

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE MAURICE AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES ET DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES

No. 103/2012 (MMG/HR/28/23)

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to its Note dated 10th February 2012 inviting Member States to submit information on national implementation of human rights education, has the honour to attach herewith the submissions of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest considerations.

Geneva, 2 May 2012

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Palais Wilson

CH 1211 Geneva 10

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Progress report on the implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education

A. Overall National Strategy

The vision of the Government is to inculcate human rights culture among all sections of the population of Mauritius and Rodrigues.

This is being done and would be done by appropriate training and sensitization on human rights through collaborative arrangements.

B. Specific human rights education initiatives undertaken with respect to:-

(i) Higher education

At tertiary level, Human Rights Education already forms part of the curriculum of law courses. Human Rights is an essential component of training of Police and Prisons Officers.

(ii) Teachers and educators.

- (a) With a view to promoting respect for human rights through teaching and education, the Commonwealth Secretariat was approached by the Prime Minister's Office to ensure the integration of human rights across the curriculum, which will cover training of teachers, school textbooks and extra curricular activities at pre-primary, primary and secondary level.
- (b) In this respect, Mr Paul Mc Adams, Consultant of the Commonwealth Secretariat was on official visit in Mauritius from 28 November to 2 December 2011 in order to have working sessions with the Mauritius Institute of Education on curriculum development and working of textbooks at pre-primary, primary and secondary levels to address the following:-
- (i) Integration of human rights across the curriculum;
- (ii) Integration of human rights in school textbooks, and
- (iii) Development, implementation and evaluation of human rights project in school.
- (c) During his visit, Mr Paul Mc Adams met with Panel Leaders of the Mauritius Institute of Education. A workshop was organized by the Prime Minister's Office on 2 December 2011 with all Sectors and Managers of State and Private Secondary Schools as well as unions of the Secondary Education Sector and human rights NGOs to sensitise them on the project and get their feedback. Some 136 participants attended the workshop.
- (d) The report from the Consultant is still awaited.

(e) Upon receipt of the report, the Prime Minister's Office will work with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Mauritius Institute of Education and the Ministry of Education and Human Resources on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Consultant.

(iii) Civil Servants and Citizens

- (a) Human Rights Education has been conducted for Citizens Advice Bureau Organisers, with a view to internalise human rights and their relevance to human beings.
- (b) Human Rights Training is being mounted for 55 Youth Officers of 24 Youth Centres around the island. A Human Rights Education Programme is also planned for 300 youths during the period June to August 2012 in 10 Youth Centres. The programme is aimed at inculcating a human rights culture among young person with the ultimate goal of creating a human rights friendly island. The project is being introduced in 10 Youth Centres and will be extended to all Youth Centres on a permanent basis thereafter.