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Budapest, 24 March 2026

## CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Deadline to apply: **19 April 2026, 23:59 CET**



# COMPASS Training in Human Rights Education

Initial e-learning modules from May to September 2026

Residential 8-day seminar **29 September – 6 October 2026**  
European Youth Centre Budapest

Follow-up activities, including e-learning (October-December 2026)

Organised in cooperation with the  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights



## BACKGROUND OF THE TRAINING COURSE

There is an increasing global consensus on the fundamental contribution of human rights education to people's (and particularly, young people's) participation in decision-making processes within democratic systems, the prevention of violence and conflict and the promotion of equality and sustainable development.

On 10 December 2004, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly proclaimed, through its resolution 59/113, the [World Programme for Human Rights Education](#), to advance national implementation of human rights education in all sectors. The Programme seeks to promote a common understanding of basic principles and methodologies of human rights education, provide a concrete framework for action and strengthen cooperation from the international level to the grass roots. It is structured in consecutive 5-year phases; the current fifth phase (2025-2029), launched by the UN Human Rights Council through its resolution 57/10, is dedicated to children and youth, with a focus on human rights education in three thematic areas: digital technologies and human rights, gender equality, and environment and climate change. The related plan of action outlines the scope, background, specific objectives and actions for implementation.

Beyond the World Programme, UN Member States have also taken the initiative to develop a human rights education normative instrument; it is the [UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training](#), adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2011. The 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of its adoption will be celebrated by the UN Human Rights Council with a High-Level Panel in September 2026.

Building on these global commitments, the work on human rights education of the Council of Europe's Youth Department touches on the essence of the Council of Europe in promoting a culture of human rights in Europe and is carried out through the [Human Rights Education Youth Programme](#), created to support the mainstreaming of human rights education in youth work and youth policy.

With the adoption of the [Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education](#) in 2010, emphasis is given to the role of member states of the Council of Europe in making human rights education a reality for every person in Europe and the importance of quality education to promote human rights, democracy and rule of law, the core values of the institution. The Charter provides the basis for advancing human rights education at local and regional level by defining objectives and principles applying to policy, legislation and practice. The work of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe supports the implementation of the Charter by providing youth organisations, youth leaders and young people throughout Europe with tools that could help them in their projects and activities relating to human rights and human rights education.

The Human Rights Education Youth Programme is included in the "Anchoring democratic values in European societies" programme and budget approved by the Committee of Ministers for 2024-2027 and it plays a central role in the [2030 Strategy of the youth sector](#). It safeguards its key features:

- Dissemination and update of the educational resources for human rights education
- Advocacy for the inclusion of human rights education and recognition of the role of non-formal learning therein
- Maintaining the community of practice of trainers and multipliers and supporting the qualitative development of training for human rights education
- Supporting key national activities for multipliers and advocates for human rights education through the programme of national and regional training courses for human rights education with young people.

The key elements of the Human Rights Education Youth Programme are:

- Within this programme, a manual on human rights education with young people, the [Compass](#) manual on human rights education with young people was first published in 2002, fully revised

in 2012, and translated and published in various languages within Member States of the Council of Europe.

- Another key element is the annual programme of [Compass national or regional training courses on human rights education](#) as strategic activities encouraging advocacy and cooperation in the implementation of the right to human rights education for young people.
- Training of trainers and multipliers (such as [Council of Europe Training in Human Rights Education \(TOTRE\)](#) and [Training course with Multipliers for Human Rights Education with Young People \(LIVING COMPASS\)](#)) that in the past decade have enabled participants to play a key role in developing networks and communities of practice in the member states and beyond.
- The programme also includes activities directly carried out by youth organisations, such as [study sessions](#) carried out by youth organisations in cooperation with the European Youth Centres.

As part of the global movement for human rights education, the Human Rights Education Youth Programme supports the implementation of the [World Programme for Human Rights Education](#) and contributes to the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4](#) which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Accordingly, the Council of Europe cooperates closely with the [Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\)](#), which provides global coordination of the World Programme. OHCHR's methodological guidance on human rights training, including for youth, is embedded in "[From Planning to Impact: A Manual on Human Rights Training Methodology](#)" (2019) and, since 2020, OHCHR has cooperated with the Council of Europe in the context of five editions of training of trainers and multipliers.

Occupying a central place in the Human Rights Education Youth Programme and the World Programme for Human Rights Education, the **Training in Human Rights Education (THRE)** prepares trainers and multipliers with the aim to multiply and advocate for the Human Rights Education approaches and standards at local, national and international level. Furthermore, it supports the quality and sustainability of training activities for human rights education at national level.

The THRE supports the implementation of the Charter on EDC/HRE through building the competences of trainers to develop and apply quality human rights education activities with young people at national/local levels and to advocate for the further mainstreaming of human rights education in youth policy and youth work.

The THRE also plays a central role in localising human rights education with young people, as confirmed by the [Roadmap for education for democratic citizenship and human rights education with young people \(2024-2028\)](#) adopted by the Joint Council on Youth in October 2023. Through enabling participants to undertake further action for human rights and human rights education, THRE contributes to implementing principles such as "the importance of education to give children and young people the necessary references to grow up embracing our democratic values in culturally diverse societies", underlined in the [Council of Europe's Reykjavik Declaration](#).

The THRE draws its conceptualisation from the outcomes of the "[Unleashing Human Rights](#)" Forum, held in Budapest in December 2025 co-organised with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Forum highlighted the urgent need to build the capacities of educators and practitioners by sharing innovative strategies, supporting resilience, and fostering inclusive, transformative learning environments. Drawing on the insights and recommendations generated during the Forum, this course aims to equip participants with practical tools, participatory methodologies, and up-to-date knowledge to implement effective human rights education within their local contexts.

## **Training in Human Rights Education 2026**

The 2026 edition of THRE will be held between May and December. It will build on the experiences with human rights education of the past years and incorporate the conclusions and recommendations

of the [Roadmap for education for democratic citizenship and human rights education with young people \(2024-2028\)](#) and of the “Unleashing Human Rights” Forum.

The training process will consist of three phases:

1. **Building foundations** - an initial e-learning phase (May-September 2026)
2. **Empowering change** - a residential 8-day training course to be held at the European Youth Centre Budapest from 29 September to the 6 October 2026 (*arrival date 28 September, departure date 7 October*).
3. **Enacting impact** – as follow-up activities, including e-learning (October-December 2026)

The course is organised in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In this context, for the 2026 edition, beyond participants from the Council of Europe’s Member States, the course will be open to participants from the Middle East and North African region.

## Aim

This training course aims at developing the competences of participants to act as trainers and multipliers for human rights education in the context of local, national or regional activities and projects with young people, making use of Compass and supporting the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education, the UN World Programme for Human Rights Education and the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training.

## Objectives

- O1. To strengthen participants’ understanding of key concepts of human rights and human rights education with young people.
- O2. To review and address the essential competences, skills and attitudes for multipliers and advocates working with human rights education in non-formal learning settings.
- O3. To familiarise participants with the approaches and activities of Compass and with how to best use it and adapt it to local contexts and realities.
- O4. To analyse current developments and new trends in human rights education, including online learning and activism.
- O5. To connect the participants and their organisations with the priorities of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe related to human rights education and to the implementation of the United Nations World Programme on Human Rights Education.

## Profile of participants

The course is designed for participants who are:

- trainers or facilitators in non-formal education, especially within youth organisations and associations, in youth work activities and in other NGOs concerned with human rights education;
- young leaders involved in human rights education through youth work activities and in other NGOs concerned with human rights education;
- teachers or teacher trainers with a multiplying role within formal education systems interested in introducing non-formal learning methodologies in their activities on HRE;
- Youth workers, human rights activists, volunteers experienced in and intending to function as multipliers and advocates for human rights education at local, national or international level.

All participants must also:

- be able to work in English
- be aged between 18-30 years old, exceptions can be made if justified
- be resident of one of the countries state parties to the European Cultural Convention or, with regards to the OHCHR collaboration, national of a country in the North Africa and Middle East (MENA) region
- be supported by a youth organisation or institution within which they can act as multipliers of HRE
- already have experience in working with young people
- be able and committed to act as multipliers in HRE as a result of the course
- be motivated to develop their competences in human rights education and to share their experiences with other participants
- be committed to attend for the full duration of the course, including the preparatory and follow-up phases (approximately 2 hours per week during Phases 1 and 3)
- be interested and able to develop and implement human rights education project with young people. All participants in the training course are expected to implement HRE projects or programmes as relevant, such as national training courses in human rights education, translation and dissemination of Compass, advocacy projects on human rights education or others as a follow-up of their participation in the course.

The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the specific profile of the activities, irrespective of any ground for discrimination.

### Competences to be developed through the course

The course contents and methodology are designed so that the participants will be able to develop (or begin developing) core competences for trainers and multipliers in human rights education with young people. The list of competences below will be the reference for planning and monitoring learning in the course:

- C1. Knowledge of major instruments for the protection and promotion of human rights and the ability to connect them with the lives of young people.
- C2. The capacity to converse and to facilitate conversations on global and contemporary human rights threats and challenges.
- C3. The ability to introduce human rights education as an educational concept in an autonomous and credible way.
- C4. Awareness about human rights violations and abuses at both global and local level, and the ability to act upon them using human rights education.
- C5. Knowledge about the relevant programmes and instruments of the Council of Europe for youth and human rights education and ability to connect with global initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the World Programme for Human Rights Education.
- C6. Critical thinking skills and the ability to understand multiple perspectives on contemporary human rights issues and dilemmas.
- C7. The capacity to recognise and address the values and ethical norms underlying human rights education.
- C8. The capacity to address the needs and aspirations of young people.
- C9. The capacity to be an advocate for human rights education and to liaise with stakeholders concerned with the promotion of human rights education at a regional, national and local level.
- C10. Intercultural learning competences, including empathy, tolerance of ambiguity, and distance to social roles when facilitating activities from Compass.
- C11. The ability to use Compass including the adaptation of its activities taking into consideration local realities, social contexts and the needs of target groups.
- C12. The ability to constructively deal with conflict in the context of human rights education activities.
- C13. The capacity to develop and manage human rights education activities following the quality standards for education and training activities of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe and of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

C14. Understanding key principles of non-formal education and their application in human rights education.

C15. Knowledge and understanding of different approaches to learning.

C16. The capacity to assess and evaluate the results of human rights education activities and programmes.

C17. The ability to work co-operatively.

C18. The capacity to design and deliver human rights education activities.

C19. The ability to facilitate learning processes in non-formal education based on Compass.

C20. The ability to recognise and translate human rights value framework into personal, social and professional actions.

C21. The ability to plan own learning.

## Methodology and structure of the course

The course is designed to give participants the opportunity to experience and reflect upon activities and concepts central to human rights education based on learner-centred and experiential learning approaches. It is also designed as a mutual learning situation, where participants can compare their approaches to training and to human rights education across Europe and beyond in a dialogical intercultural approach and environment. Contributions from experts in the field of human rights will establish a theoretical framework and a common reference point for learning and communication, and there will be opportunities to learn by using Compass. The course is also built around the expectation that participants will put in practice their learning by developing and implementing a human rights education project throughout the course. The e-learning and follow-up phases are a full part of the course structure and approach, even if the training seminar at the European Youth Centre Budapest remains the most important and visible phase.

### Phase 1 Building foundations – e-learning preparing and developing a common knowledge basis (May-September 2026)

This phase will support participants to acquire core knowledge on human rights and human rights education which will be further addressed in the residential seminar. This phase includes also work with self-assessment of competences and personal learning planning. Participants need to commit around 2-3 hours per week to the e-learning phase before the seminar. *Full participation in this phase is a pre-condition to be invited for the residential seminar.*

### Phase 2 Empowering change - the residential training seminar (29 September – 6 October 2026)

The seminar is an important moment for learning and skills developments within the training: the educational team and participants work together face-to-face in an intercultural environment where intensive group work supports individual learning. Participants will experience and explore activities and approaches from Compass as a starting point for learning further about human rights education. The seminar will take into account the evaluation of phase 1 and will involve design of human rights education projects and activities towards phase 3.

### Phase 3 Enacting change - follow-up activities including e-learning (October-December 2026)

This phase will consolidate learning of participants through their follow-up projects and activities, supported by the network of participants and trainers. Some new learning units will be proposed based on individual needs and priorities of participants. Participants need to commit around 2-3 hours per two weeks to the e-learning phase before the seminar.

## Application, procedure and selection of participants

Applications must be submitted through: <https://forms.office.com/e/4Jw3sgwdVt>

Applications must be accompanied by a letter of support from their sending organisation/institution, to be uploaded on the platform. This letter should clearly state why the organisation thinks the candidate

is suitable for the course; how their participation will benefit the organisation and that it is ready to support the applicant in the organisation of the human rights education project or activity. In case of several applicants from the same organisation, the support letter should indicate the priority of the applicants.

The Council of Europe and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will select up to 30 participants on the basis of the profile outlined above. They will try as far as possible to respect the organisations' priorities, but also to ensure a balance between genders, geographical distribution, different types of experiences, cultural backgrounds and organisations, institutions and projects. A waiting list may be established. Candidates will be informed whether their application has been accepted or rejected, and if they have been put on the waiting list, by 4 May 2026.

The full application form including the support letter from sending organisation must be submitted online with the support letters **before 19 April 2026, 23:59 (CET)**.

### **Financial and practical conditions of participation**

#### **Travel expenses**

Travel expenses and visa fees for the training seminar in Budapest will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe or, for the participants from the MENA region, according to UN rules. Only the participants who attend the entire training seminar can be reimbursed.

#### **Accommodation**

Board and lodging for the residential training seminar will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre Budapest. The European Youth Centres are accessible to people with disabilities and can take measures to accommodate for any access needs of participants in this respect. Please provide the necessary information in your application form.

#### **Enrolment fee**

An enrolment fee of **72 Euros** is payable by each participant. This amount will be deducted from the amount to be reimbursed for travel expenses or paid at the EYCB during the residential seminar.

#### **Working languages**

English will be the working language of the training course, both for e-learning and the residential training seminar. Participants are required to be able to express themselves autonomously in English.

### **Further information**

For any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Youth Department of the Council of Europe at [eyc.programme@coe.int](mailto:eyc.programme@coe.int).

**The deadline for applications is 19 April 2026, 23:59 CET**