15 YEAR IMPACT REPORT

HRE USA

HIGHLIGHTS

2011
HRE USA Founded

2012
HRE USA is a project of CTA
First Steering Committee
Membership opens
Regional Reps established

2013
First grant, Puffin Foundation
NCSS HRE Community established

2014
NCSS HRE Position Statement approved
HRE USA Curriculum Integration Guide

2015
HRE and Human Rights Network publish Stakeholders Report as part of the UPR
O'Brien Awards established
HRE USA lessons published
K-12 Lesson Library established
Human Rights Here and Now Bulletin published

2016
First annual report
State educational standards revisions and recognition began

2017
HRE USA and UCCHRE submitted UN Stakeholder Report
Flowers Fund established
First special recognition award

2018
Monthly eNewsletter launched
Collaboration with AIUSA on Human Rights Friendly Schools and national security curriculum
Reports and recommendations submitted to UN

2019
30th Anniversary of CRC resources and collaborations
Online Shop launched

2020
Human rights collections published
UPR submissions to UN
First virtual Human Rights Day celebration

2021
HRE USA coalition building with national networks
Training as Action Series launched
Edmonds Summer Fellows launched
UCCHRE Higher Education Awards established

2022
HRE USA hosts a series of webinars
Summer Teaching Fellow
First Impact Award

2023
HRE USA Podcast Launched
Youth in Action for Human Rights Awards launched

2024
Presentations at first IAHRE Conference
Input submitted for UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education for the U.S.
Expert consultants at UN on HRE

2025
Two UPR reports submitted with national coalition

National Council for the Social Sciences (NCSS) Partnership

WHAT WAS INTENDED
HRE USA sought institutional support to advance its goal of getting HRE into state curricular and teacher training, by having HRE and its importance named in NCSS frameworks.

KNOWN OUTCOMES
1. Institutional record of support for HRE
2. HRE in teacher preparation standards and educational frameworks
3. Sustained community infrastructure

WHAT WAS DONE
HRE USA members have used their long-time involvement with NCSS to lead the HRE Community, advocate for NCSS campaigns and projects about HRE, and recruit new members.

CONNECTED TO OTHER WORK
- Revising State Standards
- K-12 Lesson Library & HRE Resources
- United Nations Advocacy

Revising State Standards

WHAT WAS INTENDED
If human rights language is in a state's official curriculum standards, it means there is a tangible impact on classroom time, teacher prep, and resources.

WHAT WAS DONE
HRE USA members on the Collaborative Action, Policy, & Advocacy Team began participating in educational standards revision cycles. HRE USA has helped revise standards in Washington, DC and seven states across disciplines.

KNOWN OUTCOMES
1. Shift in the national landscape of educational standards
2. Greater visibility, institutional legitimacy and support, and an expansion of the network

CONNECTED TO OTHER WORK
- NCSS partnership
- K-12 Lesson Library & HRE Resources
- Federal government and United Nations-level advocacy

United Nations (UN) Advocacy

WHAT WAS INTENDED
UN Declaration on HRE and Training set in motion HRE USA's work to engage with the UN: monitoring U.S. compliance with the declaration, building evidence of HRE in the U.S., and shaping HRE tools.

KNOWN OUTCOMES
1. Evidentiary record of HRE in the U.S.
2. Organizational legitimacy and coalition-building at the international level
3. Education through human rights
4. Member-advocacy engagement

WHAT WAS DONE
Participated in every UPR cycle for the U.S. since HRE USA's founding, helping with five reports. Engaged with the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to education and the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

CONNECTED TO OTHER WORK
- Revising state standards
- Institutional & organizational partnerships
- Other UN involvement

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) Working Group & Action

WHAT WAS INTENDED
The U.S. is the only country that has not ratified the UN CRC, but the treaty is a necessary tool for promoting HRE in K-12 education. HRE USA wanted to address this gap in targetted efforts.

1. **KNOWN OUTCOMES**
2. Building youth agency
3. Creation of the annual Youth in Action for Human Rights Award
4. Ongoing children's rights advocacy
5. Local children's rights recognition

WHAT WAS DONE
"Every Child, Every Right" campaign for the 30th anniversary of the CRC raised awareness and mobilized state and local endorsement. HRE USA participated in UNICEF initiatives, created youth awards, and children's rights literacy, learning, and CRC city resolution actions.

CONNECTED TO OTHER WORK
- UN Advocacy
- Edmonds Summer Fellowship
- NCSS partnership

Kirby Edmonds Summer Fellowship Program

WHAT WAS INTENDED
HRE USA wanted to honor founding member Kirby Edmonds, who believed that the sustainability of the HRE movement relied on young leaders to continue the work.

KNOWN OUTCOMES
1. Initial and ongoing creation of the Training as Action Series (TAAS)
2. Support for the HRE Now! Podcast
3. Fundraising and relationship-building
4. Intergenerational mentorship

WHAT WAS DONE
Created with support from Dorothy Cotton Institute, HRE USA has hosted a cohort of Fellows each summer to work alongside HRE USA leadership on a wide range of projects, from membership to training.

CONNECTED TO OTHER WORK
- Institutional & organizational partnerships
- Action teams and leadership
- Broader advocacy for the promotion and expansion of HRE

Innovation & Partnerships Team

WHAT WAS INTENDED
To maintain its relationships and grow its network to include a wider scope, HRE USA needed to forge collaborations between HRE and other disciplines and movements.

KNOWN OUTCOMES
1. Accessible educational materials for all
2. Sustained partnerships, encouraging mutuality across human rights work
3. Opportunities for open engagement

WHAT WAS DONE
Brings together allied organizations and individuals for effective action and resource-sharing. Members of the team create briefs that link HRE to other disciplines and hold roundtables about how to address links.

CONNECTED TO OTHER WORK
- NCSS partnership
- Revising state standards
- K-12 Lesson Library & HRE Resources

K-12 Lesson Library & HRE Resources

WHAT WAS INTENDED
Educators need access to resources for teaching HRE in state curricula. HRE USA needed to develop materials for teaching human rights that could be expanded and changed over time.

WHAT WAS DONE
Members and partners have developed original, field-tested lesson plans on contemporary human rights issues, respond to the needs of educators, and meet specific cirricula standards.

KNOWN OUTCOMES
1. Freely available HRE resources
2. Direct responses to human rights issues
3. Tangible tools for state requirements
4. Expanding network through cross-discipline work

CONNECTED TO OTHER WORK
- Revising state standards
- NCSS partnership
- Awards and professional opportunities
- Training as Action Series (TAAS)

Training as Action Series (TAAS)

WHAT WAS INTENDED
Promoting HRE requires training human rights educators. HRE USA wanted to create a training that could be replicated annually and could be self-sustaining.

KNOWN OUTCOMES
1. Sustained professional development
2. Growing network of educators and trainers
3. Expansion of HRE materials
4. Direct responses with lasting effects

WHAT WAS DONE
An Edmonds Fellow was tasked with coordinating the first series in 2021, and Fellows have helped since. TAAS engages the whole network, and themes address the needs of educators and current events.

CONNECTED TO OTHER WORK
- K-12 Lesson Library & HRE Resources
- Edmonds Summer Fellowship
- Action Teams and leadership

Podcast

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION NOW!

Podcast Growth

Understanding Audience Growth, Engagement, and Content Strategy Shift

2023 — Launch & Foundation

- Podcast launched: February 16, 2023
- ~20 episodes released in first year
- Strong early engagement:
  - Episode 1 reached 235 downloads
  - Multiple early episodes exceeded 50+ downloads

2024 — Expansion & Consistency

- Continued monthly releases → ~25 additional episodes
- Consistent performance:
  - Most episodes averaging 40–75 downloads
- Total catalog surpassed 40+ episodes

2025 — Established Platform

- 49 total episodes
- 2,377 total plays

2026

100+

Countries Reached

80+

Episodes

5800+

Downloads

Learn more about the podcast in ***Human Rights Education NOW! Podcast Case Study: Illuminating HRE Through the Lived Experiences of Scholar Practitioners*** (2025)
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-80304-8_3

