



HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION /PARTICIPANTS AT THE 2017 INTENSIVE COURSE IN HUMAN RIGHTS ©PHOTO: SUSANNE FLØLO/UIO

# Human Rights Education

THE NCHR INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT

## Promotion, Protection and Realisation of human rights

### Mission and Objective

It is widely recognised that there can be no sustainable development without promoting human rights and gender equality. The NCHR works with human rights education to contribute to the effective implementation of human rights standards for all without discrimination. We work to improve access to good and quality ensured human rights knowledge and skills, to build capacity of academic institutions and other actors in human rights education and to promote universal respect for and observance of all human rights through gender-sensitive education and applied research.

### Background and Challenges

Human rights education (HRE) is a long-term process that builds values, enhances knowledge and skills. The international community has increasingly expressed interest in HRE since the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights. UN member states have agreed to implement the second phase of the World Program for Human Rights Education to strengthen human rights

education in higher education and on human rights training programmes for teachers and educators, civil servants, law enforcement officials and military personnel at all levels. While growing support for HRE has built a solid foundation for human rights education and training, there are still inherent challenges in effectively implementing the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training. Therefore, HRE should constantly evolve in order to respond to new circumstances and changing needs.

### Projects and Partners

We offer courses and tuition in human rights, help build HRE competence at universities, research institution, government agencies and civil society in several countries, including China, Indonesia, Vietnam and other ASEAN countries. We contribute to the development of quality ensured curricula at educational institutions, universities, and support capacity building for teachers and experts at academic institutions, civil society and various professional groups.

The Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR) is a part of the University of Oslo, Faculty of Law. The NCHR's **International Department** (ID) has an extended network of cooperating partners around the world including academic institutions, UN organs and civil society organisations. Our activities are supported by the Norwegian MFA.

We promote human rights through international competence building, knowledge enhancement and dialogue in the countries we cooperate with. We aim at integrating a gender sensitive approach across our six thematic areas of commitment:

- **Human Rights Education**
- Rule of Law
- Freedom of Religion or Belief
- Business and Human Rights
- Equality and Non-discrimination
- Human Rights Mechanisms

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<http://www.jus.uio.no/smr/english/about/id/education/>

## Selected Results



### 100 Chinese Universities offering HRE

China did not offer human rights education when the NCHR started working in the country in 1997. Today about 100 different universities offer such education. The NCHR has been an important contributor to this development.

### First HR-programme in Vietnam

Vietnam has established its first master programme in human rights, based upon contributions from the NCHR.



### Agreement with SHAPE SEA

The NCHR has signed an agreement with SHAPE SEA which ensures that 20 universities within the ASEAN region continue to offer quality human rights education for years to come.



### First Indonesia HR Textbook

The NCHR supported a nation-wide network of human rights lecturers, and the textbook "Hukum Hak Asasi Manusia" (Human Rights Law). It was published in 2008, as the first human rights textbook in Indonesia, and is still widely read and used in university education.

## Key Ongoing Activities

Our current activities aim at improving access to good and quality ensured human rights knowledge to increase human rights competence in the countries we cooperate with. We encourage gender-sensitive methodologies and tools for the integration of gender equality in research and education.

### Southeast-Asia cooperation

We cooperate with the [Southeast Asian Human Rights Network \(SHAPE SEA\)](#) to enhance human rights- and peace education in Southeast Asia. We enable and contribute to education and applied research efforts by organising teacher trainings, developing quality ensured common regional human rights and peace curriculum/programmes and publications, and by distributing textbooks.

### Student- and Researcher Exchange with Yunnan University, China

We support a Master's Degree Programme in minority and indigenous people's rights, and facilitate student- and researcher exchange each year between the law schools at Yunnan University and the University of Oslo.

### Providing Platforms for Professional Exchange

We facilitate regional networking platforms for academic scholars from China, North East Asia and South East Asia to improve the capacity and quality of human rights education. We also support and enable Norwegian experts to teach and present at courses and seminars in China and Vietnam.

### Guest Scholar Program

We contribute to professional development of teaching personnel through our guest scholars' program. Each year about 2-3 scholars from China and Indonesia will conduct their researches at the NCHR for one or two months.

### Student Scholarships

We provide scholarships for students from Indonesia and Vietnam accepted to obtain a human rights master degree in the theory and practice of human right from the University of Oslo.

### The NCHR Academy for Human Rights

Every year the NCHR organise 'Intensive Course on International Human Rights Law' for participants from various countries and organisations to provide them with human rights knowledge and practical implementation skills.



*Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.*

— Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 26.2 .

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