

5 December 2025



Unleashing Human Rights Révéler les Droits Humains

A forum to further universal human rights education for, with and by young people

9-11 December 2025, European Youth Centre Budapest

Un forum pour promouvoir l'éducation aux droits humains universels pour, avec et par les jeunes

9-11 décembre 2025, Centre européen de la jeunesse de Budapest

programme

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



 european
youth forum

WITH THE SUPPORT OF

THE EUROPEAN
WERGLAND
CENTRE 

 Global Campus
of Human Rights

 Kandersteg
International
Scout Centre

 Soka Gakkai
Buddhism in Action for Peace

Monday 8 December

Arrival of participants

21:00

Welcome drinks at the European Youth Centre Budapest

Tuesday 9 December - *From lessons to Legacy: Decades of Human Rights Education*

09:30

Opening of the Forum

Matjaž GRUDEN, Director for Democracy, Council of Europe

Francesco MOTTA, Regional Director, Regional Office for Europe, Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Nina GRMUŠA, Chair of the Joint Council on Youth, Council of Europe

Marie STRUTHERS, Director, Eastern Europe and Central Asia regional office, Amnesty International

10:30

Break

11:00

Panel discussion: The long arc of Human Rights Education

Manfred NOWAK, Secretary General, Global Campus of Human Rights

Ruxandra PANDEA, Senior Project Officer, Education, Training and Cooperation Division, Council of Europe

Elena IPPOLITI, Coordinator, Human Rights Education Unit, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Natalia KALLIO, Board Member, European Youth Forum

Kate MORIARTY, Head of Human Rights Education, Amnesty International

Followed by Q&A and audience interaction

13:00

Lunch at the European Youth Centre Budapest

15:00

Parallel working groups: achievements and lessons learnt in Human Rights Education

Including coffee break

17:00

Working groups outcomes

17:30

End of Day 1

Human Rights Education Fair

19:00

Dinner

Free evening

Wednesday 10 December - *Time to rethink?*

- 09:30 Feedback from Day 1 and video messages from:
Volker TÜRK, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
Michael O'FLAHERTY, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
- 09:45 Equality Is Not a Competition – It's a Right, Conversation with Caster SEMENYA, Olympic Champion, and Human Rights Advocate, facilitated by Payoshni MITRA, Executive Director, Humans of Sport
Followed by Q&A and audience interaction
- 10:30 Break
- 11:00 Panel discussion: Emerging challenges to Human Rights Education, and how to overcome them
Lisa MEAN, Mother Nature Cambodia
David VIG, Director, Amnesty Hungary
Lynda EMMANUEL, Senior Program Officer and Gender Focal Person, Mercy Corps, Nigeria
Esso-Dong KONGAH, Centre for Human Rights Documentation and training, Togo
Glenn MITOMA, Senior Lecturer, Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR), Columbia University
Andriy DONETS, Programme Coordinator, the European Wergeland Centre
Followed by Q&A and audience interaction
- 13:00 Lunch at the European Youth Centre Budapest
- 15:00 Parallel working groups
Including coffee break
Exploring, creating and sharing: Human rights themes and their implications for Human Rights Education practice
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- Ensuring social rights, including education and housing
-
- Environment and climate crisis
-
- Ensuring gender equality and LGBTQIA+ rights
-
- Digitalisation, including artificial intelligence
-
- Challenges with the rise of authoritarianism
-
- Working in shrinking civic space
-
- Combatting different forms of racism
-
- Peace and conflict resolution
-

- 16:30 Working groups outcomes
- 17:00 Marking Human Rights Day: Our Rights, Our Future: Human Rights Education for, with, and by youth across continents
- 18:30 End of Day 2
- 20:00 Reception to mark Human Rights Day

Thursday 11 December - *The Next Chapter: the Future of Human Rights Education*

- 09:30 Feedback from Day 2
How do we picture the future of Human Rights Education?
- 10:30 Break
- 11:00 Parallel working groups: What can I do next?
- 13:00 Lunch at the European Youth Centre Budapest
- 15:00 Parallel workshops organised by partners
Including coffee break
- 17:00 Committing to the future
Presentation by the Forum Rapporteur, Felisa TIBBITTS
Presentation of the Forum's messages
Closing remarks by the Organising partners:
Sergiu GURIN, Secretary of State for Youth and Sports of the Republic of Moldova, on behalf of Moldova's Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe
Elena IPPOLITI, Coordinator, Human Rights Education Unit, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
Ileana BELLO, Director General, Amnesty International Italy
Tobias FLESSENKEMPER, Head of the Youth Department, Council of Europe
- 18:00 Closing of the Forum
- 19:00 Dinner
- 21:00 Farewell party

Aims and objectives

The Human Rights Education Forum aims to reassess and affirm the potential of Human Rights Education towards a culture of peace and universal human rights by charting the contemporary status and role for human rights education, taking account of all its diverse forms and contexts. The Forum also aims to strengthen the commitment of the Council of Europe and the United Nations system to their shared agenda of support for the global community of practice concerned with educating *about, for, and through* human rights.

The objectives of the Forum are to:

- critically reflect on the achievements, practices, opportunities and challenges met by Human Rights Education today for addressing the global human rights concerns of young people and its adequacy as a response to the current human rights crisis.
- identify areas for innovation in, as well as potential resources for and policies supporting Human Rights Education, including strategies for mainstreaming in the youth and education sectors and for the development of a more enabling environment for Human Rights Education.
- encourage and motivate young people engaged in Human Rights Education and human rights activism to continue their work and to provide them with opportunities to finding partners and support for their efforts and advocacy to support the provision of and access to the right to Human Rights Education.
- identify appropriate approaches, good practice and key partnerships to support implementation of the fifth phase (2025-2029) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education of the United Nations dedicated to Human Rights Education for children and youth with a focus on digital technologies and human rights, gender equality, and environment and climate change.
- review lessons learned from 25 years of the implementation of the Human Rights Education Youth Programme of the Council of Europe and identify important directions for its further development including, considering key developments in the youth and education sectors of the Council of Europe as well as the New Democratic Pact for Europe.
- strengthen the connections between the programme of the Council of Europe youth and education sectors regarding Human Rights Education and those of the World Programme for Human Rights Education of the United Nations.
- foster international cooperation, solidarity and partnership building among stakeholders of Human Rights Education as a contribution to supporting the resilience and solidarity of the community of practice.

The Forum's conclusions will contribute to a shared agenda for Human Rights Education at the global level that addresses, among others, the agendas of achieving gender equality, combating climate crisis and environmental injustices and digitalisation.