

Concept note & provisional agenda

Transforming education through human rights

Background

Human Rights Day 2022 occurs at a critical juncture where the international community has been tirelessly advocating – for the past year – for greater investment in the transformative power of education. Building on the outcomes of the [Transforming Education Summit](#), a landmark moment, wherein world leaders, educators, civil society organizations, young people, regional and international organizations, the private sector, philanthropic foundations and the United Nations system came together to position education as the most powerful tool we have at our disposal to rapidly recover from the COVID-19 consequences, to ensure successful social and economic transformation and to live together and sustainably on a planet under pressure. Transforming education means extensive empowerment, engagement and investment. Education is a fundamental human right that should empower all people – without discrimination – to participate in the transformation of the world towards more just, healthy, sustainable and peaceful futures for all.

What we need to actualize this vision, as outlined in the [Futures of Education Report](#), is a new social contract for education that can repair injustices while transforming the future. This new social contract must be grounded in human rights and based on principles of non-discrimination, social justice and respect for life, human dignity and cultural diversity. It must encompass an ethic of care and solidarity. It must, also, strengthen education as a public endeavour and a common good. By examining the need to strengthen the discourse on the wider purpose of education – in a world that is prone to increasing inequality and the impact of climate change – and further reinforce and clarify the rights and obligations in relation to lifelong learning, inclusion and equality, and digital learning considerations, the [Report](#) explicitly suggests broadening our understanding of the right to education towards lifelong learning across different times and spaces.

Human rights education and other educational efforts fostering respect, equality, inclusion, solidarity and participation are a lifelong process that empowers people to uphold their rights and those of others; equips individuals belonging to groups which historically faced discrimination and exclusion with the necessary knowledge, skills and values to become leaders for positive change in their communities; and prevents violence and crises by proposing solutions to global challenges that are consistent with human rights principles. This is why human rights education represents a critical investment for living together and building more peaceful and equitable futures for all.

The international community has increasingly highlighted the role played by the worldwide growing population of young people as agents of change and driving force in the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as the contribution of human rights education to empower and engage youth to perform this

role. The UN Human Rights Council decided to make youth the focus of the 4th phase (2020-2024) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, a global initiative proclaimed by the General Assembly in 2004. In its resolution, the Council indicated, with regard to human rights education for youth, a special emphasis on education and training in equality, human rights and non-discrimination, inclusion and respect for diversity with the aim of building inclusive and peaceful societies.

Purpose

As a contribution to Human Rights Day 2022, **UNESCO, together with OHCHR and the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY)**, and in the context of both [the implementation of the 4th phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education](#), which is dedicated to youth, and the [UNESCO Initiative on the Evolving Right to Education](#), is organizing an international webinar aimed at engaging youth and policy-makers in the transformation of education through human rights. The event is also designed **in partnership with Amnesty International and Soka Gakkai International (SGI)**.

Youth participation is key in the context of the [Initiative on the Evolving Right to Education](#), that was officially launched following the [International Seminar](#) organised by UNESCO in December 2021, which aimed at taking stock of new developments, advancing the discussion on the necessary expansion of the international legal framework, as well as further identifying the areas that need greater regulation in order to respond to new and emerging challenges, and their implications for ensuring quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all (see [full report here](#)).

Given the central role of young people to the World Programme for Human Rights Education, the global movement on transforming education, and the protection and promotion of the right to education – including from an evolving perspective, **this special event seeks to enhance dialogue among young people and policy-makers**. It also aims to bring education stakeholders together to explore: (1) how human rights education can serve as a tool for implementing the [Youth Declaration on Transforming Education](#) and (2) the parameters of the evolving right to education Initiative.

The objectives are threefold:

- to facilitate dialogue among education stakeholders and actors on the implementation of the Youth Declaration on Transforming Education and how the World Programme for Human Rights Education can contribute to it;
- to explore the role of human rights education, as integral part of the right to education, in transforming the world, with a specific focus on its impact and effectiveness, through the sharing of good practices; and
- to explore and discuss the research findings and proposals put forward in the Initiative on the Evolving Right to Education, with a focus on a lifelong learning approach, in the context of today's realities.

Target audience

- **Young people** (e.g. via civil society organizations' youth networks, UNESCO SDG4Youth Network, UNESCO Youth Forum, OHCHR Youth Advisory Board, OSGEY Young leaders for the SDGs network).
- **Policy-makers** (e.g. UNESCO Member State Delegations and National Commissions, UN Geneva Member States Missions and UN New York Member States Missions).

Format & provisional agenda

- The event will be 2 hours and held online (platform Zoom).
- Languages (English and French interpretation will be provided).

8 December 2022 <i>TBD</i>			
Paris local time (CET)			
12:50 – 13:00	<i>Connecting to the online platform</i>		
13:00 – 13:05 (5 mins)	Welcome, introduction and objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moderator: Ronelle King, Young Leader for the SDGs (Barbados) 		
13:05 – 13:25 (20 mins)	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stefania Giannini, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Education ● Nada Al-Nashif, OHCHR's Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights ● Jayathma Wickramanayake, Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth ● Emmanuel Ganse, Young Leader for the SDGs (Benin) 		
13:25 – 13:37 (12 mins)	Framing the issue: an interactive dialogue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Farida Shaheed, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to education ● Interviewer: Christopher Castle, UNESCO's Director for the Division for Peace and Sustainable Development 		
13:37 – 13:42 (5 mins)	<i>Break (artistic performance by Lenny Kravitz – via pre-recorded video)</i>		
13:42 – 14:42 (60 mins)	OPEN DIALOGUE SERIES		
	Session 1: Youth consultation on the evolving right to education Format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guest Speaker: the evolving context - Presentation: Initiative on Evolving the right to education - Presentation by youth expert - Open floor for participants exchange/dialogue 	Session 2: Human rights education & Youth Declaration Format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation: good practice examples by Slovenia and Costa Rica - Presentation: good practice example from youth experts - Open floor for participants exchange/dialogue around guiding questions 	Session 3: Advancing human rights and peace: education as a cultural right Format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guest Speaker - Transforming ED through intangible cultural heritage - Peace and Human Rights - Open floor for participants exchange/dialogue

	<p>around guiding questions</p> <p>Facilitator: UNESCO Rapporteur: Peg Magnusson, Permanent Delegation of Sweden to UNESCO</p>	<p>Facilitator: OSGEY & SGI Rapporteur: Allyson Castillo, Youth Leader, Amnesty International Chile</p>	<p>around guiding questions</p> <p>Facilitator: UNESCO Rapporteur: UNESCO</p>
<p>14:42 – 14:55 (13 mins)</p>	<p>Debriefing in plenary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapporteur from each parallel session to provide key messages (2mins each) 		
<p>15:55 – 15:00 (5 mins)</p>	<p>Closing Remarks & Group Photo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borhene Chakroun, UNESCO's Director for the Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems 		