



DEN NORSKE HELSINGFORSKOMITÉ  
NORWEGIAN HELSINKI COMMITTEE

**OSCE, 2009, HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING  
Warsaw, 2 October, Working session 8**

**Human Rights Education – which way?  
Address, HDIM 2009**

Dear Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen

The Norwegian Helsinki Committee would like to use this opportunity to make an appeal to all participating states to strengthen their commitment for the implementation of international standards promoting the right to education, and more particularly the right to human rights education.

Through the work of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, together with a series of partner organizations from Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and the Balkans in the field of human rights education, the following aspects concerning the present situation of the level of human rights education become evident:

1. There is an alarmingly weak interest from government agencies throughout the world to facilitate the implementation of human rights educational measures, Norway included.
2. The World Action Plan for Human Rights Education has recently come to the end of its first phase without substantial concrete results.
3. In most countries, Norway included, it is only the non-governmental organizations that serve as the main driving force behind concrete human rights education activities.
4. Countries that have made efforts in mainstreaming themes related to human rights education in some societal sectors fail to make these measures visible, having thus a direct negative consequence on the degree of public awareness of these themes.

The development of democratic societies with respect for basic individual freedoms relies heavily on an acceptance that human rights education is one of the best tools we have in acquiring the necessary social skills and resources needed for building a peaceful society and for living peacefully in multi-cultural societies. But without a systematic, strategic and all-encompassing human rights education, efforts to create a culture of human rights on which democratic societies can be predicated on become empty words. That is why the Norwegian Helsinki Committee calls upon all participating states to strengthen their commitment to education in Human Rights and we suggest the implementation of the following measures:

1. Alignment of national educational plans with international standards in human rights education

2. All national developments plans, where possible, should include an educational element characterized by a right based approach.
3. Development of national actions plans for human rights education encompassing both formal and informal education, teacher training institutions, justice and police sectors, military sectors and other professional work groups (teachers, social workers, health practitioners), immigrant groups, asylum seekers etc.
4. Ensuring that human rights education is available and equally accessible to all social sectors.
5. Linking of human rights education to inter-cultural understating and conflict resolution.
6. Establishing informational and educational focal points that can report on progress of implementation of human rights education measures at local and regional levels.
7. Enhancing opportunities for cooperation in human rights education among government agencies, non-governmental organizations, professional groups and other institutions.

Thank You

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