

A decorative arc of colorful dots in shades of blue, orange, pink, and green, curving from the top left towards the center of the page.

# HRE USA

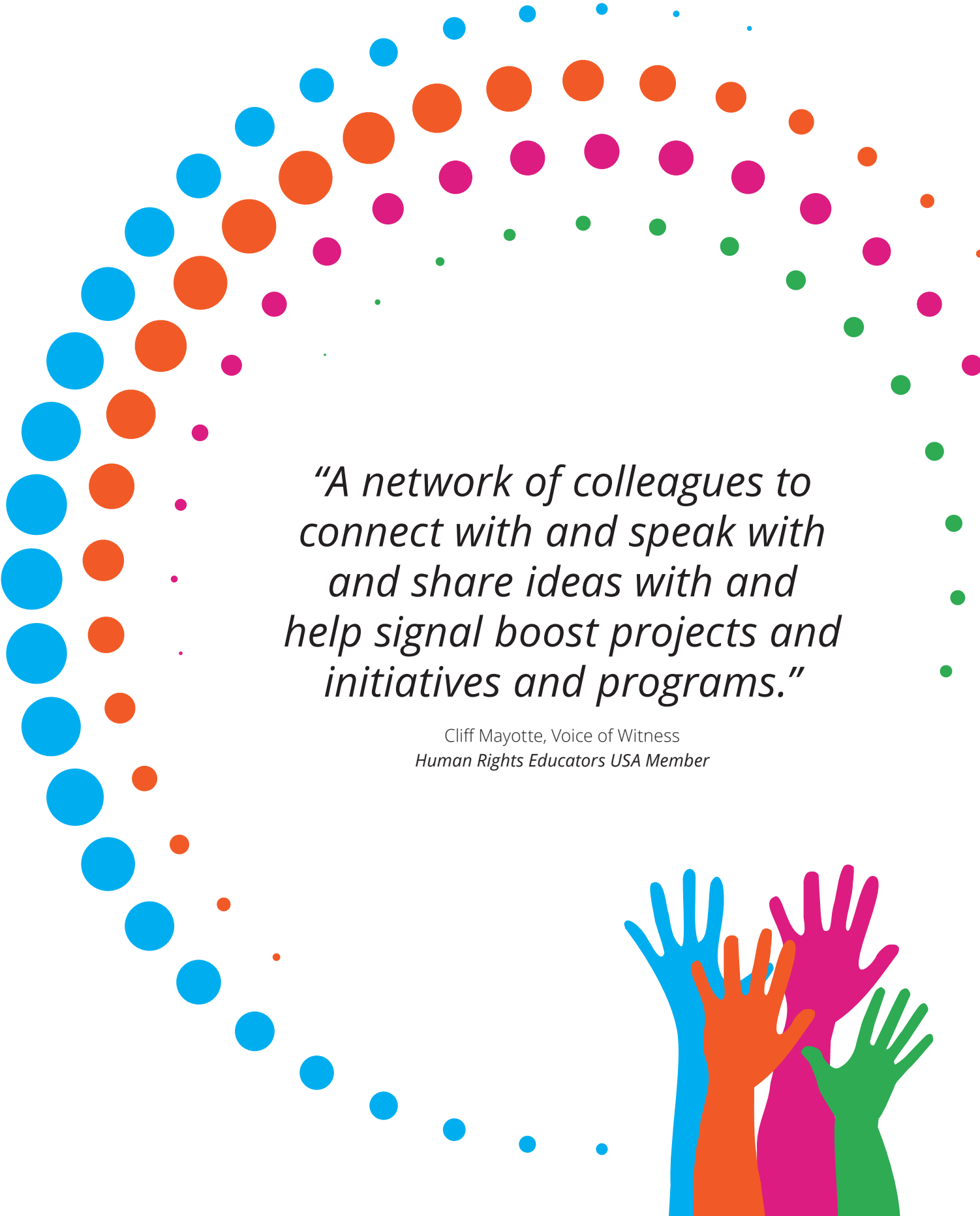
Human Rights Educators USA

*A network dedicated to building a culture of human rights*

ANNUAL REPORT

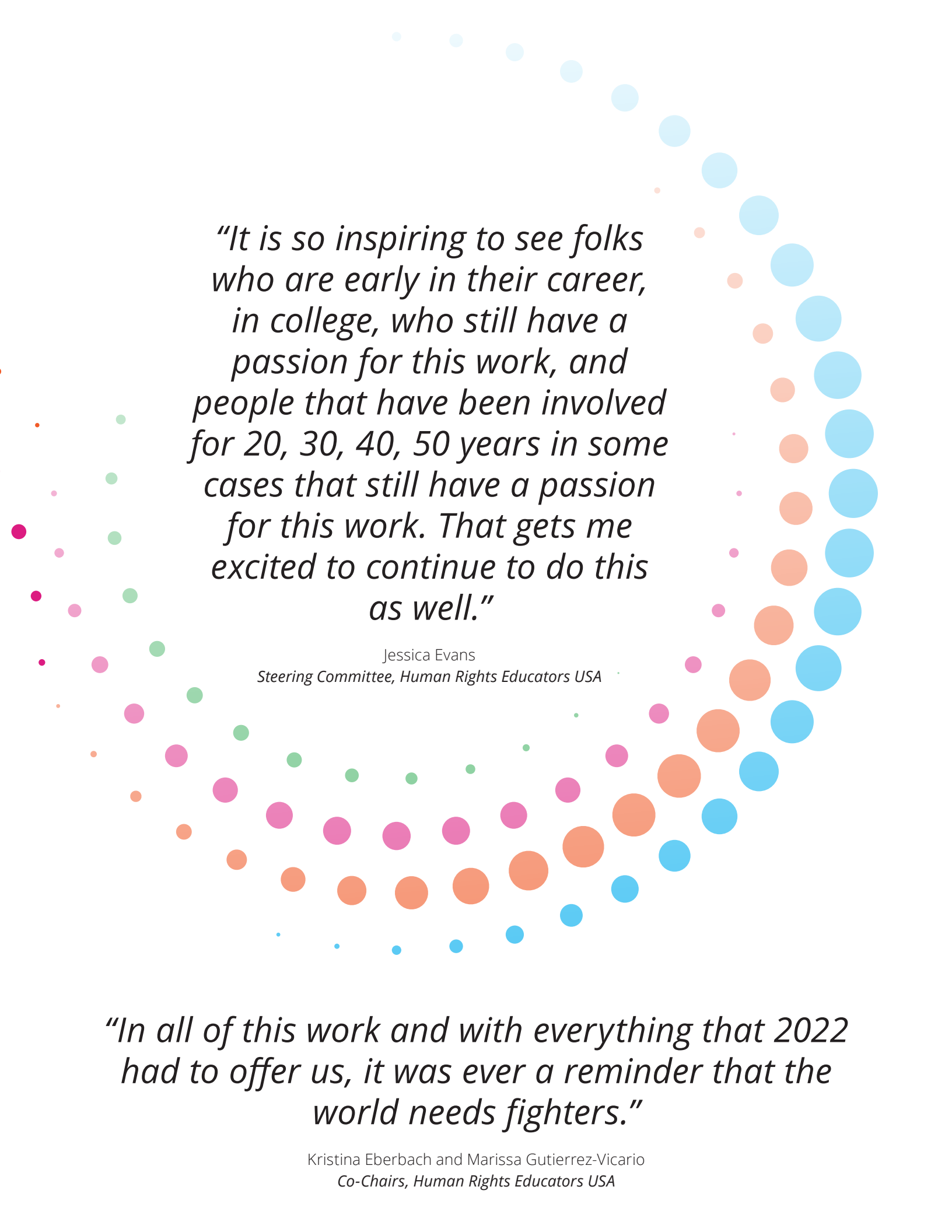
2022





*"A network of colleagues to  
connect with and speak with  
and share ideas with and  
help signal boost projects and  
initiatives and programs."*

Cliff Mayotte, Voice of Witness  
Human Rights Educators USA Member



*"It is so inspiring to see folks who are early in their career, in college, who still have a passion for this work, and people that have been involved for 20, 30, 40, 50 years in some cases that still have a passion for this work. That gets me excited to continue to do this as well."*

Jessica Evans  
Steering Committee, Human Rights Educators USA

*"In all of this work and with everything that 2022 had to offer us, it was ever a reminder that the world needs fighters."*

Kristina Eberbach and Marissa Gutierrez-Vicario  
Co-Chairs, Human Rights Educators USA



## 2021-22 Annual Report

Human Rights Educators USA (HRE USA)

November 2022

Annual report editors: Rosemary Blanchard, Kristina Eberbach, Bill Fernekes, Jazzmin Chizu Gota, Marissa Gutierrez-Vicario, Elana Haviv, and Kristi Rudelius-Palmer

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# CO-CHAIR MESSAGE

Organizer, educator, curator, and abolitionist, Mariame Kaba, has written “everything worthwhile is done with others,” referring to the power of collectivity in the efforts to reimagine a more just world. These words resonate with us as we reflect on this past year’s work with Human Rights Educators USA (HRE USA) and our ever growing network of more than 200 engagement leaders facilitating activities for our 1,129 individual and organizational members across the United States.

We are honored to be a part of this inspiring and impactful human rights education and learning movement that is composed of dedicated individuals and organizations pushing for much-needed change in this country. Some of the notable work completed by HRE USA and its members during the past year includes:

## OUR FIRST TRAINING AS ACTION SERIES.

This was a 10-session, 15-hour training of human rights educators from across the country. More than 30 members joined the Tier 1: Introduction to Human Rights Education and the Tier 2: Personal and Collective Action sessions. We saw fifteen members complete the entire training series, including Tier 3: Developing our HRE USA Training Corps. This is just the beginning, as the team will continue to discuss ways to strengthen this pilot program and to find opportunities to collaborate with regional chapters on local training needs.





#### SUPPORT FOR THE MOVEMENT.

Through the Flowers Fund, we provided small grants to support creative curriculum development and new lessons on voting rights and racial justice. HRE USA members also drafted and provided valuable input on the National Council for the Social Studies' Human Rights Education Position Statement published this year.

#### EXPANSION OF OUR HRE USA COMMUNITY.

We increased the number of regional/state chapter representatives and the number of individual and organizational members. In its second year, the Kirby Edmonds Fellowship continued to develop human rights education leaders through hands-on experience and mentorship. We engaged in significant one-to-one outreach with members and we also collectively celebrated our community and honored our Ed O'Brien award recipients during our annual Human Rights Day.

In all of this work and with everything that 2022 had to offer us, it was ever a reminder that the world needs fighters—human rights fighters—who continue to work towards a more just world. It is because of the inspiring work of our HRE USA community that we still continue to fight on, for the long haul.

Onwards,



Kristina Eberbach and Marissa Gutierrez-Vicario  
Co-Chairs, Human Rights Educators USA

# MISSION

*Human Rights Educators USA (HRE USA) is a collaborative network to learn, teach, organize, advocate, and innovate for human rights education in 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](#),<sup>1</sup> 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 shall maximize our efforts and support those of our members and partner organizations to:

- Build a national movement for human rights education;
- Advocate for the recognition of international human rights and humanitarian law and for a national commitment to educating individuals and communities about their principles and expectations;
- Promote national and regional policies that support human rights education;
- Integrate internationally recognized human rights standards, including those recognized by the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, into formal and non-formal educational settings;
- Advocate for the inclusion of human rights education in national and state education standards, curricula, and pedagogy;
- Promote the incorporation of human rights education into pre-service and in-service teacher training programs;
- Develop and provide resources and training for educators;
- Empower educators and learners to continuously embody human rights principles;
- Participate in global networks and forums to share best human rights education practices;
- Contribute to research and scholarship on human rights education.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES & VALUES

HRE USA is guided by the basic human rights principles of human dignity, equality, and non-discrimination as articulated in the [United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#).<sup>2</sup> In accordance with these principles, we value diversity, inclusiveness, transparency, and consensus-based decision making and commit to treating each other with dignity, integrity, caring, and respect in all our undertakings.

We believe effective human rights education is transformative, empowers individuals and communities, and promotes the respect for and embodiment of these human rights principles and values.

We commit to building a culture of human rights, dignity, justice, and peace. We aim to dismantle systemic racism, white supremacy, and all manifestations of discrimination and domination based on ability, ethnicity, citizenship, culture, gender, race, religion, sexuality, socio-economic status, or any other criteria.



# LEADERSHIP

## HRE USA STEERING COMMITTEE

The **HRE USA Steering Committee**<sup>3</sup> consists of twenty members. There are twelve seats for organizations and individuals and two Regional Representative seats that are nominated by the Executive Committee, and six at-large seats chosen through election by HRE USA members.

The Executive Committee consists of two co-chairs, treasurer, and secretary. Members serve three-year terms and officers serve two-year terms.



**Natalia Isabel Allen**  
United Teachers of Dade Steward

**Rosemary Ann Blanchard**  
HRE Community of NCSS

**Angelica Brooks**  
Silent Voices Project

**Kristina Eberbach \***  
Human Rights Consultant

**Jessica Evans**  
Murray State University

**Bill Fernekes**  
Rutgers University

**Cynthia Gabriel Walsh**  
Amnesty International USA

**Marissa Gutiérrez-Vicario \***  
Art and Resistance Through Education

**Elana Haviv**  
Generation Human Rights, Inc.

**Page Hersey**  
University of San Francisco

**Harry Lawson**  
National Education Association

**Lina Lenberg**  
University of San Francisco

**Laura Michalski**  
Chicago Public Schools

**Glenn Mitoma**  
University of California, Santa Cruz

**Kristi Rudelius-Palmer**  
HRE Consultant

**Lindsey Shelton**  
Learning for Justice

**David Shiman**  
University of Vermont

**Sandra E. Sohcot**  
The World As It Could Be

**Yvonne Vissing**  
Salem University

**Sophie Xu**  
Student Activist

### INCOMING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



**Sabrina Sanchez**  
Human Rights Connected

**Maddy Wegner**  
Minneapolis' Child Friendly Cities

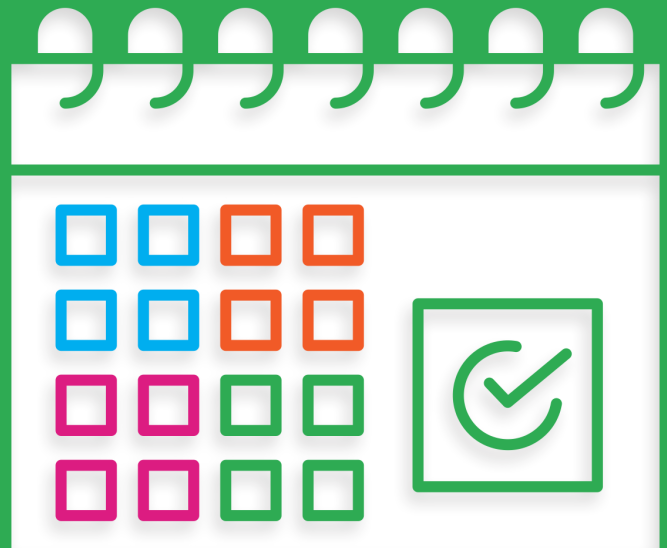
**Adrianna Zhang**  
San Francisco Youth Commission

—  
\* Indicates Co-Chair

# STRATEGIC PLANNING

*In August 2020, HRE USA held its first Online Strategic Vision & Priorities Retreat. This meeting included both members of our Steering Committee, Regional Representatives, and other Action Team leaders. We identified and later approved our seven Priorities for 2020-2023 described in detail below.*

On January 13, 2022, HRE USA held its first HRE USA Leadership & Action Planning Retreat. The HRE USA Executive Committee decided to host this retreat on an annual basis. In our 2022 January Strategy and Action Retreat, we conducted a HRE USA Leadership Team poll (12 completed the poll) about their interests in leadership engagement, mentorship, and communication vehicles. A majority of the team members are interested in mentorship opportunities.



## HRE USA'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2022-2023 ARE:

1. Collaborate with our organizational members and with other organizations to further the guiding principles and values, vision, and priorities of HRE USA.
2. Create supportive relationships with individual members to further the vision, mission, and priorities of HRE USA.
3. Provide youth with HRE leadership, training, and other opportunities to engage in HRE initiatives.
4. Understand the current priorities, contexts, and initiatives of our individual and organizational members for the purpose of enabling a more inclusive and diverse membership and leadership, including HRE USA's Steering and Executive Committees.
5. Build members' HRE capacities through training, leadership opportunities, resource-sharing, and the development of collaborative projects.
6. Influence HRE policy and practices in the U.S. by strengthening our Committees and Regional Chapters, Projects, and Partners, enhancing communication, and measuring accomplishments connected with HRE USA's Strategic & Action Plans.
7. Become an original source, rather than just a conduit to other sources, by increasing online resources, presenting at human rights-related forums/conferences, and hosting webinars.

# HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2022

- **2021 HRE USA Annual Report <sup>4</sup>** (More detailed accomplishments are described in this report for the first part of our 2022 fiscal year).
- **Communications, Growth Advisor, Curriculum & Professional Development, and Strategic Leadership and Capacity-Building Consultants.** The 2022 Fiscal Year was a significant transition year for HRE USA. Our Communications Consultant, Emily Farrell, stepped down after 7-years of able leadership, serving as our only paid support for HRE USA. This year, we worked to develop sustainable, strategic plans for our leadership, programming, and financial long-term viability. The specialized consulting experts have provided essential vision, feedback, and plans. This work needs to now be implemented through additional creative membership engagement and development efforts.
- **Communications Consultants & Online Media Plan.** The draft Online Media Plan was submitted by Jazzmin Gota, Natela Jordan, and Kristi Rudelius-Palmer to the Steering Committee for review and comment in November 2021 and approval in 2022. It is included as part of the attached 2022 HRE USA Leadership, Staffing, and Financial Sustainability Report/Plan.
- **Implementation & Evaluation Report of our first 2021 Training As Action Series (TAAS) for HRE USA Members.** The TAAS provided an opportunity to orient new and veteran members to HRE USA and human rights education. The more expansive training enabled members to be actively engaged in facilitating learning with our membership and development of a training corps of facilitators. We learned a great deal in the first-ever HRE USA 3-tiered training approach. We hope to implement a new version of TAAS in Fall 2022 as a consistent offering for our membership. The 2021 TAAS Summary Report was submitted by Kaylee Bradford and Kristi Rudelius-Palmer (January 15, 2022) to the Steering Committee.
- **2022 HRE USA Leadership, Staffing, and Financial Sustainability Report/Plan.** This plan includes the 10-year staffing and fundraising retrospective and opportunities for future development efforts for both membership and financial sustainability and engagement. Kristi Rudelius-Palmer submitted the Report/Plan on 2/8/22) for comment and approval from the Steering Committee. Efforts included the hiring of a Growth Advisor to develop a refined fundraising plan.
- **2022-23 Strategic Action Plan for Curriculum & Training Development.** Professional Development Consultant Kaylee Bradford worked with our Curriculum Integration Project lead, John Terry, our Connecticut Regional Representative, Jake Skrzypiec, and Strategy Consultant, Kristi Rudelius-Palmer, to develop the 2022-23 Strategic Action Plan for Curriculum & Training Development.
- **HRE USA implemented its first Kirby Edmonds Summer Fellowship Program in 2021 and 2022, plus the first Giving Is Gorges fundraiser for this program.** The projects that the undertook included: (1) Project A: Virtual HRE USA Training of Trainers Action Plan Development; (2) Project B: HRE USA Online Media Strategy Project; and (3) Project C: HRE USA Organizational Landscape Mapping and Outreach. This work has already rippled into ongoing plans and programming.
- **Three additional Flowers Fund grants were awarded and two O'Brien Awards in 2021.**
- **Human Rights Day Celebration.** On December 10, 2021, the HRE USA hosted its second annual HR Day Celebration in collaboration with the University and College Consortium for Human Rights Education.
- **Elections.** HRE USA held its 2021 Steering Committee elections with two new appointments and added the Regional Representative Co-Chairs to our Steering Committee.
- **HRE connection to Social Justice Advocacy Statement.**<sup>4</sup> The HRE USA Steering Committee approved this statement addition for our website.
- **Spring 2022 Webinars.** HRE USA hosted four additional HRE webinars in the Spring, led by members of the community. The topics included dialogue, music/creative expression, storytelling, and showcasing a new Water Rights & Human Rights curriculum toolkit.

# 2022-23 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

*Throughout the year, HRE USA's Curriculum and Training Team developed an organizational Strategic Action Plan for 2022-23, focusing on areas of curricula and professional development. This plan built out the long-term goals, yearly objectives, and fiscal requirements for three key areas:*

1. K-12 Collections/Library: Plans to review the existing library resources and update them to reflect current human rights education and training practices/strategies. Additionally, plans to develop a process for continual Collections creation and dissemination, including creation of two new collections to address crucial human rights issues.
2. Curriculum Integration Guide: Plans to relaunch and rebrand with a new management team and will pilot the creation to publication process in 1-2 new region(s).
3. Professional Development: Hopes to establish its Professional Development operations to provide meaningful Training As Action Series (TAAS) workshops 3-4x a year, house a resource library on the HRE USA website, run an annual Teacher Fellowship program, and produce a HRE USA podcast.
- 4.

Efforts towards these goals have already started. This includes:

- The work of Bill Fernekes and Sabrina Sanchez, with support from Jazzmin Chizu Gota, Elana Haviv, and Kristi Rudelius-Palmer, towards developing the ***Human Rights Education Now!*** podcast.
- The work of Julie Rinker, our first HRE USA Teacher Fellow, conducting an audit of the online K-12 Library, providing recommendations for further improvement and content editing.





# WORKING GROUPS

*As a volunteer-led organization, our mission is only made possible by volunteers. HRE USA has several **volunteer actions teams, committees, and working groups**.<sup>5</sup> Each leadership convening meets virtually either monthly or once every two months. All members are welcome to join.*

## ADVOCACY & POLICY TEAM

This team develops, reviews, and undertakes collaborative action projects in conjunction with HRE USA partners. Projects include submitting shadow reports on HRE in the U.S. to the United Nations, following legislation at state and federal levels that affects delivery of HRE, developing a HRE Curriculum Guide, and advocating U.S. states to integrate HRE into education standards while promoting HRE as a necessary related field for civics education in an inclusive, democratic society.

## IMPACT, MEMBERSHIP, AND COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

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.

## INNOVATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS TEAM

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

## ONLINE MEDIA TEAM

This team develops a cohesive approach and process to managing, organizing and showcasing HRE USA's online media presence. The OMT provides oversight of the organization's online media platforms, and develops

effective strategies to establish sustainable management of HRE USA's digital content.

## EDMONDS FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for administering, selecting, and providing oversight for the recipients of the Kirby Edmonds Summer Fellowship.

## 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, which recognizes 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 for three goals: U.S. ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), endorsement of the CRC at state, local, and school district levels, and increasing awareness of the importance of the CRC and how the U.S. falls short in fulfilling the rights of the child.





# TEAM REPORTS

## ADVOCACY & POLICY TEAM

Educating for American Democracy: The introduction and reintroduction of the Education Secures Democracy Act is one of several civil society initiatives to build a nonpartisan base for improved civic literacy in the United States through greater attention to civic education and support for diversity of voices in telling the complex story of the nation's origins and development over time. These subjects have become the focus of extreme partisan attempts to silence minority voices and critical analysis of the nation's past and present.

A project of iCivics, through the CivXNow initiative is working to develop and build support for a framework for history and civics education that includes multiple perspectives and draws support from a broad cross section of education and policy based organizations and scholars in the subject areas involved and in educational policy. This project, Educating for American Democracy (EAD), introduced a Roadmap (<https://www.educatingforamericandemocracy.org/the-roadmap/>) in May of 2021 that sought to set out the critical elements of a civic education supportive of constitutional democracy and societal diversity. HRE USA has engaged with EAD and is identified as one of the EAD "Champions (<https://www.educatingforamericandemocracy.org/champions/>)." As a result, the HRE USA logo is posted on the Champions site within the EAD website, with a

link that takes viewers directly to HRE USA's webpage. This reinforces HRE USA's efforts to demonstrate that in a democratic society, human rights education and civics education are related areas of study and should both be part of every student's education. As part of HRE USA's engagement with EAD, the two organizations have developed a common briefing paper on the relationship between human rights education and civic education in a democratic society. The briefing paper carries the logos and endorsement of both EAD and HRE USA. It can be downloaded from the HRE USA website (<https://hreusaorg.files.wordpress.com/2021/08/hre-brief-on-ead.pdf>).

## INNOVATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS TEAM

Engaged with HRE USA members to develop a new resource, "The Human Rights Perspective on the Importance of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Efforts." Resources available at the HRE USA website (<https://hreusa.org/about>)

## ONLINE MEDIA TEAM

The OMT has developed strategies for expanding HRE USA's online presence through online platforms. Our work has included: The expansion of our YouTube channel, continual expansion of our website resources, and layers of file and communication organization extend our impact online. Additionally, we are excited to report that we've made major progress in the development and production of HRE USA's podcast, *Human Rights Now!*

## CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD WORKING GROUP

The 2022 conference on children's human rights in the USA occurred June 22-24 in a virtual format, using Zoom Events. The conference was 1.5 years in development. About 60 different speakers made presentations at the event. These presenters ranged in age from 5 years to people in their 80s, and represented a diverse group of people of all genders, races, religions, social classes, roles, and other characteristics. Most were "live", a few were pre-recorded, and all of them will be posted for future access on the newly developed website we created on [Canvas Infrastructure](#), called the [Children's Human Rights Resource, Networking and Learning Library](#).<sup>6</sup>

# SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE REPORT



BY NATELA JORDAN, HRE USA COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT

## WORDPRESS WEBSITE

In HRE USA Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022), 135 blog posts were posted, 11 blog posts per month on average. Our Wordpress blog is linked to the HRE USA Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn accounts where the same blog posts automatically get posted.

Multiple website updates were carried out as requested by the communications team and individual steering committee members. These included updates to awards and fellowships as well as follow up information, reports and videos from the awardees, fellowship, and scholarship recipients. Some HRE USA website improvements included fixing broken links in our K-12 HRE Library and highlighting our HRE USA Membership Profiles, Fellows, and Flowers and O'Brien award recipients, and expansion of our Past Events and Recordings page.

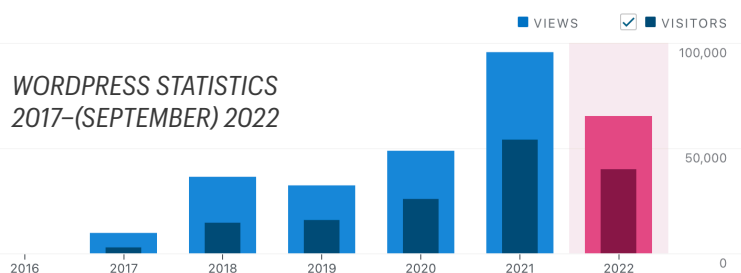
The overall number of views and visits to the website has increased dramatically from 2020 to 2021, from **48,738 views and 25,809 in 2020, to 95,616 views and 54,039 visits in 2021.**

## SOCIAL MEDIA

The social media presence is stable (mostly sustained by the automatic reposts of the blogs and additional re-posts and reminders). The Facebook overall likes are at 763, the new LinkedIn page (business as opposed to closed group) is beginning to gain followers. Additional time and resources would be needed to take social media presence to the next level of organic engagement, but at present it serves the purpose of publishing important updates, events, and opportunities.

### HRE USA social media accounts:

- **Twitter** <https://twitter.com/HumanRightsEdUS>
- **LinkedIn**
  - **Company page (public)** <https://linkedin.com/company/hreusa>
  - **Individual page (private)** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/hreusa/>
- **Instagram** [https://www.instagram.com/human\\_rights\\_educators\\_usa/](https://www.instagram.com/human_rights_educators_usa/)
- **Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/hreusa/>



## E-NEWSLETTER REPORT

BY JAZZMIN CHIZU GOTA, NEWSLETTER & MEDIA PLAN CONSULTANT

Over the past fiscal year, the HRE USA monthly e-newsletter has provided consistent up to date news from the human rights education community across the country. In September of 2021, we developed a new section to spotlight one individual member and one organizational member every month to connect members with each other and new/updated resources. The newsletter publishes posts to Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

# REGIONAL CHAPTERS



Angelica Brooks  
ALABAMA



Maureen McCorry  
CALIFORNIA (CENTRAL)



Ellen Moore  
COLORADO



Laura Finley  
FLORIDA



Brian Farrell  
IOWA



Kathy Seipp  
MINNESOTA



Benil Mostafa  
NEW YORK



David Shiman  
VERMONT



Rachel Bergsieker  
WASHINGTON DC



Jazzmin Chizu Gota  
CALIFORNIA (NORTH)



Pam Bruns  
CALIFORNIA (SOUTH)



Chris Buckley  
CONNECTICUT



Joshua Cooper  
HAWAII



Yvonne Vissing  
MASS. & NEW HAMPSH.



John Terry  
NEW JERSEY



Michelle Chouinard  
NEW YORK



Gail Barker  
VIRGINIA (EAST)



Karen Hopkins  
WASHINGTON DC



Lina Lenberg  
CALIFORNIA (NORTH)



Kristin Ghazarians  
CALIFORNIA (SOUTH)



Jake Skrzypiec  
CONNECTICUT



Laura Michalski  
ILLINOIS



Kristi Rudelius-Palmer  
MINNESOTA



Rosemary Blanchard  
NEW MEXICO



Rick Halperin  
TEXAS



David Brunsma  
VIRGINIA (WEST)



Bill Price  
WEST VIRGINIA



Nicole Palasz  
WISCONSIN

HRE USA has a **national network of Regional Representatives**<sup>7</sup> (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 Representatives provide feedback on regional members' interests, needs, and concerns. Representatives 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 representatives** across the nation, who **contributed 406 in-kind hours** to support HRE community efforts. Regional reps met monthly on Zoom throughout 2021-2022 to exchange ideas and explore opportunities for collaboration, which remains a desired area of growth within the network. Over the summer of 2022, HRE USA sponsored an Edmonds Fellow to examine the regional rep network and conduct a needs assessment based on regional reps' feedback. The Fellow's final report was submitted in August 2022, and the recommendations will be applied to strengthen the network and provide additional support to regional reps as needed.

**406 IN-KIND HOURS**  
**28 REGIONAL REPS**







## REGIONAL REPS BY STATE

### ALABAMA

Angelica Brooks

### CALIFORNIA (Central)

Maureen McCorry

### CALIFORNIA (North)

Jazzmin Chizu Gota

Lina Lenberg

### CALIFORNIA (South)

Pam Bruns

Kristin Ghazarians

### COLORADO

Ellen Moore

### CONNECTICUT

Chris Buckley

Jacob Skrzypiec

### FLORIDA

Laura Finley

### HAWAII

Joshua Cooper

### ILLINOIS

Laura Michalski

### IOWA

Brian Farrell

### MASSACHUSETTS/

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

Yvonne Vissing

### MINNESOTA

Kristi Rudelius-Palmer

Kathy Seipp

### NEW JERSEY

John Terry

### NEW MEXICO

Rosemary Blanchard

### NEW YORK

Michelle Chouinard

Benil Mostafa

### TEXAS

Rick Halperin

### VERMONT

David Shiman

### VIRGINIA (Eastern)

Gail Barker

### VIRGINIA (Western)

David Brunsma

### WASHINGTON, DC

Rachel Bergsieker

Karen Hopkins

### WEST VIRGINIA

Bill Price

### WISCONSIN

Nicole Palasz



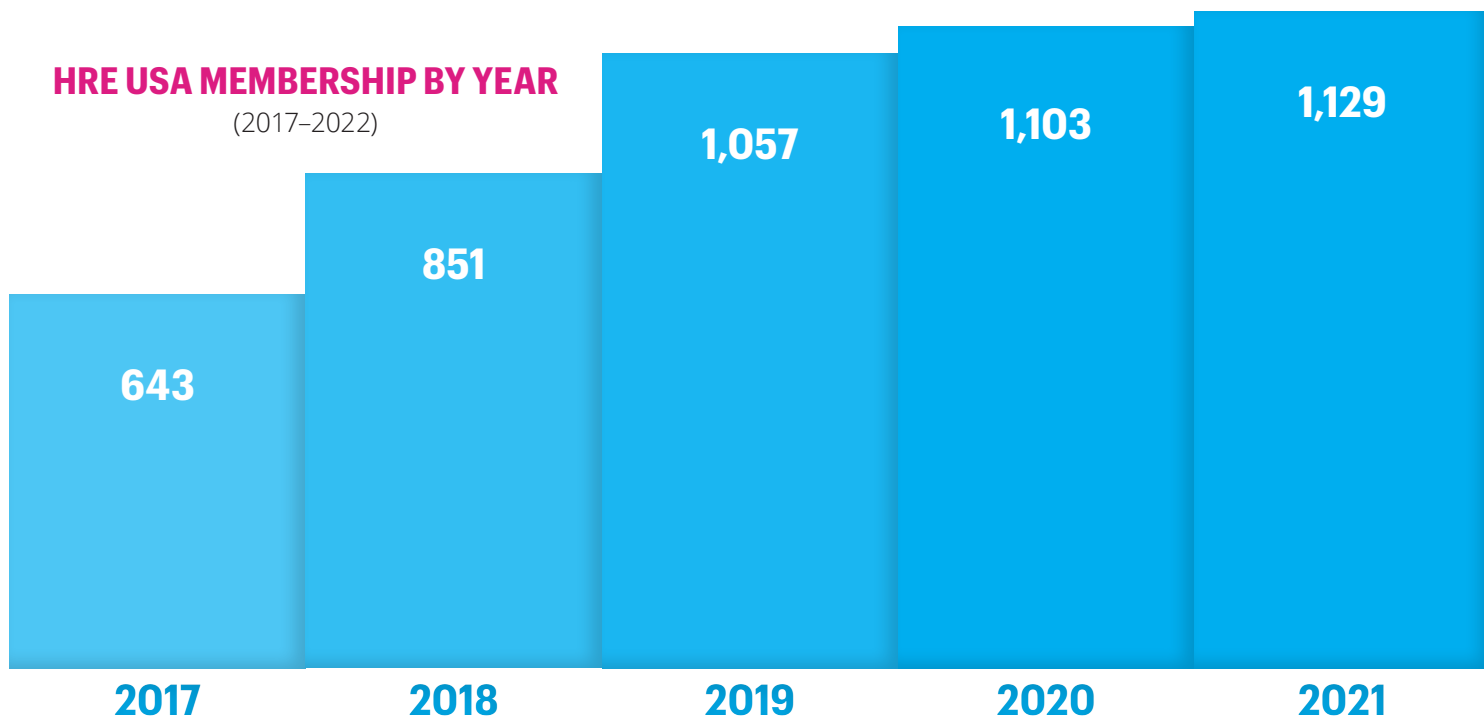
# MEMBERSHIP & SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

*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.***



**1,129**  
**TOTAL**  
**MEMBERS**

**HRE USA MEMBERSHIP BY YEAR**  
(2017–2022)



## UPDATES FOR 2022

*In 2022, HRE USA engaged one of our members to lend support as an organizational growth advisor. Some key updates include:*

- HRE USA developed an organizational document to streamline the tracking of membership, donations, and potential donors and support long-term institutional knowledge.
- HRE USA conducted numerous outreach and engagement discussions to strengthen the organization's relationship with current members, identify and liaise with new partners, and solicit support for our financial sustainability. These conversations resulted in invaluable guidance and monetary pledges.
- We also developed a new campaign approach which began with the 2022 Giving is Gorges Campaign. We raised \$4,125 from 33 different donors. This reflects an increase from 2021 of over 75%. Two additional giving campaigns are scheduled for later this fiscal year.
- HRE USA developed a giving menu to highlight key activities and potential new initiatives. This document has informed grant applications and will be used to engage individual donors interested in supporting our work.

**SUSTAINABILITY OUTREACH  
ENGAGEMENT GIVING  
CAMPAIGNS  
INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE  
DOCUMENTATION  
MEMBERSHIP BUILDING  
NETWORK COLLABORATIONS**

# AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS

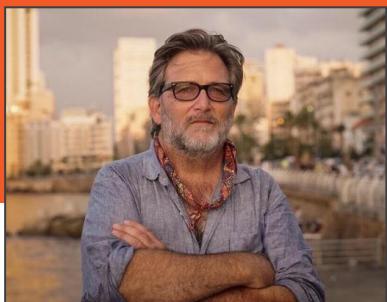
## THE EDWARD O'BRIEN HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AWARD

Edward O'Brien  
Human Rights Education Award



*HRE USA makes two annual awards honoring significant contributions to human rights education in the United States, one for an individual and the other for an organization or institution. [The O'Brien Award](#)<sup>8</sup> was established in honor of Edward O'Brien, a pioneer in the field and founding member of HRE USA who died in 2015.*

The 2021 O'Brien Awards were presented on December 10th as part of HRE USA's annual on-line Human Rights Day Celebration. The ceremony featured the O'Brien Awards winners, who spoke about their work. Also on the program were introductions of the Kirby Edmonds Fellows and the Flowers Fund grantees and the presentation of the first award made by the University and College Consortium for Human Rights Education, which recognized the contribution of the [Human Rights Education Review](https://humanrer.org) (<https://humanrer.org>) and the [International Journal for Human Rights Education](http://repository.usfca.edu/ijhre) (<http://repository.usfca.edu/ijhre>).



The 2021 O'Brien Award for an individual contribution went to **Professor Keith David Watenpaugh**, a leading historian of human rights who has established the University of California Davis Human Rights Studies Program, the largest program of its kind in the California state system. In collaboration with Middle Eastern partners, Professor Watenpaugh has worked to advance the human rights of refugee students through [Article 26 Backpack Project](#),<sup>9</sup> an award-winning, cloud-based mobility tool that empowers refugees to safely store, curate, and securely share important educational and training documents.



EIHR  
THE EDUCATORS' INSTITUTE  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The 2021 O'Brien Award for organizational contribution went to [Educators Institute for Human Rights \(EIHR\)](#).<sup>10</sup> Founded by teachers for teachers, EIHR provides training, develops materials, and supports networks of educators globally to teach the history of mass atrocities, including the Holocaust. In the face of rising violent extremism and hate-filled rhetoric, EIHR provides educators in the United States with resources for prevention, response, and rebuilding community, as well as support to teach the next generation about these subjects. The award was accepted by Kate English, EIHR Executive Director.



## FLOWERS FUND GRANT PROGRAM

**The Flowers Fund**<sup>11</sup> 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. The Grantees for the 2021-2022 academic year are:



### NATALIA SANTOS OROZCO, Ph.D.

*University of Puerto Rico*

**Project:** Support from the Flowers Fund for “Feeling-Thinking Human Rights Literary Contest.” It was beneficial for the promotion of the goals of the programs: The Minor in Human Rights of the Bachelor of General Studies and the Department of Spanish of the University of Puerto Rico’s College of General Studies. These goals included education, promotion, and formation in human rights, as well as the cultivation of creativity.



### MICHAEL BUCKLEY, Ph.D. AND DAVID FLETCHER, Ph.D.

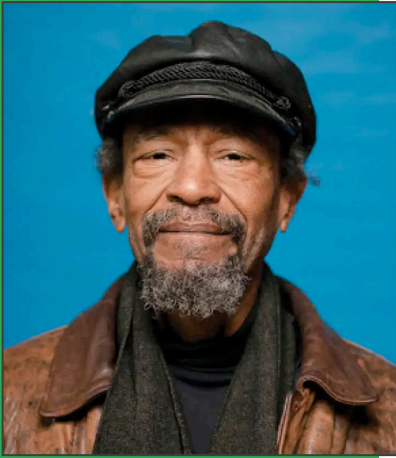
*The Center for Human Rights and Peace Studies, Lehman College*

**Project:** Our project is to help high schools around New York City establish student-led human rights clubs. The goal is to create service-learning opportunities for students to reflect on and contribute to remedying local human rights injustices. Service-learning is a form of experiential learning in which students acquire and apply the skills needed to identify urgent community needs. In the process, they learn leadership skills, develop cultural and racial understandings, and practice civic engagement. Their work also alerts teachers, scholars, and grassroots organizers to emerging injustices. Lehman College has, through conferences and educational programs, created a loose network of restorative justice practitioners and educators. Lehman’s Department of Middle and High School Education and the Center for Human Rights and Peace Studies aims to strengthen this network and collaborate with human rights clubs and their respective schools to address ongoing and emerging educational injustices in NYC.



# AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS

## KIRBY EDMONDS SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



*In August of 2020, Human Rights Educators USA (HRE USA) lost one of its sustaining sources of inspiration and committed leadership – Kirby Edmonds. As a founding member of HRE USA, Kirby was instrumental in the establishment of 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. In honor of his legacy, HRE USA has created the [Edmonds Summer Fellowship](#)<sup>12</sup> to support 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.*

## THREE NEW KIRBY EDMONDS SUMMER FELLOWS BEGAN THEIR HRE USA PROJECTS ON JUNE 1, 2022: VERONICA BIDO, HALLIE MCRAE, AND NATALIE ROACH

*The Edmonds Fellowship Program was established by HRE USA in collaboration with the [Dorothy Cotton Institute \(DCI\)](#)<sup>13</sup> and its Director, Laura Branca. Together with contributions from DCI and the Puffin Foundation we have continued to support emerging leaders in the field of human rights education.*



# HRE USA IS PLEASED TO WELCOME 2022 EDMONDS SUMMER FELLOWS:



## **EDMONDS SUMMER FELLOWSHIP — HRE USA COMMUNITY BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **Veronica Bido and Hallie McRae**

From June 2021–September 2021, Veronica Bido and Hallie McRae worked to support community building and development efforts by undertaking fundraising research and strategic outreach to help HRE USA strengthen relationships with current member organizations and individuals and identify and liaise with new potential partners. Veronica and Hallie actively communicated with individual, organizational, and donor members to identify their interests to support development activities. Through their work, the fellows worked to support efforts to reflect on how HRE USA can best support our network and foster sustainability as an organization, establish key priorities for the next few years, determine potential points of collaboration, and identify ways for securing resources to ensure HRE USA's long-term sustainability. In addition, Veronica and Hallie worked to produce outreach and fundraising communication materials as well as organizational and individual member highlights for the HRE USA newsletter.



## **EDMONDS SUMMER FELLOWSHIP — STRENGTHENING HRE USA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE COMMUNITY**

### **Natalie Roach**

As one of three 2022 Edmonds Fellows, Natalie Roach worked to support efforts to assess and strengthen the HRE-USA Regional Representative community by cultivating key data on needs and priorities of current serving regional representatives and developing a plan for continued, sustainable opportunities for collaboration, learning and fellowship. She created and conducted a needs and skills assessment of current HRE USA Regional Representatives and collaborated with Regional Representatives and the supervisory team to recommend changes and priority needs to Regional Representative responsibilities and community networks. At the conclusion of fellowship, Natalie synthesized needs, skills, and recommendations into a coherent report for review by the HRE USA leadership team and developed plans to build more opportunities for collaboration, cross-regional sharing, learning and fellowship among members.

# EVENTS & WEBINARS

## & CO-SPONSORED EVENT

### 2021-22 TRAINING AS ACTION SERIES

Human Rights Educators USA's annual **Training as Action Series (TAAS)** <sup>14</sup> is a virtual training series focused on bridging personal and collective action on some of the most critical human rights issues of today. Offering three consecutive training tiers, each building upon the next in terms of depth and engagement, TAAS creates an educational space to connect and collaborate with others in human rights education and training. TAAS was successfully piloted during the Fall of 2021, engaging 25+ students, K-12 educators, and community activists in human rights training—including topics such as race, gender, and personal narrative in relation to human rights education. Moving forward, TAAS will continue to implement improvements based upon evaluation recommendations to further develop the series into an annually recurring program offered to the broader HRE USA community.

As part of the summer Kirby Edmonds Fellowship, Danielle Lucksted coordinated the development of HRE USA's very first virtual Training As Action Series (TAAS). Various HRE USA advisors came together to review effective practices, virtual conferencing strategies, and content development to eventually produce the overall training framework implemented during Fall of 2021. The 2021-22 TAAS focused on bridging personal and collective action on some of the most critical human rights issues of today,

including topics such as race, gender, and personal narrative. TAAS offered 20+ hours of consecutive human rights training to over 25 human rights educators, students, and community activists located



nationally and internationally, resulting in the development of the HRE USA Training Corps—a team focused on offering human rights-focused professional development to the broader community. A thorough evaluation and summary report were produced and shared to the broader HRE USA membership. Additionally, a TAAS Toolkit was developed to allow for both the sustainability of the series and the opportunity for HRE USA members to conduct similar training series on their own, if desired.

**TAAS 2022 launched this Fall** <sup>15</sup> with data driven improvements and newly created content.

A graphic for the TAAS Fall 2022 event. It features a blue banner at the top with the text "TAAS Fall 2022". Below this is a green box with the text "Training As Action Series" and "Come join us as we engage in dialogue regarding gun violence, youth action Indigenous rights, and much more!". To the right of the green box is a pink box with the text "REGISTRATION bit.ly/hreusa-taas2022". Below the green box is a list of "EVENT SESSIONS" with dates and times. At the bottom is a section for "CO-SPONSORS" with logos for Amnesty International, UNHCR, HRE USA, Murray State University, The World We Could Be, GLI, and UConn Human Rights Institute.

**TAAS** Fall 2022

Training As Action Series

Come join us as we engage in dialogue regarding gun violence, youth action Indigenous rights, and much more!

Cost: \$25/session or \$100 for entire series  
\*If you are not able to contribute financially, but still wish to participate in the series, please email [kayleed@hreusa.org](mailto:kayleed@hreusa.org)

**REGISTRATION**  
[bit.ly/hreusa-taas2022](https://bit.ly/hreusa-taas2022)

**EVENT SESSIONS**

- Monday, 10/17/22 7pm–9pm ET: Action for Human Rights
- Monday, 10/24/22 7pm–9pm ET: Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights
- Saturday, 10/29/22 11am–1pm ET: Facilitating Difficult Conversations
- Monday, 11/7/22 7pm–9pm ET: Children's Rights & Youth Activism
- Monday, 11/14/22 7pm–9pm ET: Ending Gun Violence
- Saturday, 11/19/22 11am–1pm ET: Incorporating Human Rights in the Classroom

**CO-SPONSORS**

- AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
- UNHCR
- LEAD WHY
- U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATORS' ASSOCIATION (HRE USA)
- MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY
- The World We Could Be
- GLI
- UConn HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE



## HRE USA HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

After the success of the first digital event, HRE USA held its second virtual International **Human Rights Day Celebration** <sup>16</sup> (December 10, 2021) to commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations on December 10, 1948. During this event, we honored the 2021 Edward O'Brien Human Rights Education award recipients: Dr. Keith David Watenpaugh, Professor and Founding Director of Human Rights Studies, University of California, Davis (individual award) and Educators' Institute for Human Rights (EIHR) (educational award). HRE USA also honored the 2021 Flowers Fund grantees: This included for 2021-22 Michael Buckley & David Fletcher at the Lehman Center for Peace & Social Justice and 2021-22 winner, Natalia Santos Orozco, from the University of Puerto Rico. Professor Sarita Cargas, the Associate Professor of Human Rights at the University of New Mexico, introduced the University & College Consortium Awardees: The *Human Rights*

*Education Review* and the *International Journal for Human Rights Education*. Lastly, the event ended with a joyful reading of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by 6th grade students from Presidio Hill School in San Francisco, invited by their Humanities teacher, Steering Committee member, and Northern California Regional Representative, Dr. Lina Lenberg. We cannot wait to see what the 2022 Human Rights Day Celebration will bring!



## UCCHRE

- **Pedagogy and Projects Series: Teaching for Racial Justice with Professor Justin Hansford** <sup>17</sup>
- **Experiential Learning And Human Rights Change with Dr. Carrie Booth Walling** <sup>18</sup>



# PROJECTS & PUBLICATIONS



## HRE USA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The [monthly e-newsletter](#) <sup>19</sup> highlights the latest news, action alerts, publications, events, and partner announcements related to human rights education in the United States.



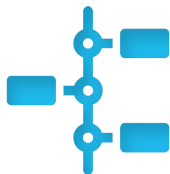
## HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATORS USA ONLINE SHOP

[HRE USA's online store](#) <sup>20</sup> features key human rights education materials including human rights treaty booklets, curriculum, and more. The resources also 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.



## K-12 HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION RESOURCE LIBRARY

In 2021-22, HRE USA continued to curate and update their online [K-12 Human Rights Education Resource Library](#) <sup>21</sup> 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.



## A HISTORY OF NCSS INVOLVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS (SOCIAL EDUCATION: NCSS AFTER 100 YEARS, NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021, VOL. 85, NO. 6)

["A History of NCSS Involvement in Human Rights"](#) <sup>22</sup> (pp. 364–365) was written by HRE Steering Committee member and New Mexico Regional Rep., Rosemary Ann Blanchard (with support from fellow Steering Committee member Glenn Mitoma.)



## THE HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION EFFORTS

The HRE USA Innovations & Partnerships Committee has developed language that clarifies the importance of [diversity, inclusion, and equity \(DEI\) from an HRE perspective](#) <sup>23</sup> in order to support educators who are dealing with challenges in bringing this orientation to their schools and/or other forums.

# 2011

**HRE USA is founded at a gathering at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, September 2011**

*First independent, multi-stakeholder network focused on promoting HRE in the United States*

## 2011–2021: HRE USA 10 YEAR REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

*Over the past 10 years, we have developed relationships with HRE educators and organizations all across the country to further the field of human rights education in the United States. From regional chapters to fellowship, grants, and working groups, we are proud of what we have accomplished together and look forward to continuing the work in the years ahead. In the [January 2022 HRE USA e-newsletter](#),<sup>24</sup> here are some of the highlights:*

### 2012

- On December 10, 2012, HRE USA opened membership to interested educators and activists.
- Regional representatives became an important part of HRE USA outreach efforts in local communities.

### 2013

- HRE USA Steering Committee designates the regional network as one of its priority goals.
- HRE USA provides input into the Position Statement on Human Rights Education developed by the NCSS HREC in 2013 after the NCSS Board of Directors approves the development of such a statement and directs the NCSS HREC to develop a draft to submit to the board. HRE USA meets in Washington, DC at the time the NCSS BOD meets and authorizes the HREC to develop a position statement draft and invites the NCSS Board and key staff to a reception HRE USA was holding. At the reception, HRE USA members are encouraged by Board president Steve Armstrong to provide input to the HRE Community on the draft.

### 2014

- The NCSS Board of Directors approved the Position Statement

on Human Rights Education submitted to them by the NCSS HRE Community. The Statement was adopted September 19-20, 2014 and was in place when NCSS held its Annual Conference in Boston, MA. Felisa Tibbitts (HRE USA co-founder), who was at that time a Steering Committee member of HRE USA was the HRE Community's sponsored speaker at that conference.

A team of New Jersey educators convenes to develop the structure and content for this online HRE USA Curriculum Integration Guide. Led by retired NJ social studies supervisor and HRE USA Steering Committee member William R. Fernekas, the team agreed that the guide should consist of lessons and supporting materials that were linked to the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards for Social Studies.

- Emily Farrell joins as HRE USA's first Communications Specialist

### 2015

- First-ever Stakeholders Report on the status of human rights education as part of the UPR review carried out by HRE USA in cooperation with the US Human Rights Network UPR Report
- The Edward O'Brien Human Rights Education Awards is established in memory of Ed O'Brien, pioneer

human rights educator and valued member of HRE USA who died in 2015 (To date,, there have been 7 individual and 6 organizational awardees.)

- HRE USA lessons are published on the HRE USA website (and at this point, there are 20 model lessons on the website and integrated into the larger HRE USA K-12 HRE Library.)
- At the request of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, we granted permission for 7 of the lessons to be mounted on that organization's website. The lessons can be found on that UN site by searching the Library of Resources using Human Rights Educators USA as the search term.
- First Human Rights Here and Now Bulletin launched.

#### Edward O'Brien HRE Awardees

2015: Kristi Rudelius-Palmer

2016: Dr. Felisa Tibbitts, Washington D.C. Human Rights Learning Project

2017: Mariana Leal Ferreira, Voice of Witness

2018: Karen Robinson, ARTE: Art and Resistance through Education

2019: Monica Curca, Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center

2020: Pam Bruns, ACT Center for Disability Leadership

2021: Keith David Watenpugh, Educators Institute for Human Rights (EIHR)

### 2016

- HRE USA produces its first annual report on its 5th anniversary.

# PROJECTS & PUBLICATIONS

## 2017

- HRE USA and the UCCHRE submit a shadow report to the UN HR Council highlighting the need for greater HRE across Higher Education institutions in the US—a part of the Universal Periodic Review mid-term US review.
- Nancy Flowers was presented with the 1st Lifetime Achievement Award in November 2017. In recognition of her founding HRE USA and significant human rights education contribution.
- HRE USA established The Flowers Fund to support emerging human rights education leaders and innovative ideas.

### Flowers Fund Grantees

2018: *The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) District of Columbia (DC) – Human Right Learning Program and Dr. Hakim Mohandas Amani Williams*

2019: *Nathan Embretson, Brian Farrell, Bayard Nielsen, and Sabrina Sanchez*

2020: *Chris Buckley & Jake Skrzypiec, Peter Rakita, and John Terry*

2021: *Natalia Santos Orozco and Michael Buckley & David Fletcher*

## 2018

- HRE USA e-monthly newsletter launched.
- HRE USA collaborated with Amnesty International USA to gather feedback, field test, improve, and disseminate the Human Rights in National Security: An Educator's Toolkit, published by AIUSA a year earlier. This free online toolkit equips educators

with the tools for discussing post-9/11 national security and human rights issues in the classroom.

- 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights HRE USA Poster Contest—Poster Contest Gallery ([hreusa.org](http://hreusa.org)).

## 2019

- Every Child, Every Right & the 30th Anniversary Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) Ratification Toolkit, Resources, and City Resolutions, coordinated in collaboration with the Human Rights Watch Student Task Force and the HRE USA Children's Rights Working Group.
- The Human Rights Watch Students Task Force is presented with the 1st Youth Engagement Recognition of the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- David Shiman is presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award in November.

## 2020

- The first new members webinar and slide deck is presented by Steering Committee members.
- Your Vote, Your Voice Resource Collection and video with organizational partners, A World As It Could Be, Human Rights Watch Student Task Force, and the National Council for the Social Studies Human Rights Education Community.

- As part of our commitment to anti-racism and non-discrimination, HRE USA creates a Racial Justice Resource Collection to help educators engage their students on issues of racism through a human rights lens.
- HRE USA hosted first virtual Human Rights Day Celebration on December 10, 2020 with video recording.
  - Special thanks to keynote speaker, Loretta Ross, for her encouraging and reflective words of wisdom and to Uma Menon for her striking and vital poetry.
  - The event also honored the 2020 Edward O'Brien Human Rights Education Award winners, Pam Bruns of Human Rights Watch Student Task Force and the ACT Center for Disability Leadership.
  - The celebration also included the video, "Voices of Hope: A UDHR Celebration", a recitation of the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in different languages. The young leaders were connected with diverse HRE USA partner organizations, including Generation Human Rights, Human Rights Watch Student Task Force, and ACT Center for Disability Leadership.

# 2011–2021: HRE USA 10 YEAR REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

# 2021

- HRE USA becomes a Coalition Member in CivXNow and a Champion for Educating for American Democracy (EAD).
  - *As an EAD Champion, HRE USA developed, with EAD staff and with support from EAD leadership, an educational brief, detailing the need for HRE as essential preparation to participate in “an inclusive, democratic society.”*
  - *The joint HRE USA/EAD brief acknowledges: “A core purpose of the U.S. Constitution, according to the Preamble, is to ‘promote the general welfare.’ When that ‘general welfare’ is not equitably available to some members of society, threats to fundamental human rights are present and need to be resolved to realize the ideals of our democratic republic and its Constitutional democracy.”*
- First three-tiered HRE USA Training As Action Series (TAAS) is held for members, engaging more than 30 members and its first HRE USA Training Corps class of 15 members.
- HRE USA awards the first three Edmonds Summer Fellowships to Ashleigh Deno, Winnie Ho, and Danielle Lucksted, who produced video reports about their experiences and impacts.
- HRE USA welcomes the first Research Scholar, Kaylee Bradford, to its team. She presents HRE USA’s first pre-service teacher webinar on how pre-service HRE is currently being taught in the United States and to what extent these courses incorporate ‘good practices’ recommended in the field.
- HRE USA’s second annual Human Rights Day Celebration in collaboration with the University and College Consortium for Human Rights Education (UCCHRE) on December 10, 2021.
  - *The celebration also honored a decade of Human Rights Educators USA as a movement (2011-2021).*
  - 2021 Edward O’Brien Human Rights Education Award winners: Keith David Watenpaugh and Educators Institute for Human Rights (EIHR).
  - 2021 Flowers Fund Grantees: Natalia Santos Orozco, Ph. D (University of Puerto Rico) and Michael Buckley, Ph. D & David Fletcher, Ph. D (Lehman Center for Peace & Social Justice).
  - UCCHRE also recognizes the winners of its first Human Rights in Higher Education Award, Human Rights Education Review and the International Journal of Human Rights Education.



**YEARS OF  
HRE USA**

# POLICY & ADVOCACY

## HUMAN RIGHTS IN STATE STANDARDS

*HRE USA continued to advocate for the inclusion of HRE in national and state education policies, standards, curricula, and pedagogy. These efforts have supported positive language addressing HRE in state standards in states such as Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Washington, D.C. Efforts during the current fiscal year have included:*



**Minnesota:** The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is in an ongoing process of revising their social studies standards. This process began during the 2020-2021 school year. In commenting on early drafts of the proposed Minnesota social studies standards during the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd by law enforcement officers in Minneapolis, HRE USA noted with particular concern that the human rights perspective is not applied to the domestic social, economic and political issues that

arise within the United States. HRE USA members in Minnesota have followed the process through every phase to date. The MDE website indicates that the standards revision process will be lengthy.”

On Monday, November 15, 2021, the **third draft of the social studies standards** <sup>25</sup> was released and the statutory rulemaking process for the standards began. ...The full statutory rulemaking process can take up to 24 months.” HRE advocates in Minnesota continue to follow the laborious revision process as the Minnesota standards move toward final approval.





**New Jersey:** HRE USA and its Advocacy and Policy Team have engaged with the development of social studies standards for New Jersey public schools which have now been approved by the New Jersey State Board of Education and will go into effect by September of 2022. William R. Fernekes, a retired NJ social studies supervisor, Rutgers University adjunct faculty, and HRE USA Steering Committee member served on the standards development committee, assuring that the HRE perspective was present in their deliberations. The updated New Jersey Social Studies Standards now provide a vision of social studies education that specifically recognizes “fundamental values of democracy and human rights” as essential

to social studies education. “Civics, Government, and Human Rights” are linked across the standards at all grade levels and throughout the Performance Expectations, Disciplinary Concepts, Core Ideas and Practices. In addition, HRE USA’s Curriculum Integration Guide conforms to New Jersey’s social studies standards. The guide, created by a team of New Jersey educators, led by HRE USA’s William R. Fernekes, provides lessons and supporting materials linked to the NJ core social studies standards. Both the references to HRE in the New Jersey standards and the guide to integrating HRE-relevant curricula with the standards provide models for other states and for school districts across the country.



**New Mexico:** New Mexico began its current social studies standards review process in 2020 and filed an initial draft of proposed revisions for public comment in August of 2021, with a formal notice or rulemaking published in September 2021. The standards were open for written comments and for a virtual hearing in November, 2021, with a final date for comments in December. HRE USA NM regional representative Rosemary Blanchard submitted written comments, participated in the virtual hearing and communicated via email with NM DOE officials and members of the standards revision committee. The standards have now been finalized and, as revised, approved in a final rule (<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/>

[NM-Standards-508.pdf](#)). Educators in the state are involved in a process of identifying curriculum resources to implement the standards and professional development opportunities for educators. The final revised standards include specific references to HRE as well as focus on the diverse communities within New Mexico and the histories these communities have experienced. A particular attention is paid to the Indigenous nations and peoples in New Mexico, and their histories, as well as histories of encounters, both harmful and hopeful. HRE USA will continue to follow the implementation process and share HRE-related resources with educators.



**Washington, D.C.:** As noted in the previous HRE USA annual report, the District of Columbia was declared the first human rights city in the United States in 2008 and continues to promote HR education as a path to HR practice. The School Board and Department of Education for the District, are currently engaged in a major revisioning of their social studies standards. HRE USA DC Regional Representative Karen Hopkins participated in a Social Studies Standards Advisory Committee which developed guiding principles for the Social Studies standards, adopted by the DC State Board of Education, that require the standards “Ensure

comprehensive coverage of human rights principles” that are “integrated throughout Pre-K-12.” According to the DC Board of Education website, “The DC Social Studies Standards Technical Writing Committee, which is charged with the review and revision of the social studies standards, will submit a revised draft to OSSE and the State Board will vote on them before the end of 2022. The new statewide standards are slated to be implemented by school-year 2023–24 in District public schools.” HRE USA partners within the DC school district are continuing to monitor the progress of these standards to assure they continue to explicitly call for HRE.

# PARTNERSHIPS



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

## EDUCATING FOR AMERICAN ★ DEMOCRACY

### EDUCATING FOR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

The introduction and reintroduction of the Education Secures Democracy Act is one of several civil society initiatives to build a nonpartisan base for improved civic literacy in the United States through greater attention to civic education and support for diversity of voices in telling the complex story of the nation's origins

and development over time. These subjects have become the focus of extreme partisan attempts to silence minority voices and critical analysis of the nation's past and present

- Educating for American Democracy (EAD), introduced a [Roadmap](https://www.educatingforamericandemocracy.org/the-roadmap) (<https://www.educatingforamericandemocracy.org/the-roadmap>).
- HRE USA has engaged with EAD and is identified as one of the [EAD "Champions"](https://www.educatingforamericandemocracy.org/champions) (<https://www.educatingforamericandemocracy.org/champions>). As a result, the

HRE USA logo is posted on the Champions site within the EAD website, with a link that takes viewers directly to HRE USA's webpage.

- Briefing paper on the relationship between human rights education and civic education in a democratic society. The briefing paper carries the logos and endorsement of both EAD and HRE USA. It can be [downloaded](https://hreusaorg.files.wordpress.com/2021/08/hre-brief-on-ead.pdf) from the HRE USA website (<https://hreusaorg.files.wordpress.com/2021/08/hre-brief-on-ead.pdf>)



### NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

HRE USA maintains a powerful partnership with the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) through engagement with the NCSS Human Rights Education Community (HREC). The community is co-chaired by Chris Buckley and Jake Skrzypiec, both social studies teachers in Connecticut and serving as HRE USA co-regional representatives from Connecticut. In late 2021, NCSS adopted a [newly revised position statement on](#)

[Human Rights Education](#),<sup>26</sup> authored and edited collaboratively by members of HRE USA. This statement reaffirms the organization's commitment to Human Rights Education through the social studies, and has been used as an effective tool for the promotion of HRE by educators, policymakers and advocates. For example, in June 2022, this position statement was utilized as a reference document in the drafting of Connecticut's new social studies standards.

The 2021 NCSS virtual conference included multiple sessions with themes related to human rights education and several HRE USA

members were key presenters. The 2022 NCSS conference, to be held in Philadelphia in December 2022, similarly will feature a wide range of HRE focused presentations featuring HRE USA steering committee, regional representatives and general members. The resolutions drafted and approved through the NCSS House of Delegates continue to reflect human rights friendly language and objectives, most especially through the recent resolution calling for the [Ratification and Support for the Convention on the Rights of the Child](#).<sup>27</sup> The partnership between HRE USA and the National Council for the Social Studies remains strong.





## UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE CONSORTIUM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION (UCCHRE)

In 2021-2022, HRE USA collaborated regularly with the [University and College Consortium for Human Rights Education \(UCCHRE\)](#),<sup>28</sup> whose mission is to further human rights learning, research, policy, and practice within and across university and college communities through collaboration. In addition to co-sponsoring [webinar](#)



[discussions](#),<sup>29</sup> UCCHRE and HRE USA collaborated on the 2021 Human Rights Day Celebration, which featured the inaugural [UCCHRE Human Rights in Higher Education Award](#).<sup>30</sup> This award was given to two distinguished journals in the field: The *Human Rights Education Review* and the *International Journal of Human Rights Education*.

## HRE USA PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Act Center for Disability Leadership

American Association of the Advancement of Science

Amnesty International

Amnesty International USA

Antioch Community High School

Art and Resistance Through Education (ARTE)

The Brainary

Bylo Chacon Foundation

Center for Civic Education

Childhood Education International

Creative Educators International Network, Inc.

Discovery Education

Dorothy Cotton Institute

Educating for American Democracy

Educators' Institute for Human Rights

European Wergeland Centre

Facing History and Ourselves

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

Learning for Justice

National Council for Social Studies — HRE Community

National Youth Leadership Council

Puffin Foundation

San Diego State University

Silent Voices Project

Southern Methodist University, Embrey Human Rights Education Program

Spiraling Music Co.

UNICEF USA

University of Iowa, Center for Human Rights

University of Connecticut, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center

University of Vermont, Center for World Education

Universal Human Rights Initiative

University and College Consortium for Human Rights Education

Upstander Project

US Human Rights Network

Voice of Witness

Woodhull Freedom Foundation

The World As It Could Be: Human Rights Education Program

# FINANCIAL REPORT

*HRE USA would like to thank all of our donors this past year for their continued support of our work in building a culture of human rights across the United States.*

## FUNDRAISING & IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2022, HRE USA engaged one of our members to lend support as an organizational growth advisor. Some key updates include:

HRE USA developed an organizational document to streamline the tracking of membership, donations, and potential donors and support long-term institutional knowledge.

- HRE USA conducted numerous outreach and engagement discussions to strengthen the organization's relationship with current members, identify and liaise with new partners, and solicit support for our financial sustainability. These conversations resulted in invaluable guidance and monetary pledges.
- We also developed a new campaign approach which began with the 2022 Giving is Gorges Campaign. We raised \$4,125 from 33 different donors. This reflects an increase from 2021 of over 75%. Two additional giving campaigns are scheduled for later this fiscal year.
- HRE USA developed a giving menu to highlight key activities and potential new initiatives. This document has informed grant applications and will be used to engage individual donors interested in supporting our work.
- HRE USA members contributed 1,624 in-kind hours in 2021-22.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT JULY 1, 2021-JUNE 30, 2022

ASSETS	
Checking & Savings	\$57,706.49
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$57,706.49</b>
LIABILITIES & EQUITIES	
Retained Earnings	\$87,258.70
Net Income	(\$29,552.21)
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$57,706.49</b>

HRE USA ONLINE SHOP <small>via Gleason Printing</small>	
July 1, 2021 Gleason Bank Balance	\$122.30
June 30, 2022 Gleason Bank Balance	\$1,431.62
<b>TOTAL ONLINE SHOP BALANCE FOR FY2022</b>	<b>\$1,553.92</b>

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS

### GIFTS OR GRANTS OF \$5,000–50,000

Anonymous Donor  
Puffin Foundation

### GIFTS OF \$1,000–\$4,499

Dorothy Cotton Institute  
Nancy Flowers  
David Shiman  
Edward Willoughby

### GIFTS OF \$250–\$999

Amnesty International USA  
Lynn and Stuart Brown

### GIFTS OF \$100–\$249

Dennis Banks  
Rosemary Blanchard  
Pamela Bruns  
Katherine Carman  
Robert Cudahy  
Renee Eberbach  
Bill Fernekes  
Gergana Halperin  
Michele Harris  
Page Hersey  
Lina Lenberg  
Rebecca Norlander  
May Yoneyama O'Brien  
Kristi and Eric Rudelius-Palmer  
Jake Skrzyptec  
Sandy Sohcot

### GIFTS OF UP TO \$99

Anonymous Donors  
Richard Bernard  
Andrea Cohen  
Kristina Eberbach  
Kate English  
Timothy Flanagan  
Jazzmin Gota  
Marissa Gutierrez  
Natela Jordan  
LaVonne Molde  
Nicole Palasz  
Natalia Santos  
Sandra Sirota  
Maddy Wegner



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 main-stream 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.



# ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> [United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training](https://www.ohchr.org/en/resources/educators/human-rights-education-training/11-united-nations-declaration-human-rights-education-and-training-2011) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/resources/educators/human-rights-education-training/11-united-nations-declaration-human-rights-education-and-training-2011>
- <sup>2</sup> [United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights](https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights): <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>
- <sup>3</sup> [HRE USA Steering Committee](https://hreusa.org/steeringcommittee): <https://hreusa.org/steeringcommittee>
- <sup>4</sup> [2021 HRE USA Annual Report](https://hreusa.org/files.wordpress.com/2021/08/fy2021-annual-report.pdf): <https://hreusa.org/files.wordpress.com/2021/08/fy2021-annual-report.pdf>
- <sup>5</sup> [volunteer actions teams, committees, and working groups](https://hreusa.org/committees): <https://hreusa.org/committees>
- <sup>6</sup> [Children's Human Rights Resource, Networking and Learning Library](https://canvas.instructure.com/enroll/GLKDXX): <https://canvas.instructure.com/enroll/GLKDXX>
- <sup>7</sup> [Regional Representatives](https://hreusa.org/regional-chapters): <https://hreusa.org/regional-chapters>
- <sup>8</sup> [O'Brien Award](https://hreusa.org/awards-and-grant-opportunities/edward-obrien-award): <https://hreusa.org/awards-and-grant-opportunities/edward-obrien-award>
- <sup>9</sup> [Article 26 Backpack Project](https://backpack.ucdavis.edu): <https://backpack.ucdavis.edu>
- <sup>10</sup> [The Educators' Institute for Human Rights](http://www.eihr.org): <http://www.eihr.org>
- <sup>11</sup> [Flowers Fund](https://hreusa.org/awards-and-grant-opportunities/the-flowers-fund): <https://hreusa.org/awards-and-grant-opportunities/the-flowers-fund>
- <sup>12</sup> [Edmond's Summer Fellowship](https://hreusa.org/awards-and-grant-opportunities/edmonds-fellowship): <https://hreusa.org/awards-and-grant-opportunities/edmonds-fellowship>
- <sup>13</sup> [Dorothy Cotton Institute \(DCI\)](https://www.dorothycottoninstitute.org): <https://www.dorothycottoninstitute.org>
- <sup>14</sup> [Training As Action Series](https://hreusa.org/projects/training-as-action-series): <https://hreusa.org/projects/training-as-action-series>
- <sup>15</sup> [TAAS 2022](https://hreusa.org/projects/training-as-action-series): <https://hreusa.org/projects/training-as-action-series>
- <sup>16</sup> [2021 Human Rights Day](https://hreusa.org/2022/01/03/2021-human-rights-day-celebration-recording): <https://hreusa.org/2022/01/03/2021-human-rights-day-celebration-recording>
- <sup>17</sup> [Pedagogy and Projects Series: Teaching for Racial Justice with Professor Justin Hansford](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E52qXr2Mx6Y): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E52qXr2Mx6Y>
- <sup>18</sup> [Experiential Learning And Human Rights Change With Dr. Carrie Booth Walling](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2M2daezEns): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2M2daezEns>
- <sup>19</sup> [HRE USA Monthly eNewsletter](https://hreusa.org/publications/newsletter): <https://hreusa.org/publications/newsletter>
- <sup>20</sup> [HRE USA's Online Shop](https://gleasonprinting.orderprintnow.com/Home.aspx?PortalId=1309b8ad-c419-4ceb-a03a-45e148e9bc82): <https://gleasonprinting.orderprintnow.com/Home.aspx?PortalId=1309b8ad-c419-4ceb-a03a-45e148e9bc82>
- <sup>21</sup> [K-12 Human Rights Education Resource Library](https://hreusa.org/hre-library): <https://hreusa.org/hre-library>
- <sup>22</sup> [A History of NCSS Involvement in Human Rights](https://hreusa.org/2022/05/31/a-history-of-ncss-involvement-in-human-rights-social-education-ncss-after-100-years-november-december-2021-vol-85-no-6): <https://hreusa.org/2022/05/31/a-history-of-ncss-involvement-in-human-rights-social-education-ncss-after-100-years-november-december-2021-vol-85-no-6>
- <sup>23</sup> [Diversity, inclusion, and equity \(DEI\) from an HRE perspective](https://hreusa.org/our-work/human-rights-education-linkages/): <https://hreusa.org/our-work/human-rights-education-linkages/>
- <sup>24</sup> [January 2022 HRE USA e-newsletter](https://mailchi.mp/7de390391b75/jan-2022?e=d2db90a12b): <https://mailchi.mp/7de390391b75/jan-2022?e=d2db90a12b>
- <sup>25</sup> [Third draft of the social studies standards](https://education.mn.gov/mdeprod/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dDocName=PROD046944&RevisionSelectionMethod=latestReleased&Rendition=primary): [https://education.mn.gov/mdeprod/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_FILE&dDocName=PROD046944&RevisionSelectionMethod=latestReleased&Rendition=primary](https://education.mn.gov/mdeprod/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dDocName=PROD046944&RevisionSelectionMethod=latestReleased&Rendition=primary)
- <sup>26</sup> [Revised position statement on Human Rights Education](https://www.socialstudies.org/position-statements/human-rights-education): <https://www.socialstudies.org/position-statements/human-rights-education>
- <sup>27</sup> [Ratification and Support for the Convention on the Rights of the Child](https://www.socialstudies.org/about/2021-house-delegates-resolutions): <https://www.socialstudies.org/about/2021-house-delegates-resolutions>
- <sup>28</sup> [University and College Consortium for Human Rights Education \(UCCHRE\)](http://ucchre.org): <http://ucchre.org>
- <sup>29</sup> [Webinar discussions](https://hreusa.org/events/past-events-recordings): <https://hreusa.org/events/past-events-recordings>
- <sup>26</sup> [UCCHRE Human Rights in Higher Education Award](http://ucchre.org/awards): <http://ucchre.org/awards>



# HRE USA

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