



48TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION Inclusive Education: The way of the Future

SIDE-EVENT 4 REPORT

Date	Wednesday, 26 th November 2008
Side-Event Title	SIDE-EVENT 4 The World Programme for Human Rights Education (2005-on-going): UN System to Support National Implementation of Human Rights Education in the School System
Organisers	UN Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Human Rights Education in the School System (UNIACC)
Speakers	<p>The Side-Event was moderated by Elena Ippoliti, Methodology, Education and Training Unit / RRDD, OHCHR.</p> <p>Panelists included Kabir Shaikh (UNRWA), Maria-Gabriella Lay (ILO), Jason Sigurdson (UNAIDS) and Jun Morohashi (UNESCO).</p> <p>Presentations, followed by discussion, covered the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- UNRWA: The experience of UNRWA in developing and implementing its human rights programme and its impact on the class and school environment;- ILO: The development of the programme SCREAM (Supporting Children's Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media) and how ILO has been strengthening networks and partnerships at the national level, in formal and non-formal education settings;- UNAIDS: The centrality of human rights education to country efforts to reach universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support;- UNESCO: An initiative for promoting quality education for all: Human Rights and Democracy Education in Albania.

Documentation The Plan of Action for the first phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2005-2009).

Resource materials on human rights education produced by UNIACC member agencies.

All relevant information on WPHRE and UNIACC is available at:
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/training/programme.htm>

Objectives The side event aimed at providing the updated information on the current status of the implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights (WPHRE) and showing some examples of work carried out by UN agencies to support national implementation. It was also an occasion to provide some visibility for the UNIACC.

Outcomes The side event was well attended, with approximately 70-80 participants including national delegations, UNESCO and other UN staff and civil society representatives.

Ms. Ippoliti provided the updated information on the current status of the implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education. This general introduction was followed by the 4 presentations made by UNIACC member agencies.

The discussion sessions were lively, with around 15 interventions in total. The example presented by UNRWA was commented by the young participants who experienced the HRE programme within UNRWA schools. Other participants, including civil society actors, commented on their own experience with regard to the impact of some of the initiatives presented such as UNAIDS's projects and the SCREAM programme presented by ILO.

UNESCO's experience of mainstreaming human rights education in the school system in Albania provided an interesting model for other national contexts. As one of the remaining challenges, the lack of teachers' capacity to teach human rights in the classroom was pointed out in a few interventions.

A representative from the Council of Europe mentioned the good cooperation between UNIACC and the CoE within the European context, especially through an on-going joint initiative to collect good practices in human rights education in schools.

In the area of human rights education, better coordinated support through a mechanism such as UNIACC is highly appreciated. For instance, the Minister of Education of Madagascar took the floor to underline the importance of partnership between national

authorities and UN agencies to reinforce governmental initiatives as well as the importance of elaborating sustainable strategies.

It was also underlined that a holistic approach to human rights education is fundamental within any national context although the issues on which each country focuses can be diverse (e.g. post-conflict situation, violence in schools, health issues, poverty, etc.). The Plan of Action of the first phase of the WPHRE provides a clear guidance along this line and needs to be further promoted in the national educational policy making process.

Links and implications for the 48th Session of the ICE

Within the context of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), this side event aimed at making a stronger links between the theme of inclusive quality education and human rights. It contributed to raising awareness on the need of an increased human rights-based approach to inclusive education.