



Human Rights Friendly Schools

NEWS July-September 2012

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the July-September 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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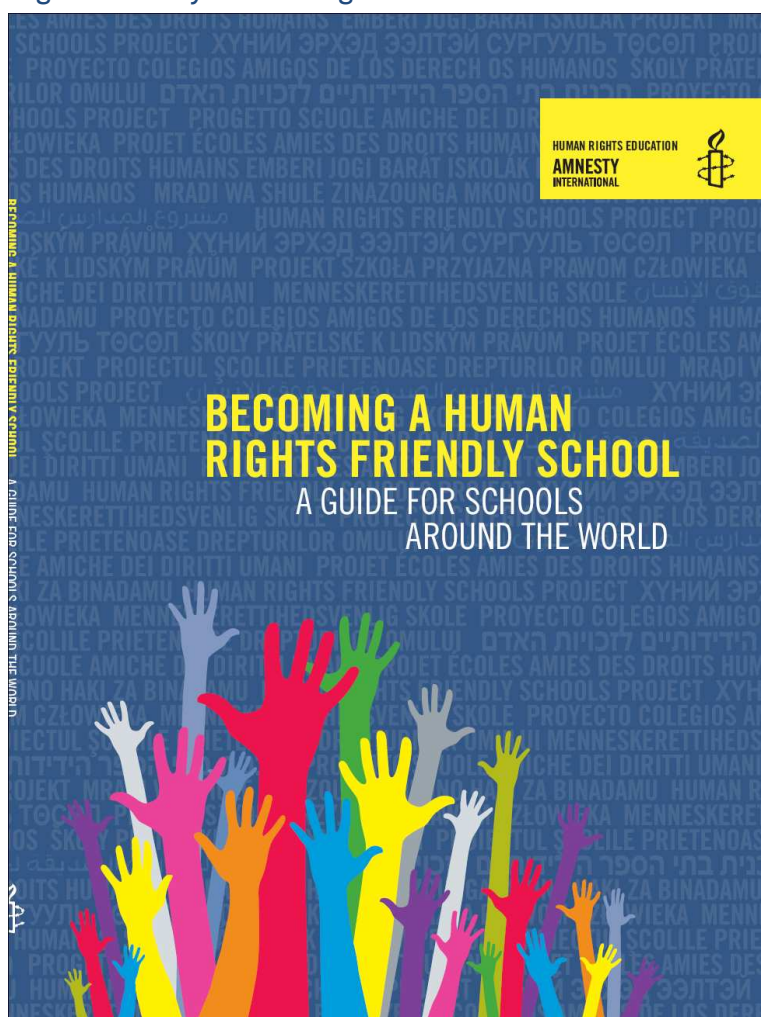
HAPPY NEW SCHOOL YEAR 2012-2013!

Recent developments in the International Human Rights Friendly Schools Network!

NEWS OF THE MONTH

'Becoming a Human Rights Friendly School: A guide for schools around the world'

The brand new guide for the Human Rights Friendly Schools project is now available: 'Becoming a Human Rights Friendly School: A guide for schools around the world'



This guide describes what a Human Rights Friendly School is and what it can achieve, offering practical suggestions on how to integrate human rights into schools around the world. It explains how the 10 Global Principles for Human Rights Friendly Schools - based on international human rights standards - can be integrated into four key areas of school life: governance, relationships, curriculum and extra-curricular activities, and school environment. Illustrated throughout with successful case studies, this guide describes the steps schools can take to plan and implement the project. Finally, it provides useful tools to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate a school's journey to becoming human rights friendly.

The global launch of the guide will be next week, and will feature success stories on the amnesty.org website.

The guide is available online in English, and will be soon available in French and Spanish. To download the guide in English, please click on the following link: <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/POL32/001/2012/en>

INITIATIVE OF THE MONTH

CHILE – Launch of a human rights book for children



Human Rights Friendly School students listening to stories of human rights presented by Amnesty International Chile, September 2012

© Amnesty International Chile



Human Rights Friendly School students presenting stories of migrants at the launch of Amnesty International Chile book on human rights issues for children, September 2012 © Amnesty International Chile



Human Rights Friendly School students performing a traditional dance to support the launch of Amnesty International book on human rights issues for children, September 2012 © Amnesty International Chile

On 2 September 2012 Amnesty International Chile, with Chilean publishing company LOM Ediciones, released two children's stories written by Amnesty International volunteers: '*Una Aventura sin Fronteras*' (An Adventure Without Borders), and '*Rebecca y Ankalli; En busca del agua*' (Rebecca and Ankalli; In Search of Water).

AI Chile launched the book in partnership with three schools, including San Luis Beltrán, an institute whose mission is to educate students in need; Latino Cordillera, a school founded on the importance of community and partner to the Human Rights Friendly School project; and Maisons de L'Enfance, which specializes in environmental education. Each school was asked to prepare a short performance about one of the two stories.

A group of eight students from Latino Cordillera School presented *An Adventure without Borders*. Each student displayed a large photo of an immigrant they know and gave a brief description of that person's story: how and why they came to Chile. The presentation was short but powerful and successfully demonstrated the proximity of the migrant experience to Chilean society.

At the end of the event, children in the audience drew pictures reflecting something they had learned or how they felt about the topics presented throughout the morning.

Amnesty International Chile and its Human Rights Education team consider the event a success, as it effectively introduced the topic of human rights through child-friendly means and provided an educational tool for teachers and parents. It may also serve as a useful platform for sharing the Human Rights Friendly Schools project, as the participating school Latino Cordillera is the first in Chile to take part in the initiative. Approximately 150 adults and 140 young learners attended the event, a testimony to the community's desire to be involved in human rights education.



TIP FOR SCHOOLS: You can invite school members to external events such as a public reading, campaign action etc. Encourage them to take active part in the event, reading their own stories of human rights or, sharing experiences. School members can then offer their views on particular human rights issues. Doing so can provide an opportunity to share with local authorities and the wider public, increasing the visibility of the school's activities to become a Human Rights Friendly School.

BE INSPIRED!

KENYA—Monitoring and Evaluation in Kiogo High School

In July 2012, Moses Opiyo, Youth and HRE Coordinator, and Minicah Hamisi Otieno, HRE Volunteer at Amnesty International Kenya, visited Kiogo High School, a Human Rights Friendly School in Kenya. The main purpose of the visit was to gather information, share experiences, and evaluate the Human Rights Friendly Schools initiative concerning:



Amnesty International Kenya meeting representatives of the Human Rights Friendly School Kiogo School. Moses Opiyo, HRE coordinator told the students the importance of knowing their rights and practising them in their day to day life at school and at home, July 2012. © Amnesty International Kenya

- How the partnership with Amnesty International affects the school community
- How administrators view human rights at their school
- Experiences and challenges faced by the working group since the project started.

AI Kenya met with representatives of the entire school community and observed progress made by the school in governance structures and relationships.

Parents and students are provided with opportunities to learn about and experience human rights. This School Working Group was able to organize a review of the school rules, including the punishment policy, using participatory methods. In addition, to ensure positive relationships within the school, a notice board is available in every classroom to all students as a means of communication. Non-teaching staff in the school are involved in various activities and are regarded as equal stakeholders, eligible for awards during prize-giving ceremonies.



Moses Opiyo, HRE coordinator AI Kenya planting a tree celebrating the becoming a Human Rights Friendly School in Kiogo High School in Kenya, July 2012. © Amnesty International Kenya

Amnesty International Kenya's visit coincided with the launch of the Human Rights Friendly School project for the year 2012-2013. The delegation planted two trees in the school garden in commemoration of the visit and recognition of Amnesty's efforts in facilitating human rights education at the school. More than 100 trees were planted by teachers, non-teaching staff and students indicating that "As the trees grow and take root in the soil, so will human rights education grow and take root generation after generation".

The delegation was also able to attend an assembly where the school's Head Boy and Head Girl showed appreciation for the vision of having human rights practiced in the school and wished that the school would emerge as a leading institution in human rights practice and adherence.

Overall, both the administration and student body are enthusiastic about human rights and the partnership with Amnesty International.

HUNGARY –Human Rights Student Camp



Marton Siska, HRE coordinator AI Hungary, training members of Student Council of Dr Ámbédkár School in human rights and human rights friendly methods of conflict resolutions, July 2012 © Amnesty International Hungary

This training complements a 90-minute human rights course provided by AI Hungary at the school every other week. Overall, members of the administration praised the effort of AI trainers supporting Dr. Ámbédkár School's journey to becoming a Human Rights Friendly School.

In July 2012, AI Hungary organized a Human Rights Camp with students of Dr Ámbédkár School, a Human Rights Friendly School in Hungary.

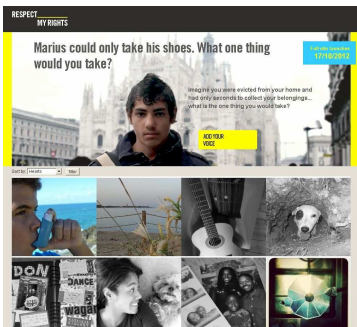
Previously in 2011, AI Hungary held a successful camp during the early stages of project implementation. AI Hungary observes that Student Camp offers a great opportunity for the leaders of classes to learn human rights friendly techniques and community-building tools. It also creates a structure in which youth leaders are involved in setting up a democratically elected representative body.



Dr Ámbédkár School students participating in a human rights training, July 2012 © Amnesty International Hungary

Take Action

Learn online about human rights and interact with others!



The Education for Human Dignity project - working with young people and teachers on economic, social and cultural rights - is launching an interactive platform for youth around the world to learn about human rights in an interactive way and share their views with others about how to tackle human rights issues driven by poverty.

Human Rights Friendly Schools are invited to join this exciting platform and share their ideas! The launch is scheduled for **17 October 2012**. If you are interested joining this event, please contact Melody Ross, Education for Human Dignity project coordinator, Melody.Ross@amnesty.org, hreteam@amnesty.org

BERMUDA – Experiencing the Respect My Rights Online Platform with students

The Human Rights Friendly School in Bermuda started to use this Platform; Françoise Wolffe, coordinator of the project in Bermuda shares their experience:

“The concept of the www.respectmyrights.com digital platform was introduced to members of our School Amnesty Youth group (a mixed-group of 13 year and 16 year olds) during their Year Assembly. The students interested in participating in the challenge where invited to an information meeting the following day during which they were encouraged to post their story on the platform from home, on the Saturday when it went live. Although we did not have access to students over the week-end and could not guide them through the process, a few of them experimented on their own. They found the platform user-friendly and enjoyed selecting or creating the photograph which would best illustrate their story. Marius testimony had a real impact on them and lead to some interesting discussions about the plight of Roma people in Europe“

Theo commented that “*the website offered kids an opportunity to become aware of what is happening in other people's life and give them a sense of empathy.*”

For Corrie, this project was a great way to link individuals around the world. “*It made me feel really special to see my thoughts on the site right next to someone for a totally different country but who supports the same cause.*”

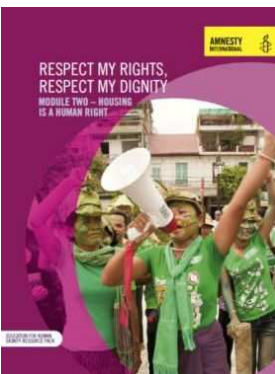
Breaking News!

AI Bermuda presented the project to teachers and created the project working group in a school. The project was very well received by the teachers!

AI India is currently visiting schools in Bangalore interested in joining the project.

Materials of the Month

Education for Human Dignity_ Module 2: Housing is a Human Right_ English, Italian, Slovenian, Polish, soon in French and Spanish



This is the second of a series of educational modules produced as part of Amnesty International's "Respect my Rights, Respect my Dignity" Education for Human Dignity Resource Pack. Each module explores different issues related to poverty and human rights. This second module focuses on the right to adequate housing. The resource pack aims to enable young people and those working with them to understand the links between human rights violations and poverty.

The Module is available online: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ACT35/005/2012>
For more information, please contact Melody Ross, Education for Human Dignity project coordinator, Melody.Ross@amnesty.org

Amnesty International Chile and LOM ediciones_ 'Una aventura sin fronteras' and 'Rebeca y Ankalli en busca del agua' _ Spanish



Una aventura sin fronteras, by Claire Choquet, Macarena Machín y Macarena Williamson, AI Chile volunteers.

This is the story of a beautiful and prosperous town called Naranjilandia, where people were happy and proud of their accomplishments...until one day when the neighboring town of Limonlandia came to the valley seeking refuge. People from Naranjilandia were afraid of these people who were so different from them. They felt that the "outsiders" of Limonlandia threatened their happiness and kicked them off the land. Afterwards, people from Naranjilandia faced a real threat that would change the shape of things to come. This is a book of human rights education for children.



Rebeca y Ankalli en busca del agua, by Karl Bohmer, AI Chile volunteer.

In this adaptation of an old Sephardic tale, a boy and girl have to make every effort to maintain and preserve the water cycle, so that they can have their daily milk. In a fun and entertaining way children are immersed in the environmental requirements for life and learn about the human right to water.

For more information, please contact Karl Bohmer, Amnesty International Chile HRE coordinator, kbohmer@amnestia.cl

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 November 2012**, if you wish your entry to be published in the next edition of the Human Rights Friendly Schools News.