

What are Human Rights?

Human rights are the rights a person holds simply because he or she is a human being. Human rights are held by all persons equally, universally, and forever. Human rights are inalienable, indivisible, and interdependent. Human Rights include civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. These rights are established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the U.S. Bill of Rights, the Minnesota Human Rights Act, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other human rights documents.

What is Human Rights Education?

Human rights education is a life-long process by which people at all levels of development and in all strata of society learn to respect the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring that respect in all societies. Human rights education is for everyone: students, families, schools, and communities. Human rights education empowers individuals and helps them see themselves as responsible for promoting and protecting human rights.

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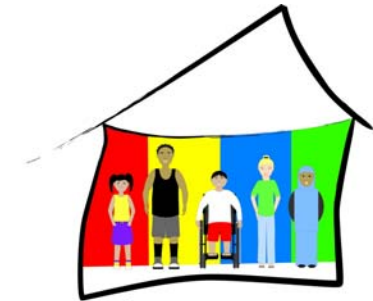
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"... discrimination threatens the rights and privileges of the inhabitants of this state and menaces the institutions and foundations of democracy..."

The Minnesota Human Rights Act



This is My Home

A Minnesota
Human Rights Education
Experience

www.thisismyhome.org

This is My Home: A Human Rights Education Experience

What?

This is My Home is a human rights education resource for primary and secondary students, which seeks to create peaceful, effective, and fun learning environments for all to excel in Minnesota schools. The *This is My Home Tool Kit* includes online model units for grades K-12, a unique student-centered education process, and a wide scope of additional resources to share emerging practices and tools.

Why?

Education is a Human Right!

The primary goals of *This is My Home* are:

- To engage all members of the school community in creating a learning environment in which everyone can grow to their full potential with their human rights and human dignity upheld;
- To motivate all members of the school community to take responsibility in promoting and protecting human rights, so that student achievement, development, and performance can thrive;
- To develop new tools for sharing and monitoring emerging human rights education practices.

“Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.”

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

How?

The **Human Rights Education Framework** provides a developmental sequence for learning human rights language, principles, skills, and practices.

Human Rights and Educational Standards have been integrated into this learning process. These standards include Minnesota Academic Standards, the Minnesota Human Rights Act, the United States Bill of Rights, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The **Human Rights Process Model** is a student-centered learning circle with 7 steps:

- (1) Observe and Identify the Human Rights Issue
- (2) Describe and Share Stories
- (3) Generate Human Rights Responses and Make Predictions About Their Impact on the Community
- (4) Select a Human Rights Response and Take Action
- (5) Interview Community Members and Collect Information About the Impact of your Human Rights Action
- (6) Reflect on What You Have Learned About Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and Draw Conclusions
- (7) Communicate and Demonstrate HR Learning

Who?

This is My Home was created to address the needs of Minnesota's K-12 students, educators, families, and community members. In Fall 2005, all Minnesota primary and secondary schools will receive the *This is My Home Tool Kit*, which will also be available online. Every school is encouraged to incorporate these resources into their lesson plans and school policies and procedures.

Measuring Impact

Recent studies show that Minnesota has one of the widest achievement gaps in the nation between white students and students of color. Minnesota schools also rank particularly high in teasing, bullying, and aggressive behavior.

This is My Home strives to create a positive change in:

- Community Partnerships
- Family Involvement
- School Climate
- Student Learning and Development

The impact of *This is My Home* on the above indicators will be evaluated on an ongoing basis and the results will be made public.

“Be the change you want to see in the world.”

Gandhi