

Amnesty International Hong Kong
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**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**
HONG KONG 國際特赦組織香港



September 7, 2010

Dear Principal/Panel of Liberal Studies,

DIVERSITY, DIFFERENCES AND UNIQUENESS **2010/11 HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

As the world's largest human rights organization, Amnesty International Hong Kong (AIHK) strives to raise awareness and deepen the understanding of human rights through integrating it into existing curriculum.

A human rights curriculum is integral to students because it allows them to understand their rights and it teaches students to value and respect human rights through an exposure to various human rights issues. More importantly, it serves as a platform for students to master skills such as critical thinking, communication, and problem solving, which are extremely critical to their growth and development.

Please find below our human rights education program for your consideration:

1. THEMATIC CAMPAIGN

LEARNING THROUGH PARTICIPATION

'Remember and Respect' Justice for Comfort Women

Recommendation: Integrate with History, Chinese History, and Liberal Studies.

Around 200,000 young women and girls, some as young as 12, were forced into sexual servitude by the Japanese military during World War II. They were held in camps, known as 'comfort stations', and were subjected to years of rape and harsh treatment.

The Government of Japan has failed to accept responsibility or legal liability for the sexual slavery system used by the Japanese military.

This year is the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II, and teachers could use this opportunity to teach students about the Japanese military's human rights violations during the time. In fact, teachers could encourage students to take action on September 18, the anniversary of Japanese military's invasion into China's three northeastern provinces. Students could demand justice for comfort women by signing Amnesty International's butterfly postcards which urges the Japanese government to accept responsibility.

Suggested activity: On September 18, the anniversary of the Mukden Incident (also known as the Manchurian Incident), teachers could ask students to demand justice for comfort women and ask the Japanese government to accept responsibility by signing our butterfly postcards.

Additionally, our banner series on comfort women could be loaned to schools.



2. HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION RESOURCES

PHOTO EXHIBITIONS, FILMS, BANNER SERIES, ONLINE TOOLS, AND PUBLICATIONS

Photo exhibitions, films, and banners are the most essential tools of human rights educations. Through images, students can deepen their understanding of victims of human rights violations, particularly their sufferings. AIHK offers photo exhibitions and films for loaning for up to 2 weeks and the materials come with captions and subtitles. Teachers could easily take these to their classrooms and campuses.

Photo exhibitions and films are available on a first-come-first-served basis.

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Photo Exhibition: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

This series includes 30 photos taken in the past few decades showing different human rights stories around the world will be displayed: issues such as comfort women to the abuse of detainees in Guantanamo Bay to anti-racial discrimination legislation in Hong Kong.

Suggested dates: Year-round

December 10 (Friday) Human Rights Day – Honors the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the UDHR

Photo Exhibition: Exiled to Nowhere – Burma's Rohingya

The Rohingya are a Muslim ethnic minority from Myanmar. They have been stateless since 1982 when discriminatory citizenship laws effectively stripped them of their nationality, which resulted in systematic persecution that continues today. They experience forced labor and their land and belongings are arbitrarily seized by the Myanmar authorities. Even marriage requires permission from the government. Hence, a majority of Rohingyas have fled to neighboring Bangladesh to become refugees. Their plight has been documented by renowned photo-journalist Greg Constantine.

Mr. Constantine began photographing the Rohingya in Bangladesh in early 2006 as part of a greater project called Nowhere People, which documents stateless minority groups in the world. Work from this project has received a number of awards, including an Award of Merit in the 2008 Human Right Press Awards in Hong Kong (co-sponsored by Amnesty International Hong Kong) and the 2008 SOPA Award for Feature Photography.

Leaflets on refugees in Hong Kong are available upon request.

Suggested dates: Appropriate for exhibition year-round or

2010 September 27, Monday	Saffron Revolution
2010 November 7, Sunday	Elections in Myanmar
2011 June 20, Monday	World Refugee Day

Film: God Grew Tired of Us

Orphaned by a tumultuous civil war and traveling barefoot across the sub-Saharan dessert, John Bul Dau, Daniel Abol Pach and Panther Blor were among the 25,000 "Lost Boys" who fled villages, formed surrogate families and sought refuge from famine, disease, wild animals and attacks from rebel soldiers. Named by a journalist after Peter Pan's posse of orphans who protected and provided for each other, the "Lost Boys" travelled together for five years and against all odds crossed into the UN's refugee camp in Kakuma, Kenya. A journey's end for some, it was only the beginning for John, Danile and Panther, who along with 3,800 other young survivors, were selected to re-settle in the United States, where they build active and fulfilling new lives but remain deeply committed to helping the friends and families they have left.

The screening could be arranged with a talk on refugees.

Suggested dates: Appropriate for screening year-round or

2011 June 20, Monday	World Refugee Day
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Banner Series

In addition, AIHK has a bi-lingual **banner series** that could be loaned. Topics include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, stop violence against women, case studies of women's rights violations, comfort women (Chinese only), and discrimination faced by homosexuals.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.amnesty.org.hk/html/node/10689>.

Publications on Human Rights

With few international human rights organizations, it may be difficult to obtain relevant reports. In fact, AIHK has a library of **publications** that covers a range of human rights topics. Our publications could be used by teachers as reference or

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placed in school libraries.

HR Magazine (bi-lingual)

Our quarterly magazine that brings students the most updated news on human rights around the world every 3 months. The magazine could be used as teaching materials or be placed in school libraries. Teachers could subscribe up to 3 copies for free.

Amnesty International Report (English) - \$280

Amnesty International publishes an annual report that documents human rights all over the world and this is a superb reference book for teachers who want to include human rights in their curriculum.

Other Reports (mostly English)

Amnesty International publishes numerous reports on our research on grave human rights abuses all over the world. Research has been conducted on the annual death penalty global statistics, North Korea's health facilities and system, refugees in Malaysia, the human rights crisis in northwestern Pakistan. The organization has also published a report on protests that took place in Xinjiang in July 2009. Please visit our library for more publications
http://www.amnesty.org.hk/html/resource_list.

3. TALKS TOPICS ON LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

AHK gives talks on a series of human rights issues. Below is only a list of suggested topics and dates, special arrangement could be made to suit the needs and schedules of schools.

SUGGESTED TOPICS	
Comfort Women: Waiting for Justice	Freedom of Expression and the Press
Racial Harmony and Cultural Tolerance	Maternal Mortality and Human Rights
UDHR: What's in it for me?	Unfair Trials
Child Soldiers and Children's Rights	Refugees, Asylum-Seekers, and Internally Displaced Persons
Death Penalty: An Irrevocable Penalty	Law and Human Rights
Gender & Violence	Torture

SPECIAL DAYS	
September 21	International Day of Peace
October 10	World Day Against the Death Penalty
October 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
December 10	Human Rights Day
February 20	World Day of Social Justice
March 8	International Women's Day
March 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
May 3	World Press Freedom Day
June 20	World Refugee Day
June 26	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

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4. ACTIVITIES

CONTESTS, SMALL GROUPS, CAMPING, AND URGENT ACTION

Human Rights News Commentary Contest

AIHK organizes **contests** for schools to express their opinions on human rights issues and to improve their critical thinking skills. Following the success of last year, AIHK is organizing the 2nd Human Rights News Commentary Contest. This will give students an opportunity to reflect human rights news in the previous year.

Participants can comment on one or more of the chosen winning articles of the annual Human Rights Press Awards, which is jointly organized by AIHK, the Hong Kong Journalists Association, and Foreign Correspondence Club. The contest aims at encouraging students' concern for human rights news and international affairs, developing their objectivity participation encouraging social participation and raise social consciousness.

Details and application forms to be posted later. Schools could request for information to be sent to them or visit our website for updates.

Small Groups

Besides contests, **small groups** are a good platform for students to learn about human rights.

AI Club

Teachers and students could form AI Clubs and take action on abuses of human rights all over the world by taking part in AIHK's planned activities. Students could collect signed postcards and letters from their classmates for AIHK to mail out. The goal of AI Clubs is to join forces with students to make the greatest impact on human rights.

Postcards, posters, and mailing costs will be provided by AIHK.

Friday Coffee Talk

Friday Coffee Talks are held approximately every 3 months. This activity facilitates small group discussions on human rights issues, such as drug testing at schools, refugees, human rights in Myanmar, and Chinese citizens' participation in exposing official wrongdoings in relation to the right to life and freedom of expression.

For more information, please visit our website.

Poverty Camp 2010

AIHK co-organizes a **camp** with the Alliance of Civic Education annually in order to raise students' knowledge on civil society. This year, the camp will take place during the winter holidays and will focus on poverty and human rights.

Details to be announced on our website.

Urgent Action

Amnesty International receives news and updates about those who are jailed or face arbitrary prosecution or imprisonment for speaking out or for simply defending their rights. Our **Urgent Action Network** is a global network that mobilizes supporters all around the world to respond swiftly through letter or e-mail writing campaigns to human rights abuses by various governments and to grant amnesty to those who have been sentenced to death.

We encourage students to take part in this network, where they can increase their critical thinking and learn to write letters addressing their views and expressing their feelings to government and other responsible officials, with the goal of stimulating and encouraging individual and community awareness and participation. Students can write letters in English, Chinese or any other language.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.amnesty.org.hk/html/whatwedo?tid=62>.

Others

AIHK holds a series of events every year. Please visit our website for our latest activities: <http://www.amnesty.org.hk>.

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If you are interested in any of our activities, please complete and return the attached reply slip before **September 30** by fax (2782-0583) or by email (hrc@amnesty.org.hk). For more information, feel free to contact Clara Fok or myself at 2300-1250. We will be more than happy to provide further information to facilitate any of your arrangement.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Keith Wong', written in a cursive style.

Keith Wong
Campaign Manager
Amnesty International Hong Kong