

INVITATION

Dear Participant,

On the occasion of the International Human Rights Day, the Danish Institute for Human Rights invites you to the Copenhagen Symposium on Human Rights Education: '*Strengthening NHRI Capacity on Human Rights Education*'. The symposium will be held in Copenhagen 10th-11th of December 2014.

AIM OF SYMPOSIUM

NHRIs have a key role to play in promoting human rights through human rights education (HRE) and in protecting the right to human rights education.

The symposium brings together central NHRIs working with HRE as well as international actors in the field, with an aim to:

- *Scrutinize the NHRI HRE mandate and the roles given in WPHRE and UNDHRE;*
- *Establish the challenges NHRIs have in carrying out their HRE mandate - and share best practices;*
- *Provide recommendations to tools, guidelines and other resources to be developed to strengthen NHRIs in carrying out their HRE mandate;*
- *To explore the opportunities to establish a network for NHRIs on HRE*

SYMPOSIUM FORM & OUTCOME

Prior to the symposium we will conduct an internet based survey among participants to collect information on NHRIs experiences of their capacity and challenges in their HRE work, establish what areas of the mandate the NHRIs work in and their best practices.

The symposium will be structured around workshops based on experience sharing and joint generation of ideas. The working language is English.

The recommendations from the symposium will be published. They will form the background for activities to be carried out in 2015 under the auspices of funding from the Danish Institute for Human Rights in cooperation with interested participants and other stakeholders.

PARTICIPANTS & REGISTRATION

Invitations has been send to selected Institute partners and contacts on the basis of an assessment of their NHRI and HRE capacities and experiences. The Institute will cover your relevant travel expenses, including airfare, accommodation and visa expenses. Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that you meet all relevant visa requirements to Denmark. For more information, please visit your local Danish embassy. Please register for the course by email: mlr@humanrights.dk . **Deadline: 10th of November 2014.**

Best Regards



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SYMPOSIUM BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

NHRIs HRE MANDATE & ROLE

NHRIs have a key role to play in promoting human rights through human rights education (HRE) and in protecting the right to human rights education. The Paris Principles provides NHRIs with a broad HRE mandate and the UN World Programme on Human Rights Education (WPHRE) and the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education (UNDHRE) as well as regional instruments and policies has designated specific roles to NHRIs.

The NHRIs thus both have a large potential in promoting HRE and a potential large obligation in the field of HRE. That can encompass both national HRE monitoring and baselines, HRE reporting to international and regional systems, advising government and public institutions on HRE in law and policy making, curriculum development, etc.. But also to develop HRE methods and teaching material and to conduct HRE for the general public and the specific identified target groups including primary and secondary school systems, teachers, universities, civil servants, military, police and media professionals.

This potential very broad mandate can be challenging to NHRIs to handle. Where should NHRIs start, how should they prioritise and what will work?

The following questions are drivers behind the symposium:

- Can the NHRIs HRE mandate be concretised further in order to make it more manageable and easier to put it into practise?
- What tools can NHRIs use to best prioritise their HRE efforts and choose a HRE strategy? How can the NHRIs best and most effectively reach their HRE target groups?
- How can we ensure proper impact measurement systems are in place?
- What management tools do we experience work - or should we suggest to be developed - in order to prioritise, plan, implement and evaluate NHRIs HRE efforts?

THE INSTITUTES WORK IN THE FIELD

The Danish Institute for Human Rights has for more a decade engaged in developing methods and models for human rights education as well as conducted capacity building and education programmes for NHRIs in partnership programmes.

In 2013 the Institute launched *The Human Rights Education Toolbox – A practitioners guide to planning and managing human rights education* currently available in English, Spanish and Arabic and forthcoming in French. Based on a human rights based approach to human rights education the Toolbox forms the base for the institutes own courses nationally and internationally and for capacity building of partners including NHRIs. As an example the Institute in 2014 held a regional weeklong course on the human rights based approach to HRE for partners in the Middle East and North Africa with participants from NHRIs, civil society and state institution from Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Yemen.

With the HRE symposium in 2014 the Institute initiates a new phase of our HRE and NHRI work with a multilateral NHRI focus. This will be followed up in 2015 with the support to development of NHRI guidelines and tools on HRE as well as to a stronger cooperation and networking in the area in the future.