

OSCE
Friday October 2nd, 2009
HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

Madam/ Mister Moderator, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, as representative of Youth for Human Rights International, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address the OSCE and congratulations for the excellent work you are doing in the field of Human Rights Education together with the ODIHR, OHCHR, the Council of Europe with the support of Human Rights NGOs.

The purpose of YHRI, active in more than 83 countries, is to teach the youth about human rights, based specifically on the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Indeed, there are still, in the world, many countries where people are ignorant of this Declaration and even that they have rights. In other countries, the efforts made by human rights activists to implement Human Rights Education are limited due to the pressure imposed upon them by groups of corrupted people. And this way, 61 years later, the implementing of the Universal Declaration is not still achieved despite for the first time in the history, in the face of continual worldwide abuses that violate the whole spirit and intent of the community of nations we have adopted a charter of all human rights.

The full scope of human rights is very broad, they are the basis of everything people cherish about their way of life and long before they came into existence, men and women struggled, fought and died for these principles. Yet, a wide gap exists between the articulation of these goals and their accomplishment. Millions are not free, justice is often not equitable, and peace continues to elude many regions of the world.

What is needed is to have the Human Rights Education mandated, included in all educational institutions. Teaching human rights, will empower the youth and the people to know what the human rights are as well as their duties and responsibilities. To support these actions, YHRI since 2004 has produced educative booklets What are Human Rights? and two films one based on the articles of the Universal Declaration and completed by the latest one: The Story of Human Rights.

We are confident that the mandate of Human Rights Education will brought peace and freedom, the end of racial, religious and ethnic hatred. The prize is a world of peace and sanity, a world of happiness.

Thank you for your attention