



Centre of Human Rights Education (ZMRB)  
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# The Role of Human Rights Education

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# 1 Introduction

- Democratic crisis and revolutionary processes towards democracies lead to fundamental challenges
  
  - Human Rights Education is able to
    - claim adequately;
    - promote concretely;
    - raise awareness for;
    - offer a frame of reference as well as a solid foundation for
- a constructive way to find a positive solution for today's fundamental challenges.



## 2 What is Human Rights Education?

*United Nations:*

“... learning *about (knowledge), through (values, attitudes) and for (skills, action) human rights.*”

*New UN-Declaration on Human Rights Education and -training:*

“Human rights education and training comprises all educational, training, information, awareness-raising and learning activities aimed at promoting universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and thus contributing, inter alia, to the prevention of human rights violations and abuses by providing persons with knowledge, skills and understanding and developing their attitudes and behaviours, to empower them to contribute to the building and promotion of a universal culture of human rights.”



## 2 What is Human Rights Education?

*New UN-Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training:*

“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.”



This calls for regional, national and local realization of this right to human rights education.



## 2 What is Human Rights Education?

“... lifelong and formal, non-formal, informal learning

*to,  
in,  
about,  
through and  
for*

human rights.”

*Kirchsclaeger P. G./Kirchsclaeger T., Answering the “What“, the “When“, the “Why“ and the “How“: Philosophy-Based and Law Based Human Rights Education, in: Journal of Human Rights Education 1 (2009) 26-36*



### 3 The Role of Human Rights Education

- Experience heterogeneity as a chance
- Practicing participation and democracy
- Promoting freedom of discrimination and of racism
- Thinking globally
- Nonviolent cohabiting

Human rights education offers us the opportunity to **acquire competencies**, which put us into a position that allows us to respect and to campaign for the **promotion of human rights** in the daily life-context.



## 4 The Role of Human Rights Education in the Context of Democratic Crisis and Revolutionary Processes Towards Democracies

- Enabling democracy and defining limits of democracy
  - Enhancing the awareness of the significance of democratic opinion-building and decision-making processes for human existence
  - Empowering to participate in a democratic society
  
  - Giving a language to point out violations of fundamental elements of human existence and to fight against them
  - Serving the assessment of the status quo
  - Offering a frame of reference for the building of a new society
- >> Does a movement started without human rights education need *a posteriori* human rights education?



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## 5 Questions & Answers

[www.humanrightseducation.ch](http://www.humanrightseducation.ch)

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