



educate. empower. change.

International Human Rights Training Program

June 10-29, 2018

Montreal, Canada



From June 10-29, Montreal welcomes 95 international human rights defenders for a unique training

Montreal, June 11, 2018 - Hosted by Montreal-based organization Equitas, the International Human Rights Training Program (IH RTP) is a world-leading program on human rights education. Ninety-five (95) human rights leaders from fifty-two (52) countries are in Montreal to learn new skills and become more effective in their human rights work fighting discrimination, inequality and violence. The program is a unique learning experience that contributes to Canadian leadership in building respect for human rights around the world.

IN NUMBERS



MEET & INTERVIEW THE PARTICIPANTS

Journalists are encouraged to contact Equitas to arrange a visit to the Training or arrange interviews with some of these remarkable human rights defenders. It is a unique opportunity to sit down with individuals playing critical roles in making their countries better places to live for the most vulnerable and marginalized.

What: Meet and interview human rights defenders

When: Between June 10 and June 29, 2018

Where: In Montreal and/or at John-Abbott College, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue

*Journalists can also attend 6 main Conferences and Events (*see schedule below*)

A WORD ON THE PROGRAM

Since the first training in 1980, Equitas' international reputation has attracted over **3,700** courageous human rights defenders and has had an impact on more than 2 million people worldwide. This year is no exception, with participants working on human rights issues such as:

- Women's rights in conflict zones
- Refugee rights
- Indigenous rights
- LGBTQI+ rights in hostile regions
- Rights for persons living with disabilities
- Children's rights, etc.

They live and work in countries that have found themselves in the international spotlight as of late, such as: Myanmar, Ukraine, Jordan, Palestine, Rwanda and the Philippines.

EVENTS & CONFERENCES

Opening Ceremony

Date & Time: Monday, June 11 from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Location: John Abbott College, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue

Special guest: Caroline Leclerc, Global Affairs Canada

Come meet human rights defenders at the opening ceremony of the IHRTF. This is a chance to witness the unfolding of the beginning of the program, interview participants and get the first scoop!

Host Family Dinner

Date & Time: Friday, June 15 at 5:30 p.m.

Location: In several homes around Montreal

Human rights defenders join Montrealers in their homes for dinner and an opportunity at unique intercultural discussions around the table. Attend one of these dinners, and speak to the human rights defenders and the generous Montrealers that have opened up their homes to participants of the IH RTP.

Conference: Exploring the Universality of Human Rights

Date & Time: Monday, June 18 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: John Abbott College, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue

Yousry Moustafa, senior advisor at the GIZ Project for the Strengthening the Role of the National Population Council in Egypt, will provide an overview of the principal issues surrounding the notion of universality from the perspective of a human rights educator. He will also explore strategies for dealing with the real contradictions that exist between human rights standards and a specific culture in a learning setting.

Conference: UN System – Opportunities & Resources for Human Rights Educators

Date & Time: Tuesday, June 19 from 3:00– 5:30 p.m.

Location: John Abbott College, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue

Elena Ippoliti, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), will present on how human rights educators can take advantage of the UN human rights system through the Human Rights Council's programs and mechanisms as well as provide an overview of the OHCHR, with a particular focus on useful resources for human rights and HRE work.

Conference: The Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Date & Time: Monday, June 20 from 9:15 – 10:45 a.m.

Location: John Abbott College, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue

Kenneth Deer, Secretary of the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake and Member of the Haudenosaunee External Relations Committee, will explore one of the most important human rights issues facing Canada and many other countries in the world today, the rights of indigenous peoples. He will address key elements of indigenous experience and identity in Canada as well as main features of the international instruments on the rights of indigenous peoples.

Open House

Date & Time: Thursday, June 21 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: John Abbott College, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue

Special guest: Julie Miville-Dechêne, Quebec Envoy for Human Rights and Freedoms, The Ministère of International Relations and La Francophonie

Find out what goes on behind closed doors at the IH RTP by witnessing the action firsthand! You'll get to see how the program's innovative educational approach is put into action by attending classes and interviewing human rights educators.

MEET THE PARTICIPANTS

Saranzaya Gerelt-Od – Beautiful Hearts Against Sexual Violence NGO, Mongolia

Saranzaya is the Manager of the Rising Public Awareness program within the [Beautiful Hearts Against Sexual Violence NGO](#). She develops and reviews project proposals and identifies new project opportunities. She leads the Public Awareness program and campaign on child sexual abuse and gender-based violence, through social media, exhibitions and stakeholders' consultation. Saranzaya is also responsible for the external and international relations of the organization as well as its knowledge dissemination in Mongolia and abroad. She

acts as a support in the organization of annual events and campaign, such as the International Day of the Girl, the Orange Day and the One Billion Rising Movement.

Aldo Fellix Januarydy– The Jakarta Legal Aid Institute, Indonesia

Aldo Fellix is a public interest lawyer for the [Jakarta Legal Aid Institute](#). He handles legal cases and conducts research related to human rights issues in Indonesia. Aldo Fellix also organizes trainings and workshops for communities, students, and other NGOs. He is a specialist in land and property rights, urban politics, international refugee rights as well as minority rights.

* more profiles available upon request

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About the IH RTP

The IH RTP is a world leading training program on human rights education that is held in Montreal, Canada every June. The program is innovative in its participatory approach that puts the participant at the center of their learning experience. Our methodology is recognized in Canada and around the world for its quality and innovation. The program has trained over 3,700 human rights defenders since 1980. The IH RTP is undertaken in part with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through Global Affairs Canada. The participants are hosted and trained at John Abbott College in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue. For more information, visit www.equitas.org/training/international-human-rights-training-program

About Equitas

Based in Montreal, Equitas is Canada's oldest and most active human rights education organization. We work for the advancement of equality, social justice and respect for human dignity through transformative education programs. 2017 marked the 50th Anniversary of Equitas and our programs have reached over 2 million people worldwide during the last five decades. For more information, visit www.equitas.org