



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS CONVERGE ON MONTREAL FOR AN EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY

Montréal, June 3 2015 – 90 human rights defenders from 40 countries are embarking on a three-week training program offered by Equitas which will equip them to fight more effectively against inequality, discrimination, exclusion, violence and extremism. They will return home after the program with new knowledge, skills and networks as well as concrete plans to apply their learning to promote positive social change in their communities.

What: Meet and Interview Human Rights Defenders in Montreal from over 40 countries

When: June 7 -26, 2015

Where: International Human Rights Training Program (IHRTP), held at John Abbott College, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC

The IHRTP's international reputation has attracted over 3,500 courageous and committed human rights defenders to Montreal since the first training in 1980. This year is no exception, with participants coming from countries that have found themselves in the international spotlight as of recent, such as Burundi, Nigeria, Morocco, Nepal, Cameroon, and Haiti.

Journalists are encouraged to contact Equitas to arrange a visit to the program or arrange interviews at John Abbott College or in Montreal with some of the remarkable participants whose fights for rights in their own countries include; promoting women's and child's rights, campaigns to defend LGBTI rights in hostile regions, promotion of religious harmony, and many other unique and thought-provoking battles for human dignity and social justice.

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What people are saying about the IHRTTP

“During the past 35 years, the IHRTTP has helped to create one of the largest international communities of human rights leaders. This network of over 3,500 human rights defenders were trained here in Montreal, and are playing critical roles in making their countries better places to live for the most vulnerable and marginalized.”

-Ian Hamilton, Equitas Executive Director

“I can say that it is [my training at] Equitas that has contributed to many of the improvements happening at my individual level and organizational level, but you can also see it having an impact on society.”

-Severin Edward, IHRTTP 2014 alumni and program coordinator for Tanzanian Albinism Society

“I have reinforced my conviction that I can be a fine human rights educator that my country will be proud of as a result of the IHRTTP activities which transformed my thought pattern about my capacity.”

-IHRTTP 2014 alumni, Nigeria

To learn more about the IHRTTP, [watch our video highlighting the three-week training.](#)

About Equitas

Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education was founded in Montreal in 1967 by a group of eminent Canadian scholars and social activists, including John Humphrey, one of the drafters of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and Thérèse Casgrain, campaigner for Quebec women's right to vote-achieved in 1940. It is a non-profit organization that works for the advancement of equality, social justice and respect for human dignity in Canada and around the world through transformative human rights education programs

Our Partners

The IHRTTP is undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD). The success of the Program is also made possible thanks to the generous contributions of **Aimia, the American Jewish World Service and the Donner Canadian Foundation**. The participants are hosted and trained at **John Abbott College** in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue.