

## Human rights education for youth in Haiti

**A participant in the 2006 IHRTP, Peronald Jacquet mobilizes youth in his community.**

Every Sunday afternoon, in the region of Grand-Anse in Haiti, over 150 high school students and their civics teachers meet to discuss the problems facing the community, particularly young people and women, and the challenges of building a rule of law in Haiti. Following these discussions, the students perform popular songs, poems and skits highlighting human rights issues.

This initiative, called *Espace-Jeunes*, is one of the activities of the *Réseau des Jeunes Éducateurs en Droits Humains* (REJEDH), a network of young human rights educators in Haiti. REJEDH is the brainchild of Peronald Jacquet a participant in the 2006 International Human Rights Training Program (IHRTP) and the result of the action plan that he developed during the training program. During the IHRTP, participants are given a framework in which to develop an individual plan to put their training into concrete action upon their return.

"REJEDH's mission is to promote human rights and to work towards the establishment of a

culture of human rights in Haiti. Through *Espace-Jeunes*, we are working to build a collective of young leaders, allowing a group of girls and boys to take the destiny of their community in hand. *Espace-Jeunes* is a diverse space, a space of energy, creation and of blossoming of the young participants," Peronald explains.

Already, the results among the students are tangible:

- They have increased their knowledge of human rights and half of them currently participate in debates on human rights issues. They are able to translate human rights principles and ideas about democracy into songs, poems and skits.
- They are much more aware of the need to take part in the promotion and defense of human rights. Some students are investigating the condition of prisoners in the prison in the regional capitol of Jérémie and others are attending court cases.
- A bond of solidarity is growing between young people of different social groups in the community.



High school students in Haiti meet every Sunday to discuss human rights.

In the coming months, Peronald plans to expand this program to other communities in the region of Grand-Anse. The issue of human rights and democracy is no small matter. There is a need for national solidarity. This means educating Haitian citizenship, educating women and men that are able to effectively take part in the social, economic and political progress of the country. A whole mentality has to be rebuilt.

"The IHRTP was an unforgettable experience for me. It contributed to increasing my desire to continue to work and fight for the construction of a culture of human rights throughout the world," concludes Peronald Jacquet.



Robert Yalden, President of the Board of Directors

## New President of the Board of Directors

Equitas is pleased to introduce our new President of the Board of Directors, Robert Yalden, who was elected at our annual general meeting, held on June 13, 2007. Mr. Yalden is a partner in the Montreal office of Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP where he practices business law and serves as Co-Chair of the firm's Mergers and Acquisitions Group. A member of the bars of Ontario and Quebec, he holds an undergraduate degree from Queens University and law degrees from Oxford University, the University of Toronto and l'Université de Montréal. He served as a law clerk to Madame Justice Bertha Wilson, the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada. Robert has taught at the faculties of law at McGill University and the University of Toronto and has published in the areas of constitutional law, administrative law, legal history and business law.

Robert first joined the Board in 2005 serving as Treasurer.

We also wish to welcome new Board members:

- André Beaulieu, Vice-President, Corporate Strategy, Bell Canada
- Eric Bretsen, Partner, Ernst & Young
- The Honourable Danielle Grenier, Judge, Quebec Superior Court
- Deborah Hinton, Communications Consultant
- Jean-Marc Métivier, Consultant

We also thank departing Board members Véronique Lamontagne, Robert Wright and Benjamin Teitlebaum, whose terms had come to an end, for their service and support. A special thank you is also extended to Nandini Ramanujam who completed two terms as President. Her effective leadership and hard work helped to see Equitas through an important period in the growth of the organization. She will remain active on the Board as Past President.

For a complete list of Board members and their bios please visit our web site at [www.equitas.org](http://www.equitas.org).

# The Evaluation of Human Rights Education for Social Change

From May 3 to 5, 2007, Equitas hosted an international human rights education evaluation symposium entitled: *HRE for Social Change: Evaluation Approaches and Methodologies*. Jointly organized with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with the support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the symposium brought together 31 international experts, researchers, practitioners and educators, ten of whom were alumni of Equitas' annual International Human Rights Training Program (IH RTP).

The goal of the symposium was for human rights education (HRE) practitioners to share new ideas, knowledge, skills and other practices to effectively evaluate human rights education, particularly over the longer term.

In her opening remarks, Elena Ippoliti of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights highlighted the important questions addressed by the Symposium:

- How we can make a difference?
- How can we measure the impact of our HRE work?
- What can we learn as HRE practitioners from the contributions being made in the fields of education and professional training?
- What can we do better to advance HRE discourse and practice?

***“On a daily basis, we are asking ourselves how can we do our job better and make sure that we are achieving the changes that we want to see in the world.”***

- Ian Hamilton, Executive Director of Equitas

Knowing whether or not these changes have occurred necessitates effective ways to gauge the results of HRE work. Evaluating the long term impact of HRE is a complex undertaking, as this type of education, whose ultimate goal is greater respect for human rights leading to social change, is difficult to assess in isolation from political, economic and social factors.

Felisa Tibbitts, Executive Director of Human Rights Education Associates, presented an overview of the current work being carried out in HRE evaluation and research. She noted that HRE programming in general is very diverse: it takes place in and out of classrooms, in prisons, and among groups ranging from the young to the potentially vulnerable. Despite this diversity, a common denominator in all HRE work is its transformative and empowering nature among different groups. HRE moves at different paces in different contexts. As a result, she stressed that HRE evaluation design cannot be separated from HRE program design. HRE evaluation should embody “transparency, empowerment, and inclusion, particularly for vulnerable

groups,” she said. The strengthening of HRE evaluation methodologies will enable HRE practitioners to better measure and demonstrate the transformative effect of HRE as well as to ultimately strengthen the effectiveness of HRE itself.

Over the course of the three-day symposium, participants reviewed the various approaches to HRE evaluation within different contexts, nationally and internationally, with a view to drawing some conclusions around the current status of HRE evaluation. They also sought to identify the successes and challenges of different HRE evaluation methodologies and the appropriate tools to effectively measure results over the longer term.

One key recommendation arising from the symposium was to design a handbook for human rights educators, of useful, appropriate and proven methods, tools and guidelines for HRE evaluation work.

The complete proceedings of the Symposium will be available on the Equitas web site at [www.equitas.org](http://www.equitas.org) as of December 10, Human Rights Day.



Kristi Rudelius-Palmer, *Human Rights Center, University of Minnesota*; Jeff Plantilla, *HURIGHTS OSAKA*; Audrey Osler, *Centre for Citizenship and Human Rights Education, University of Leeds*; Anja Mihr, *European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights, Italy*; Ana Maria Rodino, *Inter-American Institute for Human Rights, Costa Rica*; Sally Salem, *Youth Trainer, Egypt*; Dr. I. Devasahayam, *People's Watch, Tamil Nadu* at the symposium.

# Profile

## Arwa Khadr el Boraiei



Arwa Khadr el Boraiei

Arwa Khadr el Boraiei is the Head of the International Department of the Arab Program for Human Rights Activists, a regional NGO based in Cairo, which

defends and supports human rights activists in the Arab world.

Arwa attended Equitas' International Human Rights Training Program (IHRTP) as a participant in 2004 and as a co-facilitator in 2007. In August 2007, she coordinated an Equitas-supported 7-day program entitled "Toward Reinforcing Human Rights in Upper Egypt", attended by 23 Egyptian human rights workers.

One of the greatest challenges while organizing the training session was combating gender-based discrimination: "...the most hurtful challenge was around me, a woman, as project manager, decision maker and responsible for a whole team of which 99 % were men. The discriminatory attitude of many of my colleagues reflected on many aspects, especially the daily work and my right to be fairly compensated." Another challenge was finding women to participate. As she wrote in her blog: "Two weeks before the date of the training, we had only four female candidates." Arwa ultimately succeeded in finding 11 female participants.

During the training, role playing was used to enact discrimination against women. To Arwa's dismay, all the participants made it clear that they could not imagine life without this discrimination and harassment: "The shocking point was some men said that they were sure girls loved to be harassed and they

could not imagine themselves not harassing girls in the street as they had been brought up in this way! Some female participants said that they could not imagine their husbands helping them in the house even if they were dying. If a man does help, it means he is not really a man! Hearing such things from human rights workers was difficult."

Arwa recognizes that there is a lot of work to be done but remains deeply committed. "I am sometimes overwhelmed by the responsibility and duties. But putting the goal of successful results and specific objectives in front of me makes things easier and gives me renewed faith to continue with even more strength and determination!"

She firmly believes in the participatory training technique used and taught at the IHRTP as an effective model for human rights education. The training session she coordinated was based on the IHRTP model, and the evaluation findings exceeded her expectations.

The IHRTP has given thousands of individuals like Arwa the opportunity to implement successful human rights education programs thereby directly impacting and empowering many more thousands of individuals. Equitas believes in building a global culture of human rights and programs such as the one Arwa coordinated in Egypt are helping to do this.

Your support helps Equitas ensure that we can continue to train human rights workers. For more information about the IHRTP, or to make a donation, or sponsor a participant, please contact Ian Hamilton at [ihamilton@equitas.org](mailto:ihamilton@equitas.org) or 514-954-0382 ext 34.

## Donor recognition corner

### EQUITAS WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WHO MADE DONATIONS BETWEEN OCTOBER 2006 AND APRIL 2007:

John Barter • Pierre Bosset • Mark Brender • Lynne Cohen • Paul-André Crépeau • Richard & Sylvia Cruess • Sylvain-Jacques Desjardins • J.L. Douglas • Haifa Abu Ghazaleh • Robert Gervais • John & Jennifer Guest • Richard & Patricia Hamilton • Ian Hamilton & Sue Montgomery • David Lametti • Catherine Laurin • Marc Leiter • Catherine London & Hubert Lavallée • Andrew Lugg • Aditya Dewan • Christopher Maclean • Véronique Marleau • Monica Matte • Carole Michaud • Gray Montgomery • Nicole Morin • Janet Mrenica • MSC International • Louise Otis • Monica Patten • Claudia Portaro • Inez Jabalpurwala • Nandini Ramanujam • Susan Rogers • Claude Roy • F. Leslie Seidle • Roslyn Slawner • The Church of Michael and All Angels • Paul Turcot • Shelagh Vaughan • Joan Wright • Robert Wright • Robert Yalden & Pearl Eliadis

### Equitas would also like to thank the following institutional donors:

Canadian International Development Agency  
Canadian Heritage  
Commonwealth Secretariat  
Department of Justice Canada  
Development and Peace  
Ford Foundation  
Foreign Affairs Canada  
Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles du Québec  
Rights & Democracy  
TD Bank Financial Group  
The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation  
UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
United Nations Development Program  
Ville de Montréal

### We would also like to thank the following sponsors for their generosity and their support:

Café Santropol • Dad's Bagels • Les Délices de Dawn • The Gazette • Grand-papa gâteau • Le Devoir • Florateria • Impressions Jade • La Khaïma • Au Pain Doré • Pâtisserie Pekarna • Sychowski Communications • Ste-Anne Szechuan et Thaï • Groupe Automobile Dollar Thrifty • Marché Adonis

# The perfect gift!!

Equitas now has tribute cards available. Make a donation to Equitas to honour a loved one or mark an occasion. The beautiful card shown here will be sent to inform them that a donation has been made in their honour, and can include a personalized message from you.

We will print the card with your message, send it to the recipient, and you will receive a full tax receipt. And you will have the pleasure of knowing that your gift is going a long way towards helping build a global culture of human rights.

The photo on the card was taken by an International Human Rights Training Program participant from Uganda, and shows children engaging in a human rights education workshop offered by his organization. Your gift ensures that we can continue to support this kind of work in Canada and all over the world.

Also available: package of 10 blank cards, \$15.

For more information contact Ronit Yarosky at 514-954-0382 ext 41, or ryarosky@equitas.org



Personalized tribute card

## Program Activities

APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2007

### International Human Rights Training Program (IHRTIP)

- Alumni meeting  
*Kathmandu, Nepal, April 2007*
- International HRE Evaluation Symposium: "Human Rights Education for Social Change: Evaluation Approaches and Methodologies"  
*Montreal, Canada, May 3 – 5, 2007*
- Participation of 130 human rights educators 60 from countries in the three-week training session  
*Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Canada, June 10 – 29, 2007*
- Indonesian Annual Human Rights Training Program, curriculum design meeting  
*Jakarta, Indonesia, July 2007*
- Training of Trainers workshop with IHRTIP alumni  
*Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, August 2007*
- Meeting with the Filipino alumni network  
*Bangkok, Thailand, September 2007*
- Local human rights education activity evaluation meeting with South Asian and South East Asian alumni  
*Bangkok, Thailand, September 2007*
- Local human rights education activity evaluation meeting with IHRTIP alumni from Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia  
*Almaty, Kazakhstan, September 2007*

### Canada - Human Rights Education in Summer Day Camps

#### City of Montreal Program

- Training sessions for camp staff
- Program in 107 out of 190 camps in Montreal, reaching approximately 16,000 children
- Evaluation and validation of the "Play it Right" toolkit

### National Program

- National Human Rights Education training session with program partners  
*April 2007*
- "Play it Right" program piloted in 20 summer day camps across Canada
- 19 local training sessions for camp staff in Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto & New Brunswick

### Indonesia program - Strengthening Human Rights Protection in the Tsunami-affected Regions of Indonesia

- Advanced Training of Trainers, Ministry of Law and Human Rights  
*Cisarua, Indonesia, July 2007*

### Middle East & North Africa Program

- Exposure week for 10 IHRTIP participants from the Middle East & North Africa, Montreal & Ottawa  
*June 2007*

### Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia

- Workshop on violence against women in South Caucasus with the United Nations Rapporteur on Violence against Women  
*Tbilisi, Georgia, May 2007*
- Monitoring and Reporting on Women's Rights in Kazakhstan Planning meetings: *Warsaw, Poland, May 2007, Almaty & Astana Kazakhstan, September 2007*

### Human Rights and Health

- Workshop on Health and Human Rights: Resource Pack and Training Manual developed, workshop facilitated for Open Society Institute staff,  
*Cape Town, June 2007*

equitas

Centre international  
d'éducation aux droits humains  
International Centre for  
Human Rights Education

666 Sherbrooke West, Suite 1100  
Montreal, Quebec  
Canada H3A 1E7

Telephone : 514-954-0382  
Fax : 514-954-0659  
E-Mail : info@equitas.org  
Web : www.equitas.org

Editor : Pego Brennan  
Translation : Carole Michaud  
Graphic Design : Sychowski Communications Inc.  
Également disponible en français