



human rights, conflict resolution, and tolerance education

UNRWA has been teaching human rights, conflict resolution and tolerance (HRCRT) in its schools for many years. Guided by a new HRCRT policy, UNRWA's teaching in these areas is being updated, building upon past successes as well as drawing from international best practice in integrating human rights education in schools in other countries.

The HRCRT policy is part of the wider education reform in UNRWA. It describes statements of commitment on the part of UNRWA, based on UNRWA's mandate to promote quality education for Palestine refugees. The HRCRT policy sets out a common approach for all UNRWA schools for the teaching and learning about human rights, conflict resolution, and tolerance.

HRCRT policy vision: To provide human rights education that empowers Palestine refugee students to enjoy and exercise their rights, uphold human rights values, be proud of their Palestinian identity, and contribute positively to their society and the global community.

HRCRT policy statement of commitment: UNRWA is committed to providing quality human rights education in its schools and educational facilities in line with its education vision, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the related instruments in the international human rights system, and the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

Universally-accepted human rights principles

Human dignity: Human dignity is a principle that asserts that all human beings, by virtue of being human, deserve to be respected and treated well.

Universality: Human rights are universal. All people everywhere in the world are entitled to them.

Equality and non-discrimination: All individuals are equal as human beings. No one should therefore suffer discrimination on the basis of race, colour, ethnicity, gender, age, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, social or geographical origin, disability, property, birth or other status.

Participation and inclusion: All people have the right to participate in and access information relating to the decision-making processes that affect their lives and well-being. This implies a high degree of participation by communities, civil society, minorities, women, children, young people, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

Tolerance: Tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human.

Human rights, conflict resolution, and tolerance in schools

HRCRT education strives towards the creation of an environment where human rights are practised and experienced in the daily life of the whole school community. Schools may approach the teaching and learning of HRCRT in different ways, with some schools adopting an integrated



approach (where human rights is integrated into other subjects) and others teaching human rights as a separate subject.

Learning environment

UNRWA is committed to ensuring a learning environment that is rights-based, safe and motivating. This environment will be hazard-free, violence-free, healthy and accessible to all, thereby ensuring physical and mental safety. It is an environment which respects and promotes the human rights of all school actors and is characterised by mutual understanding, respect and responsibility. This will enable children to express their views freely and to participate in school life, and offer them opportunities for interacting with the wider community.

Teacher preparation and professional development

HRCRT will become an integral component of all professional development for teachers and school management, supporting them in improving their teaching and fostering a conducive learning environment. The teacher toolkit will help teachers teaching human rights to all grades and with regards to all key human rights competences. This toolkit will address several principles of teaching human rights, explicit teaching of human rights, and integration of human rights into other curriculum subjects.

Teaching and learning

UNRWA seeks to ensure full development of students' human rights education competencies, which include: knowledge and understanding; attitudes and values; and skills to practice human rights, conflict resolution and tolerance. As well as learning about human rights, human rights education also addresses the social and emotional development of all those involved in the learning and teaching process. Interactive teaching methods are adopted, and attention paid to respecting the rights and dignity of all students.

At all ages, students will learn how to practically apply their knowledge of human rights to create a rights-based environment at school and to contribute towards positive social change in their communities.

Definition of human rights education

Education, training and information aiming at building a universal culture of human rights through the sharing of knowledge, imparting of skills and moulding of attitudes directed to:

- The strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- The full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity;
- The promotion of understanding, tolerance, gender equality and friendship among all nations, indigenous peoples and minorities;
- The enabling of all persons to participate effectively in a free and democratic society governed by the rule of law;
- The building and maintenance of peace;
- The promotion of people-centered sustainable development and social justice.

HRCRT initiatives

Dimensions of the UNRWA HRCRT approach:

- Dissemination of the HRCRT policy;
- Strengthening school parliaments with a focus on empowerment, active participation, learning decision-making processes, and peaceful resolution of disputes;
- An HRCRT teachers' guide and a resource pack which suggests activities and provides guidance on integrating human rights education in to schools;
- On-going teacher training on the HRCRT policy and effective use of the HRCRT toolkit and teaching practices.

Making a positive difference towards quality education in UNRWA schools

UNRWA Education aims to strengthen the education environment so that it is conducive to promoting a culture of human rights. This will equip UNRWA students and youths with human rights knowledge and skills and impact on their attitudes and behaviour to enable them to contribute positively to their society and the global community.

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united nations relief and works agency
for palestine refugees in the near east

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UNRWA provides assistance, protection and advocacy for some 5 million registered Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the occupied Palestinian territory, pending a solution to their plight. The Agency's services encompass education, health care, social safety-net, camp infrastructure and improvement, community support, microfinance and emergency response, including in times of armed conflict. Through these services UNRWA strives to help Palestine refugees achieve a decent standard of living, long and healthy lives, knowledge and skills and full enjoyment of human rights. These goals are formulated according to the UN criteria for human development.