



Over 100 International Human Rights Defenders to Gather in Montreal for a Unique Educational Experience, June 9-28

Montréal, June 10, 2019 – Today, Equitas, Canada's oldest and most active human rights education organization, kicks off its 40th annual International Human Rights Training Program (IHRTPE). One hundred and three (103) human rights leaders from forty-five (45) countries around the world have gathered in Montreal to participate in the IHRTPE where they will learn new skills to become more effective in defending human rights violations in their countries. This year, the participants will have to chance to meet and hear from **special guest Michelle Bachelet Jeria, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights** and first female president of Chile.

The training welcomes participants from Myanmar, Jordan, Syria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Haiti, etc., working on issues such as women's rights, refugee rights, the rights of LGBTQI+ persons, rights of 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 the sessions revolve around the role of human rights education in the process of social change and social change at the community level.

WATCH A VIDEO ON THE IHRTPE HERE: <http://bit.ly/IHRTPEvid>

Events at the 2019 IHRTPE include:

- An opening ceremony, with special guests [Julienne Lusenge](#), renowned Congolese human rights activist and Joshua Tabah, Global Affairs Canada (June 10)
- Host Family Diner, where Montrealers host IHRTPE participants to dinner at their homes (June 14)
- A visit from [Michelle Bachelet Jeria](#), United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and first female president of Chile (June 18)
- An Open House day, a chance to see what happens behind closed doors at the IHRTPE (June 20)

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 40 years, Equitas’ International Human Rights Training Program has helped to create one of the largest international networks of human rights leaders. Over 3,800 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 forty-five 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-Dechène**, Canadian Senator & Past Envoy for Human Rights and Freedoms, Quebec Government

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About the IHRTP

The IHRTP 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 IHRTP 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