UNDERSTANDING HUMAN RIGHTS

A Manual on Human Rights Education

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Benedek,
Director of the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC) of University of Graz
Graz, Austria
HISTORY OF THE MANUAL

► Coordinated by the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC)
► Edited by Wolfgang Benedek
► Contributions by some 40 experts and institutions from all over the world, especially PDHRE and also ICRC
► Endorsement by HSN-member states
► Published by Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the ETC
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Reinforcing Human Security through Human Rights Education

The Right to Know one’s Human Rights

Strengthening society and empowering the individual

Respecting diversity: gender, culture, equality and good governance

Implementing new methods of Human Rights Education and Learning

Taking responsibility for Human Rights Education
“Human Security can no longer be understood in purely military terms. Rather, it must encompass economic development, social justice, environmental protection, democratization, disarmament, and respect for human rights and the rule of law.”

(Kofi Annan, Towards a Culture of Peace, 2001)
The manual was elaborated in the framework of the HSN for world-wide use.

The HSN presently has 14 members: Austria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, The Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland and Thailand.

Its objectives are to promote freedom from fear and freedom from want with a focus on the protection and security of the individual and society.
AGENDA OF THE HSN

► Implementation of Convention against Anti-personnel Landmines and Cluster Munitions
► Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons
► Developing the Debate on Peace and Justice/ICC
► Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict
► Promotion of Humanitarian Law
► Human Development and HIV/AIDS
► Strengthening the Effectiveness of Human Rights Mechanisms
► Human Rights Education and Learning
Human Rights Education, learning and dialogue must evoke critical thinking and systemic analysis with a gender perspective about political, civil, economic, social and cultural concerns in a human rights framework.

Shulamith Koenig, People’s Movement for HRE
UN Human Rights Prize 2004
Understanding, living and teaching Human Rights:

- **KNOWLEDGE**
- **VALUES + ATTITUDES**
- **SKILLS**
Advanced model:

VALUES + ATTITUDES

KNOWLEDGE + SKILLS

ACTION

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Introduction into the system of Human Rights (concept, standards, instruments, protection and promotion)

13 (16) modules on selected issues (prohibition of torture, freedom from poverty, rule of law, non-discrimination, democracy, right to education, …)

Additional resources (literature, internet sources, contact information on organisations, UDHR, glossary, remarks on HRE methodology)
MODULES

- Prohibition of Torture
- Freedom from Poverty
- Non-Discrimination
- Right to Health
- Human Rights of Women
- Rule of Law and Fair Trail
- Religious Freedoms
- Right to Education
- Human Rights of the Child
- Human Rights in Armed Conflict
- Right to Work
- Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media
- Right to Democracy
- New:
  - Asylum
  - Minority Rights
  - Privacy

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ELEMENTS OF EACH MODULE

► Illustration Story

► Need to know
  – Background
  – Definition/description of the issue
  – Intercultural perspectives and controversial issues
  – Implementation and monitoring

► Good to know
  – Good Practices
  – Trends
  – Chronology

► Selected Activities
GOOD TO KNOW

1. GOOD PRACTICES

- In Egypt, the government is integrating the successful concept of girl-friendly community schools into the formal education system and has launched a comprehensive package of reforms aimed at generating healthy and health-promoting schools.

3. INTERCULTURAL PERSPECTIVES AND CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

The Importance of Cultural Awareness

Man’s efforts to limit the brutality of war are universal. Many cultures throughout history have sought to restrain the use of violence in order to reduce unnecessary suffering and limit destruction. Even though the initial Geneva or Hague Conventions were not universal at inception, since they were drafted and adopted by lawyers and diplomats belonging to the European Christian culture, the underlying values are universal. This universal dimension of IHL should never be underestimated or forgotten: very often the respect and implementation of the rules will in fact depend on the establishment of a clear correspondence between the treaties applicable and local traditions or customs.
HOW TO USE THE MANUAL

► Starting from the introduction
► Starting from a module
► Starting from an illustration story
► Starting from a selected activity
► Adding local content
► The manual as a workbook
► Using the additional on-line material
Additional sources for teachers and Human Rights educators

PPPs summarizing the contents of the introduction and all ‘Need to know’ and ‘Good to know’ chapters

Statistics and links

Chronological relevant documents

Additional activities

http://www.manual.etc-graz.at
NON-DISCRIMINATION

I. NEED TO KNOW

Powerpoint-Presentation (ppt-File, 173 KB)

II. GOOD TO KNOW

a. PPP on Non-Discrimination and Human Security (ppt-File, 159 KB)

b. Linklist on Non-Discrimination (pdf-File, 43 KB)

c. Documents
- HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH - Campaign Site on Racism and Human Rights
ACTIVITIES

► Translations
► Dissemination
► Updating editions
► Adaption to regional/local conditions – contextualization by additional materials
► Elaboration of internet learning tools
► Networking
PURPOSE OF THE MANUAL

► Tool for assisting teachers and educators worldwide
► Knowledge linked with skills-building
► Starting point for understanding human rights and human wrongs
► Basic introduction into Human Security, Human Rights and HRE
► Open to further development and adaptation
Train-the-Trainers workshops in various countries

- Introduction to content and methodology
- Elaboration of local content and learning materials
- Held by ETC and local/regional experts

Introduction/Evaluation Seminars at the ETC
WHO HAS ALREADY USED IT?

- University of Graz: Annual lecture series based on 'Understanding Human Rights' since 2003
- European Masters for Democratization and Human Rights (Venice, Sarajevo, Sydney)
- Human Rights Centers in cooperation with the ETC
- International Summer Academy on Human Rights and Human Security (Graz)
- UNDP worldwide
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) – all delegations
- Partnership for Peace: Military Academies
- Training programmes in China, Africa, Russia ...
Implementation of the UN World Programme on Human Rights Education (presently: Plan of Action 2010-2014 with Focus on Higher Education and Training of educators, civil servants, law enforcement officials and military personnel at all levels)

Implementation of UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training of 2011

Building Human Rights Cities and communities

Translation and dissemination of the manual on Human Rights Education

Creation of network of institutions in the field of Human Rights Education and Learning
INVITATION FOR COOPERATION