



Ninety-five International Human Rights Defenders to Gather in Montreal for a Unique Educational Experience, June 10-29

Montréal, June 11, 2018 – Today, Equitas, Canada's oldest and most active human rights education organization, kicks off its 39th annual International Human Rights Training Program (IHRTTP). Ninety-five (95) human rights leaders from fifty-two (52) countries around the world have gathered in Montreal to participate in the IHRTTP where they will learn new skills to become more effective in their work. This year, the training welcomes participants from Myanmar, Ukraine, Palestine, Jordan, Rwanda, the Philippines, etc., working on issues such as women's rights, refugee rights, LGBTQI+ rights, rights for persons living with disabilities, indigenous rights and more. Keynote plenaries and participatory workshops will highlight human rights education practices addressing today's most pressing challenges worldwide. Some of this year's sessions revolve around the role of human rights education in the process of social change, global spheres of influence and social change at the community level.

WATCH A VIDEO ON THE IHRTTP HERE: <http://bit.ly/IHRTPvid>

Events at the 2018 IHRTTP include:

- An opening ceremony, with special guest Caroline Leclerc, Global Affairs Canada (June 11)
- Host Family Diner, where Montrealers host IHRTTP participants to dinner at their homes (June 15)
- A plenary presentation by Elena Ippoliti, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the UN System (June 19)
- An Open House day, a chance to see what happens behind closed doors at the IHRTTP, with special guest Julie Miville-Dechêne, Ministère of International Relations and La Francophonie (June 21)

Journalists are encouraged to contact Equitas to plan a visit to the training or to book interviews with some of the remarkable human rights defenders or special guests.

Quotes

“For the past 39 years, Equitas’ International Human Rights Training Program has helped to create one of the largest international networks of human rights leaders. Over 3,700 human rights defenders have been trained here in Montreal and the program continues to attract global change makers every year as it is the only training of its specifically designed for human rights educators.” – **Ian Hamilton**, Equitas Executive Director

“Now more than ever, there is a need for an inclusive approach to human rights so that they may thrive around the world. Equitas’ International Human Rights Training Program is one of the tools developed in Quebec that shines internationally. Equality, understanding and respect are at the heart of the innovative format that allows its participants from fifty-two countries to actually experience human rights education processes. A practical application is prioritized, as change comes first and foremost from citizens who defend their own rights and freedoms in their countries.” – **Julie Miville-Dechêne**, Envoy for Human Rights and Freedoms, Quebec Government

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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