



International Conference on Human Rights Education

Bridging our diversities

**An international forum to explore
human rights education solutions to global challenges**

**Montreal, Canada
November 30 – December 3, 2017**

Equitas is delighted to announce that it will be hosting the 8th International Conference on Human Rights Education (ICHRE) in Montreal, Canada. The Conference will be co-organized with:

- The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Concordia University
- McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism
- Université du Québec à Montréal
- University of Western Sydney (Australia)

With the participation of : The City of Montreal, Canadian Human Rights Commission, Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse (Québec), Amnesty International and others.

Conference objectives

This 3.5-day conference will assemble between 300-400 practitioners, policy-makers, academics, members of CSOs and other people who are interested in human rights education (HRE) to:

- **Deepen our understanding of the impact** of human rights education in tackling current global challenges.
- **Identify strategies and formulate recommendations** for ensuring HRE becomes a higher priority for governments and civil society organizations.
- **Share and showcase good HRE practices and innovative tactics from around the world** that aim to promote respect for diversity and inclusion, strengthen social cohesion and reconciliation, provide alternatives to extremism and violence, and support knowledge and education as drivers to achieve the SDGs.
- **Forge new connections and reinforce existing efforts to build networks and communities of practice** for human rights defenders.



Why a conference on Human Rights Education (HRE)?

The ICHRE will be a global discussion forum to connect around shared human rights challenges and focus on good practices and innovation in education.

This conference will provide opportunities to share rights-based education experiences and practical HRE tools. It will create spaces where participants can explore how HRE can build more peaceful and equitable communities and provide effective solutions to current national and global challenges related to diversity, inclusion, violence and extremism.

Why Equitas? Why in Montreal?

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2017, Equitas has been a leader in the field of human rights education since it was established in Montreal by a group of engaged Canadians that included **John P. Humphrey** (one of the drafters of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) and **Thérèse Casgrain** (renowned Quebec advocate for women's rights).

Montreal, Quebec and Canada have a legacy of playing active roles domestically and internationally in efforts to promote and protect human rights. Through collective efforts to come to terms with our own human rights challenges (gender equality, the rights of indigenous peoples, inclusion of immigrants and minorities, equality for LGBTQI people, etc.), Canadians have developed valuable lessons to share, but also have important lessons to learn in building inclusive and equitable communities. Given the current context in Canada, an important theme of the conference will be the role of human rights education in reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

Conference Outputs

- Strategic recommendations for decision-makers in Governments, civil society organizations and international institutions on how to use the tools of human rights education to address global challenges and improve the impact of HRE.
- A collection of accessible HRE success stories and good practices for professionals in various human rights and education areas.
- A tool on indicators of HRE impact for practitioners.



Join us in Montreal, Canada!

The Conference *Bridging our Diversities* will place during a year of important anniversaries: Canada 150, Montreal 375 and Equitas 50. The conference will provide a unique opportunity to showcase the lessons learned from Canada, Quebec, Montreal and Equitas' experience promoting human rights, pluralism, inclusion and respect for diversity.



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