



HRE

**STOP
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN**



Stop Violence against Women

The HRE Team at the International Secretariat are developing a component of the Activist Toolkit that forms part of the campaigning palette for the Stop Violence against Women (SVAW) campaign. The International and Legal Organizations Program and the Campaigns Program, are also producing materials for the package.

First Stage

This stage of the HRE component of the Activist Toolkit contains generic material designed as an educational tool for gender sensitizing and is directed at AI members and the wider community. The pack consists of two modules of eight three-hour sessions, which include: workshop outlines; session plans; background information; facilitation notes and lists of useful resources.

Module One

Concentrates on self reflections on gender. It questions commonly held assumptions on the construction of gender roles, stereotyping and prejudice. It looks at how these lead to discrimination based on gender and how this can translate into violence against women.

Module Two

Explores in more detail the link between discrimination and violence against women. It looks at women's rights as human rights and the public/private dichotomy. It invites participants to explore ways of creating and developing action methods and plans for use in their work.

Each session uses a wide range of participatory education techniques including:

- group work
- role plays
- case studies
- brainstorming sessions and discussions.

The materials will be piloted by a small number of sections and structures throughout the movement. The final pack will go to print in January and be ready for publishing by the end of March 2004.

Second stage

The second stage of the HRE component of the toolkit will be developed at the beginning of next year. The aim is to devise materials targeting key external sectors identified in the SVAW Campaign Strategy. These will include groups such as teachers, media and local activists.

Once the material has been developed, workshops can be organized using the materials produced. These will aim to:

- ensure the integration of women's rights into schools' curricula
- build the capacity of communities to combat discrimination and violence against women
- ensure that the media promote positive images of women in society.

The HRE Team warmly welcome any comments and input from the HRE network on developing materials for the second stage of the tool kit. For more information please contact Penelope Lee, Thematic HRE Officer (SVAW) plee@amnesty.org

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**HRE is produced by
the Human Rights
Education team at the
headquarters of
Amnesty
International**



Amnesty International Third International Human Rights Education Forum

Krokkleiva, Norway, 22-25 May 2003

The Human Rights Education (HRE) network held its third International Human Rights Education Forum in Krokkleiva, Norway, in May 2003. The meeting, hosted and funded by AI Norway and organised jointly by the HRE team and AI Norway, discussed the future direction of HRE in the context of the Integrated Strategic Plan (ISP). The Forum brought together HRE coordinators from across the movement to talk about HRE within AI, and plan HRE work for the next two years.

The meeting was very useful in terms of:

- Sharing and exchanging information
- Identifying areas where we can work together collaboratively and strategically on campaigns and thematic work, especially for the Stop Violence against Women (SVAW) campaign and other projects
- Drafting a background statement to the ICM on HRE to facilitate the process of mainstreaming HRE within AI's core work
- Exploring and capturing best practice and looking at the historical timeline of HRE within AI
- Discussing the ISP and the contribution HRE makes to the Human Rights and Organizational strategies outlined in it.



Top and above: Delegates participating in group work at the International Forum, Norway, May 2003 © AI



A new Coordinating Committee was elected to serve as regional representatives for the two years until the next International Forum. The following were elected:

Africa:	Cheikh Camara (Senegal)
Americas (North):	Karen Robinson (USA)
Americas (South):	Nelida Cespedes (Peru)
Asia:	Purnima Upadhyay (India)
Europe (East):	Ines Bulic (Croatia)
Europe (West):	Brian Ruane (Ireland)
Middle East:	Touria Boubaid (Morocco)

Participants found the meeting stimulating and enriching and were pleased to have the opportunity to meet with other educators to inform and influence the discourse of HRE within the movement.

West Africa HRE Project – Update

The aim of the project is to contribute to the eradication of torture in all its forms (including violence against women) in the 10 West African countries where AI has a recognized membership structure (Sierra Leone, Ghana, Gambia, Nigeria, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, Benin, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire).

The project is 80% funded by the European Commission and 20% funded by NRK – the Norwegian Lottery.

The objectives of the project are:

- Developing the HRE skills and capacity of small networks of human rights activists in 10 West African countries to plan, design, implement and evaluate HRE programs and activities to combat torture;
- Preparing culturally relevant training and campaigning materials for the identified target groups on preventing torture that can be used in workshops, seminars and campaigns;
- Increasing the general level of awareness within selected sectors and communities about the human rights instruments that are relevant to the prevention of torture;
- Raising awareness about the high incidence of gender based violence in West Africa and contributing to its prevention;
- Developing effective HRE networks and strengthening existing ones for AI and other relevant NGOs in West Africa to support AI's global theme campaigns (the Campaign Against Torture and the Stop Violence Against Women Campaign).

In the first year we have selected four focus countries from among the 10 participating sections and structures – these are Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Mali. We will establish a project team consisting of a Coordinator, Education Officer and Administrative Assistant to lead implementation of the project, to organize and conduct the regional level activities and to support the work at the national level.

Update on activities so far

The project officially started on 12 June 2003, and has been established within the Dakar branch of the Africa Regional Office (ARO).

Delays have occurred in recruiting the project staff (we were unable to recruit a Project Coordinator at the first attempt) which has impacted to a certain extent on implementation of project activities. The following is a brief summary of activities so far:

- Organized the first meeting of the Regional Committee from 2 to 3 August 2003, at which all 10 participating sections and structures were represented. The main aim of this Committee is to familiarize participants with the systems for managing the project, including training participants on the rules and procedures for reporting and accountability. It also aims to clarify and agree roles, responsibilities and lines of communication.
- The workshop for the Women's Network took place in Dakar from 30 November to 3 December. The main objective of this workshop was to enhance the skills of AI women members to mainstream gender in their HRE activities. The last day was devoted to strengthening participants' IT skills to facilitate better communication and networking on gender issues. The workshop included 13 participants from eight West African sections and structures. A consultant educator from Guinea, experienced in gender issues, was hired to co-facilitate the workshop together with the Project Officer and HRE Team staff member based in Dakar.
- The development of national plans for the project, is now underway. A program of workshops and visits to the participating sections and structures is scheduled, beginning with the four focus countries (Mali, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone and Senegal). The first of these planning workshops took place over the weekend of 8 and 9 November. AI Mali have now established a plan and the first national level project activities will take place there starting in December.
- The first stage of Course 1 of the Training of Trainers which was due to take place in October/November 2003, has now been pushed back to the end of January 2004, by which time it is hoped that the newly recruited Project Coordinator will be in place.

Further updates and photos will be included in the next newsletter.

HRE People

news !!

New member of staff in the HRE team

We are pleased to welcome Penelope Lee, who was recruited in September 2003, as the Thematic Human Rights Education Officer, Stop Violence against Women (SVAW). She will design and produce the HRE component of the Activist Toolkit for the SVAW campaign. Penelope has a lot of experience in teaching, particularly in teaching English as a foreign language, and has expertise in using drama and theatre in education. Penelope has begun with great energy and enthusiasm – she has already produced a draft of the first stage of the HRE Toolkit, which she successfully piloted in liaison with AI South Africa in December 2003.

New volunteers in the HRE team

We would also like to welcome our two volunteers Saul Grijalva and Laura Lopez Bech who will be working with us for the coming months.

Saul joins us from AI Mexico where he worked as volunteer on their Human Rights Education Project with Indigenous Communities. He gained a special award from his university for his work on this project. Saul is currently working with us on the Americas HRE Regional Strategy Meeting which will take place in Mexico in January 2004, as well as supporting our work in other areas.

Laura, who is from Spain, joins us from the Institute of Education in London where she is studying Education and Social Justice. Laura has previously worked with AI Spain as a volunteer involved in HRE. Laura is supporting Penelope with the HRE component of the SVAW campaign



Penelope working on the HRE component of the SVAW Activist Toolkit © AI

and is also working on a project to collate and centrally store information on HRE programs across the movement.

We are delighted to have both Saul and Laura working with us and hope that you will support them in their work.

Other news

Sonia Omar, who many of you have now met, continues in her position as International Human Rights Education Officer. Since joining the team, Sonia has made a valuable contribution by participating in the Second International HRE Forum last May in Norway, the Rights-Education-Action-Program (REAP) in Thailand and Turkey and, more recently, in the International HRE Coordinating Committee meeting in Ireland, in December 2003.

Claire Thomas, a much missed member of the team in London, is working in the Dakar office of the Africa Regional Office, Senegal, establishing the EU HRE project in West Africa. This project is aimed at eradicating torture in all its forms in 10 West African countries.

Marj Byler, has been recruited as Senior Program Director for the International Mobilization Program (IMP), of which the HRE team is now part. Marj has worked for many years with AI USA and has project managed the process of developing the Integrated Strategic Plan.

Mariam Lam, from AI Senegal, is the new IEC member with responsibility for HRE. Mariam has been involved in HRE since 1989, organizing many activities in the Senegal section and particularly encouraging HRE using oral traditions.



Sonia taking a break from the computer © AI