

International Human Rights Training Program

June 9 - 28, 2019
Montreal, Canada



From June 9-28, Montreal welcomes over 100 international human rights defenders for unique training

Montreal, June 10, 2019 - Hosted by Montreal-based organization Equitas, the International Human Rights Training Program (IHRTTP) is a world-leading program on human rights education. Held annually, this program is celebrating its 40th year of empowerment in human rights training. More than 100 human rights leaders from forty-five (45) different countries are in Montreal to learn new skills and become more effective in their work fighting human rights violations and promoting fundamental freedoms. 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 Program 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 9 and June 28, 2019
Where: In Montreal and/or at John-Abbott College, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue

*Media is also welcome to 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 **3,800** courageous human rights defenders and has had an impact on more than 4 million people worldwide. This year is no exception, with participants working on human rights issues such as:

- Violence against women and girls
- Refugee rights
- LGBTQI+ rights
- Rights for persons living with disabilities
- Sexual and reproductive rights
- Political engagement of youth, etc.

They live and work in countries that have found themselves in the international spotlight as of late, such as Myanmar, Rwanda, Mali, Burkina Faso, Sri Lanka, Haiti, and Syria.

EVENTS & CONFERENCES

Opening Ceremony

Date & Time: Monday, June 10 from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

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

Special guest: [Julienne Lusenge](#), renowned Congolese human rights activist and Joshua Tabah, Director General, Governance and Innovation, Global Affairs Canada

Come meet special guests and human rights defenders at the opening ceremony of the IH RTP. 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 14 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 who have opened up their homes to participants of the IH RTP.

Conference: Exploring the Universality of Human Rights

Date & Time: Monday, June 17 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

Henri Tiphagne, Executive Director of People's Watch in India and criminal and human rights lawyer, 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: The UN Human Rights System

Date & Time: Tuesday, June 18 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 human rights education work.

Conference: The Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Date & Time: Wednesday, June 26 from 9:00 – 10:30 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 the 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 20 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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

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 meeting human rights defenders.

MEET THE PARTICIPANTS



Jean Baptiste Hategekimana – Never Again Rwanda, Rwanda

Jean Baptiste is the Governance and Rights Senior Program Officer of Never Again Rwanda. He works to encourage political participation and community development in the country, and engages the media, civil society organizations, and local authorities as key players in the democratic process in Rwanda. Most of his projects focus on the empowerment of the youth in politics, especially in their ability to participate in decision-making and to further human rights causes in Rwanda. His organization also organizes peace-building programs that promote non-violence, genocide prevention education, and

provides help for the victims and children of the 1994 genocide, which occurred 25 years ago.



Lafir Sahira – Muslim Women's Development Trust, Sri Lanka

Lafir is a project coordinator for the Muslim Women's Development Trust. She provides legal assistance for women impacted by the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act and victims of gender-based and domestic violence. She is also a national-level advocate for human rights who especially condemns discrimination against women and female genital mutilation.

* more profiles available upon request

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Media Contact

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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 3,800 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 human rights education programs. In the last 50 years, we have reached over 4 million people worldwide. For more information, visit www.equitas.org