



Methodology, Education and Training
Section
OHCHR
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Dno 2246/9c

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BY EMAIL to registry@ohchr.org, wphre@ohchr.org and eippoliti@ohchr.org

**RE: Draft Plan of Action for the Third Phase (2015–2019) of WPHRE – Finland
– NHRI contribution**

Please find enclosed the comments of the Finnish Human Rights Centre (HRC) submitted to the Office of the High Commissioner regarding the Draft Plan of Action for the Third Phase (2015–2019) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

The Human Rights Center is an autonomous and independent expert institution whose task is to promote the implementation of fundamental and human rights and increase cooperation and exchange of information between various actors. The National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) consists of the Human Rights Centre, its pluralistic 40-member Human Rights Delegation and the Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman. The Institution was established by law (changes to the Law on the Parliamentary Ombudsman 535/2011), effective as of 1 January 2012. The NHRI accreditation under the ICC will be requested during 2014.

More information on the NHRI in Finland can be found on our website www.humanrightscentre.fi/in-english.

Kristiina Kouros
Director, FTA

Kristiina Vainio
Expert, FTA

Contribution by the Finnish NHRI – The Human Rights Centre

The Draft Plan of Action for the Third Phase (2015–2019) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

II. The third phase (2015–2019) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education

The Finnish HRC wishes to compliment the Office of the High Commissioner for the comprehensive framework the draft plan of action offers for both strengthening the implementation of the two previous phases of the WPHRE as well as for advancing the specific focus selected for the third phase, namely that of HRE for journalists and media professionals, and wishes to present its comments on the following points:

A. Scope

The Finnish HRC is of the opinion that the integration and mainstreaming of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training into the draft plan of action could be somewhat strengthened.

B. Specific objectives

The Finnish HRC suggests adding the implementation of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training to the specific objectives of the action plan.

C. Action to strengthen implementation of human rights education

The Finnish HRC notes that so far only a few states have carried out a national base line study on the status of HRE and/or adopted a national action plan or strategy to advance the implementation of HRE, and wishes to suggest the idea of introducing HRE as a regular element in the UPR as a potential means of strengthening the national efforts for the implementation and follow-up of the World Programme and its goals, as well as those of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training.

D. Action to promote human rights training for journalists and media professionals

1. Background

38. The responsibility of media professionals and journalists to respect human rights in the performance of their functions.

The Finnish HRC suggests adding prevention of abuse of children (on social media, in particular) as well as journalists responsibilities in electoral contexts to the responsibilities listed in para 38. A reference to the observance of general HR principles could also be added here, since HR is needed to inform and support the ethical and moral foundations of responsible journalism.

39. Protection and safety of journalists

The HRC suggests adding a reference to journalists as human rights defenders and the work of the SR on HR defenders to para. 39.

2. Strategies

a) Policies and related implementation measures

The HRC very much agrees to what is stated in para. 43 concerning the need to support and link training to corresponding policies and rules in order to produce desired impact on professional performance, and suggests adding strengthening of self-regulatory frameworks, such as ethical codes of conducts and/or councils for mass media, HR basis and linkages as a strategy to advance this goal.

b) Training processes and tools

The Finnish HRC suggests adding a specific reference to HR principles also here: universality and indivisibility, equality and non-discrimination, in particular. The HRC further suggests adding e.g. electoral processes to the list of specific contexts to be observed in the curricula, as well as media specific HR glossaries in different languages to resource materials for self-education in para 44.

3. Actors

The Finnish HRC suggests adding media owners, company board members and, in particular, editors-in-chief to the list of responsible actors.