



# 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

## JOY IS RESISTANCE



AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



european  
youth forum



THE EUROPEAN  
WERGELAND  
CENTRE



Global Campus  
of Human Rights



Kandersteg  
International  
Scout Centre



Soka Gakkai  
Buddhism in Action for Peace

“Unleashing Human Rights” is not a catchphrase, nor is it just the title of this Human Rights Education Forum. This message captures our vision, our concerns, and our commitment to ensuring that Human Rights Education remains bold, inclusive, and transformative for the future. 2025 is a landmark year for human rights and for the Human Rights Education Youth Programme of the Council of Europe and the World Programme for Human Rights Education of the United Nations. It marks decades of progress, commitment, and innovation at international and national levels. As a community, our collective mission has and continues to be the creation of a world in which all human beings are born and can live free and equal in dignity and rights.

Yet, we stand at a moment of risk and opportunity that demands clarity, courage, conviction and honesty. The legacy of past achievements must be honoured, the challenges of today faced with courage and solidarity, and the future shaped by our collective will for justice, dignity, and inclusion.

Human rights cannot be fully realised without Human Rights Education. Human Rights Education is not a supplement. It is not an add-on. It is the foundation and the DNA of a culture of democracy and human rights. Learning human rights is an act of protection and a practice of collective resilience. It empowers individuals to reclaim agency in the face of injustice, and it strengthens communities to respond to challenges together.

**We reaffirm that Human Rights Education is a right, not a privilege.**

**We affirm that Human Rights Education is emancipatory.** It exposes the systemic inequalities that shape our world and gives power to those otherwise unheard. It nurtures solidarity by affirming our collective responsibility to one another and the planet. It cultivates intergenerational commitment and social cohesion, elevating respect for all.

**We affirm that every human rights educator is a human rights defender.** Human rights educators everywhere, whether in classrooms, communities, youth centers, informal and digital spaces, play a vital role in advancing human rights. We demand safety, support, recognition, and resources, particularly in contexts where speaking about human rights is discouraged, weaponised and suppressed. Human Rights Education is a stabilising force: strengthening our collective resilience against misinformation, exclusion, and narratives that undermine human dignity.

**We affirm our determination to face the challenges of our time.** Too many among us are forced to do Human Rights Education while being bombed, forcibly displaced, living through genocide, conflict and violence. Too many among us have been surveilled, socially isolated, threatened, attacked and imprisoned. Too many among us have had their rights violated for simply being who we are. Too many among us live in societies in which the legacy of harm done by colonialism continues to negatively affect daily life.

For justice to prevail, the crimes of the past and of the present must be acknowledged and accounted for.

**We carry with us the understanding that Human Rights are universal, inalienable, interdependent and indivisible.** Yet we see that these principles are challenged by persistent economic, social, and gendered inequalities and the erasure of certain identities. Recognising and making these contradictions visible is necessary to change systems of oppression and injustice. Furthermore, we feel the emotional weight of seeking justice from a Human Rights protection system that still lacks the mechanisms and consideration to deliver the justice we want. Human Rights Education has a fundamental role to play in transforming that system.

*Therefore,*

**We call on the United Nations and the Council of Europe** to strengthen institutions and accountability. The Council of Europe, the United Nations and their respective member States must strengthen and upscale their Human Rights Education programmes to ensure the full realisation of the Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, and the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education, in line with their commitments.

**We call on local, national and international authorities** to strengthen and, where necessary, to build supportive systems for Human Rights Education. For the Human Rights Education ecosystem to grow stronger, we need stable, well-resourced structures of support. This must include policies that recognize the essential role of civil society and the research community in developing and delivering quality Human Rights Education. These policies must translate into structural resources, namely financial support for grassroots initiatives, youth-led work, youth centers, public institutions and other spaces that make Human Rights Education possible.

**We call on local, national and international authorities** to ensure Human Rights Education is present and accessible in all educational settings, from formal to informal; from early childhood to life-long learning. Non-formal education and youth work must be properly recognised, resourced and integrated into national Human Rights Education strategies to ensure inclusive, continuous learning pathways.

**We call on local, national and international authorities** to ensure access, inclusion and safety in Human Rights Education. Structural barriers to participation in Human Rights Education must be removed. No one should be denied participation because of who they are or because of their circumstances. Inclusivity should be a foundation of Human Rights Education. Every person, irrespective of "race", colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, language, religion or belief, political affiliation, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation and other personal characteristics or status, should be able to access Human Rights Education and participate in safety.

**We call on all Human Rights Educators** to root Human Rights Education in lived experiences and local realities. This requires decolonising and localising practices, engaging the communities facing rights violations in the co-creation of context-specific programmes that reflect local knowledge and history. These programmes must be available in languages that are accessible to the communities concerned.

**We call on all Human Rights Educators** to future-proof Human Rights Education for contemporary challenges. Educators must face up to and address historical, current and emerging issues, however sensitive and difficult. Reflective practice, including learning from past mistakes, should strengthen the critical thinking of learners and practitioners. As a community of practice, it is upon us to reach beyond our comfort zone to embrace new and unconventional approaches, methods and resources, to seek unlikely partnerships, and to engage new allies.

**We call on all Human Rights Educators** to uphold youth agency and participation. Educators must advocate for the meaningful involvement of young people and the civil society in decisions regarding Human Rights Education policy, and sustained support for Human Rights Education initiatives.

**We call on all members of the community of practice to commit to a shared and sustainable future.** Duty bearers, educators and all stakeholders of the Human Rights Education field must secure long-term political commitment for Human Rights Education. Strengthening cooperation, expanding access and investing in Human Rights Education communities are essential. It is only in allyship that we will succeed.

**Together**, we affirm that Human Rights Education is essential.

**Together**, we commit to protecting, strengthening and expanding it.

**Together**, we continue the work.

**Together**, we stay the course.