

Methodology, Education and Training
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RE: Views on the Focus of the Fourth Phase of World Program for Human Rights Education (2020-2024) – Finland – NHRI contribution

The Finnish Human Rights Centre wishes to compliment the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for the comprehensive framework and continuous efforts in the development and the implementation of the world programme for human rights education (WPHRE).

The focus areas of the previous phases of the WPHRE have all, in our opinion, been well justified and formulated. Primary and secondary school systems, higher education, teachers and educators, civil servants, law enforcement, military personnel, media professionals and journalists are key actors in ensuring both understanding and implementation of human rights. Without a doubt, the efforts in providing human rights education to these target groups is an on-going project for the future as well as for the past.

In accordance with the request for national human rights institutions to submit their views on target sectors and focus areas or thematic issues for consideration as the WPHRE enters its fourth phase, we would like to state the following:

Target sectors

For the fourth phase, we would like to suggest considering **politicians and other political actors (including political advisers, assistants, party offices etc.) at all levels (local, regional, national, and international)** as a target sector for human rights education.

The reasons for suggesting this particular target sector are following:

- Politicians bear great **responsibility in shaping the attitudes** of their constituencies towards human rights. Their rhetoric is not limited only to the strictly political arenas, but repeated and amplified by traditional and social media.
- Politicians serving the legislature are in the position of **passing of the necessary national/supra-national laws and regulations as well as**

international agreements to ensure comprehensive normative guarantees for human rights, including the **full implementation** of these norms. Similarly, politicians at regional and local level are in the position to ensure the full implementation of national laws protecting human rights through for example appropriate regional and local policies and budgets.

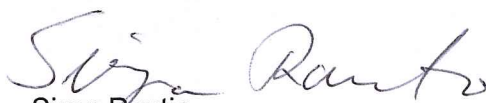
- Politician have various educational and vocational backgrounds. In order for them **to take informed positions** regarding a wide variety of issues connected to human rights, they have the right to know, to be educated in and to understand thoroughly the human rights values as well as their legal protection.

Focus areas or thematic issues

As for the focus areas or thematic issues, we would like to highlight the importance of understanding the **positive outcomes for societies resulting from respecting and protecting human rights**. These outcomes include equal opportunities, non-discrimination, participation, social cohesion and security.

A more specific thematic issue, which, in our opinion, demands for continuous strong efforts also from the perspective of human rights education, is the acute and global challenge of **hate-speech**.

Sincerely yours,


Sirpa Rautio
Director



Kristiina Kouros
Expert