

Lack of education

No decision making power

Threats to human rights workers

Threats to girls

Threats to minorities

Threats to gays

Lack of participation in civil society

Female genital cutting

Early forced marriage of young girls

Bullying

Aboriginal issues

Barriers to participation

No earning power for women

Lack of access to health care

Lack of skills

Feeling powerless

Dear Friend,

The list is daunting. Sometimes the challenges seem insurmountable. Women and girls feel powerless. Human rights workers and educators are in danger. Young people are excluded. Gays and lesbians are threatened. Minorities face discrimination. It is easy to get discouraged.

What can you do to make a difference?

By supporting Equitas, you empower people in Canada and around the world to improve themselves and their communities.

For almost 50 years, Equitas' education programs have been creating more inclusive and more equitable communities in Canada and around the world, where the rights of vulnerable groups are protected. We inspire and build the skills of human rights leaders, with thousands of alumni of our training programs leading local changes.

And **thanks to you, over 1.6 million people have benefitted** from our programs in over 100 countries during the last five years, and **over 500,000 children have benefitted** from our programs in Canada since 2006.

Equitas' award-winning *Play it Fair!* program, delivered in after-school programs and day camps, uses games and discussion to increase children's understanding of human rights, respect for diversity and peaceful conflict resolution. "During the past 2 weeks of camp, the difference between last year and this year has been like night and day", said a program manager from Ontario who uses *Play it Fair!* in his camp. What started as a pilot project in Montreal in 2004, *Play it Fair!* is now in 470 community organizations in 29 communities across the country and has reached hundreds of thousands of children. *Play it Fair!* is now being implemented in several Aboriginal communities and has also been piloted in the Middle East, Haiti and Indonesia.

“*Play it Fair!* is just about as good as it gets!”
Program Director, Winnipeg

For **\$10 a month**, you can help provide children in Canada with opportunities to learn about human rights values and to take responsibility for their actions.





Brian Bronfman

The Brian Bronfman Family Foundation supports human rights educators attending Equitas' International Human Rights Training Program.



Sandra Stephenson

Through her support, long-time donor Sandra Stephenson feels she is helping create a 'corner of the kind of world she wants'.

Join Us: Be Part of the Change

Continuing the Legacy

Brian Bronfman has a long family history of giving, dedicating his life to charitable and philanthropic work, and carrying on the legacy of his father Edward. In 2006, Brian founded his own foundation, which is focused on the creation of a more peaceful, non-violent, harmonious, and compassionate society.

To Brian, Equitas was a natural fit for his foundation. "Equitas does an excellent job of bridging the gap and making the concrete connection between peace-building and human rights," he explained. In 2012, Brian began to help participants attend Equitas' International Human Rights Training Program (IHRTP), and in 2014, he created the Brian Bronfman Family Foundation Annual Equitas IHRTP Bursary—to fully support one participant per year to attend the program. To date, Brian has helped 3 brave human rights educators attend this incredible program—from Burma, Iran and Palestine. These remarkable individuals return to their homes equipped to make tremendous change in their communities.

Creating a Better World

Starting with the Brownies movement, then overseas experience, volunteering and motherhood, **Sandra Stephenson** has grown to understand the importance of giving back. "I feel useful, influential, as if I have helped create a corner of the kind of world I want."

A former participant in the IHRTP in the 1980s, and now a college teacher, Sandra has been a long-time supporter of Equitas. Last year, when she realized that funding for the IHRTP had not yet been renewed, she felt compelled to act. She made what was for her a significant donation, and called upon her friends, colleagues and family to pitch in and help support one IHRTP participant, Kapalata from India (at right).

"In the case of giving to Equitas", Sandra says, "the job is easy. The people who come to Equitas are the hope of the planet."



"The International Human Rights Training Program gave me a window to the world, to feel more connected to the people of other countries and their challenges. It pushed my borders much further than only my country and gave me more reasons to think and act as a global human rights educator."

Najme
IHRTP participant from Iran



Making a World of Difference

For nearly half a century, Equitas has been at the forefront of global human rights education, working with dedicated and brave human rights workers, defenders and educators in Canada and around the world. Our work has enabled us to reach **over 1.6 million individuals in the past 5 years alone**, improving lives, improving communities and making a real difference for countless individuals.

YOUR SUPPORT is invaluable, enabling us to spread our impact across Canada and the world.

While we of course welcome major gifts, **any gift is truly valued and goes a very long way in promoting the important values that we as Canadians share.**

For only a few dollars a month, you can make a world of difference in our world. "Each month, we know that our financial support is adding to the ripple effect of Equitas' work in communities around the globe," say dedicated monthly donors Alison Hall and Denis Barsalo.

You can help Equitas empower young women and marginalized youth in the Middle East and North Africa

In a project in Jordan, youth used social media to engage in parliamentary elections; in Iraq, women were encouraged to vote independently; in the West Bank, girls helped establish a literacy centre for women; in Morocco, our partners worked for the right to education for girls and to improve the legal and social situation of single mothers.

In Sohag, Upper Egypt, Amina was one of 60 women who participated in an Equitas training activity. She comes from a family that does not believe in education for girls. Following her training she said that "...many girls in our society need to be supported to make them active in their community...my colleagues and I must continue after this activity".



Photo above: Thet Mon, from Burma, (on left) at the annual IHRTP BBQ with other participants from Malaysia, China and Kenya.

“ The Brian Bronfman Family Foundation IHRTP Bursary really helped me a lot... but it also helped my country... because I can apply this experience not only to myself and my organization, but to my country. Thank you Brian Bronfman for giving me this opportunity!”

*Thet Mon
IHRTP participant from Burma*



Photo right: Some of the 60 young women in Sohag, Egypt at the Equitas human rights education training.

Photo left: Participants at the 2013 IHRTP.



You can make a difference!

Every one of us wants the world to be a better place, dreams of leaving a more peaceful, equitable and just world for our children. But most of us aren't out there on the ground building schools and empowering children and youth and women. **By supporting Equitas, your dream of contributing to a better world is realized** – through our programs and partners.

Please support our work – join Brian, Sandra and others to help Equitas spread the dream of peace and equity across the globe. For only \$10/month **you can truly make a difference.**

This holiday you can also **share the gift of human rights education.** By dedicating a gift to a loved one, you are supporting Equitas' vital work, and your loved one will receive a beautiful card letting them know that a gift has been made in their honour. There are five beautiful cards to choose from.

For more information about giving the gift of human rights, making a monthly gift, or any other question, please visit our website www.equitas.org or call Ronit at 514-954-0382 ext. 241.

We need your support to ensure that we can continue to build a global culture of human rights. We can't do it alone and we want to do it with you! Brave human rights workers around the world are accomplishing miracles. Please join them!

Wishing you all the best during this holiday season.

In peace,



Ian Hamilton
Executive Director

P.S. Please consider making a **monthly tax-deductible donation.** Monthly giving is an easy way for you to generously support Equitas!

P.P.S. Celebrate the holidays by giving a gift of human rights. Make a donation in honour of a loved one. They will receive a beautiful card and you will be helping Equitas build a global culture of human rights!

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



GIVE the Gift of Human Rights!

Dedicate a donation to a loved one. They will receive a beautiful card and you will be helping Equitas spread the dream of peace and equity across the globe.

equitas

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