

**Human Rights Council 39th session**  
(10-28 September 2018)  
**Item 3 General Debate**

**Focus of the Fourth Phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education <sup>1</sup>**

Arigatou International

Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23)

Association Points Coeur

Company of the Daughters of Charity of Vincent de Paul

Foundation for Gaia (GAIA)

Global Ecovillage Network GEN-Suisse

Graduate Women International (GWI)

Instituto de Desenvolvimento e Direitos Humanos (IDDH)

International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR)

International Catholic Child Bureau

International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW)

International Council of Women (ICW-CIF)

International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

International Organisation for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDEL)

Mother Legacy Project (MLP)

ONG HOPE International

Planetary Association for Clean Energy (PACE)

Soka Gakkai International (SGI)

Teresian Association

UPR.info

World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations

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<sup>1</sup> Equitas also supports the oral statement

I speak on behalf of 21 organizations<sup>2</sup>

We welcome the report of the Office of the High Commissioner released in June<sup>3</sup>, which summarizes the views of States, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and other stakeholders on the target sectors, focus areas and thematic human rights issues for the fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

The majority of the stakeholders responded that the next phase should focus on youth. More than a third of the 169 targets of the SDGs also emphasize the crucial role of young people: it is key to join efforts and align the focus of the fourth phase of the World Programme with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and specifically with SDG 4.7.

Youth are critical agents of change. It is essential to empower them through Human Rights Education to become active global citizens, ultimately contributing to build inclusive societies, overcoming social divides, hatred and discrimination aiming at the lofty objective of the UN of leaving no one behind.

The next phase of the World Programme for human rights education should also promote youth leadership and aim to support youth serving organizations that engage marginalized young people and build upon the diversity of their experiences.

Keeping these in mind, we call upon all Member States to ensure the following:

1. The fourth phase of the World Programme should include a strong focus on youth with a particular emphasis on empowering youth from marginalized backgrounds.
2. The fourth phase of the World Programme should build on previous phases and should ensure the clear accountability of States and set realistic goals and means for national actions involving all stakeholders, including civil society actors.
3. There must be further efforts to strengthen monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Human rights education needs to be effectively mainstreamed in the UPR. For this, all stakeholders, including civil society actors, have a critical role to play.

Thank you Mr President

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<sup>2</sup> This statement reflects views of the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning (NGO WG on HREL) of NGO Human Rights Committee of CoNGO, comprising 50 NGOs.

<sup>3</sup> OHCHR (2018) Views of States, national human rights institutions and other stakeholders on the target sectors, focus areas or thematic human rights issues for the fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education. A/HRC/39/35.