



Human Rights Friendly Schools

NEWS February - March 2013



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the February-March 2013 edition of Human Rights Friendly Schools News!

The Human Rights Friendly Schools project aims to empower young people and promote the active participation of all members of the school community to integrate human rights values and principles into all areas of school life. Amnesty International works in partnership with secondary schools around the world, supporting their journey to becoming Human Rights Friendly. This newsletter aims to share information, ideas and experiences across the International Human Rights Friendly Schools Network.

For more information, please visit our website: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/human-rights-education/projects-initiatives/rfsp> or contact us at HumanRightsFriendlySchools@amnesty.org

In this issue:

Special Focus on Discrimination against Roma

- Interview of the month** with Marton Liska, HRE Coordinator at Amnesty International Hungary
- Community News** Human Rights Friendly Schools in Hungary exhibit a portrait of their community
- Take Action** End Forced Evictions and Discrimination against Roma in Europe

News

- Ensuring local relevance in **India**
- Four new Human Rights Friendly Schools in **Burkina Faso**
- Schools launch an Amnesty Cinema in **Czech Republic**
- Two more schools join the project in **Ghana**

Taking action for Human Rights!

Stories from **Mongolia, Senegal** and **Ghana**



... Support young people who face discrimination in their schools! See page 4



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH WITH...

MARTON LISKA, Human Rights Education Coordinator at Amnesty International Hungary.

"My name is Marton, I've been working for Amnesty International since February 2011 as part-time staff. I am also a high school history, social sciences and law teacher. Neither human rights education nor citizenship are separate subjects in the Hungarian curriculum, and human rights are sporadically part of the History and Literature curricula. My two positions are therefore complementary and I have used my teaching expertise to support the integration of human rights in Dr. Ámbédkár School since September 2011."

Why did you choose to work with this school? "Dr. Ámbédkár School is a 'second chance' school, offering students living in segregated settlements the possibility to pursue their high school education. Most students at Dr. Ámbédkár belong to the Roma community, some of whom dropped out of school. We chose to work with Dr. Ámbédkár School as their vision is aligned to that of the Human Rights Friendly Schools project, aiming to provide quality education to young people who grow up in the poorest conditions. Amnesty International brings to the school the participatory approach to education and provides the knowledge and tools to students to be able to stand for their rights when facing human rights abuses, which is often the case outside the school."

"I feel we are now part of the school, and our attitude is somehow shaping the school policy, just as the school shapes us. They treat us as an important contributor to their work."

Marton Liska, Human Rights Education Coordinator,
Amnesty International Hungary

shaping the school policy, just as the school shapes us. They treat us as an important contributor to their work. We have a very good partnership with the school management which allows Amnesty International to fully contribute to the school."

What did you learn from participating in the project? "The support of our volunteer-trainers is key for the success of the project in Hungary. They take their own time to visit the school on regular basis and build the relationship with the school community. **I realise how important it is to have a network of trained volunteers who act as multipliers.** In addition, the particular context of Dr. Ámbédkár School makes the project even more relevant as students do not only theorise human rights but put them into practice directly outside the school as they face human rights abuses on a regular basis in the community."

What happens next? "Changing mentalities and attitudes requires time and we need to think long-term; what happens when we finish with the project? How can we ensure it is sustainable in the school? Teacher training and community building with students have changed the mentality in the school, and we need to ensure this will continue after students leave and new teachers arrive."



Marton Liska (centre), Human Rights Friendly Schools Coordinator, delivers HRE training to students of Dr. Ámbédkár School in Hungary, 2012. © Amnesty International

What changed in the school? "After almost two years implementing the project, we have started to see some impact in the school. Teachers use participatory approaches in their teaching methodology. School members are now taking initiative to build their relationships and organised three student camps independently. Students feel that they have more knowledge of their rights and are willing to stand up for them. Both teachers and students are eager to learn more about human rights. I feel we are now part of the school, and our attitude is somehow

COMMUNITY NEWS

Human Rights Friendly School in Hungary exhibits portraits of its community

Balázs Turay, a Budapest based photographer, and Amnesty International Hungary organised an exhibition of portraits from Dr. Ámbédkár School in Hungary to raise awareness about human rights issues faced by segregated people in Hungary.

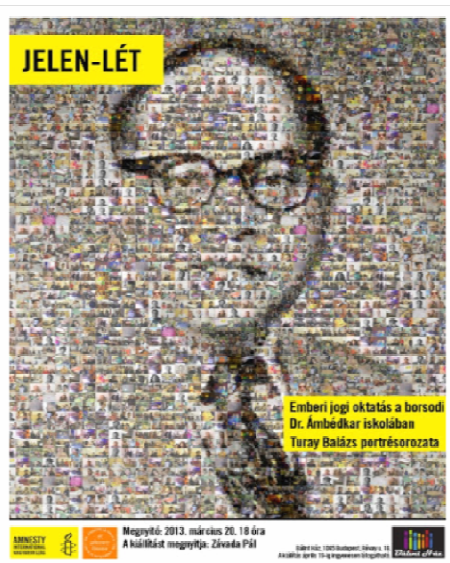


"When we begin working with a student, it starts by checking whether they have had anything to eat that day, whether they have clothes to wear to come to school and whether they have a corner at home where they can sit down and do their homework." **Orsós János**, founder of Dr. Ámbédkár School in Hungary 2013 © Balazs Turay

Dr. Ámbédkár School in Sajókaza is run by the Buddhist Jai Bhim Network and aims to provide quality education to young people who grow up in the poorest conditions. The school has locations in a number of places in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county (Alsószolca, Ózd, Sajókaza, Sáta). In this county, unemployment is high, deep poverty persists, and most Roma communities regularly face the impact of discrimination. The secondary school provides an opportunity for a second chance, as it provides education for those who are excluded or have fallen out of the public education system, as well as for young adults who have yet to obtain higher education. One of the key objectives of the school is to apply the principle of equal opportunities to everyone in the school community. The secondary school not only strives to provide students with the opportunity to obtain their final certificates, but also aims to generate social change.

Balázs Turay, who portrayed the school community in his photographs, explains his approach:

"I photographed students, educators, social workers, the cleaning lady and the head of the community. I conducted a series of interviews with an employee and volunteers of Amnesty International. My aim was to shed light on the struggle of the community in this impoverished Hungarian village. Dr. Ámbédkár School is attended mostly by Romani children having no other opportunity for proper education. Educators and employees of the school earn the lowest salary in the public sector."



Poster of the exhibition 'Dr. Ámbédkár School', January 2013.

The exhibition was attended by the school community followed by discussions with visitors. It will continue to support Amnesty International's End Forced Eviction and Discrimination against Roma Campaign, which will be launched in April 2013.

For more information, please contact Marton Liska liska.marton@amnesty.hu
More photos available: <http://bit.ly/14gSyV7>



TAKE ACTION

End Forced Eviction and Discrimination against Roma Campaign

For those who are interested in involving their Human Rights Friendly Schools in the Amnesty International **Human Rights Here. Roma Rights Now.** Campaign, please find below a brief on the Campaign and ideas on how to take action in schools.



Background

Hundreds of thousands of Roma have been forced to live in informal settlements and camps, often without heating, water or sanitation; tens of thousands are forcibly evicted from their homes every year. Thousands of Romani children are placed in segregated schools offering inferior education. Roma are often denied access to jobs and quality health care. Across Europe they are victims of racially motivated violence and are often left unprotected by the police and without access to justice.

On 4 April 2013 we are launching a global campaign, calling on the European Union to take decisive action to fight discrimination and racism against the Roma. Watch this space. Stand up for Roma rights!

More information about the campaign available here:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/roma>
<https://intranet.amnesty.org/wiki/x/o4cYB>

Useful videos that can be used in classrooms:

I'm a Roma Woman

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=KgWMj5ULImw

Our School

<https://adam.amnesty.org/asset-bank/action/viewAsset?id=170966&index=0&total=39&view=viewSearchItem>



Human Rights Friendly Schools can...

... Talk about discrimination against Roma in classrooms.

The debate is crucial and can be integrated in different subjects, for example:

- **History:** explaining the history of Roma people
- **Geography:** how Roma people are everywhere in Europe
- **Citizenship:** what are the State's obligations towards its citizens?

... **Organise an event** to raise awareness in your school and involve the whole school community.

- The school can organise screenings and discussions of films.
- Schools could take a photograph in front of school or other landmarks holding a sign with the slogan of the campaign or forming a Roma chakra (one of the Roma symbols from the Roma flag) with their bodies, hands or red fabric, etc.
- Schools can organize petition stands and invite the local community to participate.



In April 2013, add your voice!

Explore challenges and engage with others online to end discrimination against Roma on Amnesty International's interactive platform for young people: Respect My Rights. A new challenge will be launched in April 2013.

Visit www.respectmyrights.org

RESPECT
MY RIGHTS



NEWS

Ensuring local relevance in India

To adapt the Human Rights Friendly Schools project to the local context, Amnesty International India's Human Rights for Education Programme has embarked on a one year pilot phase in 2013. So far, 28 partner schools (both private and government schools) in Bangalore have joined as self-selected 'pioneers' of the programme. The aim of the pilot is to learn by doing *with* schools by establishing a working relationship with schools to integrate human rights into education. This pilot will inform future building of a national network of schools that facilitates the integration of human rights into school life. The commitment of the schools has been fundamental to building up the programme, through the formulation of their respective plans that apply Amnesty International's whole-school framework. The initiation into the programme is designed with a '*for the schools by the schools*' approach. The enthusiasm so far has been quite remarkable!

The 28 pioneer schools have participated in an introductory workshop, designed for schools to go through a "self-generative" process. The process is triggered by a self-assessment that enables every school to develop their respective plans, within Amnesty's four areas of school life framework. To provide comprehensive and on-going advice, a Creative Advisory Group has been constituted with members from different walks of life who are experienced in the area of education and human rights in India.

As part of this pilot phase, Amnesty International India has adapted the project resources to support schools needs in Bangalore. Some are now available online: <http://bit.ly/Z3dtTv>

For more information, please contact Tara Rao, Human Rights Education Manager at Amnesty International India: tara.rao@amnesty.org.in



Four new Human Rights Friendly Schools in Burkina Faso

We welcome Amnesty International Burkina Faso to the Human Rights Friendly Schools project, as well as the four secondary schools they are partnering with: Lycée Montaigne (Ouagadougou); Lycée Technique Amical Cabral (Ouagadougou); Collège privé Ramodg-wendé (Ouagadougou); Lycée Mollo Sanou (Bobo-Dioulasso).



Teachers of Mollo Sanou High School received training on the Human Rights Friendly Schools project, Burkina Faso, January 2013. © Amnesty International

In December 2012, Amnesty International Burkina Faso held preliminary meetings with the schools to introduce the project to schools' management and assess their commitment to the project's implementation. Amnesty International Burkina Faso and the schools proceeded to establish working groups which included the Headmaster of the school (Project Supervisor), a representative of administration (focal point of the project), representative(s) of teachers, representative(s) of students and representative(s) of parents. Amnesty International Burkina Faso also provided teacher training to ensure a clear understanding and a common vision of the project. Mollo Sanou High School teachers conducted an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges for an optimal implementation of the project in their school and started to identify activities to implement. In the coming months, Amnesty

International Burkina Faso will continue to support the starting-phase of the project in the four schools so that they may begin implementing the schools' action plan at the beginning of the school year 2013-2014.

For more information, please contact Moussa Ouedraogo, Human Rights Education Coordinator at Amnesty International Burkina Faso: mouedraogo@amnestyburkina.org



Schools launch an Amnesty Cinema in Czech Republic

On 13 March 2013, Human Rights Friendly Schools in Czech Republic launched its 'Amnesty Cinema Event' to promote and launch the Human Rights Friendly School project.



Amnesty Cinema created by Human Rights Friendly Schools in Czech Republic, March 2013. © Amnesty International

Nearly one hundred people attended the event, including human rights activists and lecturers, where they watched the documentary "China Blue" featuring the story of a teenage worker in China, and engaged in discussion and debate on pressing human right issues.

The Human Rights Friendly Schools project was introduced alongside broader Amnesty International campaigns, and schools' project coordinators were given the opportunity to present their action plan for the project as well as some of the exciting work already taking place.

"Amnesty projects have the potential to expand their [students'] horizons. But what is perhaps even more important to their lives is that they gain skills and competencies, and learn to work independently as well as cooperate and communicate. It brings them mental and social

development." Explained Martin Kůs, the project coordinator at the Vyšší odborná škola a Střední škola, s.r.o. in České Budějovice.

Two of the schools in České Budějovice have taken part in the Human Rights Friendly Schools project so far, and with the recent Czech translation of 'Becoming a Human Rights Friendly School' guide, perhaps more will follow.

For more information, please contact Jiri Bejcek, Human Rights Education projects Manager at Amnesty International Czech Republic: jiri.bejcek@amnesty.cz.

In Ghana, two more schools join the project

Amnesty International Ghana has been an active participant in the Human Rights Friendly Schools project since its inception. Starting with one school in 2009 and increasing to six by 2012, Amnesty International Ghana is now partnering with 10 Human Rights Friendly Schools.



Students of Hwedem Senior High School attending an induction seminar to the Human Rights Friendly Schools project, in Brong Ahafo Region, Ghana, February 2013 © Amnesty International

The project has developed to take on a national character, as each of the ten political and administrative regions of Ghana is represented by a school, thus giving the project the greater national visibility.

Amnesty International Ghana organized a seminar to promote participation and ensure inclusion of school community members in Hwedem SHS and Bonwire SHS in the Brong Ahafo and Ashanti regions. 850 students and 15 teachers participated in the seminar, which introduced the project to new partnering schools, highlighting the important role community members play in the implementation of the project, and discussing how schools and Amnesty International can work together to promote the project.

For more information, please contact Isaac Kwame Nyanteh, Human Rights Education Coordinator at Amnesty International Ghana: isaac@amnestyghana.org

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



TAKING ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS!



Students of the Human Rights Friendly School Mongolia-India Joint school taking action for housing rights, February 2013.

© Amnesty International

In **Mongolia**, workshops allowed students to learn about and promote **housing rights**. Human Rights Friendly Schools in Mongolia regularly integrate Amnesty International's Demand Dignity Campaign activities in the classroom. Teachers use topics such as clean water, housing rights, maternal health to engage with students on human rights issues.



Students of the Human Rights Friendly School Lycée Saint-Louis taking action to raise awareness on illegal migration, Senegal, February 2013. © Amnesty International

In **Senegal**, students from the Human Rights Friendly School Lycée Saint Louis took action to **prevent illegal migration**. In Saint Louis, northern Senegal, fishing is one of the main industries. Finding it increasingly difficult to live off of their fishing wages, many young people illegally emigrate to the Canary Islands and mainland Spain. This journey is extremely dangerous, with thousands of people dying before reaching Europe. This campaign targeted national, municipal and local town authorities, as well as women and the wider population, in order to ensure respect for the rights of young people, their right to employment and their right to life. Theatre plays were presented to raise awareness on the difficulties of the journey and of the new life people are faced with once in Spain.



Students of the Human Rights Friendly School Hwedem Senior High School in Ghana taking action for My Body, My Rights campaign, February 2013 © Amnesty International

In **Ghana**, the induction meeting of the two new Human Rights Friendly Schools Bonwire SHS School and Hwedem SHS marked the launch of the Sexual Reproductive Rights Campaign: **My Body, My Rights** on 14 February 2013 with interviews, sketch and video documentaries.

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 the IS Human Rights Education team HumanRightsFriendlySchools@amnesty.org no later than **20 May 2013**, if you wish your entry to be published in the next edition of the Human Rights Friendly Schools News.

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL

