

October 27, 2025

75 human rights defenders from around the world gather in Orford for internationally renowned training

MONTREAL — From October 26 to November 7, 75 activists from more than 30 countries, including Bangladesh, Haiti, Sudan and Jordan, are gathering in Orford, Quebec, to participate in the 42nd edition of the **International Human Rights Training Program** organized by [Equitas](#), an influential Canadian human rights organization. This unique program allows participants to exchange, learn, and strengthen their skills to better protect human rights in the face of growing threats.

A space of solidarity and resilience

More than 55% of participants have experienced backlash in the past year for defending human rights, including:

- Harassment and bullying,
- Cyberattacks and digital surveillance,
- Arbitrary detentions and threats to their families.

These figures illustrate the difficult reality faced by human rights defenders around the world. "Global human rights challenges are multiplying, and at-risk communities need concrete and inclusive responses to protect their human rights," says **Odette McCarthy**, Executive Director of Equitas.

Meet the participants

To meet the participants, arrange an interview with an activist or program manager, contact:

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About Equitas

Since 1967, Equitas has been an influential Canadian human rights organization working with individuals, communities, institutions, and organizations around the world to address growing threats to democratic rights and values. Through education, Equitas empowers people to understand, claim, and exercise their rights.

www.equitas.org