



HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What is human rights education?

Human rights education is a process that anyone, anywhere can undertake at any age to learn about their own human rights -- and the rights of others -- and how to claim them. It empowers people to develop the skills and attitudes to promote equality, dignity and respect in their own communities, societies and worldwide.

3. Why deliver human rights education?

We believe that human rights education is fundamental for addressing the underlying causes of human rights violations.

By creating the environment for critical thinking, people are given the space to reflect on their own values and attitudes, and ultimately change their own behaviour.

This prevents human rights abuses, combats discrimination, promotes equality, and enhances people's participation in decision-making processes.

5. What difference does human rights education make?

Human rights education empowers people to claim their rights.

It ensures that individuals in positions of power know their responsibilities.

It builds the strength of the human rights movement by connecting people based on their values and empowering them to take part in promoting human rights in their own communities, societies and worldwide.

2. What human rights education is Amnesty International delivering?

We work with people in communities, schools and universities, and professional settings to build awareness of their human rights, deepen knowledge, and develop the skills, values and attitudes to apply and promote human rights in their lives and work.

4. Is there an obligation to educate people on human rights?

Yes. Everyone has the right to know, seek and receive information about all human rights and fundamental freedoms and should have access to human rights education and training.

Governments are obliged to ensure their citizens can learn about their human rights. This is guaranteed by a variety of international, regional and national instruments.

6. Is there a minimum age to learn about human rights?

No. Everyone has the right to know and claim their human rights, at any age in life.

We believe people of every age must have a meaningful and continuous say in ensuring the full enjoyment of their human rights - starting with their own communities, continuing at national levels to ensure that governments follow through on their commitments, as well as having the opportunity to connect globally with people around the world to create rights-respecting societies worldwide.



7. Can anyone be a human rights educator?

Yes. Anyone can practise and learn from human rights education.

A human rights educator is most effective when using facilitation and participation methods to create constructive learning environments in which freedom of expression and critical analysis are nurtured.

Amnesty International uses inclusive, participatory and democratic learning methods that respect the rights of both educators and learners to ensure human rights education is an empowering process. We employ multiplier and peer-to-peer approaches to enable educators to build the skills to empower others.



“I see myself as an educator. Through the workshops that I give I try to plant a seed of change. I am the present, trying to make a change for the future. Even if I won’t be able to enjoy this change, I know that future generations will.” Yoshi Garcia, Salvadoran youth activist.

9. How are you funded?

Amnesty International is funded by individual supporters: ordinary people who make regular donations or pay membership fees.

In addition, human rights education receives funds from governments following a strict approval process to ensure our independence and impartiality is maintained in all areas of our work.

8. Do you think human rights education is useful whilst people are lacking basic things like food and drinking water?

Yes. Human rights education empowers the people affected by human rights violations to hold individuals in positions of power, businesses and governments to account.

This can lead to long-term sustainable change and end cycles of dependency that can form when violations, such as the failure to provide access to food and drinking water, are not tackled as human rights abuses.



10. How can I get involved?

We believe knowledge is power, and that you have the potential to prevent and challenge violations of your own rights and the rights of others.

Contact your local Amnesty International office to find out more about local human rights education opportunities.

You can also find human rights education materials in different languages at www.amnesty.org.