

NECE – Networking European Citizenship Education “EYCE 2005: National Experiences – European Challenges”

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Country Profile V. Norway

“Challenges and experiences with human rights education in Norway”

The Norwegian Helsinki Committee has been involved in human rights education since the beginning of the 1990s. The aim of this work is to transmit knowledge about human rights, multi cultural understanding and peaceful conflict resolution in order to create a “human rights culture”. In this way we wish to encourage people to be involved in society and to meet other groups of people with an open and positive attitude.

Objectives

The objectives of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee`s human rights education are:

- to transmit knowledge about and understanding of human rights, multi-cultural understanding and peaceful conflict resolution, as well as the institutions that develop, promote and protect these values.
- to transmit knowledge about how human rights protect the individual person
- to create understanding of how human rights can contribute to improved relations between people, a fairer society and conditions for individuals to live a full life
- to create a meeting place for dialogue between people with different backgrounds

Target groups

The main focus of the educational work of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee is directed at **school children, youth and students** in Norway.

It is also important to focus on **teachers**, as transmitters of knowledge. Through our courses, the teachers obtain knowledge of human rights and insight into methods that they can use in their own teaching. The Committee can also assist the teachers with teaching resources.

Another significant focus is **immigrants and refugees**, especially unaccompanied minor asylum seekers.

The Committee wishes to reach the public administration and therefore addresses **public administration officials** in various social services. Another group of focus is within **trade and industry**.

Teaching methods

- Interactive methods
- Reality based teaching
- Making use of participants personal experiences and focusing on their future
- Project work
- Creating a meeting place for dialogue

- Drama

Projects

The Norwegian Helsinki Committees programme of human rights education comprises four main elements: education, training for trainers, development of teaching resources and education on the internet.

We work with developing human rights education in the school system, here are several examples:

- **The Iraq Project**

In 2003-2004 human rights schools and seminars were organised for Iraqi refugees.

- **Human Rights schools for Refugee Youth**

Since 2002 the Norwegian Helsinki Committee has organised human rights education for refugees and refugee youth in Norway, with a special focus on unaccompanied minor asylum seekers. In these schools, refugee youth are brought together with Norwegian youth.

- **Build bridges- not walls**

“Build bridges - not walls” is a joint project by the municipality of Drammen, the United Nations Association of Norway and the Norwegian Helsinki Committee. Since 1998 the project has organised festivals, conferences, workshops and human rights schools in Drammen and in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina.