



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Human Rights Friendly Schools

NEWS

January-February 2012



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first 2012 edition of Human Rights Friendly Schools News! This newsletter looks at the many activities taking place across the International Human Rights Friendly Schools Network from the Letter Writing Marathon in Morocco to a Model UN in Mongolia.

In this issue:

Art of the Month

Project launches in two new schools in Benin!

Be inspired!

- Human Rights Friendly Schools & AI Global Campaigns in **Morocco, Mongolia** and **Ghana**
- Student Council Camp in **Hungary**
- Teachers' Induction in **Chile** and **Mongolia**

Breaking News!

Materials of the Month

- Education for Human Dignity **Facilitation Manual** and **Module One on Poverty and Human Rights**
- AI **Ireland's** 'Whole School Approach to Human Rights Education' booklet
- AI **France** 'Les enfants du monde racontent' ('Children of the World tell their Stories')

GET INVOLVED

CALL FOR PROJECT TWINNING!

AI Chile has expressed interest in starting a twinning project with other Human Rights Friendly Schools! If you think your school would be interested please contact Karl Bohmer directly: kbohmer@amnistia.cl

FACEBOOK FRIENDS!

The IS HRE team is pleased to launch the **Human Rights Friendly Schools Facebook Group**. This group aims at improving communications amongst you all as AI Human Rights Friendly Schools Coordinators: to facilitate the sharing of ideas and news, but also to support each other and provide advice when facing an issue. Send us a 'Friend Request' on Facebook: [ISHREteam](https://www.facebook.com/ISHREteam) and we will add you to the group.

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

Art of the month



Human Rights Friendly Schools Poster designed by the India Joint School students in Mongolia

ITALY—Human Rights Friendly Theatre in Bologna

To commemorate the Holocaust Day of Memory, High School Mattei in Bologna organized a performance entitled "Shadows in the Memory", inspired by Viktor Frankl's book "A Psychologist in the Lager".

Amnesty International has worked to keep this event relevant for young people, for example by drawing links with the feelings and experiences of those living in contemporary situations, such as through the poems of Guantanamo inmates, testimonies from death row or prisons in Libya.

The whole school community, including parents, teachers and members of the school administration were invited to move around the school, stopping at various locations to listen to testimonies read by the students. The play was very lively and the audience was moved. Because this event was such a success, they will be hosting it again throughout the school year.



Students simulate the gas chambers in a school play for the Holocaust Day of Memory, High School Mattei, Bologna, Italy



Use **Memory Days** to teach history and link it with current human rights issues through theatre or role play. This raises awareness of human rights abuses and violations throughout the entire school community.

BENIN– Project launches in two new schools

In January 2012, AI Benin launched the Human Rights Friendly Schools project in two new schools: Colleges d'Enseignement General (CEG) Yagbe and Ekpe. CEG Pahou, a partner school since the Pilot Phase of the project, sent a delegation of eight people to support the launch of the new schools.

In CEG Yagbe, many people attended the launch including community members, students, parents, teachers, school administration officers and local chiefs. AI Benin explained the aim and objectives of the project to the whole school community and highlighted the commitment undertaken by each party to the project, including to network at the national level with other schools and to fulfil their action plans. It was a very dynamic ceremony with music and human rights songs developed for the event by the students.



Students with their hands up for Human Rights, CEG Yagbe, Benin

The launch was relayed by a national television channel and raised interest about the project amongst the authorities, other NGOs and the general population, according to feedback received afterwards.



Benin TV Channel filming the launch of the project in CEG Yagbe, Benin



A monthly radio broadcast will be dedicated to the Human Rights Friendly Schools project in Benin. This will enable teachers and students to:

- Inform the wider public, including other schools and authorities in Benin about the project implementation at local and international levels
- Raise awareness about human rights widely



Student holding a banner 'Hands Up for Human Rights', CEG Yagbe, Benin

Human Rights Friendly Schools & AI Global Campaigns

GHANA – #Demand Dignity: Students performing Street Theatre

Students of Accra High School took part in a street theatre performance in the Old Fadama slum to promote the rights of slum residents and call for an end to forced evictions.



Street Theatre performed by Accra High School students, Ghana



Musicians accompany the Street Theatre run by Accra High School students, Ghana

MONGOLIA – #Accountability: A Model United Nations raises awareness about the Universal Periodic Review

In December 2011, the students of the Mongolia India High School undertook many activities to celebrate International Human Rights Day. They organized a Human Rights Week from 19 - 26 December on Demand Dignity themes. Students in the 10th and 11th Grade organised a Model United Nations activity, which focused on the UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review in order to raise students' awareness of UN human rights mechanisms and States' accountability.



Students of the Mongolia India High School presenting their work on the Universal Periodic Review

Other activities that were run by the students together with AI Mongolia included Write for Rights letter-writing activities, a human rights art exhibition, and an essay writing activity among 8th and 9th grade students.



Role Play and Participatory Theatre are participatory methods that can help school members introduce human rights into the wider school community. They also present great opportunities to discuss human rights issues while having fun!

MOROCCO – #Individuals at Risk: Human Rights Friendly Schools students support the Letter Writing Marathon

Al Morocco has been part of the Human Rights Friendly Schools project since the beginning of the Pilot Phase in 2009. The project has been implemented in Lycee Ibn Youssef for the past three years. In December, the Lycee Ibn Youssef participated in the Letter Writing Marathon. The school organised an open day to inform the public about human rights violations and abuses, and to invite people to take action by signing petitions for victims. Antoinette Chahine, a former Lebanese prisoner, was invited to the event. As a prisoner, she had been handed the death penalty, however following a global action by AI members, she was later freed. After her visit to the school, students felt driven to increase peoples' knowledge of the issues and visited a Marrakech University in order to raise awareness and collect signatures. These actions received **media coverage** in Morocco and thereby promoted the Human Rights Friendly Schools project.



Students raising awareness about the Letter Writing Marathon in the Lycee Ibn Youssef, Morocco



Round Table event at International Teacher Day, Morocco

Benefiting from its prior experience implementing the project in a pilot school, Al Morocco has been working for the last year with a new school Abi Dar in Rabat. Implementing the project on a step by step basis, Al Morocco initially focused on raising awareness about the project within the school community and subsequently compiled a Year-one Action Plan for the next academic year. The project was launched through a promotional event, the '16 days of activism' held from 25 November to 10 December 2011. **In partnership with the United Nations in Morocco**, the event focused on ending violence and discrimination against women. Different media and techniques including images, videos, drawings, plays, case studies and role plays were used throughout the campaign to lead the presentations, plenary discussions and group work.

The students were interviewed about their views on discrimination and on their ideas to campaign against it. The video is available on the UN website <http://www.mdgfund.org/country/morocco/video/CombatingViolenceagainstWomeninMorocco>. This activity was also an opportunity to collect hundreds of signatures from students and professors on women's rights in the context of the Letter Writing Marathon.



Partnership with other NGOs or International Organisations can enhance the visibility of the project in the country and abroad, and provide support to the school.

Teachers' Induction

CHILE – Latino Cordillera: Planning the project with teachers

AI Chile is working with the Colegio Latino Cordillera as part of the Human Rights Friendly Schools project. AI Chile HRE coordinator, Karl Bohmer, together with AI Chile Executive Director, Ana Piquer, and two members of the Section delivered a 3-hour workshop for teachers, staff, pupils, and a neighbourhood representative. The school will begin planning the project at the beginning of the summer holidays this year.



Teachers' training in Colegio Latino Cordillera, Chile

The workshop focused on:

- Presenting the Human Rights Friendly School Project and the way it works to the whole community,
- Presenting AI's aims and role in the project to the whole school community and community leader
- Working on an initial action plan to begin in March 2012, which will be related to International Women's Day (March 8th), as well as the school's annual commemoration of the murders of teachers Manuel Parada and Manuel Guerrero that took place during the dictatorship.

Teachers worked with AI materials on gender violence from both AI Spain and the Human Rights Friendly Schools Project. As a result of their work, we successfully planned the following activities:

- Some secondary level classes will hold a school assembly on "Violence against Women" and present the outcomes to the others in early March.
- Students will organise an exhibition of the outcomes on the school's bulletin board.
- In April, the school will evaluate their Human Rights Friendliness and start the annual planning.

For more information about the school: <http://www.colegiolatinocordillera.cl/introduccion.htm>

MONGOLIA – Induction of the teachers in the new schools

Ganchimeg from AI Mongolia organised induction trainings for teachers of both Bayan Undur Secondary School and 19th Secondary School of Darkhan City to the project. In Bayan-Undur secondary school, an initial training took place in September 2011, followed in November by a second training for interested teachers.



Teachers Training is key to project implementation. Teachers need to be empowered to teach human rights and take the project forward.



Teachers' training, Bayan-Undur Secondary School, Mongolia

School Governance

Hungary – Setting up a Student Council

AI Hungary is currently working with Dr. Ambedkar School in Sajokaza, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county, Hungary. This county has the highest rate of unemployment and the highest number of Roma communities who suffer from segregation in the entire country. The Roma community in Sajokava lives in a segregated part of the village and faces constant discrimination from local authorities. Generations of Roma families in this area have missed out on school; Dr. Ambedkar School gives them a second chance, and plays an essential role in reinforcing trust in the education system.

The Human Rights Friendly Schools Project started in Dr. Ambedkar School in May 2011. AI Hungary is working to promote a culture of human rights in three areas:

- HRE in the curriculum
- Setting up a student council
- Support to initiate conflict resolution in the school

AI Hungary organised a camp in November 2011 to elect members of the student council from four different units within the school. The camp's objective was to provide students with opportunities to engage in human rights education through extra-curricular activities, and to build an effective student council in order to promote shared leadership among members of the school community. The camp provided training to the new members of the newly established representative body on participation and human rights friendly governance.



Students debating the design of the Student Council's logo, Hungary

The following activities took place with the whole school community:

- Drawing up the rules of the camp in cooperation with students.
- The Hungarian Civil Liberties Union held a training session on civil liberties and fundamental rights.
- Workshops on designing a logo for the student council; preparation of the Human Rights Day Programme; a debate on 'friendship between boys and girls' to enhance debate and students' communication skills which also incorporated improvisatory theatre techniques.
- Participative feedback session to share experiences and feelings after the camp.

As a result, the students improved their communication skills and respected one another's opinions. A wide variety of human rights issues were discussed in a human rights friendly way!



Student Council Camp, Dr. Ambedkar School, Hungary



Training students on civil liberties and fundamental rights enables them to participate in school governance and empowers them to claim and use their rights in a structure such as the Student Council.

Breaking News!

AI SENEGAL–Welcome to the LYCEE IBOU DIALLO from Sedhiou!

We welcome the LYCEE IBOU DIALLO secondary school in Sedhiou, Casamance, the southern region of Sénégal. 95% of the population is school educated and the ethnic and religious diversity makes it an interesting region in which to implement the Human Rights Friendly Schools project. Also, this region has been subject to a low-level civil war that has been waged between the government of Senegal and the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC) since 1982 over the question of independence for the Casamance region. This will be one of the human rights themes run in the school during the implementation of the project.

AI BERMUDA expressed a strong interest to join the project and is currently in discussion with a school. This will bring us to 21 countries involved!

Materials of the Month

Respect my Rights, Respect my Dignity

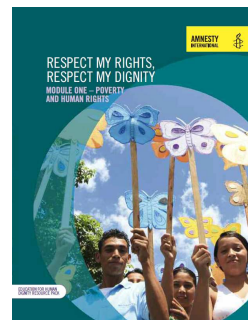
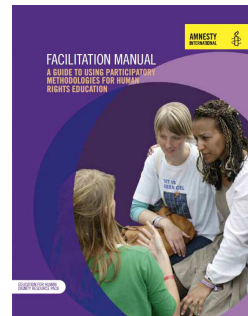
Two new educational resources for young people on poverty and human rights

The IS Human Rights Education Team, together with AI Italy, AI Poland and AI Slovenia, are pleased to announce the launch of two new educational materials which aim to equip educators and youth activists to support young people in their actions to reduce poverty from a human rights perspective. The materials include a **Facilitation Manual** on participatory methodologies in human rights education and a **Module on Poverty and Human Rights**, and are part of the Respect my Rights, Respect my Dignity educational resource pack. The resources and tools were produced using a participatory approach with the international AI HRE Network and draw on experiences, expertise and case studies from both the global North and South.

The materials are available in English, French, Spanish, Italian, Polish and Slovenian. For more information, contact Melody Ross, Education for Human Dignity Project Coordinator, melody.ross@amnesty.org. To access them:

Facilitation Manual <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/ACT35/021/2011/en>

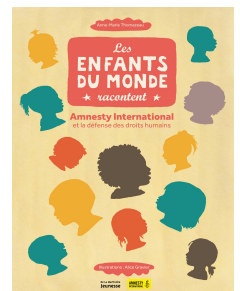
Module 1 <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/ACT35/020/2011/en>



AI Ireland developed a Whole School Approach to Human Rights Education booklet based on the Human Rights Friendly Schools Project. This short booklet includes a step by step guide describing how to implement a whole school approach in schools. To access it online please click

<http://www.amnesty.ie/sites/default/files/hre/2012/01/Whole%20School%20Approach%20to%20HRE%20Booklet.pdf>

AI France has also published 'Les enfants du Monde racontent'. It illustrates the work of Amnesty International actions and explains it to young people. Please contact Pauline David at AI France for more info: pdauid@amnesty.fr



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