

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Human Rights Friendly Schools

NEWS May-June 2012



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the May-June 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.

In this issue:

Art of the month

Story of the month

Human Rights Friendly Schools in Kenya: three different contexts

Monitoring and Evaluation in Ireland

Be inspired!

Morocco – Human Rights Participatory Workshops & Promoting Human Rights

Ghana – Interschool-debate on death penalty

Kenya – Interschool dialogue

Senegal – Celebrating Amnesty International's 51st Anniversary

Benin – Radio post cast

Czech Republic – Journey to find a school partner

Action for the Arms Trade Treaty Campaign

Breaking News!

Materials of the Month

! Communication from the IS

Welcome to Leilah Gordon-Bates, our new HRE intern! She will be contacting you Re the Activities Guide she is developing for the Human Rights Friendly Schools project.

We are pleased to be launching the new design of the **Human Rights Friendly Schools logo!** (See at the top of the page)

Thank you to those who commented the **Information Booklet for schools!** We will finalize it by the end of the month.

We are currently revising the **Memorandum of Understanding** for next year. To simplify the process there will be a MoU between the IS and the S/s and a separate one between the S/s and each school.

The **Guide for Human Rights Friendly Schools** is in the process of design; you will receive the English version in August.

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

ART OF THE MONTH



Students' play for human rights, Morocco © Amnesty International Morocco

In Morocco, music, illustrations, theatre and poems are some of the activities employed by the students to promote a culture of human rights.

Human Rights Friendly Schools promoted human rights by organizing an event with Amnesty International Morocco. Students presented human rights issues through theatre, song, dance and poetry reading, before the school community, including teachers, parents and other students.

These activities also included the signing of a petition, writing post cards and creating posters as reminder of the importance of education as a solution against child labor and exploitation.

A group of students also wrote a poem demanding to respect childhood.

Original version in French

Enfance non Réclamée!

Par Leila Choujaa, Youssef Tlemsani, Abdellah Madane, Kawthar Ait Boualik, Dina El Alami, Soukayna Ben Boubker

Eh petit enfant exploité,
Victime de destin et de pauvreté
Pourquoi es-tu maltraité?
Isolé, ignoré, détesté
Par la société
Petite silhouette lasse par les besoins
Les larmes aux yeux
Privé de tout droit possible
Toi, innocent soldat, armé, mais sans force
Et toi, fille de foyer, travaille dur mais sans récompense
Privé de l'affection de tes biens chers
Observant le petit agriculteur
Laboure la terre, plein de sueur.
Minuscules mains, toutes osseuses
Comme les autres ayant un petit espoir dans l'obscurité,
De se débarrasser de la torture de l'ignorance
Eh! Jetez un coup d'œil aux sciences des grands fameux
Sèche tes larmes
Secoue tes bras
Avance, ne perds pas espoir
Sois patient
Ton enfance sera bientôt réclamée.

English version, non official translation

Childhood not reclaimed!

By Leila Choujaa, Youssef Tlemsani, Abdellah Madane, Kawthar Ait Boualik, Dina El Alami, Soukayna Ben Boubker

Well little exploited child
Victim of fate and poverty
Why are you abused?
Isolated, ignored, hated
By society
Small figure weary from labour
To tears
Deprived of any possible right
You, innocent soldier, armed, but without strength
And you, little maid, you work hard but without reward
Deprived of the love of your cherished ones
Observing the small farmer
Plough the earth, sweating.
Tiny hands, all bony
As the others have a small hope in the dark,
To get rid of ignorance's torture
Hey! Take a look at the sciences of the powerful
Dry your tears
Shake your arms
Go forwards, do not lose hope
Be patient
Your child will be soon reclaimed.

STORY OF THE MONTH

Human Rights Friendly Schools in Kenya: three different contexts

Amnesty International Kenya seeks to use human rights education as a tool to reach out to young people and to strategically create linkages and foundations for future engagement with them to achieve sustainability in growth and human rights impact.



Moses Opiyo HRE coordinator in Kenya facilitating a human rights education workshop © Amnesty International Kenya

As part of the Human Rights Friendly Schools project, AI Kenya has been working with three secondary schools with various backgrounds.

New Horizon School is a slum based school in Kibera one of the largest slum in Africa, Nairobi, Kenya. Members of the school community, students in particular, are involved in promoting and defending their human rights and raising awareness in the surrounding community about human rights, especially the need for a clean environment. The community has positively welcomed the project over time.

One of the parents noted that *'John has been very good for the past days and does not miss school as in the past, he does all the home chores without any complaints, he advises me on the importance of education and other healthy living issues.'*



Water tank installed in the backyard of Kiogo secondary school in Kenya © Amnesty International Kenya

Kiogo Secondary School is a public rural based school located 5 km from Kisii town and over 500 km from Nairobi city. It is located in a densely populated community with a school population of 320 students most of them from poor households and the majority being orphans. As a developing school it faces many challenges, including insufficient infrastructure e.g. electricity, piped water, science laboratory facilities and teaching and learning resources. One of the first steps taken towards becoming a Human Rights Friendly Schools, has been to ensure that all children had access to drinking water at school. The school community installed a water tank in its yard which avoids

interference during class hours as students used to fetch water at the river during lessons.



Human Rights Friendly Schools Garden, State House Girls' High School © Amnesty International Kenya

State House Girls' High School is a public boarding school for girls located next to State House in Nairobi. The school's first activity was to create a Human Rights Garden. Several rights are painted on stones placed around the garden, as well as pictures and quotes from several human rights defenders including Martin Luther King, Mother Teresa and Nelson Mandela. The garden is a place where the human rights club can gather to conduct human rights related activities. The human rights club was started at the school in 2010 after the school participated in an Amnesty International Kenya sponsored human rights theme at the annual Kenya Music Festivals (an annual performance arts competition for secondary schools from all over the country). Amnesty International entered into formal partnership with the school in 2011.

MONITORING and EVALUATION in Ireland

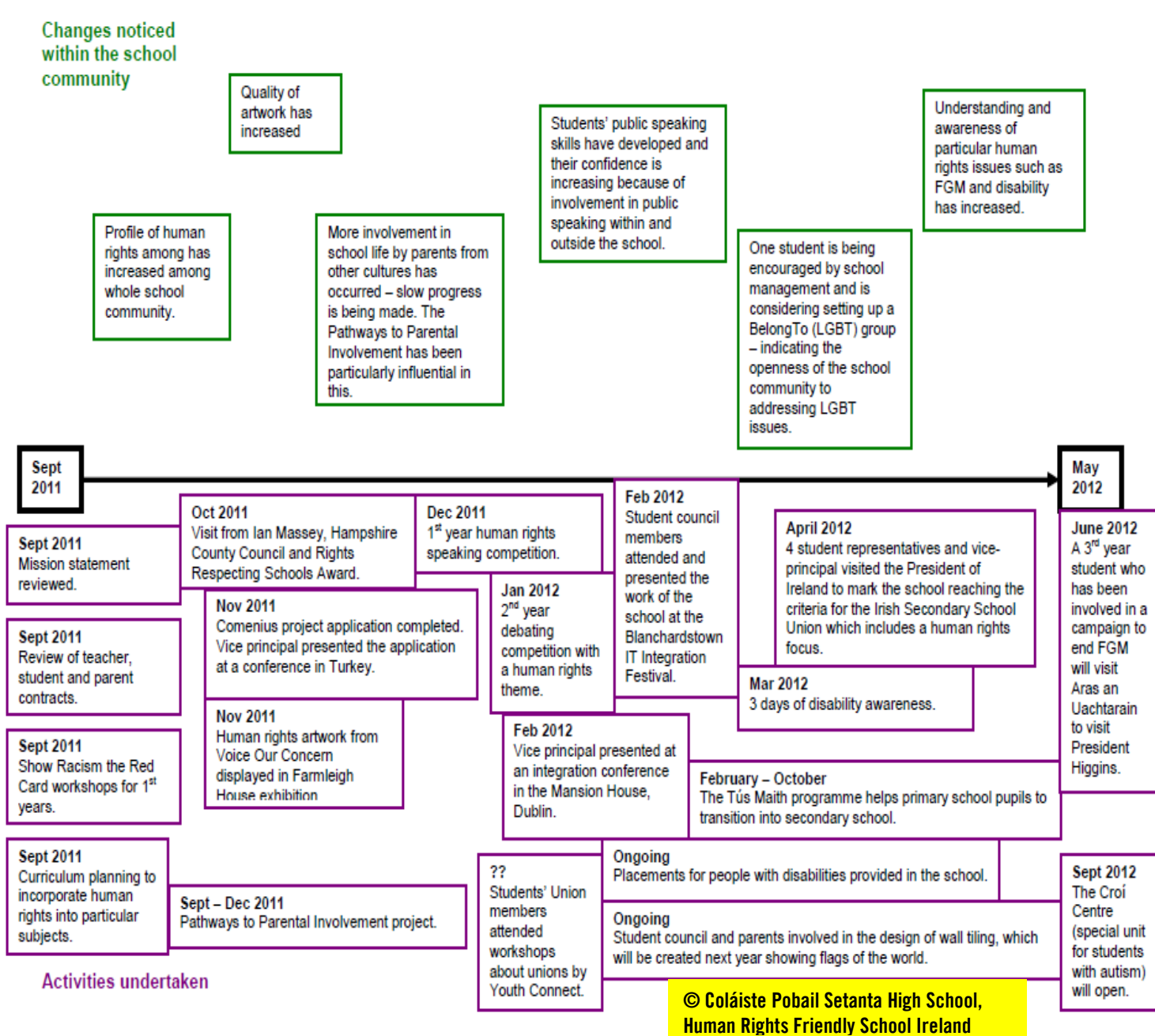


© Green Schools Ireland

Coláiste Pobail Setanta High School and Amnesty International Ireland undertook monitoring and evaluation activities at the end of the school year. They piloted the timeline exercise highlighting the activities implemented throughout the school year and reflecting on their link with the changes observed in the school.

A timeline is a visual depiction of events that have taken place over an extended period of time, represented by points along a horizontal line. It can be developed as a participatory exercise, with discussions taking place as the visual image is being constructed. In the framework of the Human Rights Friendly Schools project it aims to identify the activities implemented and the resulting changes that have occurred in the school over the year.

Below is the timeline developed by the school teacher in charge of the project, summarising their activities and the changes observed in the school.



BE INSPIRED!

MOROCCO – Human Rights Participatory Workshops

With the help of teachers and Amnesty International Morocco, 40 high school students from Abi Dar El Ghifari conducted eight workshops on human rights throughout the school year 2012.

The students chose various human rights topics they were willing to discuss including: The Arab Spring, social justice, the right to life and the death penalty, freedom of expression, human trafficking and slavery, freedom of conscience, belief and religion, women's Rights in the Family Code in Morocco, the right to health and the risks of smoking on young people, violence. There were addressed in the school's Human Rights Club.

The workshops were prepared in a participatory manner between students, teachers, and Amnesty Morocco, to define the goals of each session, methodology, teaching tools, etc. The topics discussed were discussed through various activities, including case studies and games. Artistic activities were also successfully performed.

To find out more, watch the video the school members produced with the support of Amnesty International <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10150719910073300>



Workshop at the Abi Dar El Ghifari high school, students presenting the definition of freedom of expression
© Amnesty International Morocco



Prepare workshops with students at the beginning of the school year, allowing them to choose human rights issues they want to talk about. This will enable students' ownership of the Human Rights Friendly Schools project.

GHANA – Interschool-debate on death penalty

Accra High School (AHISCO) and Suhum Presbyterian Senior High School (Suhum PRESEC) joined hands to discuss death penalty.



The Suhum Presbyterian Team, led by Master Stephen Tetegah Senyo defended the motion that “death penalty is a violation of human rights” calling for its abolition. As he opened the floor with his arguments he was opposed by Miss Deborah Abbey, speaking for the Accra High School Team.

Both speakers impressed the judges and the audience with their well-researched arguments, their intelligence and their wits! It was a very tight contest as Suhum PRESEC won the debate with a total score of 74 points and was followed closely by AHISCO with 70 points!

The debate was followed by an open forum for questions, comments and other contributions. The importance of standing together for human rights was highlighted by the student leaders, teachers and parents as they took the opportunity to encourage all members of the school communities to reflect human rights in all aspects of the school.

Before ending the event, certificates, human rights books and token cash prizes were presented to the participating schools and their debaters; then all participants joined in celebration with music and dance sessions by students from both schools.

In his closing remarks, the headmaster of Suhum PRESEC congratulated and thanked the students for coming together to promote human rights and friendship and expressed his profound gratitude to Amnesty International for the Human Rights Friendly Schools project “which brings about positive changes, not only in the lives of our students but the school as a whole”.

Watch the video of the debate!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWHHGgt3myA>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jly8UtNIRvw&feature=youtu.be>



Photos from top to bottom:

1. Mr. Vorleto Donkor, Assistant Headmaster of Suhum Presbyterian Senior High School, introduced invited guests, debaters and panel of judges.
2. Deborah Abbey, Principal Speaker of Accra High School
3. Debaters are congratulating one another, good sportsmanship!

© Amnesty International Ghana



Organise an interschool-debate in your country and film it! By having both sides of the debate represented (e.g. for and against death penalty), debaters and the audience are better equipped and informed to understand different positions and to make their own opinion.

Kenya— Interschool dialogue

June 10, 2012
sunday_nation

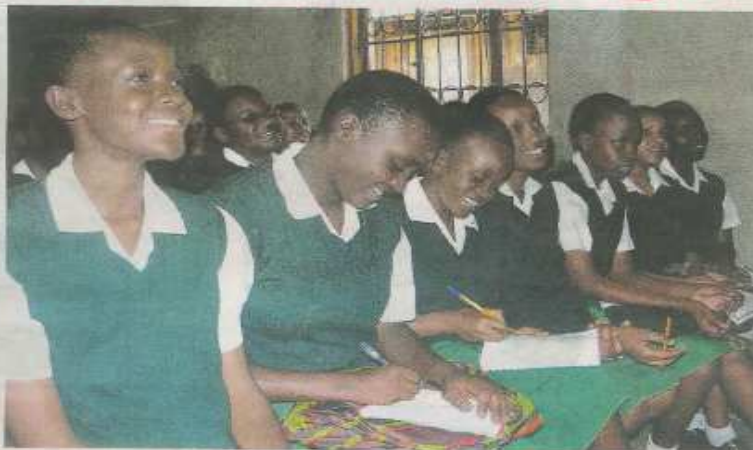
Young Nation Rollout - pg 3



A meeting to discuss children's rights

Cover: Some participants who are members of human rights club at Precious Blood Riruta follow the debate and discussions during a visit to New Horizon Secondary in Kibera.

PHOTOS: MWORIA MUCHINA



BY MWORIA MUCHINA
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Growing up Nairobi's Kibera slums, the largest slum in Africa, Peninah Omwenje observed how most children were denied their rights, especially the right to education, good housing and medical care. Several years later, the Form Two student at New Horizon Secondary School still in Kibera, is playing her part in sensitising the young people living in this community about their basic rights.

A member of the school's Human Rights Club, Peninah is one other club members who have come together to organise an exchange visit between themselves and members of the human rights club from Precious Blood School-Riruta. Amnesty International Kenya supports them in their efforts.

"One of the major issues affecting children growing up in the slums is poor living conditions," Peninah told an attentive audience at the school's hall.

However, according to the young human rights advocate, the major concern is the pollution of the environment. According to Unicef, it's a right for every child to grow in a clean environment. And as the world prepares to celebrate the Day of the African Child on June 16, Peninah feels a lot needs to be done to sensitise the community about the rights of children.

"There was a time we used to clean the environment around the school, but in the morning we would find residents had littered again. But after sensitising them about the need for a clean learning environment, we have seen a positive response," says Peninah about some of the challenges they face as young human rights advocates in this largest slum in Africa.

Aulaar Kembabazi, 14, and a student at Precious Blood School, said she is grateful to experience first-hand life in the slums when she and other students from her school visited New Horizon Secondary School situated in Kibera.

"It is good sharing experiences and learning from one another. I am happy to learn that despite the challenges they face the fellow members have achieved a lot in creating child rights awareness," said Aulaar, adding that after the visit she made new friends who she hopes to continue interacting with and sharing more experiences.

Speaking to the students, Moses Opiyo of Amnesty International Kenya outlined the importance of human rights clubs in schools and especially within the slums to create

awareness on the rights of children.

Barke Hussein Chote of Precious Blood expressed her desire to see all children, and especially those living in the slums, being protected from child labour. "As we walked within the slum, I saw some children helping to sell groceries, which is bad since they were supposed to be in school," said Barke.

Her views were echoed by her schoolmate Catherine Waithe, while Lillian Mafumo, a student at New Horizon Secondary School, called on the slum residents to help in conservation and keeping the environment clean. Enock Angaya of New Horizon took the opportunity to thank the students from Precious Blood for their visit and their encouragement.

On June 16, the world will commemorate the Day of the African Child. This year's theme is, "The Rights of Children with Disabilities: the duty to protect, respect, promote and fulfill."

The Day of the African Child marks the anniversary of the Soweto Uprising in 1976. On June 16, 1976, thousands of black South African students joined in a protest against the education policies of the apartheid regime. Police responded with force, killing at least 200 children. Since 1991, June 16 has been an occasion to honour the courage of the children who participated in the protests, and to advocate for further action to address the physical and educational needs of children in Africa.



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Right: Peninah Omwenje giving her views during an interactive debate on children's rights at the New Horizon School.

Amnesty International Kenya organized an exchange visit between students of New Horizon Secondary School in Kibera and those from Precious Blood School.

Human rights clubs are essentially youth structures that create sustainable partnerships for sharing experiences and learning from each other and growth of a vibrant network of young people taking action for the greater protection of human rights. At the forum held at New Horizon School in Kibera on 15th May 2012, students generally engaged with each other and linked human rights to their respective day to day experiences as students and also to their school life.

Such forums stimulate inter-students dialogue and appreciation on human rights issues and increase awareness of the different contexts of human rights with respect to social, economic and cultural environments.

This interschool forum received media coverage by the Sunday Nation (see article on the left).



Use Human Rights Clubs as:

- **Spaces** to engage with young people in school to demystify the term 'human rights'.
- **Vehicles** to integrate human rights practice, values and principles into all areas of school life and the greater society.

Senegal—Celebrating Amnesty International’s 51st Anniversary

The school’s Human Rights Club organised the first activity of the Lycee Ibou Diallo in Sedhiou, Senegal, celebrating Amnesty International 51st anniversary. Amnesty International Senegal organised a graduation ceremony to express gratitude to all those who cooperated with the club.



Members of the Human Rights Club presenting a play on forced marriage, Lycée Ibou Diallo in Sedhiou, Senegal © Amnesty International Senegal

The Human Rights Club Club presented a sketch on forced marriage, which was well received by the audience. The professor of Philosophy, Mr Oumar THANE, delivered a talk addressing the sociological approach to human rights. This activity of the Human Rights Club had a positive impact as Amnesty International Senegal received increasing demands from high schools in the region to implement such activities in their schools.

This event combined with the presence of Amnesty International during the Cultural Olympiad (‘journées culturelles’) highlighted Amnesty International activities in Sedhiou and the Inspector of Schools, Elh Baba Diasse, present during the ceremony thanked Amnesty International for its positive contribution to the education system of Sedhiou and encouraged other organizations to take example.

Benin – Radio Post cast



Students of the Human Rights Friendly Schools in Benin © Amnesty International Benin

This year, the general strike of teachers has somewhat disturbed the normal course of schools. In order to revive the project in the three Human Rights Friendly Schools in Benin and to inform the public about the project successes and challenges, a two-part series radio broadcast was initiated.

Amnesty International Benin organized with the Human Rights Friendly Schools CEG Yagbé, Pahou and Ekpè, a radio programme in which representatives of the three school communities participated. The radio broadcast involved students, parents, teachers and head teachers. It provided a platform for school members to exchange their views on the Human Rights Friendly Schools project, challenges and successes. The objective of the broadcast was to inform of the presence of Amnesty International in Benin and the implementation of the project.



Use Radio Broadcast to raise-awareness at national level and allow an exchange of views between the Human Rights Friendly Schools in the country. Perhaps a discussion between different countries could also be of interest for a Radio Broadcast, to enhance collaboration within the International Network of schools.

Czech Republic – Journey to find a school partner

Jiří Bejček, coordinator of the Human Rights Friendly Schools project in Czech Republic, tells us their journey to find school partners. The two schools in Czech Republic will begin the project in September 2012!



Jiří Bejček coordinator of the Human Rights Friendly Schools project in Czech Republic presenting the project to students of Gymnázium Teplice.

© Amnesty International Czech Republic

“In March, we announced a call for schools to join the project. We put it on our website and sent the information to hundreds of potential schools in the Czech Republic. We collected 10 applications and chose four of them for the second round. We arranged a visit with each of these 4 schools in order to meet separately in subsequent sessions with the management, students (selected by the school itself), then with teachers (interested), school psychologist/counsellor, and then the management again.

Our criteria for the selection of the best school partners for the Project were:

- motivation of respective groups,
- capacity of those who would run the project and whom we would cooperate with,
- current human rights friendliness of the school. We decided to start the Project in our country with schools which are already at some level of “human rights friendliness”.

The first school chosen is “**Gymnázium Teplice**” (grammar school in Teplice). It is a rather big state school with 90 employees and 850 students. It is one of the best schools in the region. The school rules endow students with many rights, there is an independent student parliament established by the rules as well. The school, which carries out many activities for its student as well as for students from other schools and for public, is involved in several international projects. Students are encouraged to volunteer and initiate many activities. Human rights topics are part of the curriculum at different levels.



Gymnázium Teplice, Human Rights Friendly School in Czech Republic

© Amnesty International Czech Republic

The second school is “**Vyšší odborná škola a střední škola, s.r.o.**” in České Budějovice (secondary/vocational school in České Budějovice) which is a rather small private school (around 60-80 students and 15 staff members) with a friendly and homely atmosphere. There are no more than 15 students in a class. Due to the small number of students there is no student parliament. The individual approach is automatic, everybody knows everyone there... The school is very open (they claim Doors Open Day is every day!) and cooperates with parents on a regular basis.”



Organise a national or regional call for schools to apply to become part of the Human Rights Friendly Schools Network. Use clear selection criteria in a transparent manner.



Vyšší odborná škola a střední škola, s.r.o., Human Rights Friendly School in Czech Republic
© Amnesty International Czech Republic

Taking action for the Arms Trade Treaty Campaign



© Amnesty International Benin

Ghana: In Ghana, the interschool debate was the opportunity to collect signature from the participants using post cards to urge the government of Ghana and all UN member states to secure an Arms Trade Treaty, to prevent atrocities and human rights abuses, and to protect lives and livelihoods. In all, six hundred and thirty-eight (638) postcards were signed by teachers, parents and AI members present at the event.

NO ARMS FOR ATROCITIES

Benin: The Human Rights Friendly Schools in Benin and Amnesty International Benin initiated an inter-school football tournament for the Arms Trade Treaty Campaign.

Morocco: Students are actively involved in Amnesty International campaigns. They are part of the many signatories of the petition aiming to establish a treaty regulating the arms trade.



Accra High School girls signing post cards for the ATT Campaign, Ghana, 2012 © Amnesty International Ghana

REMEMBER!

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, including the Human Rights Friendly Schools Network are invited to take action. For more information please refer to the AI ATT Campaign Action Circular ACT 30/015/2012:

Breaking News!

AI Ireland We would like to wish Claire Glavey, former Human Rights Friendly Schools coordinator in Ireland, all the best for her new adventures! Claire has been implementing the project in partnership schools in Ireland for the past 2 years. Anne Molloy, HRE Manager AI Ireland, will take over for the coming months. Thank you Claire for your amazing work for this project!

AI South Africa Welcome back to Jabu Tugwana who recently gave birth to a beautiful girl!

Materials of the Month



AI Belgium_ Guide for schools _Mon école au cœur des droits humains ('my school at the heart of human rights')_ French

AI Belgium developed an Educational Manual for schools to start the discussing human rights in the school.

Five steps are proposed to the schools:

- First, the school has to choose between one of three rights listed and take its temperature within the school
- Understand the governance system of the school
- Find solutions to promote human rights in the school
- Talk to the school authorities or the person identified as the decision maker for the school
- Introduction to the Human Rights Friendly Schools project

These steps can be used to start discussions with schools who might be interested in implementing the Human Rights Friendly Schools project.

To learn more: <http://www.amnesty-jeunes.be/> [Left hand link: Campagnes > Mon école au cœur des droits humains]

AI UK_ Film_ I talk out loud, teacher's cut_ English



What is it like leading an Amnesty youth group?

Eastlea teachers Naz and Leilee tell their side of the story - vital viewing for any teachers thinking of starting a group in their school!

See the film: <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=12142>

See also: *How to start a youth group:*

<http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=10390>

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** aurelia.donnard@amnesty.org no later than **15 August 2012** if you wish your entry to be published in the next edition of the Human Rights Friendly Schools News.