



Introduction to Human Rights Education

Welcome & Check-In

Your Name

Your Role (i.e. Teacher, Student)

Institution and Location

One thing you're looking forward to in the next month
(does not have to be human rights related)

Agenda

Welcome and Check-In

Group Expectations and Norms

Introduction to Human Rights Education

Pause & Quick Discussion

Overview of Human Rights Educators USA

Group Discussion and Dialogue

Evaluation and Parting Words

R	RESPONSIBILITY We take charge of our own words, fulfill our obligations, become accountable for our actions, and do not let other people down.
E	EMPATHY We listen deeply to one another's stories and connect to each other's feelings and experiences
S	SHARING AIRTIME We ensure that everyone has an opportunity to tell their story, participate in group tasks and projects, and is included in the discussion.
P	PARTICIPATION We cooperate with others successfully in group and interact harmoniously. We share, join, and work with others to make decisions and complete tasks and projects.
E	ENTHUSIASM We bring our energy, optimism, and creativity to encourage ourselves and others to be our best and build a positive learning community.
C	COMMUNICATION We commit to use our words clearly, positively, and respectfully, to have the courage to ask challenging questions, and to seek understanding of others' points of view.
T	TRUST We commit to be honest in sharing our feelings, emotions, thoughts and reactions with others, and have the confidence in others to be supportive encouraging.

Group Expectations

Opening Question

On a scale from 1-10, how well acquainted are you with human rights education?

How have you used human rights education in your practice, work or personal life to date?

What are Human Rights?

- Human rights are the rights that every human has just for being human, and they are essential for a life of dignity.
- They are:
 - Equal & Universal
 - Inalienable
 - Interdependent

Additional Human Rights Characteristics & Principles

- Non-Discrimination
- Indivisibility
- Empowerment & Agency
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Responsibility

What is Human Rights Education?

- A lifelong process of teaching and learning that helps individuals, groups, and communities:
 - Develop the knowledge, skills, and values to fully exercise and protect their human rights and those of others;
 - Fulfill their responsibilities in the context of internationally recognized human rights principles;
 - Achieve justice and peace in the world.

HRE: About, Through & For

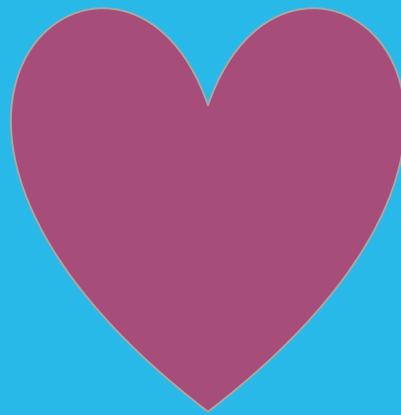
- (a) Education *about* human rights, which includes providing **knowledge** and **understanding** of human rights norms and principles, the values that underpin them and the mechanisms for their protection;
- (b) Education *through* human rights, which includes learning and teaching in a way that **respects** the rights of both educators and learners;
- (c) Education *for* human rights, which includes **empowering** persons to enjoy and exercise their rights and to respect and uphold the rights of others” (UNDHRET, 2011).

Head



Knowledge

Heart

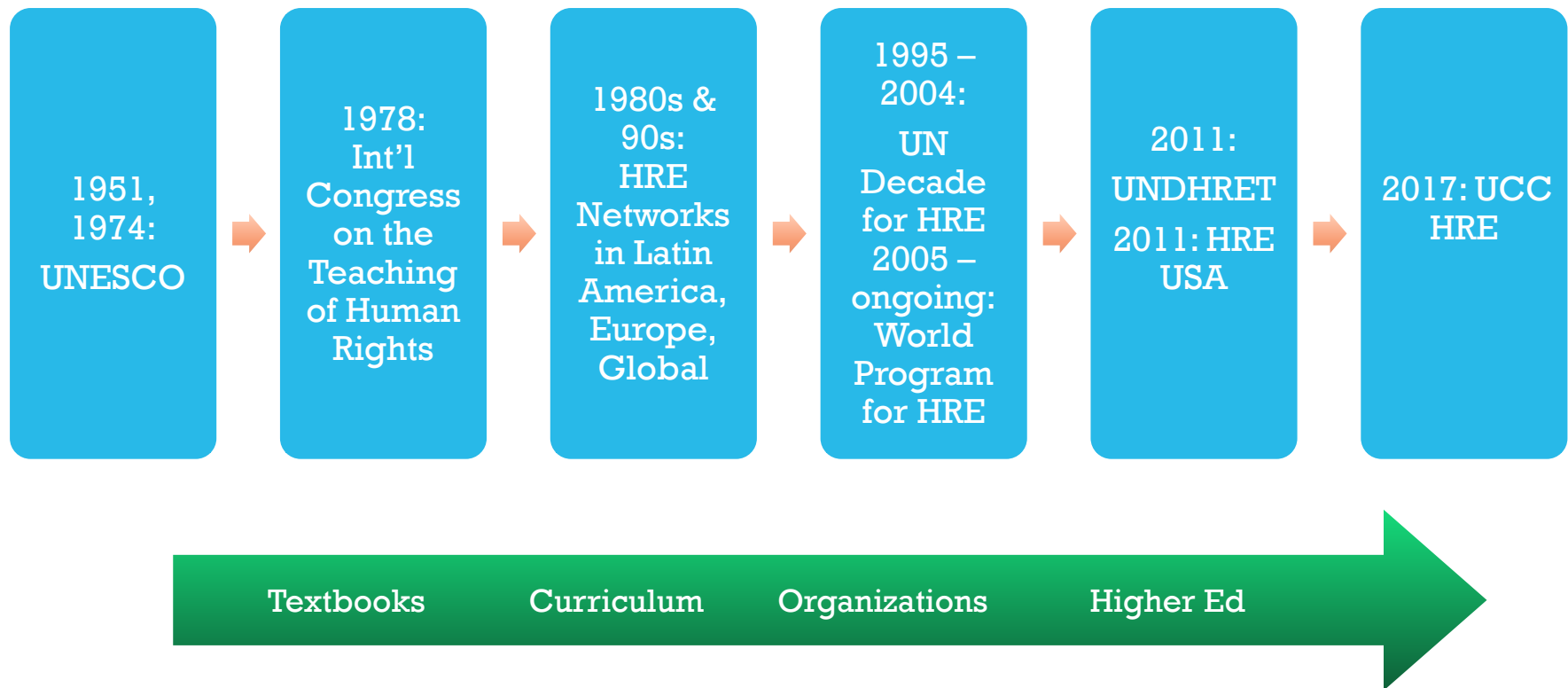


Attitudes/Values

Hands



Skills/Actions



Credit: Dr. Sandra Sirota

Why is HRET important? Why should it be pursued?

- Promotes values, beliefs and attitudes that encourage all individuals to uphold their own rights and those of others.
- Develops an understanding of everyone's common responsibility to make human rights a reality in each community.
- Constitutes an essential contribution to the long-term prevention of human rights abuses.
- Represents an important investment in the endeavour to achieve a just society in which all human rights of all persons are valued and respected. (OHCHR)

“Everyone has the right to know, seek and receive information about all human rights and fundamental freedoms and should have access to human rights education and training,” (UN Declaration on HRET 2011, art. 1).

- Convention of the Rights of Child (art. 4, art. 19., art. 29)
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers (art. 65)
- UNESCO Constitution (art. 1)
- Convention against Discrimination in Education (art. 5)
- Geneva Conventions (multiple provisions)
- Instruments by various regional bodies (EU, OAS, AU, OSCE)
- Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030)
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (art. 26 para. 2)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (art. 2, para 1., art. 13, para. 1)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (art. 2)
- International Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (art. 2, art. 7)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (art. 2, art .10(c))

Models of Human Rights Education - Tibbitts (2002, 2017)

Values and Awareness: transmission of information on general human rights theory, history and content

- sponsored by governments, usually formal education (schools)
- aimed at students or the general public
- passive /descriptive - learning doesn't promote critical reflection or agency to take action;

Accountability: development of capacities and skills related to learners' professional role and responsibilities

- sponsored by governments and/or CSOs, formal and non-formal education (trainings)
- targets law enforcement, civil servants, lawyers, judges, health and social workers, educators, journalists, religious leaders
- participatory/empowering - learning promotes acquisition of skills/capacity and values to prevent HRs violations within one's work; critical review of one's professional role or code of conduct

Activism/Transformation: personal transformation/empowerment oriented towards activism and social change; focus on learners' rights

- sponsored by CSOs, non-formal education (youth and community development)
- aimed at marginalized populations and youth
- empowering/transformational learning - internalization of HRs values and critical perspectives to address HRs violation in one's own private or public domain, participate in collective action, or be an agent of social change

Critiques of HRE

If not done well, HRE can:

- Perpetuate Western values to the exclusion of other values,
- Ignore structural violence such as institutional discrimination,
- Be used to reinforce state power,
- Be taught in a 'declarationist fashion' without room for discussion and criticism.

Critical Pedagogy

- Examines HRE through the perspective of the oppressed rather than blindly accepting the dominant narrative.
- Focuses on oppressed liberating themselves; empowerment of oppressed groups.
- “Dialogue, agency, and collective action for marginalized groups,” (Bajaj)

Decolonizing Pedagogy

- Analyzes the oppressive structures of colonization
- Acknowledges and scrutinizes Eurocentric dominance that oppressed colonized people throughout history
- Acknowledges that the global discourse of human rights and HRE emerged against the background of the history of colonization and the struggle against imperial violence
- Focuses on historical injustices and their connection to present-day human rights violations

Zembylas

Importance of Human Rights Framework

- On the one hand, it is important that young people have the opportunity to define their own values, rather than simply being expected to accept the human rights framework, unquestioned.
- Yet, even what may be called the ‘declarationist’ approach includes opportunities for learners to define their own value systems.
- If they disconnect from the human rights framework, HRE’s connection to international human rights mechanisms as a form of advocacy to secure human rights and reduce suffering is at risk.

(Tibbitts, 2018)

HRE and Other Categories



**Citizenship
Education**

**Peace
Education**

**Social Justice
Education**

**DEIB
Education**

Discussion and Dialogue

How might you utilize human rights education in your own practice, work or personal life?

Describe any challenges/barriers you might come across in implementing human rights education into your work?



Overview of Human Rights Educators USA

Our 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.

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](#). 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.

Our Mission

To fulfill our mission, HRE USA works to:

- Integrate human rights standards
- Promote national and regional policies that support HRE
- Advocate for inclusion of HRE in standards, curricula, and pedagogy
- Develop resources and training for educators
- Contribute to global research and scholarship
- Empower educators and learners
- Participate in global networks and forums to share best practices

Fiscal Sponsor



**Center for
Transformative Action**
at Cornell University in
Ithaca, NY

HRE USA Steering Committee

The HRE USA Steering Committee is the governing body of HRE USA, overseeing strategy, direction and policy.

The 20 members of the Steering Committee select its Executive Committee officers:

2 Co-Chairs

1 Vice Chair

1 Secretary

1 Treasurer

Project Advisor

Strategy Advisor

Regional Representative Coordinator

HRE USA 2024-2026 Priorities



Telling Our Human Rights Educators Story

Communicate and amplify our story and impact as Human Rights Educators USA.

Youth Leadership

Provide youth with human rights education leadership, training, and other opportunities to engage in human rights education initiatives.



Sustainability and Fundraising

Develop and implement comprehensive fundraising and communication plans to ensure long-term organizational sustainability to advance our mission.



Individual and Organizational Leadership

Effectively communicate current priorities and initiatives with the purpose of engaging and attracting an inclusive and diverse leadership.



Innovation and Ongoing Learning

Be an original source by increasing online resources, presenting at human rights education-related forums/conferences, hosting webinars, etc.



Membership Capacity and Training

Build members' capacities through training, leadership opportunities, resource-sharing to strengthen human rights education and learning.



Policy and Practice

Influence human rights education policy and practices in the United States.



Internal and External Collaborations

Collaborate with individual and organizational members & partners to strengthen our network and impact.

2024-2026 Priorities

HRE USA 2024-2026 Priorities

PRIORITY 1: TELLING OUR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATORS USA STORY	Communicate and amplify our story and impact as Human Rights Educators USA.
PRIORITY 2: YOUTH LEADERSHIP	Provide youth with human rights education leadership, training, and other opportunities to engage in human rights education initiatives.
PRIORITY 3: INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP	Effectively communicate current priorities and initiatives with the purpose of engaging and attracting an inclusive and diverse leadership.
PRIORITY 4: MEMBERSHIP CAPACITY AND TRAINING	Build members' capacities through training, leadership opportunities, recognition, resource-sharing to strengthen human rights education and learning.
PRIORITY 5: POLICY AND PRACTICE	Influence human rights education policy and practices in the United States.
PRIORITY 6: INNOVATION AND ONGOING LEARNING	Be an original source by increasing online resources, presenting at human rights education-related forums/conferences and hosting webinars.
PRIORITY 7: INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COLLABORATIONS	Collaborate with individual and organizational members & partners to strengthen our network and impact.
PRIORITY 8: SUSTAINABILITY AND FUNDRAISING	Develop and implement comprehensive fundraising and communication plans to ensure long-term organizational sustainability to advance our mission.

Action Teams

Advocacy and Policy Team

Awards, Recognitions and Special
Events Team

Fellowships, Internships and
Professional Support Team

Innovations and Partnerships Team

Membership Cultivation Team

Podcast Team

Professional Development and
Training Team

Regional Representative Team

Strategy and Priorities Team

Sustainability and Fundraising
Team

Regional Outreach: Regional Representatives Structure

Regional Representative Chapters are divided into four organizing regions:

Midwest

Northeast

South

West

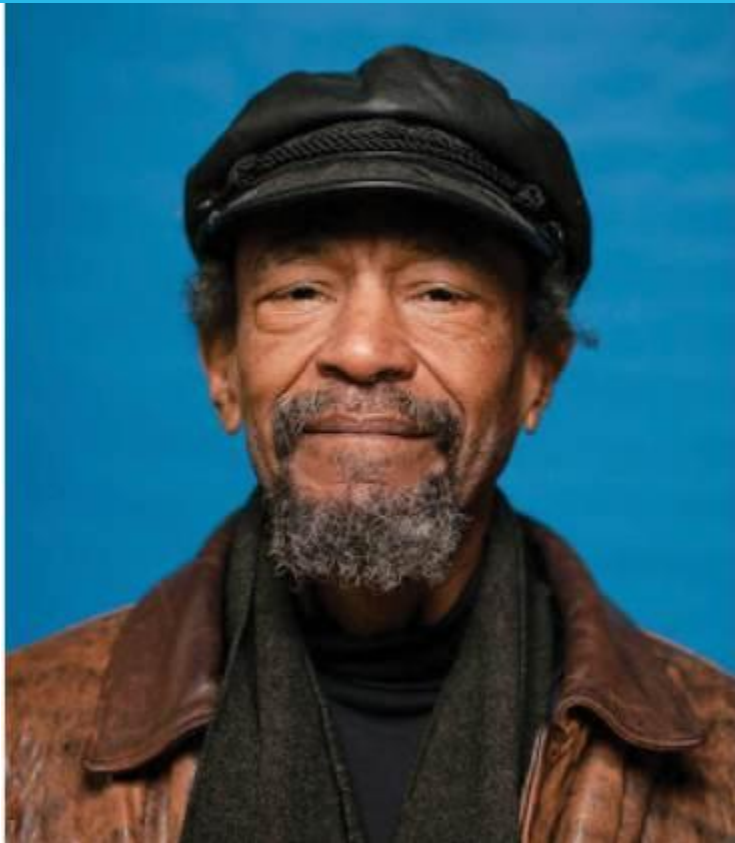
Each HRE USA chapter has one or two **regional representatives** who coordinate **human rights education activities** and **engages with members** and **organizational partners in their areas.**



Regional Outreach: Regional Representatives



Kirby Edmonds' Work & Legacy



HRE USA
Edmonds
FELLOWSHIP



Past Edmonds Fellowship Projects

2021

- Virtual HRE USA Training of Trainers Action Plan Development
- HRE USA Online Media Strategy Project
- HRE USA Organizational Landscape Mapping and Outreach

2022

- HRE USA Community Engagement and Development
- Strengthening HRE USA Regional Representative Community

2023

- Training As Action Series Development & Outreach Project
- Youth Award Development and Engagement Strategy Project

2024

- 2024 Training as Action Series Development & Evaluation
- Fundraising Strategy and Sustainability Project

Communications and Forum

E-Newsletter

Discussion Forum

Blog and Social Media Posts

** LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram

Podcast

Membership Profiles

Human Rights Here & Now Toolkits

HRE and Linkages Briefs

Annual Reports



Artist: Judy Nao

Annual Report

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2024



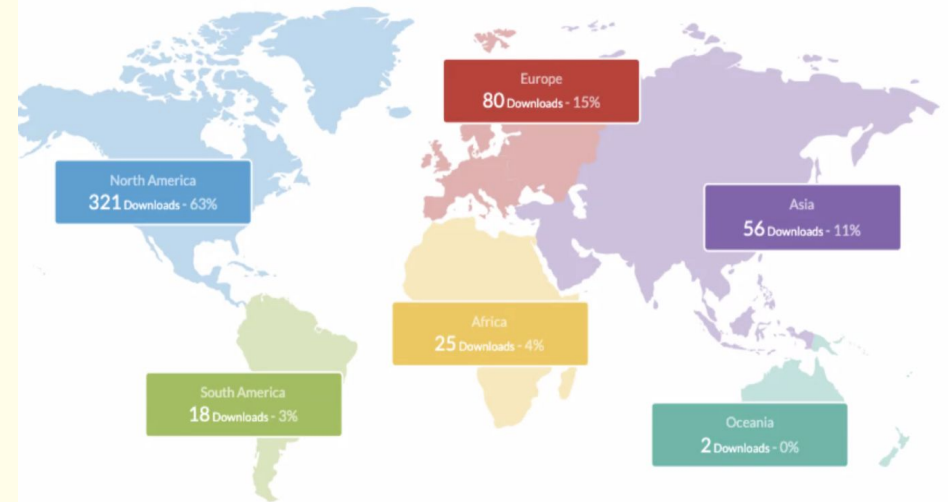
Human Rights Day Annual Celebration



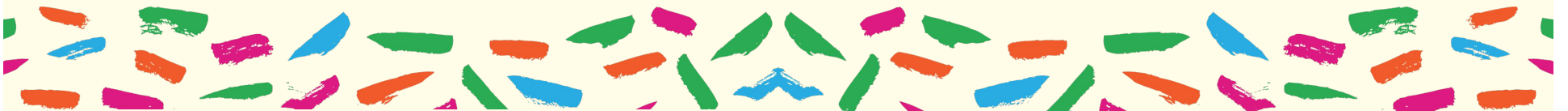
Human Rights Education Now!

HRE USA Podcast

Links: [Buzzsprout](#) and [HREUSA](#)



600+ Downloads
52 Countries
173 Cities
6 Continents



Online HRE Lesson Library



Human Rights Education Library

Our online human rights education library is a curated, resource-rich collection of HRE materials.

Our library includes curriculum, lesson plans, documents, manuals, articles, books, and more.

Whether you are seasoned veteran or just getting started, you can be sure to find something useful and relevant to enhance your HRE learning and practice.

HRE Library Menu

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[BROWSE BY SUBJECT](#)

Subjects

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» [Drama](#)

» [Economics](#)

» [Geography](#)

» [Literature/Language Arts](#)



Racial Justice Resource Collection for Educators



UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Your Vote, Your Voice

Project Examples



Every Child, Every Right

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is 30! Find ways to celebrate, advocate, teach, and more!

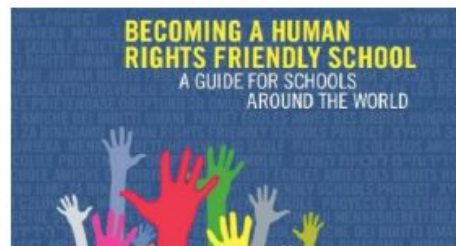


Human Rights in National Security Toolkit



Edward O'Brien Award

In recognition of outstanding contributions to HRE in the United States.



Human Rights Friendly Schools

HRE USA works with Amnesty International USA to bring this program to schools and school districts in the United States.



Picture Human Rights Poster Contest 2018

Artists from ages 5 to 21 are invited to participate in this poster contest to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the UDHR.

HRE USA Online Shop

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights is a cornerstone of human rights law. It sets out the basic rights and freedoms to which all people are entitled, regardless of their race, sex, religion, or any other status. It is the foundation for all international human rights law and is the basis for the work of the United Nations Human Rights Council and the Human Rights Commission.

Preamble

All people everywhere have the same human rights. Rights are not given by one country to another. They are the rights of all people, everywhere. Every person and nation is asked to support the understanding and respect for these rights, and to take steps to make sure that they are respected and observed everywhere, for all people.

Basic and Extent of Human Rights

ARTICLE 1

Everyone is born free and equal in rights.

ARTICLE 2

You should enjoy the same rights and freedoms as everyone else, without any distinction.

Economic, Social, & Cultural Rights

ARTICLE 22

You have the right to social security.

ARTICLE 23

You have the right to appropriate work, and to just and favorable conditions of work.

ARTICLE 24

You have the right to rest and leisure.

ARTICLE 25

You have the right to an adequate standard of living.

ARTICLE 26

You have the right to education.

ARTICLE 27

You have the right to participate in the cultural life of the community.

Civil & Political Rights

ARTICLE 3

Everyone has the rights to life, liberty and security.

ARTICLE 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.

ARTICLE 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel or degrading treatment.

ARTICLE 6

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the law.

ARTICLE 7

Everyone has the right to equality before the law.

ARTICLE 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by competent national tribunals.

ARTICLE 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

ARTICLE 10

Everyone has the right to a fair and public hearing.

ARTICLE 11

Everyone has the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty.

ARTICLE 12

No one has the right to interference with their privacy, family, or home.

ARTICLE 13

Everyone has the right to freedom of movement in and out of the country.

ARTICLE 14

Everyone has the right to seek asylum in other countries from persecution.

ARTICLE 15

Everyone has the right to marry and to found a family.

ARTICLE 16

Everyone has the right to peaceful assembly and association.

ARTICLE 17

Everyone has the right to own property.

ARTICLE 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

ARTICLE 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

ARTICLE 20

Everyone has the right to peaceful assembly and association.

ARTICLE 21

Everyone has the right to take part in the government of their country.

Conditions Necessary For the Exercise of the Rights

ARTICLE 28

Everyone has the right to a fair and public hearing.

ARTICLE 29

Everyone has the right to a fair and public hearing.

ARTICLE 30

Everyone has the right to a fair and public hearing.

HRE USA
Human Rights Education USA
1000 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
202-462-1000
hreausa.org

Human Rights Education USA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides free human rights education materials to schools, libraries, and community groups. We are committed to promoting human rights and the rule of law through education. Our materials are available in English and Spanish. For more information, please visit our website at hreausa.org.



Association and Organizational Partnerships



THE RIGHT TO LEARN
COALITION



Opportunities & Events

[Training As Action Series 2024-2025](#)

Next Session: Monday September 30th @ 7:00 pm
Youth Power, Defending Human Rights

[Become a Member](#)

[Join A Team](#) (website page will be updated soon)

Stay Connected!

[Receive our newsletter](#)



Open Conversation

What questions do you have about HRE USA?

Are there areas of the organization's work that you need deeper understanding of?

Are there ways in which Human Rights Educators USA can assist you in your practice of human rights education?

What are your wonder questions?

Evaluation and Last Words



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JWPDYCK>