



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

## **STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA**

### **Working Session 4 FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS I Human Rights Education**

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting  
Warsaw, 21 September - 2 October 2015**

Ms. Moderator, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Slovenia continues to implement human rights education nationally, internationally and within the Platform for Human Rights Education and Training, which is an informal cross-regional grouping of states promoting human rights education in the UN framework. The Platform also promotes the World Programme for Human Rights Education, now already in its third phase addressed to the mass media.

The professionals working in mass media have the power to disseminate human rights contents through their deliverance of media contents or adversely, spread prejudice and stereotyping through the same channels. Let us not forget that the social media has a huge role in the communication in our societies nowadays, so reaching out with human rights education and training is of utmost importance.

In our opinion, both the first phase of the World Programme, namely human rights education in the primary and secondary school systems and the second phase, concerning human rights education for higher education and on human rights training programs for teachers and educators, civil servants, law enforcement officials and military personnel, should be continued actively.

All these subsystems of every society need continuous education and training with the objective to reach all participants. Namely, the observance and full respect of human rights depends also on how well, how wide and for whom human rights education and training is implemented.

The Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, adopted in the UN General Assembly in December 2011 should serve as a crucial tool in this regard. Both governments and civil society should be encouraged to implement it, perhaps best in working together.

Slovenia is very pleased that the third phase of the World Programme has begun in 2015 addressing the need to educate and train media workers. They are definitely key in reaching out to larger populations. They also have a huge potential in multiplying the effect of human rights education, which includes tolerance education and respect for the so called "other" in every sense of the world. Fighting negative stereotyping, also in the current refugee crisis, is very necessary.

We look forward to hearing about good practices from governments and the civil society on educating and training the media in human rights.

In Slovenia's reach out programs we can proudly inform, that the "Our Rights" project, designed for children in the age of identification (10-12 years) has been implemented in numerous societies in the past 10 years. Since Slovenia's OSCE Chairmanship in 2005 it has been implemented for 180.000 children in many OSCE countries and beyond. It started as a pilot project in 17 languages for children in OSCE Participating States, including minority children and Roma children in some countries. By now the project has been expanded to many new languages and societies, including children from Partner countries and overseas. In 2013 and 2014 the project was implemented in Bosnia and Hercegovina, Macedonia, Kosovo, Moldova and in three republics of the Russian Federation (North Ossetia-Alanya, Tchetchenya and Ingushetia). In 2014 and 2015 it is being additionally implemented in Jordan, Morocco and Egypt.

Slovenia is ready to further promoting the commitments of the OSCE's Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, which refers to human rights education with emphasis on the younger generation. Educating and training the young generation on human rights with all available means, formally and informally, in schools and through media and other channels of communication, is one of the best investments in the respect of human rights and thus healthier future of our societies.