rights Network (USHRN). The USHRN is a “national network of organizations and individuals working to strengthen a human rights movement and culture within the United States, that is led by the people most directly impacted by human rights violations.”



In February 2019, HRE USA joined the USHRN in delivering 80,000 petition signatures to the the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNCHR), calling upon the UN to launch an “investigation into US violations of the human rights of asylum seekers.” Throughout 2019 and into 2020, HRE USA was a signatory to two letters written by USHRN and

the ACLU that were submitted to the UNCHR including a joint letter between civil society organizations and families of the victims of police violence, “regarding the implementation of recent Human Rights Council Resolution (A/HRC/43/L.50) adopted on June 19, 2020.” The resolution focused on “racially inspired human rights violations, systemic racism, police brutality and violence against peaceful protests.”

In May 2020, HRE USA also signed on to a letter by the USHRN UPR Task Force urging the UNHCHR and the President of the Human Rights Council to re-open the “stakeholder report submissions for the upcoming 36th session of the Universal Periodic Review,” which would “allow for necessary supplemental submissions with recent updates regarding human rights during COVID-19, providing a more accurate assessment of the human rights situation” on a global level.

Lastly, members of HRE USA were highlighted in the 2019-2020 USHRN Human Rights Report #GrowingGrassroots voices, uniting against COVID-19, sharing their expertise in the “Human Rights Education and Implementation” section, with the efforts for bridging the gap human rights as a framework and as a “lived reality of people directly impacted by human rights violations.”

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

American Friends Service Committee
 Amnesty International
 Amnesty International USA
 Angeles Workshop School
 Art and Resistance Through Education (ARTE)
 Center for Global Awareness
 Center for World Education, University of Vermont
 Childhood Education International
 Children’s Home Society of Florida
 Creative Educators International Network
 Discovery Education
 Dorothy Cotton Institute
 Dreamers Initiative
 Educators’ Institute for Human Rights
 Embrey Human Rights Program
 EOTO World
 The FourD Group
 Generation Human Rights
 Girls Learn International
 Human Rights Education Associates
 Human Rights Watch Student Task Force
 Humane Education Coalition

Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia
 It Gets Better Project
 Justice Revival
 National Education Association
 National Youth Leadership Council
 NCSS HRE Community
 The Silent Voices Project
 Social Impact Media Awards (SIMA)
 Spiraling Music Company
 Teaching for Change
 Teaching Tolerance
 Thomas J. Dodd Research Center
 UNICEF USA
 Universal Human Rights Initiative (UHRI)
 The University of Iowa Center for Human Rights
 University & College Consortium for HRE
 Upstander Project
 US Human Rights Network
 Voice of Witness
 The World As It Could Be
 Woven Teaching, Inc

Financial Report

FUNDRAISING & IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2019, the Development Committee continued to work on the two recommended actions received from a professional Development Consultant.

The first area of focus was to develop a strong Case Statement to articulate the societal issues that human rights education helps address, and how the work of HRE USA is such a vital part of bringing human rights education to the forefront in the United States. The Development Committee produced both a full and concise version of the HRE USA Case Statement, which can be drawn upon for all funding requests. The Case Statements, now posted on the HRE USA website, can also be utilized by HRE USA members in their own communications about the importance of their work.

The second area of focus was to make sure we can cite funding support from our own members as part of seeking support from outside funders. In 2019, in collaboration with the HRE USA Membership Committee, the Development Committee recommended encouraging membership contributions. Having members - both individuals and organizations - provide membership contributions demonstrates the financial support HRE USA receives from its network, in addition to the in-kind contributions of volunteer time.

The Development Committee also worked on identifying HRE projects that could be done in collaboration with one or more of its members, and which would be worthy of outside funding. Outreach to the NEA was initiated. We also began outreach to New York based HRE USA members to identify a collaborative initiative that would not only further HREA USA goals, but also be of specific interest to the Geffen Foundation, with whom an initial connection was established.

HRE USA operates on a very lean budget. The bulk of the work conducted on HRE USA activities and projects is done through the in-kind donation of time and energy given by dedicated members. In 2019 alone, Steering and Advisory Committee members contributed over 3000 in-kind hours.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS

GIFTS OR GRANTS OF \$5,000 - 50,000

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT JULY 1, 2019-JUNE 30, 2020

ASSETS	
Checking and Savings	24,850.36
Total Assets	24,850.36
LIABILITIES & EQUITIES	
Retained Earnings	\$49,825.27
Net Income	-24,974.91
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	24,850.36



The Puffin Foundation, Ltd.

HRE USA would like to thank the **Puffin Foundation** for its generous support without which this report and our programming activities would not be possible. The Puffin Foundation Ltd. has sought to open doors of artistic expression by providing grants to artists and art organizations who are often excluded from mainstream opportunities due to their race, gender or social philosophy.



HRE USA is a fiscally sponsored project of the **Center for Transformative Action**, a 501(c)(3) organization. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to help HRE USA continue to advocate for and further develop programming that supports human rights education across the United States.

DESIGNED BY
HOPSCOTCH
CONSULTING



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Human Rights Educators USA

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