



**BRIDGING
OUR
DIVERSITIES**



**8th International Conference
on Human Rights Education**

November 30th to December 3rd 2017 · Montreal, Canada

**CALL FOR WORKSHOP SUBMISSIONS
AND
PAPER PROPOSALS**

**Deadline to submit: April 30th 2017
ichre2017@equitas.org**

An international forum to explore HRE solutions to global challenges

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The Organizing Committee of this 8th International Conference on Human Rights Education, *Bridging our diversities*, includes:

- Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education, Montreal, Canada
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland
- Concordia University, Montreal, Canada
- Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, McGill University, Montreal, Canada
- Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Montreal, Canada
- Western Sydney University, Sydney, Australia

The Organizing Committee is seeking **workshop submissions** and **paper proposals** for the Conference, in English or French, to be received before **April 30th 2017**.

In our globalized world today, we are experiencing more and more conflict based on ethnic, religious, and socio-economic identities and differences. Communities are struggling to respond to the impact of global migration patterns and the challenges associated with managing greater diversity. As our understanding of human rights and equality continues to evolve, we are constantly challenged to ensure the equitable participation of women, youth and groups that have been marginalized, including indigenous peoples; refugees/newcomers; visible minorities; lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) people; and people living with disabilities.

More than ever, there is a need for approaches that promote understanding, respect, inclusion, equality and reconciliation, and human rights education (HRE) is a key strategy in this regard. It helps individuals and groups to identify their rights and claim them effectively; to make informed choices; to resolve conflict in a non-violent manner; and to participate responsibly in their communities and society at large. It also helps those who are responsible for protecting and fulfilling human rights to meet their obligations.

This conference will provide opportunities to share existing HRE experiences and tools. It will create spaces where practitioners, policy-makers and academics can explore how HRE can build more peaceful and equitable communities and provide effective solutions to current national and global challenges related to diversity, inclusion, reconciliation, conflict and the resulting violence based on extremism.

Goal and objectives

The overall goal of the conference is to develop a dynamic articulation of the value of HRE as well as to document a collection of innovative and effective HRE strategies and practices in order to respond to current global challenges.

This 3.5-day conference will assemble approximately 300 practitioners, policy-makers and academics who will have the opportunity to:

- **Discuss and document the contribution** of HRE in tackling current global challenges
- **Identify strategies** for ensuring HRE becomes a higher priority for Governments and civil society organizations
- **Share and document good HRE practices and success stories** from around the world, that aim to promote respect for diversity and inclusion, strengthen social cohesion and reconciliation, promote sustainable development and provide alternatives to extremism and violence
- **Reinforce existing efforts to build networks and communities of practice** for human rights educators

CONFERENCE OUTPUTS

- Strategic recommendations for decision-makers in Governments and civil society to ensure HRE becomes a higher priority
- A post-conference publication containing a selection of HRE success stories and good practices (e.g., programs, strategies, activities, methodologies, tools and resources)
- A selection of academic papers to be shared online

For the purpose of this conference, a “good HRE practice” needs to meet the following criteria:

- *Appropriateness* (i.e. the practice addresses core HRE issues for the target audience and context)
- *Participation* (i.e. the practice benefited from the input, in terms of design and implementation, of all relevant stakeholders)
- *Effectiveness* (i.e. an evaluation process has provided evidence that the practice has effectively met its human rights learning goals and has contributed, within its context, to the realization of human rights)
- *Adaptability* (i.e. the practice’s themes and methodology allow it to be used in different local and national contexts)
- *Innovation* (i.e. the practice introduces new ideas, methods, or techniques)

CONFERENCE THEMES AND RELATED TOPICS

Conference theme #1:

Contribution of HRE in tackling global challenges

Related topics (non-exhaustive list):

- Role of HRE in building respect for diversity, and more equitable and inclusive communities
- HRE programs for preventing conflict and violent extremism
- HRE and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda
- Protecting and creating enabling environments for human rights educators
- HRE programs addressing environmental issues

Conference theme #2:

Strategies for greater engagement of Governments and civil society in HRE

Related topics (non-exhaustive list):

- Influencing and strengthening a Government's HRE agenda
- The role of NHRIs and civil society in engaging authorities for HRE
- Strengthening an NHRI's or civil society's HRE agenda
- HRE within government institutions, NHRIs and civil society organizations
- Effective engagement with decision makers and contributing to policy dialogue on HRE

Conference theme #3:

HRE practices for building equitable and inclusive communities

Related topics (non-exhaustive list):

- Promoting the participation and protection of children and youth through HRE
- Promoting gender equality through HRE
- Promoting equality for the LGBTQI community through HRE
- Promoting equality for migrants, refugees, newcomers through HRE
- Promoting equality and inclusion of people living with disabilities through HRE
- HRE as a means for reconciliation with indigenous peoples

Conference theme #4:

HRE tools and tactics to enhance impact

Related topics (non-exhaustive list):

- The use of new technology, media and social media
- Learning from and engaging with other disciplines and sectors
- Strategies for encouraging HRE in non-traditional settings (e.g., youth centers, children's camps, sports leagues, city council meetings, health service centers)
- Tools and strategies for HRE evaluation
- Indicators for measuring results of HRE

CONFERENCE LANGUAGES

The Conference will take place in English and in French. Simultaneous translation will be provided for all plenary sessions. Workshops or panel presentations will take place in either English or French.

CONFERENCE FORMAT

The Conference format will consist of three main types of sessions. These include:

1. Morning plenary sessions to begin each day of the conference during which the key themes will be presented. *Note: The plenary sessions will be planned by the Conference Organizing Committee.*
2. Parallel **workshops** where good HRE practices related to the Conference themes will be shared. Some of the workshops ("**practicum workshops**") will focus on practicing innovative good HRE practices (activities, methodologies and tools).
3. **Panel presentations (limited number)** where research findings related to the Conference themes will be presented.

All workshops should follow a participatory methodology which will involve active engagement of workshop participants.

Given that personally travelling to Montreal may not be possible for everyone, workshop organizers should not hesitate to include and use a variety of new communication technologies to ensure that experts and presenters can virtually take part and actively discuss with participants during the workshops.

A selected number of "poster presentations" in public hallways and spaces outside meeting rooms, in which direct discussions between practitioners and participants can happen in an informal and open discussion and exchange will also be considered.

More information about each type of session is provided below.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Organizing Committee is launching a call for submission of the following:

- **Workshop submissions:** good HRE practices, as defined above, for presentation/practice, review and discussions at the Conference workshops.
Note: Poster presentations showcasing the HRE practice in action will also be considered.
- **Paper proposals:** research findings related to the workshop themes to be presented at the Conference panel presentation sessions.

The template for each type of submission is attached.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Official registration (for participants submitting workshop/paper proposals as well as those just attending) will be opened shortly and an announcement will be made. In the meantime, expressions of interest and enquiries can be sent to ichre2017@equitas.org