



**Equitas is a global leader in human rights education.  
For over 40 years we've been equipping human rights defenders and the communities  
they serve to build a global culture of human rights through our transformative  
human rights education programs**

founded 1967 • head office Montreal • employees 24 • board members 19 • operating budget \$3.6 million (2009-2010)

## mission

Equitas works for the advancement of equality, social justice and respect for human rights in Canada and around the world through transformative human rights education programs.

## vision

Our innovative programs equip organizations and the communities they serve to build a global culture of human rights

## values

Innovation, integrity, focus and direction, partnership, trust and mutual respect.

## children and youth

### **Play it Fair (was Play it Right until 2007)**

Helps children aged 6–12 develop a deeper understanding of human rights values and learn new skills for conflict resolution using games and interactive activities – Begun in Montreal in 2004 – Winner in 2009 of Prix québécois de la citoyenneté (Anne Greenup) in the struggle against racism – Offered in municipal and community-based summer camps in Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg and Moncton/Dieppe/Fredericton – Plans to expand to up to 10 new communities across the country over next 3 years.

**Impact of Play it Fair! In 2008 alone** Over 2,000 camp personnel trained in the use of the toolkit – 40,000 children deepened their understanding of the importance of respecting human rights and cultural diversity.

**Human rights education for youth** – A new program to equip youth aged 13-17 to reinforce human rights values and participate in a multicultural society – Builds on our Play it Fair! Experience and partnerships – Pilot projects underway (2009) with 6 community centres in Montreal: Boys and Girls Club LaSalle, Centre des loisirs Maison des jeunes Côtes-des-Neiges – Plans for national implementation.

## human rights defenders

### **International Human Rights Training Program (IH RTP)**

**The Montreal Program** – 3 weeks in Montreal in June – Up to 130 participants annually from approximately 60 countries (Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Ukraine, etc.) including 6-12 participants from Canada – 900 applications in 2009 – Extensive follow-up programs provide additional training and support to alumni in Africa, Americas, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

In recent years, Equitas alumni have contributed to the following changes:

India – Successful village-level campaigns led by children to end the practice of female infanticide.

Kenya – A successful campaign to introduce compulsory and free primary education.

Democratic Republic of the Congo – Mobilization of women in a campaign in Eastern Congo to end impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence. Haiti – Empowerment of Haitian youth to promote and defend their human rights and the rights of others. Middle East and North Africa – Establishment of a regional network of activists committed to advancing the values of human rights and democracy.



## **the equitas on-line community**

-Launched on-line in 2007 for IHRTP alumni – 1200 registered and 300 active users



## **Regional programs**

Equitas works with our alumni and partner organizations to design and implement follow-up programs in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East including Iraq.



## **middle east and north africa**

Since 2006, Equitas has been working with human rights defenders and educators in the region to strengthen their abilities to promote human rights principles and values and develop an effective regional network.

-Coordination office and 2 staff based in Amman, Jordan.



## **Impact of international programs with human rights defenders**

Over 3000 alumni and their organizations have put their learning into practice in their communities and are:

-Increasing public awareness and understanding of human rights principles – Increasing the level of involvement and engagement in promotion and protection of their rights of others – Working towards the ratification of international and regional human rights instruments and/or adoption of human rights-friendly constitutions – Revising existing legislation to ensure conformity with human rights obligations – Achieving positive changes in Government policy and practice – Creating and strengthening domestic human rights mechanisms.



## **Main sources of funding support for our programs during the past year**

### **Canadian Government**

Canadian International Development Agency, Multiculturalism Program of Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Justice Canada, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

### **Other**

J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, TD Bank Financial Group, City of Montreal, Ministère de l'immigration et des Communautés culturelles (Québec), Fondation du Grand Montréal, the Winnipeg Community Foundation, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Rights & Democracy, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Development Research Council, and individual donors through our annual board and letter writing campaigns and fundraising event.



## **awards and recognition**

Prix de la citoyenneté (Ann Greenup) recognizing exceptional efforts in the struggle against racism in Quebec for its Play it Fair! Program, awarded May, 2009 – Honourable mention, Award of Excellence in Anti-Racism in Canada from the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, for Play it Fair!, awarded April, 2008.