

## The Global Human Rights Education Program (2008-2013)



Advanced Training of Trainers in Kampala, Uganda

### Equitas Launches New Program to Support Human Rights Education Worldwide

Over the next five years, Equitas' Global Human Rights Education Program (GHREP) will train over 2,500 human rights educators and their organizations to become more effective agents of social change. The new program is built upon Equitas' experience of delivering effective human rights education programs in Canada and around the world for more than 40 years. The annual International Human Rights Training Program (IHRTP) remains at the core of this new program and will continue to welcome up to 130 human rights educators and defenders annually to Montreal in June.



Consultation meeting with IHRTP alumni, Chisinau, Moldova

### Innovative Approaches to Enhance the Impact of Human Rights Education

A number of important innovations have been included in the program to enhance our ability to support our partners' efforts to build a global culture of human rights. National and sub-regional training sessions will be delivered by alumni networks based on the innovative training methodology of the IHRTP in Montreal. This model has already been successfully piloted in Indonesia and alumni groups in Haiti, East Africa, West Africa, South Asia and Central and Eastern Europe are interested in adapting the IHRTP to their own context.

Equitas will also be providing enhanced coaching and support so that alumni of our programs can have an even greater impact in the communities where they work. Taking advantage of technological advances and new opportunities for distance education, the online Equitas Community will continue to grow and become a virtual meeting place for Equitas alumni to continue learning and exchanging experiences.

Throughout the program, our alumni will be taking ownership of the process and

building the new knowledge, networks and skills they need to transform their communities in such a way that equality, social justice and respect for human dignity become more entrenched in the local society.

The Global Human Rights Education Program is made possible thanks to the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency.

*For more information about the GHREP, please contact Gail Dalglish, Senior Program Officer, [gdalglish@equitas.org](mailto:gdalglish@equitas.org).*

## 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights



Dignity and justice for all of us

December 10, 2008 marked the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To highlight this important anniversary and recognize how this document continues to inspire and empower, we asked alumni of our programs to share stories about how their awareness of human rights has changed their lives and brought about positive changes in their communities. Visit this special page on our web site at [www.equitas.org/english/udhr/index.php](http://www.equitas.org/english/udhr/index.php) or follow the link *Stories from the field* on our home page to read their testimonials.

# ***Play it Fair!* brings human rights programming to summer camps across Canada**

Over the course of the summer of 2008, Equitas' *Play it Fair!* program promoted human rights values in over 200 summer camps in Vancouver, Toronto, Winnipeg, Moncton, Dieppe, Fredericton and Montreal. Approximately 2,000 camp counselors and other staff were trained and over 40,000 children were reached across Canada.



Olympic snowboarder Alexa Loo participated in games from the toolkit at the Vancouver launch of the *Play it Fair!* program.

***“(The games) give the children the ability to express themselves; it shows them that their voice counts.”***

-Camp staff

*Play It Fair!* is an innovative program that helps children learn conflict resolution skills and raises their awareness of human rights, diversity and intercultural issues. Its educational toolkit contains information and age appropriate activities and games that reinforce the positive values that derive from the fundamental principles of human dignity and equality contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights including cooperation, respect, fairness, inclusion, diversity, responsibility and acceptance. The activities include a reflection time that allows the children to further explore the essential values learned in each game. It also improves the ability of

camp counsellors to respond to conflicts or disagreements among the children.

The expansion of the program was marked by several public events. An official launch was held in June in Vancouver, where the program is in use 23 day-camps. City officials and Olympic Snowboarder Alexa Loo joined children and staff from local community centres to experience games from the toolkit.

In Toronto, the toolkit, where usage grew from 5 to 27 camps, was showcased to parents of children from eight programs across the city and to individuals from the wider community. “The implementation of *Play It Fair!* programming in our summer camps is a great way to help our children and youth develop the life skills they need to deal with complex issues such as bullying, conflict resolution and diversity in their communities,” said Councillor Joe Mihevc, Chair of the Community Development and Recreation Committee. “It helps children integrate human rights values and attitudes into their day-to-day lives and encounters.”

The program was implemented as well in 140 camps in Montreal, 19 in Winnipeg and 8 in New Brunswick. Plans for the coming years are to expand the program into more communities, to explore new settings for its use, such as afterschool programs and to transfer ownership of the program to local partners.

***“The Toolkit has allowed the kids to really take ownership of their behaviours and it boosts their confidence when they really grasp these concepts.”***

-Camp staff

Equitas would like to thank all the partner organizations and individuals for their active involvement in the program. Equitas would also like to thank Heritage Canada, the TD Bank Financial Group and the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation for their generous financial support of this program.

*For more information about this program, please contact: Frédéric Hareau, Senior Program Officer, Canada, fhareau@equitas.org*



*Play it Fair!* Day in Toronto, August 2008

# 30<sup>th</sup> Annual International Human Rights Training Program

## June 14-July 3, 2009

Preparations are underway for the 30th annual International Human Rights Training Program which will take place from June 14 to July 3, 2009. Over 900 applications from around the world were received for the coveted 120 places. In the meantime, wonderful stories about the impact of the 2008 program continue to pour in from the 114 participants who came last year from over 50 countries:



Participants at the 29th Annual International Human Rights Education Program, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec

***“This training was one of the best experiences ever in my life, I have met great and wonderful people who became friends and some more like a family. The training was very informative, and I will never forget the learning spiral”***

-Participant from Jordan

Last year’s participants are also in touch with us through the on-line Equitas Community, sharing their experiences and keeping us informed about their work and the progress of the implementation of the individual plans that they developed during the training program. Around the world, alumni are transforming their learning into action:

- Promoting human rights education in the fight against stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS in Tanzania
- Designing human rights training for the police to promote access to justice for the poor in the Philippines
- Training human rights monitors who visit detention centres in Georgia
- Fighting female excision through popular theatre in Mali
- Integrating human rights education in the school curriculum in Nepal
- Campaigning to promote women’s rights and offering help and support to abused women in Albania

***“I feel so privileged to have been a participant in the 2008 IH RTP. It was wonderful to be in such a global environment and to develop relationships and learn from so many special people – both participants and in your team.”***

-Participant from South Africa

As we prepare for another milestone year in the history of the International Human Rights Training Program (IH RTP), we look forward to building and strengthening the ever-growing global network of human rights educators who have participated in the IH RTP over the last 30 years.

This program is made possible thanks to the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency.

*For more information about the IH RTP, please contact Chris Bradley, Program Officer, [cbradley@equitas.org](mailto:cbradley@equitas.org).*

## Donor recognition corner

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

**We thank our institutional donors for their generous support of our programs:**

Canadian International Development Agency  
 Canadian Heritage  
 Foreign Affairs Canada  
 Ministère de l’Immigration et des Communautés culturelles du Québec  
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 Rights & Democracy  
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 The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation  
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 Ville de Montréal

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# The Power of Human Rights Education

By Salifou Nasré

In June 2008, I had the pleasure of being invited back to the International Human Rights Training Program (IHRTTP) as a co-facilitator. It was a wonderful opportunity to work with Equitas' committed team and meet another dedicated group of participants eager to experience the transformative power of Equitas' brand of human rights education.

After this experience, I am convinced more than ever that you don't leave the IHRTTP the same person as when you arrived. I learned a new brand of social activism

based on participation. Everyone has valuable expertise that should be taken into account when devising solutions to human rights problems. And it is in this process of giving people space to speak and participate that I discovered the true power of human rights education.

*Salifou Nasré is the Secretary General of Communications of the Rights & Democracy Delegation at the University of Ouagadougou and advisor in charge of the program Support to local organizations DED (Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst – German development service) - Burkina Faso*



Salifou Nasré, top row, far left, at the 2008 IHRTTP

## Program Activities

APRIL 2008 - DECEMBER 2008

### Global Human Rights Education Program

- International Human Rights Training Program (IHRTTP)  
Participation of 114 human rights educators from 54 countries at the three-week training session, June, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec
- IHRTTP Follow-up and support
  - Alumni meeting, September, Chisinau, Moldova
  - Meeting to evaluate local human rights education activities, Francophone Africa, October, Dakar, Senegal
  - Alumni meeting, November, Manila, The Philippines
  - Training of Human Rights Educators, in collaboration with Rights & Democracy and the Carter Centre, La Maison des droits de l'homme, November, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo
  - Training of Trainers, Anglophone Africa, November, Kampala, Uganda

### Iraq/Middle East/North Africa

- Strengthening Human Rights Education in Iraq, training workshop for Iraqi NGOs, May, Istanbul, Turkey
- Regional Working Session, November, Beirut, Lebanon

### National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)

- Launch of *Equality for Women – A Handbook for NHRIs on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, October, Nairobi, Kenya

### Indonesia

- Ministry of Law and Human Rights: Strengthening Human Rights Protection in the tsunami-affected Regions of Indonesia: Generic Training Manual, orientation workshop, April, Jakarta
- Consultation meeting on Human Rights Education and Shariah, November, Jakarta

### Canada

- *Play it Fair!* program implemented in 200 summer day-camps across Canada with 40,000 kids participating and 2,000 individuals trained in the use of the toolkit

### CEE and Central Asia

- National Roundtable on Monitoring and Reporting on Women's Rights in Kazakhstan, December, Almaty, Kazakhstan

### China

- Migrant Labour: Occupational Health and Safety in collaboration with the Foundation for International Training (FIT) and the Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, St. Mary's University, Inception Mission, September, Chongqing, China

### Online Human Rights Training & Conferences

- Obstacles Faced by Human Rights Educators, July
- Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, October
- Training of Trainers workshop, October – December

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