



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

# Human Rights Friendly Schools

## NEWS

March-April 2012



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the March-April 2012 edition of Human Rights Friendly Schools News! This newsletter aims to share information, ideas and experiences across the International Human Rights Friendly Schools Network.

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### Time for Monitoring and Evaluation!

The end of the school year is approaching!

Please keep some time in your work plan to assess the progress made in the journey to becoming a Human Rights Friendly School.

Here are some of the recent developments in the International Human Rights Friendly Schools Network!

## ART OF THE MONTH

### ITALY— Art and Human Rights in Italy

With the support of an Art teacher, students from Liceo Norberto Rosa celebrated the 150 anniversary of their school and their 3-year participation in the Human Rights Friendly Schools project. They created an art-work named “*Anthopos*” (human being) using recycled materials. The work is made of coloured tiles, and symbolically represents every single human being who, tied to the others, creates humankind.

### SOUTH AFRICA—Human Rights Poems

As part of their formal assessment, students from Pretoria High School for Girls discussed human rights in a creative manner to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the subject. They worked in pairs on a project focused on five different human rights in South African Constitution. The task was to write a newspaper, including a poem or some art work related to human rights. Here is on poem written by a student of Pretoria High School for girls:

**\*You've been given,  
by Lwazi\***

The right to an environment that's healthy,  
but this environment that surrounds me,  
was given to man all for free,  
but might not last for more generations to see.

Reduce the amounts of CO2's,  
Reuse all plastic not used.

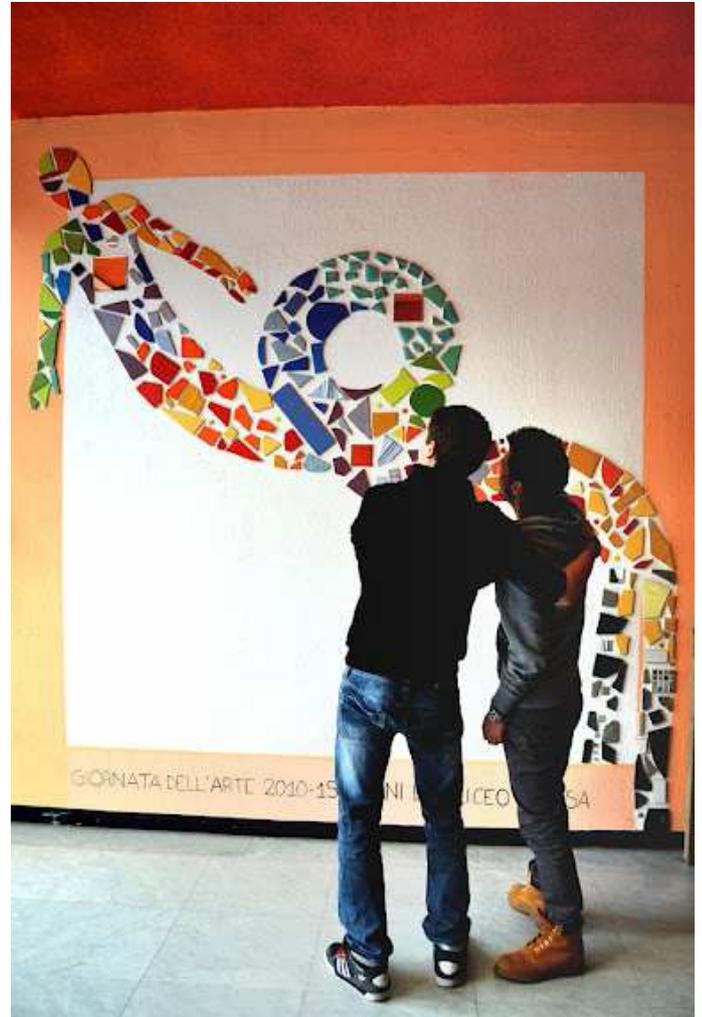
Recycle all glass material and tins,  
there's a place for its disposal and that's in the bin.  
Earth was given to man,  
with the hope that they'll look after it if they can.

You've been given the right to a healthy environment,  
truth is the responsibility lies in its preservement.

The thought of the next generation not knowing the sea is unbearable,  
but if mankind doesn't stop its selfish ways earth will never be  
restorable.

Look after what you have around you,  
from our Springbok to our Giljoen that's proudly blue,  
to our beautiful Protea just after its season of bloom.

So let's stand together,  
as one nation forever,  
and strive to make our environment better.



Students in front of their creation 'Anthopos', Liceo Norberto Rosa, Italy.  
© Amnesty International

## INITIATIVE OF THE MONTH

AI Morocco together with one of the three Human Rights Friendly Schools in Morocco developed a Human Rights Friendly Schools Bulletin to enhance sharing amongst the schools in the country. The bulletin was shared with and the initiative will be copied in the two other schools. For more information, please visit AI Morocco Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AIMarocEDH>

AI Mongolia also developed a website together with the Human Rights Friendly Schools in the country: <http://www.humanrights-friendlyschools.mn/>

## Senegal— A Human Rights Friendly School facing electoral tensions

In February 2012, the presidential elections in Senegal took place in a climate of tension, where there was rioting in the country. Mamadou Diop, professor of History and HRE coordinator for AI Senegal, gives us an overview of what happened in his country and how the Human Rights Friendly School in Saint Louis dealt with these tensions.



FLAG OF SENEGAL

The 2012 elections were organized in a context of confusion related to the candidacy of the incumbent President Abdoulaye Wade. Tensions rose between President Wade's supporters and the opposition and many young people were involved in the protest movement. Due to tensions in the country, schools were closed for over two months (they were still closed up to last week). Many young people joined the civil society involved in the campaign to register voters. They were deployed as volunteers for the monitoring of elections and to mobilize citizens for free, organized and transparent elections, to prevent political violence and fight against political corruption.

Empowered by the Human Rights Friendly Schools project implemented for the past 3 years, students from the Lycée Peytavin in Saint Louis organized several activities to encourage participation in the elections and increase youth voices. What they did included:

- Awareness raising activities to inform young people of their rights and duties to take part to the elections
- Participating in peaceful demonstrations organized in Saint Louis calling for the respect of the constitution and recognition of the candidacy of incumbent President as invalid
- Participating in a campaign explaining voting procedures to the school community
- Organising discussion sessions led by citizenship teachers on the elections
- Organising a conference on human rights violations in Senegal, allowing lecturers to expose multiple violations identified during the campaign.

Macky Sall, former prime minister, became the new leader of the Senegalese State. The school year in Senegal is now very delayed and the new government is trying to find solutions such as expending the school year.

*'Ultimately, the high level of youth's participation in the elections shows a new spirit is born in Senegal, through the respect of justice, freedom and democracy', Mamadou Diop, Human Rights Friendly Schools coordinator AI Senegal.*

## GHANA – School partnership and training

Accra High School, Amnesty International Ghana's first partner school, was one of the 15 Secondary Schools in the pilot phase of Amnesty International's Human Rights Friendly Schools project which ran from September 2009 to July 2011. At the beginning of the 2011/2012 academic year, Amnesty International Ghana added five new schools, thus expanding the number of schools involved in the implementation of the project in Ghana to six.

Bringing together representatives of new schools, AI Ghana organized a two-day induction meeting for fifteen participants including ten student leaders and five teachers from the new schools. The objectives were:

- To introduce the Human Rights Friendly Schools Project to new schools joining the project in Ghana
- To present the project steps and discuss the practicalities of implementing the project
- To discuss action plans for the last school term of 2011 and annual action plans for 2012/2013 academic year
- To identify how schools and AI Ghana can work together to implement the Action Plans

Using active participation techniques to permit greater ownership over the project, participants were divided into groups (by schools) to discuss and give feedback on how to integrate human rights into the four key areas of school life. Each group was required to appoint a moderator, a secretary and a presenter to report back in plenary and share with others. The groups identified concrete challenges, possible responses and activities they are willing to implement in order to become Human Rights Friendly Schools.

The meeting allowed schools to share their views and inspire each other. It also strengthened the inter-school network in the country.

*'During the pre-event meeting, facilitators discussed various techniques/tools of active participation to ensure participants were actively and meaningfully involved in discussion', says Frank Doyi, HRE coordinator, AI Ghana.*



**Build partnerships** between new partners to the Human Rights Friendly Schools project and the ones already involved. Organise training for the new school and invite the more experienced school to share their experience and deliver peer training.



### St Charles Senior High School group Governance discussion

Looking at school governance, the following questions were presented to guide the group work:

- What are the opportunities for making school governance more human rights friendly in your school?
- What are the challenges to doing this?
- How might you overcome these challenges?
- What next steps will you take to integrate these ideas into your action plan?

The group presented the outcome of their discussion:

Discipline:

- Disciplinary committee meetings
- Selection of student leaders

Challenges

- Some heads and teachers have entrenched positions when it comes to disciplining students.
- Some students do not tell the truth when facing the disciplinary committee.

Overcoming the Challenges

- Involving student leaders in disciplinary committee sessions.
- Students should be given the chance to defend themselves before a disciplinary committee.
- If students are culpable, punishment should not aim at destroying their lives.

Next Steps

- Information dissemination to the administration and the student body.
- Organization of open fora.
- Use of suggestion boxes.

## Learning from others – AI Italy meets AI Morocco

On 1 March 2012, at the end of a week long exchange as part of the Education for Human Dignity project in Italy, Touria Bouabid, HRE coordinator in Morocco, met with Chiara Pacifici, HRE coordinator in Italy to share their experience implementing the Human Rights Friendly Schools project and to build a partnership.



Discussion between Touria Bouabid and the teachers of the Institute Marie Curie, Italy. © Amnesty International

Touria met teachers at the Marie Curie Institute, the Human Rights Friendly School in Naples. The school started its journey to becoming a Human Rights Friendly School in 2011. Meeting Touria has been very helpful for them to better understand the project and to know both the educational paths and the activities that can be implemented within the school.

The teachers explained the difficulties they face working in a school located in a needy area of the city and reported on their engagement to become a Human Rights Friendly School supported by Amnesty International. Touria talked about the educational system in Morocco and shared the Human Rights Education activities promoted in the schools by AI Morocco.

The pleasant atmosphere of the meeting allowed a mutual enrichment. For the Italian members of AI staff meeting Touria's passion, energy, and professionalism made the meeting an unforgettable experience.



Touria Bouabid, Chiara Pacifici and the teachers of the Marie Curie Institute, Italy. © Amnesty International

### Touria from AI Morocco tells us about her experience in Italy:

"I would like to express my appreciation to all educators within the Marie Curie Institute. I realized how much they believe in the positive change the project can bring to students. [...] It should be noted that the school is located in the vicinity of a Roma camp, and is directly influenced by a number of problems afflicting the Roma community because of their vulnerability, namely organized crime, the analphabetism, drugs trafficking etc.

Promising projects were implemented by students and teachers of the school for young people in the camp to sensitize them to their rights, and thanks to techniques such as theater, drawing, several activities were able to mobilize young people in these camps.

Finally, I would say that after my visit to the Marie Curie Institute, I was very inspired to continue the Human Rights Friendly Schools project in Morocco for the benefit of more young Moroccans."



**An exchange meeting** dedicated to the Human Rights Friendly Schools project enables school members and AI coordinators to share their experience implementing the Human Rights Friendly Schools project, to learn from each other and find new inspiration!

*"So thank you to the teachers of the Marie Curie Institute for this new energy they gave me, and thanks also to AI Italy for this beautiful opportunity!"* says Touria Bouabid, HRE Coordinator, AI Morocco

## Human Rights Friendly Schools campaigning for Human Rights

### Italy – Demand Dignity

On the 14 and 31 March 2012, students from the Human Rights Friendly School Liceo Norberto Rosa took action on Corporate Accountability to help stop Shell's corporate abuse of human rights in the Niger Delta. The 'Shell: Own up. Pay up. Clean up' action highlights the failure by the oil industry to properly clean up oil spills and other pollution in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, which leaves people exposed to sustained violations of their economic, social and cultural rights.



Student taking action on Shell: Own up. Pay up. Clean up, Liceo Norberto Rosa, Italy. © Amnesty International

To raise awareness on the effects of oil pollution, the students were photographed after dipping everyday objects into black paint. Sponges, milk cartons, shoes, calipers, pot holders and gloves have become a symbol of how the extractive industries have distorted the everyday life of men and women in Nigeria.

With this action, the students wanted to denounce the devastating effects that decades of oil extraction have had on people and environment of the Niger Delta.

For more information:

<http://amnesty.org/en/50/campaigns/corporate-accountability>  
<http://www.iopretendodignita.it/node/1129>

### Ghana – End forced evictions in Africa

The induction meeting with new schools in Ghana provided an excellent opportunity for participants to contribute to Amnesty International's week-long campaign to end forced evictions in Africa (17 – 24 March, 2012) dubbed "People live here campaign".

At the end of the two-day training, teachers and students signed the petition with key demands to governments and local authorities in Africa, along with a solidarity photo action. The participants code-named the activism actions as "Human Rights Friendly Schools for human dignity".



Human Rights Friendly Schools' members taking part in the campaign to end forced evictions in Africa, Ghana. © Amnesty International



**Use AI Campaigns** to raise awareness within school community about human rights violations. Organise events related to a specific topic in your school. Ensure that you have the agreement of parents. In Italy, at the beginning of the year the parents signed permission for all school initiatives taking place in the school building.

# TAKE ACTION for the Arms Trade Treaty Campaign

For those who are interested to involve their Human Rights Friendly Schools in the Amnesty International Arms Trade Treaty Campaign, please find below a brief on the Campaign and ideas on how to take action in schools. Please refer to the resources available in 'Material of the Month'.



© Dan Nguyen

## What does Amnesty International want from the Arms Trade Treaty?

Now an international Arms Trade Treaty is finally within reach! Leading up to **July 2012**, all governments will negotiate the text of the treaty at the United Nations. Amnesty International believes it is crucial that the treaty includes:

- Strong rules that protect human rights, preventing arms from being sent to those who would most likely use them to seriously violate these rights;
- A control list that includes all types of weapons, munitions and other arms;
- Clear rules to apply and monitor the Treaty with reporting to ensure they are enforced.

Our message is simple – **if there is a substantial risk that arms exported to another country will contribute to serious human rights abuses, those arms supplies must be stopped.**

## What can sections do with youth?

For this campaign, the AI Youth Network will mobilise around the peaks of activism – “100 Days of Action” (from March to July) and “Global Week of Action” (11-18 June 2012), in coordination with the MSP coordinators. In line with the Campaign Strategy and messaging, AI entities, youth and student activists and networks are invited to take action. For more information please refer to the AI ATT Campaign Action Circular ACT 30/015/2012:

<https://intranet.amnesty.org/isearch/secure/Index.do>

## What is the Arms Trade Treaty Campaign about?

Deaths resulting from war, armed homicides, extra-judicial executions and excessive use of force by state security forces amount to over 500,000 per year or 1,500 per day. States must stop allowing irresponsible transfers of arms and be made accountable to the international community.

In order to limit the use of arms around the world, States need to regulate weapons transfers between countries. World leaders will meet in July this year to decide on adopting a global treaty to ensure the strict control of the international trade in conventional arms.

The proposed law, an Arms Trade Treaty, would form an international agreement on how weapons (including ammunition) will be traded between countries and minimise human suffering that occurs as a result. For more information visit our page:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/campaigns/control-arms>

## What can Human Rights Friendly Schools do?

Human Rights Friendly Schools can take action and support an Arms Trade Treaty which would protect human rights. Activities can include the following:

 **Talk about the Arms Trade Treaty in classrooms.** It can be integrated into different subjects, for instance:

**History:** explaining the history of conflicts and the campaign

**Geography:** how countries transfer arms to one another

**Mathematics:** how many deaths caused by arms and how an Arms Trade Treaty will diminish the number of deaths

**Citizenship:** what are States' prerogatives regarding Arms Trade from, through and to their territory.

 **Organise an event** to raise awareness in your school and involve the whole school community. You can ask someone from Amnesty International to talk about the Arms Trade Treaty and ask attendees to sign the petition which can be provided by your local Amnesty International office. You can also invite local authorities to attend the event.

**NO ARMS FOR ATROCITIES**

## Breaking News!

**AI Morocco** is building a partnership with a new school Moulay Ismail in Settat! This is the third secondary school to implement the Human Rights Friendly School in the country.

مرحبا

**AI Bermuda** presented the project to the Board of the school and they are 'on board'!

**AI Benin** partner schools suffered from strikes for the past two months and despite not being able to run activities the schools managed to develop their partnerships with the media in Benin.

We welcome **AI Peru** expression of interest to implement the project the next school year!

¡Bienvenidos!

**AI Croatia** will not be implementing the Human Rights Friendly Schools project this year as their Human Rights Education team has very limited capacity. We hope to have them join us soon!

## Materials of the Month

**HRE Guide for Teachers** '*Guide de l'enseignant(e) pour l'éducation aux droits de l'Homme dans l'espace francophone.*' In French The French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights published in 2010 a manual for teachers to guide Human Rights Education practice in French speaking countries. This Guide aims to support primary and secondary school teachers to promote a culture of human rights in schools. The first part introduces human rights in their historical, legal and ethical dimensions and recalls the main determinants of HRE. The second part is devoted to specific activities including objectives, teaching methods and physical media. [http://www.cncdh.fr/IMG/pdf/Guide\\_Education\\_aux\\_droits\\_de\\_l\\_Homme.pdf](http://www.cncdh.fr/IMG/pdf/Guide_Education_aux_droits_de_l_Homme.pdf)

**UNICEF** developed a guide for teachers on Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV, A High School Educator's Guide (Grades 9–12). [http://teachunicef.org/sites/default/files/units/pmtct\\_final.pdf](http://teachunicef.org/sites/default/files/units/pmtct_final.pdf)

### ATT Campaign with schools

- AI Australia developed Activist Resources on how to hold an effective conversation, Frequently Asked Questions, to organise an event and hold a film night which could be adapted to schools setting. <http://www.amnesty.org.au/armstrade/archive/C308/>
- Short film developed by AI Australia to take action: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YwUqPMPQ5S8>
- AI UK developed a pack on the Arms Trade Treaty including a lesson introducing the topic of the International Arms Trade (for 14-16 in Social studies, Global citizenship, Citizenship, Geography) and a 2 minute film on the subject. These resources were developed for the UK but can be adapted to local context. <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=11624>
- AI Spain offers training material with the aim of bringing the students, from different angles, to the reality of gun sales in the world. Amnesty International calls for a strong treaty on arms trade to ensure that no authorized arms transfer where there is a substantial risk that can be used to commit or facilitate human rights violations. *In Spanish only* <http://www.es.amnesty.org/redescuelas/materiales-para-el-profesorado/tratado-de-armas/>

If you would like to **share your experiences** of the Human Rights Friendly Schools project or **news from your section** related to the project, please contact **Aurélia Donnard** at the IS HRE team (Aurelia.donnard@amnesty.org) no later than **15 June 2012**, if you wish your entry to be published in the next edition of the Human Rights Friendly Schools News.