



Inauguration of
New HHRC Branch

We are all Born **FREE & EQUAL** (UDHR Art 1)



Human Rights Walk



HRE Gives New Path to the Young Generation

Human Rights Education

Together for Peace



International Human Rights Day Celebration at Netherlands by IARF Dutch Chapter



“Introductory Chapter event to introduce HRE in the town of Kitale in western Kenya” and the Group Photo in the South Nyanza Province.



Launching New HRRC Branch at Chennai, India

About Us

Human Rights Resource Centre (HRRC) is an integral part of International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF), works in partnership with the congregation of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (SHJ), India.

It is registered under the Angelo Educational & Social Development Society, A.P- Society No. 329 of 1998. The HRRC is administered by the young adults (RFYN) to:

- create and distribute Human Rights Education (HRE) resources
- train activists, professionals, and students as human rights educators
- build advocacy networks to encourage effective practices in human rights education
- support the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education
- protect and promote women and children's rights
- monitor and evaluate compliance with international, regional & national human rights standards

The HRRC is working with various communities to address current discrimination and to develop preventative approaches to building a culture for human rights in India. During the past seven years, the IARF has facilitated its Training on Human Rights Education in which 8,240 young adults and students were trained for the promotion and protection of human rights in India and Bangladesh.

*“IARF holds ECOSOC General Consultative Status at the **United Nations**”*

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Celebration of United Nations Day at Times Square

24 October 2013 – Marking the 68th birthday of the United Nations, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the annual celebration offers a chance to recognize the invaluable contributions of the Organizations to peace and common progress.

“It is a time to reflect on what more we can do to realize our vision for a better world,” Mr. Ban said in his message for the day, observer on 24 October, the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. It was with the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, that the UN Officially came into being. Mr. Ban said that this year again, the world witnessed the UN coming together on armed conflict, human rights, the environment and many other issues. “We continue to show what collective action can do. We can do even more,” he stated. “In a world that is more connected, we must be more united.”

Mr. Ban called the fighting in Syria the biggest security challenge, while the most urgent development challenge is to make sustainability a reality. “The Millennium development Goals have cut poverty in half. Now we must maintain the momentum craft an equally inspiring post – 2015 development agenda and reach an agreement on climate change.”

Message from the Director



Albert Xaviour SHJ
HRRC

Human Rights protection has become one of the essential services for our current competitive globalizing society. And Human Rights Education (HRE) is therefore a primary need for young adults. To advance our education system, universities and educational institutions should be taking steps voluntarily toward making HRE a compulsory subject.

On 10 December 2013 the United Nations celebrated its 20th year of adoption of a historic document in Vienna: In December 1993 the General Assembly created the mandate of High Commissioner Promotion & Protection of All Human Rights. It included key formulations such as “*Human Rights are universal, and it is mandatory for the committed States to promote and protect of Human Rights, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems*”. UN General Secretary Ban Ki Moon has said recently: “Promoting human rights is one of the core purposes of the United Nations”.

But while many non-governmental organisations undertake activities toward safeguarding human rights under international law, statistics show that many such activities have not reached the common man. It can be argued that HRE at the formative levels – schools, undergraduate colleges – will hugely strengthen efforts at universal legal protection of rights. Basic training of young adults on human rights, and addressing their own rights issues as a priority, can underwrite faster social development. However this HRE for the young generations must begin with training of their professors, teachers and lecturers, who will provide them the basis for taking action to help enforce those laws which exist in 130 countries against sexual abuse, domestic violence and many other human rights violations.

Let us therefore, in working for these HRE goals, be **together for Peace**, and become the Human Rights Defenders who will make the difference in our communities.



Thank you very much for the first edition of the Quarterly News Bulletin of IARF Human Rights Resource Centre (IARF-HRRC), India. Your enthusiasm and commitment in promoting Human Rights Education to present-day youth through the IARF-HRRC is highly laudable. I do congratulate you for your marvellous efforts in social development using the power of youth.

Though there are many organization and resources to upload Human Rights and extend knowledge about it to the students, youth, and deserving section of society, I hope the IARF Human Rights Resource Centre established at Angelo Institute, Kirikera, in Hindupur will make a difference in its initiatives, especially in addressing the issues of the local poor and the neglected youth in and around Hindupur at the first level; then, in extending its scope and span throughout the State of Andhra Pradesh; and, at large, the whole nation. I wish you all the best and assure you of my prayers.



Rev. Bro. A. Victordass SHJ
Superior General, BSH, India

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Human Rights Resource Centre – Events

Launching new HRRC Branch at Chennai to educate thousands of young adults on Human Rights in Tamilnadu

The IARF-HRRC aims at change in attitudes of young adults across communities via Human Rights Education training programs. To achieve this mission, IARF's youth wing RFYN last year launched a Human Rights Resource Centre (HRRC) at Hindupur, A.P. (August 8, 2013).

And this awareness-raising campaign has now reached into Tamilnadu, as we grew with a first HRRC branch outside Chennai: With the effort and support of IARF International Council member Adv.

Rengapashyam, the Chennai RFYN opened a second HRRC centre at Sri Venkateshwara College of Engineering and Technology, Chennai, on November 6, 2013.

Bro. Albert Xaviour said in his introductory speech "The young adult needs human rights training to pursue a bright career". They are interested in becoming Human Rights Defenders, and willing to commit themselves to human rights activities. "So now it is our duty to make use of this young blood, and provide them enough knowledge on

Human Rights to bring peace in the society”.



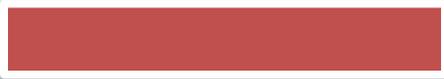
Young adults should bring Human Rights news and issues to the attention of the State Human Rights Commission



Dr. Vasudevan, Sri Venkateswara College chairman, said the College had not experienced any student-related problems or human rights violations since its foundation. They are very happy to give an office to IARF for a Human Rights Resource Centre, through which programs can be provided in and around Chennai to prevent violations.

In the inaugural address, Judge K. Baskaran, Tamilnadu Human Rights Commission chairman, appreciated the launch of a Human Rights Education office near Chennai. He said “the State Commission supports the public to avoid human rights violations”. He requested the students to bring news and issues related human rights to the attention of the State Human Rights Commission.

IARF International Council member Adv. Rengapashyam then motivated young adult leaders to organise many programs in and around Chennai to awaken the masses who do not possess any knowledge about their rights. He also further stressed the need and importance of Moral Education among students for values, virtues and discipline toward a better society based in Peace and Harmony.



Human Rights Education

HRE declares a commitment to those human rights expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948, the UN Covenants, and the United States Bill of Rights. These assert the responsibility to respect, protect, and promote the rights of all people.

HRE promotes democratic principles. It examines human rights issues without bias and from diverse perspectives through a variety of educational practices.

HRE helps to develop the communication skills and informed critical thinking essential to a democracy. It provides multicultural and historical perspectives on the universal struggle for justice and dignity.

HRE engages the heart as well as the mind. It challenges students to ask what human rights mean to them personally and encourages them to translate caring into informed, nonviolent action.

HRE affirms the interdependence of the human family. It promotes understanding of the complex global forces that create abuses, as well as the ways in which abuses can be abolished and avoided.



Human Rights Education at Christuraja Teacher Training College, Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu

A two-day intensive Human Rights Education training program was organised at Christuraja Teacher Training College, Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu, INDIA, on 2nd & 3rd Oct 2013. A total 63 male and female participants from three religions participated, a mix of graduates, postgraduates and secondary school-qualified. During the open discussion they were asked to share current social problems disturbing

daily life in their community. 80% reported the main issue to be caste discrimination. Two instances were given: One narrates a story of two lovers – the girl from a high caste the boy a lower caste, which is unlawful for those ‘safeguarding’ the high caste; hence the boy was brutally murdered by the girl’s relatives near Vallanadu, Tuticorin District, Tamilnadu.

The second incident arose from communal violence in which many lost their lives – or, sacrificed them fighting for their communities. A critical situation between two communities in a village near Kanyakumari, Tamilnadu, caused much bloodshed, after a boy from a BC (Backward Class) community criticised a girl from an MBC (Most Backward Class) in the public bus. This upset the whole village and created a violent confrontation between villagers.

“Caste System creates unnecessary tension among young adults; need to overcome it”

Violence under the banner of caste is a very challenging aspect of custom in south Tamilnadu. A little change is occurring in the cities, but castetism is deep-rooted in the rural areas. Every year the number of victims increases, proportionately to the Indian population's increase.



Discussion on Women Discrimination & Abortion, during the HRE Training at St. Anne's College, Bangalore.

During the two-day Human Rights Education training at St. Anne's PU College, Bangalore on 19th & 20th November 2013, participants were

given opportunity to share various issues they have encountered. The main issue discussed was discrimination against women in

India, especially in Bangalore. The facilitator briefly explained current social problems and human rights violations in India.

As discussion topics, participants proposed “sexual torture of women”, abortion, and child abuse.

Sexual torture of women

Violation of women is daily news in India. After the 2012 Delhi gang rape story, though the Indian government has taken up new policies and amendments to protect Women’s Rights, there is still no change found or experienced. All the human rights and other related training programs speak about violation and lack of women’s empowerment in India, but there is no remedy as yet. During the long discussion on this topic, participants gave a few reasons for violation of women in India:

- a) Dress code, especially western wear which is uncommon in India, and expensive jewels
- b) Walking or traveling alone late night in lonely places
- c) Lack of security in India

- d) Family problems
- e) The psychology of men who commit the crime due to childhood issues.



Abortion

Sexual relationships before marriage may increase the rate of abortion in India. 95% takes place in urban areas, and the major reason is migration of young people from rural to urban areas for education and jobs. The young generation overcome the great resistance of families and move to cities in search of luxurious life. They get involved in relationships which result in unplanned pregnancy, which then ends with abortion. Based on this the participants shared the following causes of abortion and suggested remedies to avoid it:

- a. Sex before marriage
- b. Media impact among young adults
- c. Less satisfaction in family life
- d. No trust in relationships, lack of understanding and patience
- e. Inter-religion and inter-caste relationships

- a. Awareness of Human Rights and human life;
- b. Encouraging love marriage;
- c. Proper understanding between parents and children;
- d. Need of sex education and moral sessions for young adults.

To overcome these causes, participants suggested the following:



We need to come together to fight for human rights, say St. Mary's College students

The Tuticorin District has seen a painful Human Rights violation recently – an engineering college principal was killed by students as reprisal for asking them not to bunk lectures. This was discussed by participants in the training program.

They discussed the boldness that students would have to kill their Principal inside the campus, and listed a few reasons for the murder:

- The professors and principal should not have used harsh words in scolding the students. An assertive request would have been better; an

opportunity for the students should have been given to avoid bad behaviour. Respect for the students and their individuality is necessary.

- Instead of punishing the students, the principal could have encouraged them to get involved in extracurricular activities.
- It would be good to have Human Rights Education and other value-related education for students as extracurricular activities.

About the behaviour of the students, participants said:

- Students should respect their educators like their parents.
- Instead getting into violence, they can share with Department Heads, professors, parents or NGOs.
- If a student is affected by some issues, other students should come forward to help, instead of mocking.

The second issue raised was the bundle of skin diseases caused among those living near the plant of chemical company Sterlite & SPIC Ltd., which releases SO₂ that turns rainwater into acid rain. Best efforts best to stop this have been blocked by the company's influence on decision-makers.

The participants said they would like to gather their peers to protest against this, to secure a healthy life for people in this district.





This two days HRE program was very good. It was very useful for my life. I learned unknown information about human rights. The ice-breaking session was very good. I want to join in your programs always. I want to protect the society from discrimination based on caste, creed, language, colour etc. I want to involve in these kinds of programs.

A. Lilly Pushpam

The HRE session taken by you was very interesting. Through this I came to know more new information's about Human rights. I have read about human rights in the books, but no one handled this subject with more confident way. We cannot forget these two days sessions. It taught us about UDHR and made us to be happy. I also thank God for this opportunity. If I got an opportunity to speak about human rights, I will start my speech with IARF and about you.

R. Shanmugathai

It started with an excitement and interesting thoughts within me to

start this session. As it started, knowing about ourselves and others brought our fellow mates closer. Going on is outstanding session and we got to learn more about human rights and also other values. The presentation was simply brilliant. It gave us more knowledge about unity in group and how can we work together for human rights. I am really very happy about the HRRC facilitators for making these two days memorable one...

Seema B.R Gauda

I spent a great time in this session. I got to know more about human rights. The sessions were not so boring because of various joyful activities. The best use of time was done. There was a good presentation of all rights using videos. We got a better opportunity to think about our rights. The drawback was that a very few did not get opportunity to speak. So I want share my knowledge on human rights with my family and friends and try to avoid the violation of human rights

Sowmya. M

This session was really interesting. I really did not expect it would be so

good and interesting. This session gave me more knowledge about my rights. Through this session I gained a lot of knowledge and also came to know my rights. I am definitely going to share my experience on human rights to as many as I can and I will also ensure that people gets their basic rights. I would like to thank my lecturers for giving me such a great opportunity to take part in this session. I also would like to thank the HRRC facilitators by whom I got to know more about Human Rights and as well as my own rights, which I was not aware.

Ambarly Fathima

At the very outset, I would like to thank you for this wonderful Human Right Education program. After this training program I came to know 'how foolish I was? It increased my interest within 2 days. It's a miracle. The way the facilitators presented was too good, and I am so excited that I am also part of HRRC now. I assure HRRC

that I will give my best to the people on Human Rights and I will fight for that till my life ends. Once again I thank HRRC for this wonderful opportunity and I am sure it is going to take me to other journey of this world.

Sutha. G

This was the first training program for me, which was not boring and actively participated. Every information I was up to the point and I was able to share some of my views on human right violations. Usually I never volunteer myself for any activity, but it was the first program, I come forward to volunteer myself for the Human Rights programs and in which I also attended very actively. Now I am having courage to go to any place to spread the information about human rights. I am feeling really great and proud of myself today. Thanks for HRRC making our day very informative and useful.

S.R. Sarawin



How valuable?
(Value humanity).

International Human Rights Day Events

IARF Dutch Chapter celebrates Human Rights Day

In Netherlands, 10th December is one of the “dark days before Christmas”, as they are popularly called. Days are short and clouds hang low, the sun doesn't rise too high above the horizon and before long it starts setting again. Amnesty International (Dutch Chapter) has therefore chosen well to mark Human Rights Day by holding torch vigils throughout the country. These events have been held for many decades now and have become the best known and most popular feature of the day. In addition, many NGOs, university departments, church groups and social welfare institutes run programmes with films, lectures or debates about human rights issues.

Presentation of the National Action Plan

This year, the Dutch government has joined in to mark the 65th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the UN with a programme which included speeches by the minister of the interior Dr. R.H.A. Plasterk and the chair of the HR college Mrj. L.J.L. Koster. Its object was the presentation of the government's first *Human Rights Action Plan*.

65th Anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

See inside cover, top photos:

Left image - IARF Dutch Chapter members Annelies Trenning (centre) and Wytske Dijkstra (right) at the presentation of the government's Human Rights Action Plan, to which IARF has contributed.

At left, former justice minister Hirsch Ballin.

Right-hand image, chair of the Human Rights College Mrj. L.J.L. Koster.

This plan has come about as a result of recommendations received during the United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UPR). During this review, it became apparent that the Dutch government, while seeking to uphold the highest standards regarding fundamental human rights throughout its legislation and in all its services, actually never had put to paper a policy for safeguarding and promoting these rights in the Netherlands. A policy has now been formulated in the new National Action Plan, in which specific targets have been pinpointed and a selection of priorities listed.

Involvement of IARF

IARF Dutch Chapter (NLG) is one of the NGOs asked to provide input for the first draft of the government report that was eventually presented to the U.N. Human Rights Council during the UPR. At a later stage it also contributed to the plan of action which was one of its chief outcomes. In its recommendation, it has submitted its preferred priorities and has put forward suggestions for further action. IARF NLG is looking forward to continuing its involvement by participating in a monitoring process, the first meeting of which is coming up shortly, at which the new plan of action will be assessed.



Torch vigil De Bilt is a picture made in the village De Bilt. It is the one of Amnesty International's well-known vigils celebrating Human Rights Day.

Human Rights Education in Kenya

(New IARF Chapter in Kenya doing HRE training)

IARF is proud to have its first membership in Africa, in the form of a new national Chapter in Kenya. Formed in July 2013 and based in the capital Nairobi, it has members from African-Traditional, Christian, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh faith groups located in six regions of the country.

“We are committed to equal rights for cultural and ethnic minorities...”

The Kenya Chapter emphasizes non-violence and proactive peace, toward which goals it arranges seminars and trainings in: interfaith for peace; human rights education training; peace building; and education about FGM (female genital mutilation).

Its statement says “We are committed to equal rights for cultural and ethnic minorities, and to societal and political participation of immigrants. We also emphasis gender democracy. We are active in Ecology, Spiritual

Democracy and Human Rights in Kenya, and focused on the East African Community”.

With assistance from IARF, two HRE-related events have been held already in the latter half of 2013: one in the town of Kitale near the western border with Uganda, the other in South Nyanza province near Lake Victoria.

The terror attacks at the Westgate Mall in Nairobi during September last year, and significant religion-based tension in the eastern coastal provinces of the country, mean that work toward interfaith communication, encounter and understanding has much importance in Kenya today. The Kenya Chapter looks forward to working with established Chapters of IARF which have experience of Human Rights Education training.



Human Rights Peace Walk at Bangalore

The Human Rights Education training program encouraged St. Anne's PU College, Bangalore to organise a Human Rights walk on 7th Dec 2013 in Bangalore. The walk was around 45 minutes from the college and went via Cantonment Railway station and other important places in the city. Nearly 480 students from St. Anne's college and BMS school participated. During the Walk, the young adults spoke, especially about the rights of the individual. They distributed Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) hand-outs for the public to know their basic rights ,and to give more force to the UDHR, which celebrates its 65 year. The walk was led by a music group, which got the attention of thousands of passers-by in Bangalore city.



The human rights celebration started around 11.am at St. Ann's College, with Bollywood actor Harish Raj speaking about respect for every individual and expressing our love without discrimination. Rev. Sr. Annet, St. Ann's College principal, said in her speech the subject of human rights should be treated in a very special way, in order to bring changes in the society.

*Encourage us by your feedback and
comments to the following:
info@iarfhrrc.org*

HRRC moulds young college adults of Tuticorin to celebrate International Human Rights Day

St. Mary's College, Tuticorin organised International Human Rights Day on 10th Dec, 2013 with the support of its Human Rights Club members who were trained by IARF-HRRC a week before this celebration. The main objective of this program was to create awareness of UDHR among the youth and make them practice it in their day-to-day life. Third-year Undergraduate students registered active participation for the celebration. "IARF-HRRC moulded us to celebrate this international Human Rights Day" said the Human Rights Club president during her welcome address.

"Women enjoy their rights not as men do, but with many challenges", said Mrs. Sorna Latha, an advocate from Tuticorin and chief guest of the celebration. The participants

were involved in her speech and were motivated by her to work for human rights and world peace.



Today's celebration won our hearts with more information and explanations on the thirty articles of the Human Rights Declaration



To create better understanding about the UDHR, the organisers showed a video on its thirty articles. "Today's celebration has made a great impact on our hearts, with rich information and the explanations of the 30 articles", said Sudha, one of the participants.



The success of the International Human Rights Day celebration was due to *co-operation and pre-planning with local leaders.*

It's an immense pleasure to inform you that as per the future plans we had during our last young adult meet at HRRC Hindupur, we organised a wonderful programme in rural area of Chhindwara district on 10th December, 2013 in collaboration with the Madhya Pradesh Human Rights Commission.

Dr. W.S Brown (Aayog Mitra Madhya Pradesh Human Rights Commission, President IARF-HRRC Chhindwara), had successfully organised this mega-event to create awareness on human rights in Chhindwara, M.P.

The program was organised at Harrai village in Chhindwara district on International Human Rights Day, 10th December. Nearly 200 rural and 50 differently abled people participated. The organisers explained about UDHR to the public in a local language to make them aware on their 30 basic rights. The debate was conducted on domestic violence, child trafficking, how to live a better life in the rural areas, etc. The speakers shared the current problems and issues. The

organisers also provided brief introduction about IARF & National Human Rights Commission programmes for awareness of every individual's rights.

A quiz contest was conducted for the school students on the Right to Education, in which many interested students spoke about Education that can transform orthodox thinking. The Govt. school of Harrai was awarded winner's prize by the chief guest.

Sister Mercy Mathew (Daya Bai), who received the Vanitha Woman of the Year award in 2007, was the Chief Guest for the program. She spoke about respecting every individual without any gender discrimination. It is our duty to help each other with human rights every now and then. Every individual should be treated with dignity.



Articles & Short writings

I love to write about HUMAN RIGHTS,

- by Shameem Banu, secondary school student, 11th Std.

MOST US BELIEVE that as human beings we have certain rights: To say what we want, to be treated fairly, and not be discriminated against because of our Gender, Colour, Age, Religion, Sexual Orientation or Ethnic Group etc. These and other rights are human being rights, we carry them with us wherever we live. In many countries, these rights are written into national law, but in others they are denied. Recently world attention has focused on countries that deny their citizens basic human rights, which is still common.

Many countries have incorporated a declaration of human rights into their constitutions. In France, for example, the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, written in 1789, today forms part of the constitution of the French Republic.

WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS ?

HUMAN RIGHTS are those rights and privileges which people possess, regardless of the country they live in. Basic human rights include the right to freedom of speech, political liberty, and religious freedom. Some people did not believe that the rights to the necessities of life, such as, food and clean water, should also be viewed as basic human rights. These are often lacking in areas of severe poverty. They are known as **HUMAN RIGHTS !!....**



Civil rights are those rights that people enjoy in individual countries and that are protected by law. Civil rights include basic human rights, as well as political rights such as the freedom to join a trade union.

Women's movement

For the last 200 years, women have fought for their rights. Their struggle is sometimes called the women's movement, although the term includes different campaigns (e.g. the first wave of organized feminism). The fight for women's rights first appeared during the 1800's and was concerned with legal rights, and the right to vote. Middle-class women such as Barbara Leigh Smith Bodichon campaigned for a married woman's right to keep her own property and for the right to education and meaningful work.

During the 1960's a new wave of protest - the women's liberation movement - appeared that made women's rights a global issue. By the 1990s, the women's movement had gained many victories and changed society.

Women's liberation movement

In the late 1960's, the Women's liberation movement exploded on to the political scene. Increasing numbers of women around the world challenged oppression and traditional female roles. They demanded an end to all forms of sexual discrimination and campaigned around issues such as equal pay, job opportunities, health care, children care, abortion, sexuality, violence towards women and racism.

Demonstrations

In 1970 feminists demonstrated at the Miss World beauty contest, protesting that it degraded women. The contest continued on a stage covered in flour & other debris thrown by the protesters. After this event, which was televised world wide, more women began to meet in groups to discuss how gender prejudice affected their lives & to plan changes.

Equal rights

During the 1970s, the women's liberation movement was a major political influence in many countries. It forced the introduction of legislation that ensured equal right for women by banning sex discrimination at work and in education.

Need to Understand the value of Human Rights

Bro. Britto SHJ

A human being is a man, woman, or child of the species *Homo sapiens*, distinguished from other animals by superior mental development, power of articulate speech, and upright stance.

Do we respect our fellow being?

Frankly saying “No” for we do not find peace or harmony among human beings these days

Do we know the rights of human beings?

Human rights belong to everyone. They are the basic rights we all have simply because we are human, regardless of who we are, where we live or what we do. Human rights represent all the things we need to flourish and live together as human beings. They are expressed in internationally agreed laws, and cover many aspects of everyday life ranging from the rights to food, shelter, education and health to freedoms of thought, religion and expression.

The roots and origins of human rights and the struggles to bring them about lie deep in the history of many different societies, civilizations and individuals. However, the first universally agreed statement of human rights did not emerge until 1948, with the ‘Universal Declaration of Human Rights’ (UDHR). The UDHR is the most famous, most translated, and probably most important, human rights document. All other human rights laws take the UDHR as their starting point – it is the foundation of modern human rights law.



Indian Fundamental Rights' is a charter of rights contained in the Constitution of India. It

guarantees civil liberties such that all Indians can lead their lives in peace and harmony as citizens of India. These include individual rights common to most liberal democracies, such as equality before law, freedom of speech and expression, and peaceful assembly, freedom to practice religion, and the right to constitutional remedies for the protection of civil rights by means of writs such as habeas corpus. Violation of these rights result in punishments as prescribed in the Indian Penal Code or other special laws, subject to discretion of the judiciary.

The Fundamental Rights are defined as basic human freedoms which every Indian citizen has the right to enjoy for a proper and harmonious development of personality. These rights universally apply to all citizens, irrespective of race, place of birth, religion, caste, creed, color or gender. Aliens (persons who are not citizens) are also considered in matters like equality before law. They are enforceable by the courts, subject to certain restrictions. The Rights have their origins in many sources, including England's Bill of Rights, the United States Bill of Rights and France's Declaration of the Rights of Man.

The main fundamental rights recognized by the Indian constitution are:

1. Right to equality, including equality before law, prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, and equality of opportunity in matters of employment, abolition of untouchability and abolition of titles.
2. Right to freedom which includes speech and expression, assembly, association or union or cooperatives, movement, residence, and right to practice any profession or occupation (some of these rights are subject to security of the State, friendly relations with foreign countries, public order, decency or morality), right to life and liberty, **right to education**, protection in respect to conviction in offences and protection against arrest and detention in certain cases.
3. Right against exploitation, prohibiting all forms of forced labour, child labour and traffic in human beings;
4. Right to freedom of religion, including freedom of conscience and free profession,

practice, and propagation of religion, freedom to manage religious affairs, freedom from certain taxes and freedom from religious instructions in certain educational institutes.

5. Cultural and Educational rights preserving Right of any section of citizens to conserve their culture, language or script, and right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
6. Right to constitutional remedies for enforcement of Fundamental Rights.
7. Right to elementary education.

As such the situation knowledge of human rights is very important to protect ourselves and others. Today we witness many atrocities taking shape against human rights in many places in the Indian states

that affect the society in many ways. When problems like sexual abuse against women or discrimination in the name of cast, creed, religion, region etc. are sensitized by media, people become aware of those problems and stage agitations in one form or other. When we are aware of human rights we stop these problems and great havocs are nib in the bud. It is our bounden duty and at the same our responsibility to tell everyone that education on human rights is very important. Once this is done we start walking ahead towards harmony and peace that leads to equality and fraternity among the masses.

Let us join hands to achieve this end that helps the promotion of human values at global levels.

SILENCE

Janhvi Gupte

In today's fast-moving world, we have seen many technological enhancements, many changes in laws, rules & regulations, a drastic change in fashion living standards and unforgettable "Value of

Money". But the concerning aspect is Human Being changed?

The answer is certainly NO. Though the fashion could change the outer look, he/she can become more techno-savvy, with

improvised living standard but the Human inside us is still being INHUMAN. This opinion of mine would not leave all readers satisfied with the thought. I do possess a few questions for the readers which may help answering the question: Are we Human Beings without Inhuman behavior?

1. **For Corporates:** Without caring about your job, do you ever speak up against your Boss who was making ethically wrong decisions? Many instances have arisen during your career that were ethically wrong but have chosen to be silent spectator, since it was not affecting you.
2. **For Neighbors:** A fight at your neighborhood, the reason could be family issues; you have chosen to be silent and calmly read your newspaper. Though the newspaper has brought attention to many violations, you remained quiet, for your own mental peace.
3. **For Classmates/Student:** Hope you all have some part of time written exams? You would have found people cheating, getting good marks, while you being studious whole academic year, failed/ scored less marks. The reason would be your silence at the examination center with the terror of beaten up by the

cheaters – or, you may also, possess the chits!

4. **For Housewives:** The socialized female in Indian Society: the housewife. You would have many instances where you would preserve silence, not for the peace in your house but to safeguard your and your maternal family's reputation among your in-laws. Many abuses from your in-laws, husband, children etc, but you opted for silence instead of raising your voice.
5. **For Professors / Lecturers/Teachers:** The educators - the reason for change in the world. A classroom of students with uniformity in dress but not intellectual level, addressed by you. But did you ever remember that you have not made comparison among the students and ranked the children as per their marking scheme? Any time spent few extra hours understanding the psychology of academically weak students, without thinking of being paid up extra?
6. **For Parents:** Ever stopped the roadside poor children from consuming alcohol, smoking beedi or cigarettes, and made them understand moral values as your own children are

learning? The force that would have stopped you speaking up is “these are not my children”. Instead you would have given the lesson to your children, study well otherwise you will also become like them.

7. **For Travellers:** Many of you would have been in a hurry to reach the destination, and jumped the signals; if not you would have seen people

violating the law, but you never helped the traffic police to reach that violator, instead thought “Why I should get into all this? Its traffic police job, I am anyways in a hurry”.

I know, most of you would not fit yourself in the above categories, but with this I want draw your attention to “Today’s Slavery”.



Human Rights Violations

modern day slavery

Many of us work for the better cause. So many NGOs, institutions, people workers have come forward to work together to streamline the system and attain peace. But do you really think that spreading awareness, reaching out to the deprived section, fighting against the mortal laws, can help until and unless we break our SILENCE?

A person at gun point is also silent, since he/she is striving for the life, but this does not define peace.

Peace is not silence; instead SILENCE is today’s Violation.

We being the Human Rights Defenders, need to understand the ways we ourselves are violating Human Rights. Do we have an assertive way to overcome the situations in which we need to opt for Silence or our own loss?

benefits.



Human Rights Global News

The Man of Life-Long Example

Flags were lowered to half-staff, a dozen doves were released into the sky, and crowds of South Africans gathered at makeshift shrines on that day to mourn the loss of their former president, Nelson Mandela, the man many considered the father of their nation.

Tributes continued to pour in from world leaders and ordinary citizens for the former Nobel Peace Prize winner and Human Rights Champion, who died Thursday at the age of 95. President Jacob Zuma said Mandela, known affectionately

by his clan name "Madiba" had died "peacefully" at around 8:50 p.m. while in the company of his family.



He spent almost three months in a Pretoria hospital after being admitted in June with a recurring lung infection from which he never recovered. Mandela was then discharged in September and

received home-based medical attention.

Hours after his death Thursday night, a black SUV-type vehicle containing Mandela's coffin, draped in South Africa's flag, pulled away from Mandela's home after midnight, escorted by military motorcycle outriders, to take the body to a military morgue in Pretoria, the capital.

Outside the Soweto home where Mandela once lived, and the Johannesburg home where he died, residents danced and sang tribal songs, the African national anthem, and Christian hymns. Others left flowers, candles, and signs in makeshift shrines. South African citizens in black townships, rural grasslands, and upscale mostly white suburbs commemorated Mandela with tears and prayers Friday, while pledging to adhere to the values of unity and democracy that he embodied.

President Zuma ordered all flags to fly at half-staff until Mandela is laid to rest at his ancestral village of Qunu in the Eastern Cape on Dec. 15. Sunday marks a national day of prayer and reflection, and a memorial service is to be held on Tuesday at Johannesburg's Soccer City stadium. Mandela's last public appearance was at the same

stadium in 2010 for the closing ceremony of the soccer World Cup. Mandela's body will then lie in state in Pretoria for three days. President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama will be among the many leaders and dignitaries from around the world expected to travel to South Africa to pay their respects to the former president.



He achieved more
than could be
expected of any man
& he belongs to the
ages



In Washington Thursday, President Obama called Mandela one of the "most influential, courageous and profoundly good" people to ever have lived. "He achieved more than could be expected of any man," an emotional Obama said, in remarks from the White House, adding: "He belongs to the ages." Obama ordered U.S. flags to be lowered immediately to half-staff until Monday evening in tribute to Mandela.

In a church service in Cape Town, retired archbishop Desmond Tutu and fellow Nobel Peace Prize laureate said Mandela would want

South Africans themselves to be his "memorial" by adhering to the values of unity and democracy that he embodied.

"All of us here in many ways amazed the world, a world that was expecting us to be devastated by a racial conflagration," Tutu said, recalling how Mandela helped unite South Africa as it dismantled apartheid, the cruel system of white minority rule, and prepared for all-race elections in 1994. In those elections, the anti-apartheid leader who spent 27 years in prison, became South Africa's first black president.

"God, thank you for the gift of Madiba," said Tutu in his closing his prayer, using Mandela's clan name. The liberation struggle icon's grandson, Mandla Mandela, said he is strengthened by the knowledge that his grandfather is finally at rest.

"All that I can do is thank God that I had a grandfather who loved and guided all of us in the family," Mandla Mandela said in a statement. "The best lesson that he taught all of us was the need for us to be prepared to be of service to our people."

"We in the family recognize that Madiba belongs not only to us but to the entire world. The messages we have received since last night have heartened and overwhelmed us," the grandson said.

Many South Africans considered Mandela a father to all people who inspired the world with his courage.. "He came here to Soweto as a lawyer and he led us. When he came out of jail in 1994, after 27 years, he did not come out a bitter man and encourage us to fight. No, he came out with a message of peace," said Mbulelo Radebe. Leaders around the world joined in praising Mandela, calling him a force for justice and towering figure who inspired people around the globe.

When Pope Francis, a modest and pro people's pope stated that Mr Mandela had forged "a new South Africa built on the firm foundations of non-violence, reconciliation and truth", there was no reason to doubt the sentiment expressed. "Nelson Mandela was a giant for justice and a down-to-earth human inspiration," U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told reporters, Reuters reported. "Nelson Mandela showed what is possible for our world and within each one of us if we believe, dream

and work together for justice and humanity."

Former U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair praised Mandela as a "unique political figure at a unique moment" in history. "Through his leadership, he guided the world into a new era of politics in which black and white, developing and developed, north and south, despite all the huge differences in wealth and opportunity, stood for the first time together on equal terms," Blair said.

Former President Jimmy Carter, who had personal connections with Mandela, said the people of South Africa and human rights advocates

around the world had lost a great leader. "His passion for freedom and justice created new hope for generations of oppressed people worldwide," Carter said.

The tributes to Mandela that came from people across the spectrum showed that he had affected people deeply. "What I liked most about Mandela was his forgiveness, his passion, his diversity, the pact of what he did," said Ariel Sobel, a white man who was born in 1993, a year before Mandela was elected president. "I am not worried about what will happen next. We will continue as a nation. We knew this was coming. We are prepared."



Global coalition will monitor progress in implementation of human rights education

19 December 2013 The Amnesty International, HREA, Soka Gakkai International and nine other organisations today launched “Human Rights Education 2020”. HRE 2020 is a global coalition of civil society organisations that aims to promote human rights education by supporting and strengthening the implementation of existing international standards and commitments.

HRE 2020 is launched on the second anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training by the United Nations General Assembly on 19 December 2011. This landmark document recognises the right of every person to have access to human rights education.

“With the UN Declaration and the World Programme for Human Rights Education there exist clear standards and commitments for human rights education. HRE 2020 aims to systematically monitor these standards and commitments in order to ensure effective implementation”, says Adele Poskitt, Program Associate at



HREA and coordinator of HRE 2020. “We call for greater accountability by governments because a comprehensive education in, through and for human rights provides knowledge, imparts skills and empowers individuals to promote, defend and apply human rights in daily life.”

“One of the aims of HRE 2020 is to support and strengthen the capacity of civil society to use international human rights mechanisms, instruments, standards and policies to hold governments accountable”, adds Sneha Aurora, International Human Rights Education Manager at Amnesty International.

“HRE 2020 is a growing global coalition and we look forward to working together to ensure the implementation of human rights

education”, affirms Kazunari Fujii, Director, Soka Gakkai International UN Liaison Office in Geneva.

The global coalition works with organisations internationally and the current coalition members of HRE 2020 are: Amnesty International, Arab Institute of Human Rights, Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe (DARE Network), Forum Asia, Human Rights Education

Associates (HREA), Human Rights Educators USA (HRE USA), Hurights Osaka, Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC), Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA), People’s Watch, Peruvian Institute for Human Rights and Peace (IPEDEHP), Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, and Soka Gakkai International.

Strengthening efforts to end human trafficking and forced labour in global supply chains

Demands for more effective action to combat human trafficking and forced labour continued to build throughout 2013. While launching the UK government’s national action plan for business and human rights, the foreign secretary William Hague highlighted the importance of rooting out human trafficking in supply chains.

Efforts such as the 2012 Executive Order on Strengthening Protections Against Trafficking In Persons in Federal

Contracts enacted by the Obama administration in the USA and the State of California’s new laws are examples of how the economic muscle of governments might be exercised and expectations for business made clear. Similarly, in Brazil the government and private sector have taken steps through the National Slave Eradication Pact to eradicate slavery from company supply chains.



Yet the reality is that State regulation and oversight of the recruitment and employment of workers remains sorely lacking in far too many situations, placing workers at risk and law abiding business at competitive disadvantage. According to the ILO, nearly 21 million people are trapped in conditions of forced labour yet little is still known about

the supply chains themselves that lead to such abuses and how to make the case to more companies that trafficking and forced labour present operational, reputational and legal risk.

In 2014, efforts to end human trafficking and forced labour will continue to gain energy. New projects such as the Global Slavery Index and ongoing work to examine the scope of the problem and propose solutions will help ensure that all businesses comply with the law and meet international expectations to end modern forms of slavery.

United Nation News

Message of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Human Rights Day-10 December 2013

Human Rights Day marks the anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the landmark Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This year's observance also

marks 20 years since a bold step forward in the struggle to make rights a reality for all: the adoption by the World Conference on Human Rights of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of

Action. Drawing on the participation of more than 800 non-governmental organizations, national institutions, treaty bodies and academics, Member States adopted a far-reaching vision and created the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), thereby realizing one of the international community's long-held dreams.

In OHCHR's two decades of existence, five dedicated High Commissioners have spearheaded the work of the United Nations to further human rights globally. Through a wide range of norms and mechanisms, OHCHR advocates for victims, presses States to live up to their obligations, supports human rights experts and bodies, and -- through presences in 61 countries -- helps States to develop their human rights capacity.

Promoting human rights is one of the core purposes of the United Nations, and the Organization has pursued this mission since its founding. Then, as now, the key to success is the political will of Member States. It is States, in the first instance, that are obliged to protect human rights and prevent violations at a national level, and to

stand up when other States fail to live up to their commitments. This is not always easy, and over the past 20 years, we have seen genocide and many other appalling and large-scale violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

Improving how the United Nations system prevents and reacts to impending catastrophes is at the heart of a new initiative, the Rights Up Front Action Plan. The Plan aims to ensure the United Nations system and all staff recognize the central place of human rights in the Organization's collective responsibilities. Above all, it seeks to strengthen our responses to wide-spread abuses and prevent such situations from arising in the first place, through an emphasis on rights-based early warning and action.

On Human Rights Day, I call on States to fulfil the promises they made at the Vienna Conference. I reiterate the commitment of the United Nations Secretariat, funds and programmes to vigilance and courage in the face of human rights violations. Finally, I pay tribute to one of the great symbols of human rights of our time -- Nelson Mandela, whose passing has plunged the world into sorrow, but

whose lifelong commitment to human dignity, equality, justice and compassion will forever remain an

inspiration as we continue to build a world of all human rights for all.



A 20-20 Human Rights Vision Statement, by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay for Human Rights Day, 10 December 2013

Twenty years ago, a historic document was adopted in Vienna. It crystallized the principle that human rights are universal, and committed States to the promotion and protection of all human rights for all people, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems.

Among many other significant and ground-breaking achievements, the Vienna Declaration led to the creation of my Office – the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Since then, there have been many advances – indeed more than people perhaps realize.

The fundamentals for protecting and promoting human rights are largely in place: these include a strong and growing body of international human rights law and standards, as well as institutions to interpret the laws, monitor compliance and apply them to new and emerging human rights issues.

The key now is to implement those laws and standards to make enjoyment of human rights a reality on the ground. The political will, and the human and financial resources, to achieve this are too often lacking. The 20 years since Vienna have also, unfortunately, seen many setbacks and a number of tragic failures to prevent atrocities and safeguard human rights.

In several instances where deplorable, large-scale violations of international human rights law were occurring, the international community was too slow, too divided, too short-sighted – or just plain inadequate in its response to the warnings of human rights defenders and the cries of victims. The Vienna Declaration should be viewed as a blueprint for a magnificent construction that is still only half built.

The conduct of States is more scrutinised than ever, and the expansion of civil society organizations and individual human rights activists over the past 20 years has been truly remarkable. Along with independent national human rights institutions, these are the bedrock of human rights development at the national level. But, it is a matter of deep concern that they are also facing increasing harassment and intimidation in many countries.

Women continue to suffer discrimination, violence and persecution. So do ethnic, racial and religious minorities, and migrants, as well as individuals because of their sexual orientation. This shows how far we still have to go.

Internal conflicts continue to produce horrendous and widespread human rights abuses. Peaceful protests by people exercising, and calling for, their legitimate rights are being ruthlessly crushed by authorities virtually on a daily basis. Changing and shifting populations, fuelled by rising poverty, refugee movements and volatile global economics, make countering ‘fear of the other’ a priority.

And complex new challenges continue to emerge, such as climate change and global terrorist movements. The way we operate in this world is also changing at breakneck speed.

Modern technologies are transforming the way we do human rights work. In 1993, the World Wide Web was just four years old, and its future use and reach could barely have been imagined, nor how fundamentally the Internet would affect our lives. Together with social media and IT innovations, these technologies are dramatically improving real-time communications and information-sharing. They are also magnifying the voice of human rights defenders, shining a light on abuses, and mobilizing support for

various causes in many parts of the world.

But we have also seen how new technologies are facilitating the violation of human rights, with chilling 21st Century efficiency. In breach of international law, mass electronic surveillance and data collection are threatening both individual rights, and the free functioning of a vibrant civil society.

A Tweet or Facebook post by a human rights defender can be enough to land him or her in jail. Drones can be, and are being, used for positive purposes. But armed drones are also being deployed, without due legal process, for the remote targeting of individuals. So-called “Killer robots” – autonomous weapons systems that can select and hit a target without human intervention – are no longer science fiction, but a reality. Their likely future deployment poses deeply troubling ethical and legal questions.

Continued vigilance is needed to ensure that new technologies advance rather than destroy human

rights. No matter the scale of these changes, existing international human rights law and international humanitarian law governing the conduct of armed conflict remain applicable. States must ensure that they are applied.

At the international level, a huge amount of work remains to be done to transform human rights from abstract promises to genuine improvement in the daily lives of all people, especially those who are currently marginalized or excluded. The UN Human Rights Office will continue to work with all our partners to try to prevent human rights breaches from occurring. We will continue to be vocal about human rights violations. We will continue to ask States to do their part – the biggest part by far – to ensure that the tragic mistakes of the past are not repeated and that the human rights of all are protected and promoted. We can – and we must – do better.

The vision and goals formulated 20 years ago in Vienna are still valid. They are still worth fighting for now – over the next 20 years – and beyond.

Violence against women is unacceptable – no matter what she was wearing

Statement by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women- Geneva, 25 November 2013

Violence against women remains one of the greatest scourges of our time. It is disgraceful that even today, for many women and girls everywhere, violence is lurking around street corners, in workplaces or in their very own homes. And too often, justice is elusive.

In Busia, Kenya, in June this year, a 16-year-old girl was gang-raped and thrown into a six-metre-deep pit latrine, breaking her back and leaving her with obstetric fistula. Police chose not to prosecute the men, instead ordering them to cut grass around the police station as punishment. The news unleashed a rare outpouring of public indignation and a petition was signed by 1.4 million people. The “Justice for Liz” campaign led the Chief Justice of Kenya to call for immediate action in the case. Why did it take agitation by 1.4 million people to begin the process of justice which is the victim’s fundamental human right?

Halfway around the world, in Auckland, New Zealand, when a 13-year-old girl had gone to the police to report that she had been raped by three young men, one of the first questions she was reportedly asked

was: “What were you wearing”. This was in 2011.



Two years later, after many similar attacks by the same gang, it took a public exposé to rattle the authorities into action. The Independent Police Conduct Authority of New Zealand has been ordered to look into the handling of these cases and police are now finally conducting the investigations they should have begun two years ago.

Sadly, these are not isolated cases. Such crimes occur on a daily basis in countries across the world, but they rarely make headlines or lead to public outrage and action by high-level officials. In most parts of the world, women are too ashamed or fearful to report violence, particularly sexual violence, to the police. And when they overcome various societal barriers and taboos to file a complaint, they are all too often met with callous, insensitive official reactions, effectively blocking all access to justice.



Violence against women and girls has been perpetuated by centuries of male dominance and gender-based discrimination. Building on deeply entrenched social norms that frame women's worth around discriminatory notions of chastity and "honour", violence is often used to control and humiliate not only the victims, but also their families and communities. It is essential to challenge such notions, which often permeate the justice system itself, resulting in a vicious

cycle of impunity and further violence.

The UN Committee on the Elimination on Discrimination against Women and the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women have been documenting violence against women, its causes and consequences in all parts of the world and recommending measures to eliminate such violence and to remedy its consequences. These recommendations must be taken seriously. States are obliged by international human rights law to ensure that the criminal justice system, at every stage, is free of gender bias, including in investigation, prosecution, interrogation and protection of victims and witnesses, and in sentencing.

The suggestion that women have a propensity to lie and that their testimony must be corroborated or treated with caution should be eliminated from every level of the judicial process, as must the idea that women invite sexual violence by being out late or by dressing in a particular manner.

On this International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, let us do our part to eliminate the harmful gender

stereotypes that help perpetuate a climate where violence against women is considered acceptable or

“deserved”. Violence is simply and totally unacceptable – no matter what she was wearing.

POCSO Act INDIA

POCSO Act – Providing Child-Friendly Judicial Process

India is home to the largest child population in the world, with almost 42 per cent of the total population under eighteen years of age. Needless to say, the health and security of the country’s children is integral to any vision for its progress and development.

One of the issues marring this vision for the country’s future generations is the evil of child sexual abuse. Statistics released by the National Crime Records Bureau reveal that there has been a steady increase in sexual crimes against children. According to a study conducted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2007, over half of the children surveyed reported having faced some form of sexual abuse, with their suffering exacerbated by the lack of specific legislation to provide remedies for these crimes.

While rape is considered a serious offence under the Indian Penal Code, the law was deficient in recognising and punishing other sexual offences, such as sexual harassment, stalking, and child pornography, for which prosecutors had to rely on imprecise provisions such as “outraging the modesty of a woman”. The Ministry of Women and Child Development, recognising that the problem of child sexual abuse needs to be addressed through less ambiguous and more stringent legal provisions, championed the introduction of a specific law to address this offence. The POCSO Act was therefore formulated in order to effectively address the heinous crimes of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 received the President’s assent on 19th June 2012

and was notified in the Gazette of India on 20th June, 2012. The Act is due to come into force shortly, along with the rules being framed under the Act.

The Act defines a child as any person below eighteen years of age, and regards the best interests and well being of the child as being of paramount importance at every stage, to ensure the healthy physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of the child. It defines different forms of sexual abuse, including penetrative and non-penetrative assault, as well as sexual harassment and pornography, and deems a sexual assault to be “aggravated” under certain circumstances, such as when the abused child is mentally ill or when the abuse is committed by a person in a position of trust or authority vis-a-vis the child, like a family member, police officer, teacher, or doctor. People who traffic children for sexual purposes are also punishable under the provisions relating to abetment in the Act. The Act prescribes stringent punishment graded as per the gravity of the offence, with a maximum term of rigorous imprisonment for life, and fine.

In keeping with the best international child protection

standards, the Act also provides for mandatory reporting of sexual offences. This casts a legal duty upon a person who has knowledge that a child has been sexually abused to report the offence; if he fails to do so, he may be punished with six months’ imprisonment and/ or a fine. Thus, a teacher who is aware that one of her students has been sexually abused by a colleague is legally obliged to bring the matter to the attention of the authorities. The Act, on the other hand, also prescribes punishment for a person, if he provides false information with the intention to defame any person, including the child.

The Act also casts the police in the role of child protectors during the investigative process. Thus, the police personnel receiving a report of sexual abuse of a child are given the responsibility of making urgent arrangements for the care and protection of the child, such as obtaining emergency medical treatment for the child and placing the child in a shelter home, should the need arise. The police are also required to bring the matter to the attention of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) within 24 hours of receiving the report, so the CWC may then proceed where required

to make further arrangements for the safety and security of the child.

The Act also makes provisions for the medical examination of the child designed to cause as little distress as possible. The examination is to be carried out in the presence of the parent or other person whom the child trusts, and in the case of a female child, by a female doctor.

The Act further makes provisions for avoiding the re-victimisation of the child at the hands of the judicial system. It provides for special courts that conduct the trial in-camera and without revealing the identity of the child, in a manner that is as child-friendly as possible. Hence, the child may have a parent or other trusted person present at the time of testifying and can call for assistance from an interpreter, special educator, or other professional while giving evidence; further, the child is not to be called repeatedly to testify in court and may testify through video-link rather than in the intimidating environs of a courtroom. Above all, the Act stipulates that a case of child sexual abuse must be disposed of within

one year from the date the offence is reported.

Another important provision in the Act is that it provides for the Special Court to determine the amount of compensation to be paid to a child who has been sexually abused, so that this money can then be used for the child's medical treatment and rehabilitation.

The Act is a welcome piece of legislation, in that it recognises almost every known form of sexual abuse against children as punishable offences, leaving little room for ambiguity in its interpretation. Further, by providing for a child-friendly judicial process, the Act encourages children who have been victims of sexual abuse to bring their offender to book and seek redress for their suffering, as well as to obtain assistance in overcoming their trauma. It makes the different agencies of the State, such as the police, judiciary and child protection machinery, collaborators in securing justice for a sexually abused child; working together, they can ensure that the child is given an opportunity to obtain justice for the harm suffered, and begin the process of rebuilding the child's life and future.

Forthcoming Young Adults Summit

IARF- HRRC in Association with Sacred Heart Brothers

Organise

RFYN Annual Summit – 2014

**“Freedom & Rights of Young Adults in the
Digital Age”**



24th -27th January, 2014

Montfort Spirituality Centre, Bangalore, INDIA

Our Human Rights Education Training Program

About HRE Training

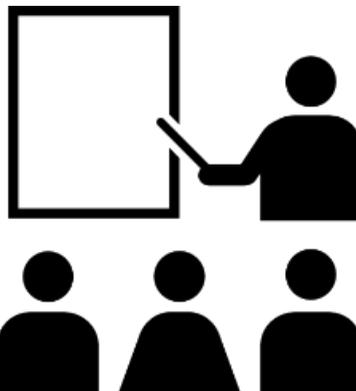
- It is two-day intensive training.
- We provide free handout materials.
- We award attendance certificates to participants.

HRE Program Includes

- UDHR articles
- UDHR film
- Indian Fundamental Rights
- Awakening Once Rights
- Three short docudramas (films)
- Communication & confidants Tips

HRE Program Methods

- PowerPoint presentation
- Videos
- Group Discussion & Presentation
- Role Play
- Activities (Ice-Breaking Sessions)



You can reach us with following information for **Human Rights Education Training Program** in your institution.

Institution's Information:

Name of the Institution:

Address:

Tel: Mob:

E-Mail:

Preferable Dates..... Any others Dates.....

Participants Information:

Participants: Teachers College Students

School Children Others

No of Participants: Male Female

Age Between:

Language for Communication:



International Human Rights Day Celebration and Peace Walk at Chhindwara, M.P



Peace Walk at Bangalore



Human Rights Day Celebration at Tuticorin, Tamilnadu

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