



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

Over the past five years, thanks to the financial support of the Canadian government and thanks to support from Canadians like you, Equitas provided training and support to over

1,500

human rights educators in

88 countries.

Your support helped us reach

18,000

direct beneficiaries and an estimated

1,600,000

indirect beneficiaries.

“The very afternoon that I finished my training with Equitas and returned home, my younger brother called me to tell me about what would become our family’s worst nightmare. Our younger sister was a victim of rape.”

Dear Friends,

This sentence opened an email sent to us by Borso, one of the participants in our training session in Senegal last year. After returning from the Equitas training and hearing of her sister’s rape, the first thing Borso did was call one of her newly-met colleagues from the Equitas training.

“I asked him to inform everyone in the group and make sure each one of them informed their respective organizations.... In one way or another, everyone from the training banded with me in this fight. I knew that the best way to effectively pursue the fight was to clearly base our moves on legal terms, which fortunately I had recently learned from [the training with] Equitas. My sister’s case would become the first for which I would put my acquired skills into practice.”

In fact, in a country where hardly anybody is convicted of rape, thanks in part to Borso’s tireless efforts, the rapist — a very high profile individual — was found guilty. This was a **precedent-setting case, being the “... first in the history of our judicial system.”**

Human Rights — A Challenge Everywhere

In many countries in West Africa and around the world, there is no justice for victims of rape. Women are often powerless to obtain help as public authorities may be unwilling to intervene, labeling them as ‘domestic issues.’ While there are sometimes protections in the law, there is very little awareness or enforcement of these laws. In addition, domestic violence, high rates of female genital mutilation and cutting, early and forced marriages, bride price, polygamy, limited access to health care and pre- and post-natal care, lack of education and limited literacy all continue to violate women’s human rights.

While women face very clear challenges in many places around the world, human rights violations extend across genders, religions and



Together against rape

A mobilization campaign against sexual violence was also organized by Equitas alumni in Abidjan, Ivory Coast in collaboration with local authorities.

“ Equitas is a world leader in providing first-class human rights education programs in Canada and around the world. By supporting Equitas, you are supporting a global network of brave human rights defenders who are all working to make human rights a reality in their communities. I encourage you to support Equitas and be part of this incredible movement. ”

Phil Fontaine, former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations



Joséphine's Success

In Burkina Faso, the widespread practice of early and forced marriages of girls all too often violates their rights to health, education, freedom of expression and, in some cases, to life itself. 48% of young women aged 20 to 24 were married before the age of 18.

Joséphine Yameogo, pictured here, was able to escape marriage to a man 40 years her senior. Ostracized by her family and community, she managed to train as a mechanic and became the first female garage owner in Burkina Faso. Thanks in part to our donors' support, Joséphine attended an Equitas training in 2010 and is committed to helping women gain access to alternative trades.

ethnicities into entire communities in all the corners of the globe. Religious intolerance, torture, legalized discrimination against the LGBT community, exploitation of children, slavery, lack of freedom of speech, forced displacement and evictions, collective punishment ... all violate basic human dignity and have terrible effects on the communities where they occur.

We don't need to look across oceans to find examples of human rights abuses and discrimination. Right here in Canada, Aboriginal peoples have faced and continue to face severe forms of discrimination and marginalization—from women and girls who have 'disappeared', to communities without decent living conditions and very high suicide rates, to the legacy of the residential schools.

While Canadians take tremendous pride in being an accepting and welcoming multicultural nation, the presence of so many different cultures and groups can easily lead to tension and discrimination. From bullying in the schoolyard, to racial profiling, to the debates around reasonable accommodation, we still have work to do here in Canada to build inclusive communities where diversity is respected and valued.

How Can it Change?

In Canada and around the world there are thousands of brave and committed individuals building a more equitable, fair and just world, where all human rights for all will be the norm, not the exception.

Equitas is recognized around the world for its expertise in helping people understand their rights and equipping them to take effective action to promote equality, social justice and respect for human dignity.

With your support, we are helping human rights defenders become catalysts for change in their communities. Our approach empowers communities to analyze their situation and find their own solutions to make the change they want to see. It is not our role to take the lead, but to work in partnership with local organizations and provide ongoing coaching and technical support as they identify their own path to human rights.

Real Challenges — YOU Are Vital to the Solution!

Changes in the Federal government meant that Equitas' funding was delayed this year. **Your support is more important than ever to ensure that Equitas and our partners continually have the same powerful impact around the world.**

The uncertainty we experienced demonstrated very clearly just how **much we need and value your ongoing commitment to building a global culture of human rights.** We are reaching out to you and to all Canadians asking you to **please support Equitas.**

The Equitas Impact

The story that began this letter exemplifies the type of impact that Equitas is having and will continue to have around the world with your support. There are many more stories like it.

In Haiti — Equitas workshops and tools resulted in street youth in Cité Soleil forming groups to clean up their neighbourhoods and create safe places for children to play. After the cholera outbreak, in La Victoire, community members formed work teams to clean water sources, build



Young men from La Victoire in front of tanks of clean drinking water. Their shirts say: "We continue to fight cholera."

latrines and educate the population about hygiene, resulting in no further outbreaks of cholera. And in the Leogane displaced persons camp, women were empowered to join the management and become part of the leadership. Once they had a seat at the table, they were able to launch a women's support centre to protect thousands of women from gender-based violence and pressure the local judiciary to handle cases of domestic violence and rape.

In Canada — Equitas develops and provides innovative human rights education programs that teach children and youth about the importance of human rights values. Through games and activities, they learn how to fight exclusion, discrimination and bullying, in a fun, participatory and prevention-focused way. Children aged 6 to 12 participate in the *Play it Fair!* program, while youth from age 13 to 17 participate in *Speaking Rights*.

Play it Fair! is delivered across Canada, the Middle East and North Africa, and in Haiti and Armenia. *Speaking Rights* is spreading across Canada and won the 2012 Canadian Race Relations Foundation's Award of Excellence.

Human Rights Defenders Need YOU!

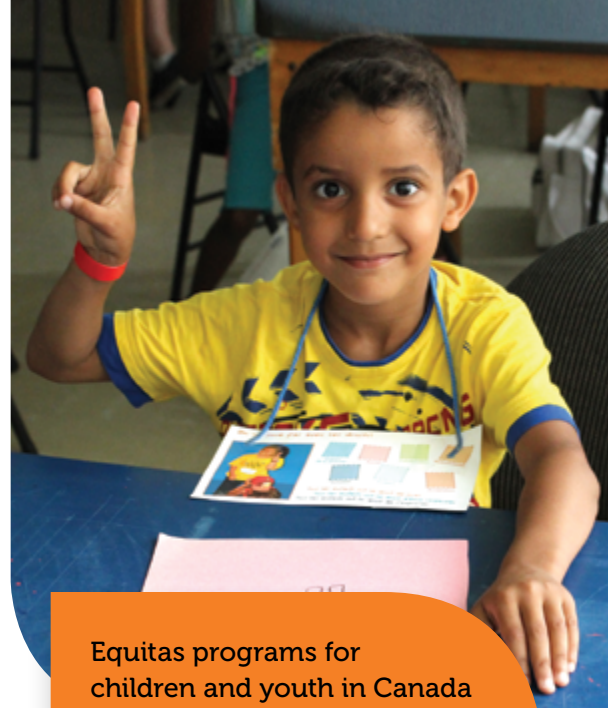
Equitas and its partners have a big job to do. And we cannot do it without you. **Your support** is what allowed Borso to attend the Equitas training and obtain the knowledge she needed to bring justice to her sister and bring change to her country. **Your support** means that our Haitian partners can help reduce cholera outbreaks. **Your support** means that Canadian children and youth are discovering ways they can grow up together in harmony and continue to exemplify the great Canadian traditions of multiculturalism and embracing diversity. Your support means that youth in the Middle East will be part of a new generation of citizens engaged in community building and democratic participation. **Your support can change the world.**

We feel so fortunate to have you as part of the Equitas family. We need you and value your ongoing commitment to building a global culture of human rights. Now more than ever, we must reach out to our Equitas family and to all Canadians and ask you to **please make a donation.**

Equitas: Transparent, Efficient and Trustworthy

Together with our supporters, Equitas has been helping human rights workers in Canada and around the world bring about incredible and transformative change for over 45 years. With a dedicated and highly professional staff, an incredible Board of Directors, and the unending desire to build a global culture of human rights, Equitas and its partners work tirelessly to make sure every dollar is spent in the most prudent way possible.

Changing the world is not easy. But when you have the kind of programs that we do, where the results of the training are passed from trainer to organization to community, there is a powerful ripple effect. A recent external evaluation demonstrated that Equitas' international training and support was delivered for less than \$5 per beneficiary, making **Equitas' global program one of the most cost effective in the world.**



Equitas programs for children and youth in Canada have reached

31 communities

545 partner organisations

410,000 children and youth.

And trained

17,350 child and youth care workers.

As part of a *Speaking Rights* project, young Mohawks involved in the Kahnawake Shakotila'takenhas Community Services plant a white pine to promote respect in their community.



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Why I Give

I have had the pleasure of working as a facilitator at the *International Human Rights Training Program* five times.

Thanks to this program, Equitas has trained a huge global 'contingent' of brave men and women who are actively promoting human rights in their communities.

I am happy to support Equitas' mission of promoting social justice through my monthly donation.

Yves Rochon, Monthly Donor

Multiply the Impact of Your Support

Did you know you can increase and multiply the impact of your support by becoming a monthly donor? Donating monthly means you can spread out your donation over the year and thus make an overall much larger contribution. This is precious and much needed support.

Our goal this year is to welcome 50 new monthly donors to the Equitas family. Please be one of them!

With your help, we can do much more. Just think how the world might change if you could help replicate Borso's success in even more communities!

"Your continued support reinforces me in my engagement to raise awareness and contributes to changing mentalities and behaviors, from the youth up. I strongly encourage you to support Equitas, and help human rights defenders around the world in our efforts to make our communities, countries and this world a better and more just place." — Borso

Your support is so important, so vital, and so appreciated.

While our programs are having a considerable impact in many parts of the world, we simply *cannot* do it alone.

Brave human rights workers around the world are accomplishing miracles with so little. **During this holiday season, please help spread the miracles of equality and human rights.**

On behalf of Borso, her sister, and so many more — **Thank you.** May the holiday season bring you miracles, too.

Very sincerely,

Ian Hamilton
Executive Director

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P.S. Help us attain our goal of welcoming 50 new monthly donors to the Equitas family! Please consider making a **monthly tax-deductible donation**. Monthly giving is an easy way for you to generously support Equitas! You can also give the gift of stocks/securities—a great gift with great tax benefits.

P.P.S. **Be part of Giving Tuesday. Celebrate the holidays with Equitas! Giving Tuesday** takes place on December 3, right after Black Friday and Cyber Monday. The holidays can be about both giving and giving back. Giving Tuesday is a call to think about others. You can give the gift of human rights! Make a donation for a loved one and we will send them a beautiful card featuring Equitas alumni putting human rights education into action in Uganda.

For more information or to make a donation, visit our website www.equitas.org or call 514-954-0382 ext. 241.