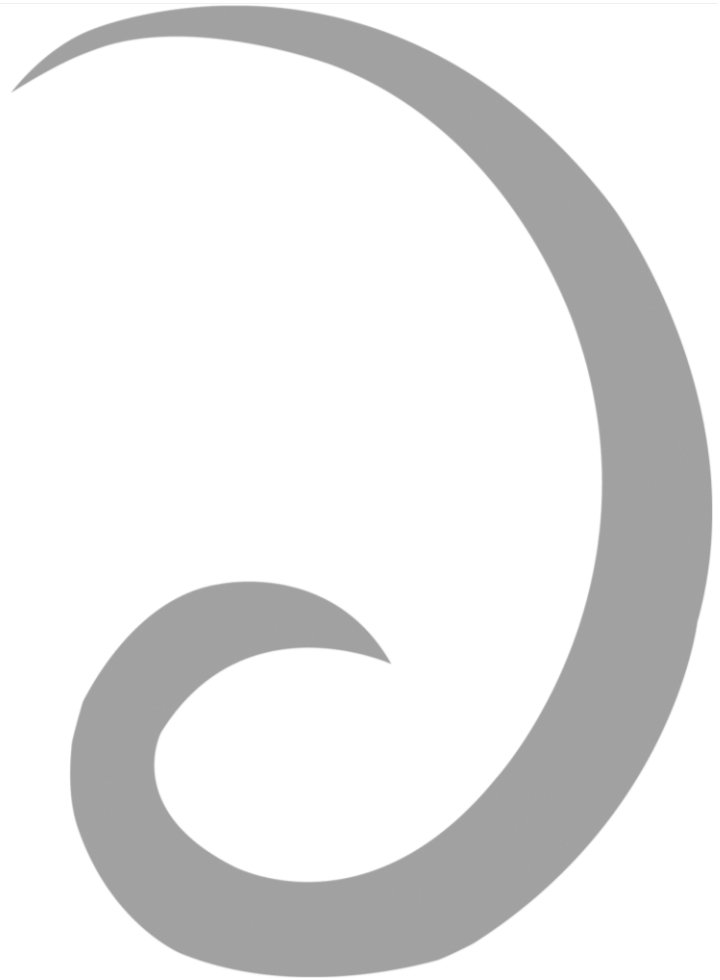


29th Annual International Human Rights Training Program

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equitas

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Acknowledgments

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela

This training manual is a product of close to three decade of experience delivering the International Human Rights Training Program (IHRTTP) and is inspired by our ongoing reflection on the central role of human rights education in building a culture of human rights. It takes its inspiration from the values and principles articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which are as important today as they were sixty years ago. The training program outlined in this manual incorporates the many lessons Equitas has learned in Canada and around the world and it reflects our understanding of human rights education as a transformative process that leads to action which has the power to change the world.

Developing this program with our partners over the years continues to transform our lives. We hope that the human rights educators who will work through these pages will experience the same enthusiasm that we did in developing them. We trust that this manual will help all who use it to discover new and innovative approaches to make human rights a reality in communities around the world.

We appreciate the contributions of all those individuals and organizations that have assisted in this process over the years. We gratefully acknowledge, in particular, the Equitas education team who worked on the manual this year: Vincenza Nazzari, Daniel Roy, Paul McAdams and Pamela Teitelbaum. We also thank all members of the staff and the Board of Directors who contribute to the thinking behind the program and the success of the IHRTTP.

The preparation of this manual and the 2008 IHRTTP are made possible through generous funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). We wish to express our sincere appreciation for CIDA's long-term support of the IHRTTP and many other Equitas programs over the years.

Dedication

As we commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we dedicate this manual to all human rights educators who, inspired by the values articulated in the Declaration, have committed themselves to building a more equitable, just and peaceful world. Through a rigorous process of reflection, analysis, education and action they are working courageously and tirelessly to make the vision of the UDHR a reality.

Ian Hamilton
Executive Director



In keeping with the concept of empowerment, we at Equitas strongly believe that the complete education process should be fully shared with the participants from the outset of the program rather than be revealed one piece at a time at the discretion of the facilitator. We feel that it is important for participants in our programs to know in advance, what activities are planned, their purpose and how they will be carried out. The preparation of detailed training manuals for all our training events, therefore, is considered as an essential element in the process of empowerment. Moreover, the manual also serves as a fairly accurate record of the activities that took place, which the participants can subsequently adapt for use in their own training events.

Feedback received from participants in our programs is a testament to the effectiveness of our approach:

“The materials in both manuals provide a sound basis for a training programme on human rights in general-my commission with its broad mandate will hopefully benefit from them.”

“I am grateful to Equitas for availing the relevant materials. They helped to read ahead and understand and revise after class. We shall also use them in our work. Language was understandable and well written out.”

“Both the manuals are extremely good, and I will use them in the work of my organization.”

