



A national network dedicated to building a culture of human rights.

Annual Report 2016

“Every individual and every organ of society...shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms.”

- Preamble, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Mission

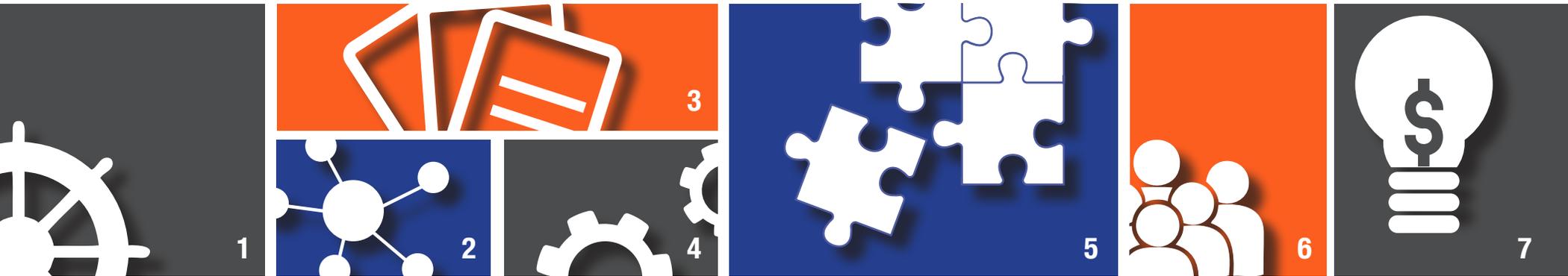
The mission of Human Rights Educators USA (HRE USA) is to promote human dignity, justice, and peace by cultivating an expansive, vibrant base of support for human rights education (HRE) within the United States.

HRE USA was founded in 2011 by leaders in the field of HRE, including seasoned educators, students, higher education faculty, members of non-profit organizations, representatives from both major national teacher unions, and other stakeholders. The network draws inspiration from the Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, adopted by the UN General Assembly in December, 2011. The Declaration underscores the globally recognized importance of human rights in every person's education.

To fulfill our mission, we facilitate mutual collaboration and support to maximize our members' efforts to:

- **integrate** international human rights **standards** into formal and non-formal educational settings
- **promote** the inclusion of HRE in national and state education **policies**, standards, curricula, and pedagogy;
- **develop** training and education **resources**
- promote and **conduct** scholarly **research** on HRE
- **empower** educators, learners, and **members** with the knowledge, skills, and values they need to promote HRE
- participate in global **network** and forums to share best practices

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What is Human Rights Education?

Human Rights Education (HRE) is a lifelong process of teaching and learning that helps individuals develop the knowledge, skills, and values to fully exercise and protect the human rights of themselves and others; to fulfill their responsibilities in the context of internationally agreed upon human rights principles; and to achieve justice and peace in the world.

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Letter

From HRE USA Co-Chair, Adam Stone

At Human Rights Educators USA (HRE USA), we believe the key to engaged Americans who understand and respect human rights--and act in their daily lives with compassion and empathy for their fellow human beings--is the early introduction to our children of their rights, and the rights of others, in age-appropriate language, and from their earliest formal schooling onward. Since 2011, HRE USA has:

- created and maintained a network of HRE USA regional representatives throughout the US;
- provided extensive substantive comments and suggestions that were adopted by the California State Board of Education and that strengthened the HRE content of the California History/Social Science curriculum standards framework;
- created and maintained an online presence through our interactive website, www.hreusa.net, including a growing archive of HRE resources from the US and abroad for teachers and other HRE practitioners in the US to access and use at no charge;
- created in New Jersey a state standards-specific HRE curriculum integration guide for high school teachers, which is accessible from our website and which serves as a model that can be adapted in other states for their high school-level curriculum integration guides;
- supported the creation of a Community of Interest for HRE within the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) that helped NCSS draft and implement a robust position statement in support of HRE in the US;
- participated, along with other US human rights organizations, in the United Nations Universal Periodic Review with regard to the current status of HRE in US schools;
- in conjunction with Amnesty International USA and the Dorothy Cotton Institute, worked with schools in Ithaca, New York, to help them become official Human Rights Friendly Schools;
- assisted the Human Rights Watch student task force and its California high school students as they sought ways to advocate for increased HRE in their schools and communities; and
- through our regional representatives and members, held workshops, hosted speakers and increased public visibility of HRE.

We're proud of these achievements, but we also know we've got a lot more work to do - and we need your help to do it! Please join us in our efforts by becoming an individual or institutional member of HRE USA today. Together, we can create a culture of respect for human rights among our fellow Americans - a legacy that will resonate both here at home, and abroad.

Sincerely,
Adam E. Stone
Co-Chair, HRE USA



Adam E. Stone,
Co-Chair, HRE USA

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Leadership

The Executive Committee planned and facilitated an in-person meeting of the entire HRE USA Steering Committee in late 2016 at the headquarters of the National Education Association in Washington, DC. The Steering Committee revised its Strategic Operating Plan and developed a new, one-year Action Plan to bring to fruition the newly-developed priorities.

In conjunction with the meeting, HRE USA member Bill Fernekes convened a panel to discuss the relevance of HRE in the contemporary environment within the United States. Panelists included Cynthia Gabriel, Amnesty International; Glenn Mitoma, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center of the University of Connecticut; Jean-Louis Peta Ikambana, American Friends Service Committee; Kirby Edmonds, Dorothy Cotton Institute; and Harry Lawson, National Education Association.

The following day, HRE USA and the US Human Rights Network convened a National Summit on Human Rights Education - Taking Stock and Next Steps Part II to revisit the Universal Periodic Review report on the national status of HRE in the United States. Two expert panels were convened, composed of educators and representatives from the governmental and nongovernmental sectors who are engaged in education and training for human rights. Panelists included: Rosemary Blanchard, Chair of the HRE Community of Interest of the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS); Kirby Edmonds, Dorothy Cotton Institute; Danny Gogal, Environmental Protection Agency; Jean-Louis Peta Ikambana, American Friends Service Committee; Kristi Rudelius-Palmer, HRE Higher Education Consortium; Eric Steinecker, US Department of Housing and Urban Development; and Eric Tars, National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty.

Beginning in late 2016, and continuing into 2017, the Development Committee has undertaken a comprehensive review of the funding organizations listed within our development database, as well as additional organizations, with the goal of creating a new, prioritized list of potential funding partners.



Past and present leaders of HRE USA Front row: David Shiman, Kristina Eberbach, Sandra Sohcot, Gloria Alter, Claudia Concha. Second row: Rosemary Blanchard, Adam Stone, Emily Farell, Kristi Rudelius-Palmer, Andrea Cohen. Third Row: Glenn Mitoma, Kirby Edmonds, Sandra Sirota, Bill Fernekes, Nancy Flowers.

Current HRE USA Steering Committee:

Gloria Alter
Retired Professor

Dennis Banks
SUNY College at Oneonta

Rosemary Ann Blanchard*
Retired Professor

Kristina Eberbach*
Columbia University

Kirby Edmonds*
Dorothy Cotton Institute

Emily Farell
The Advocates for Human Rights

Bill Fernekes
Rutgers University

Page Hersey
University of San Francisco

Harry Lawson
National Education Association

Glenn Mitoma*
University of Connecticut

Azadeh Osanloo
New Mexico State University

Kristi Rudellius-Palmer
Youthrive

David Shiman
University of Vermont

Violette Rodriguez Sofaer
The World As It Could Be

Sandra E. Sohcot
The World As It Could Be

Adam E. Stone*
Filmmaker & Novelist

* HRE USA Co-Chair * HRE USA Vice Co-Chair * HRE USA Secretary

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Membership

HRE USA is a coalition of hundreds of members across the country, and we continue to grow daily. We are academics, activists, parents, educators, students, unions, policy makers, social scientists, software engineers, professors, artists, and non-profit organizations united with a common mission: education about and for human rights.

In fiscal year 2016, over 40 individuals and organizations joined HRE USA as new members, increasing our membership from 477 members to 522 members. Since then we have almost doubled our rate of growth with a present total of almost 600 members (as of March 2017).

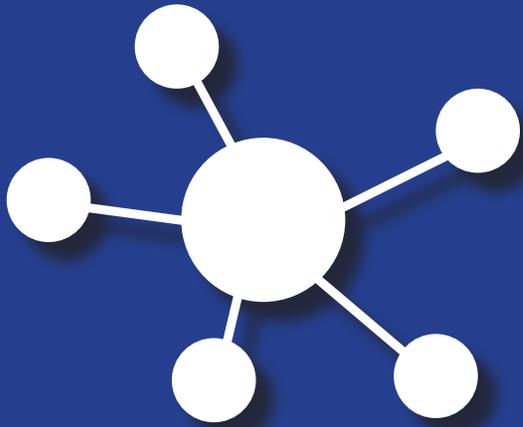
Staying Connected and Informed

HRE USA helps members stay informed on HRE developments through our monthly e-newsletter that highlights the latest news, action alerts, publications, events and partner announcements related to human rights education in the United States. In addition, members can connect with others, participate in online discussions, and hear about human rights related job opportunities through our national HRE USA LinkedIn group.

Regional Representatives

HRE USA's regional representatives coordinate human rights education activities and communicate with partners in their areas. Members can contact their nearest representative to connect with local efforts, events and activities related to human rights education in their area.

In 2016, Violette Rodriguez Sofaer took on the role of coordinating our regional representatives across the nation. This past year we increased our regular communication with regional representatives, established new representatives in Northern California and the D.C. area, and assisted with the coordination of local HRE USA events in Washington D.C., New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and other venues.



The following benefits are provided through HRE USA membership:

- Receive and share information about upcoming events, developments in the field, education resources, advocacy and employment opportunities through our [monthly newsletter](#).
- Connect with other human rights educators in your area through [HRE USA regional networks](#);
- Connect with HRE USA members around the country through our website and our [LinkedIn group](#);
- Meet and network with other HRE USA members at the annual [Edward O'Brien Award Reception](#)
- Discuss questions, challenges, policies, resources, and ideas with other HRE USA members through the [LinkedIn discussion board](#)
- Access human rights [education resources](#) online, including curriculum materials and lesson plans, books, videos, background information, and take action resources.
- Receive support for human rights education initiatives in your [schools, university, and community](#).
- Influence HRE USA's policy, advocacy, outreach and development activities by participating in national [HRE USA committees](#).
- Establish working groups based on your human rights education interests and goals
- Participate in the election of [steering committee](#) members and run for membership

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

*Indicates founding member

The Advocacy Lab*
 The Advocates for Human Rights*
 Africa Center, University of Pennsylvania
 American Friends Service Committee
 American Red Cross*
 Amnesty International
 Amnesty International USA*
 BP. Technologies & Innovations
 Carr Center for Human Rights Policy,
 Harvard Kennedy School*
 Center for Civic Education
 Center for Human Rights, University of Iowa
 Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education at Florida Atlantic University
 Center for Study of Genocide, Conflict Resolution and Human Rights
 Center for World Education, College of Education & Social Services, University of Vermont
 Creative Educators International Network
 Creative Spirit Welfare Organization
 CultureSync Academy
 Dorothy Cotton Institute*
 The Dreamers Initiative
 Eden Prairie High School
 Elizabethtown College
 EOTO World
 European Wergeland Centre
 Facing History and Ourselves
 The FourD Group
 Girls Learn International
 Global Nomads Group
 Global South Watch, Inc.
 Groton Public Library
 Human Rights Center, University of Minnesota*
 Human Rights Education Associates*
 Human Rights Education Resource Center
 Human Rights Watch Student Task Force*
 IARF-Human Rights Resource Centre
 Independent Commission on Public Education
 Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University
 I-ACT
 J.J. Hill Montessori School
 Metropolitan Seminary
 National Education Association*
 National Youth Leadership Council
 New Roads School
 PRYDE for Peace
 Puffin Foundation
 Rex Foundation
 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights*
 Robert H. Jackson Center
 Sahel Research and Strategy Group
 Schools for Chiapas
 Southern Methodist University--Embrey
 The Summer Institute for Human Rights and Genocide Studies
 Spain Park High School
 Student Policy Alliance
 Teaching for Change
 Teaching Tolerance, Southern Poverty Law Center
 Universal Human Rights Initiative
 Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, University of Connecticut
 Universal Human Rights Initiative School of Education, University of San Francisco
 Upstander Project
 Urban Refugee Rights Programme
 US Fund for UNICEF
 Victims of Crisis and Society
 Voice of Witness
 William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation, University of Mississippi*
 Wings Academy High School
 World Savvy
 The World As it Could Be Human Rights Education Program*
 Woven Teaching

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Projects & Publications

Human Rights Friendly Schools Project

HRE USA partners with [Amnesty International USA](#) to bring the “Human Rights Friendly Schools” project to schools in the United States. The [Dorothy Cotton Institute \(DCI\)](#) is leading the piloting of this initiative in five schools in the Ithaca, New York area. As part of this effort, the New Roots Charter School has become the first school in the United States to be certified as a Human Rights Friendly School. New Roots has aligned its school environment, relationships, curriculum, and governance to Amnesty International’s rubric for human rights friendly schools with the support of the DCI. “This process was a natural fit for New Roots, supporting our evolution into the type of school community we wanted to be,” said principal and founder Tina Nilsen-Hodges. “[This project] gave us practical guidance for turning our values and vision into a lived reality day to day.”



Dorothy Cotton with New Roots School Students

Human Rights Here and Now Bulletin

In 2016, HRE USA published another edition of the Human Rights Here and Now Bulletin, a periodic publication that provides background information and educational resources and lessons to address contemporary human rights issues. The edition, entitled “The 2016 Election and Human Rights,” featured resources to address post-election unrest and aid teachers in their vital role of helping young people cultivate civility, navigate differences with respect, and take responsibility for the human rights of all members of the community.



Human Rights Education Resource Library

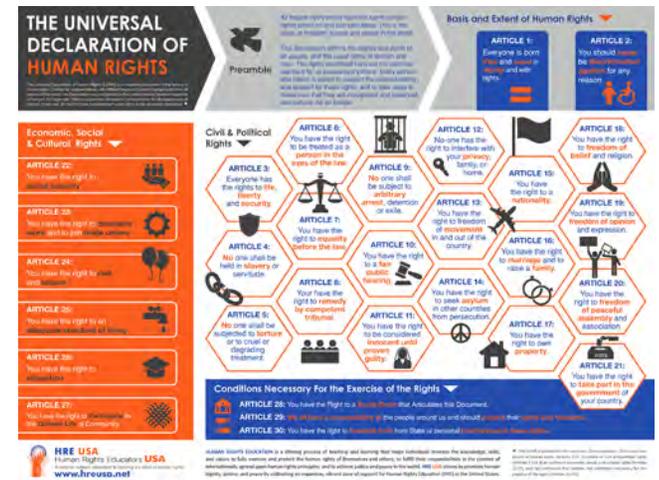
In 2016, HRE USA continued to curate our online human rights education resource library which offers a detailed overview on how to get started in HRE and provides a vast library of HRE resources, lesson plans, and other materials that have been vetted for quality, usefulness, and relevance. Visitors to the library can access resources by topic and subject matter.

HRE Curriculum Integration Guide:

In 2016, Phase Two of the development of our New Jersey HRE Curriculum Integration Guide was completed. The Guide is designed to provide model lessons to assist social studies and other educators in implementing HRE within their daily practice. It can be accessed, at no cost, from our online resource library. The Guide is tied specifically to the New Jersey social studies standards, but can be used as a model for any educator seeking to integrate human rights into their curriculum. Each lesson is tied to Common Core curriculum standards and contains suggested modifications for ESL populations and classified students, as well as suggestions regarding how each lesson supports literacy development. For Phase Two, seven new lessons were finalized, and became available on the HRE USA website in February 2017. Efforts are underway to recruit more participants, including from the NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association, for Phase Three of the development of the Guide, which began in February 2017. In conjunction with Phase Three, we expect to complete a permission letter requesting samples of exemplary student work in three languages, so that these examples of exemplary student work can accompany new lessons if students grant permission to have their work placed on the HRE USA website.

Human Rights Posters

In 2016, HRE USA commissioned the design of human rights-themed posters that can be used to promote and educate about human rights in the classroom and the community. The result was three distinct posters featuring the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They are available to anyone to download for free online or can be purchased through our website.



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Policy & Advocacy

State Learning Standards Work:

In 2016, we participated in the revision of the California History – Social Science Framework. We provided suggestions to add more robust human rights, and international humanitarian law, content to the framework. Our suggestions were well-received, and many of them ended up in the new, now finalized, framework. In addition, we were recognized in the Professional Learning chapter of the new framework (Chapter 22, page 824) as a source of high-quality online HRE materials for teachers. Massachusetts has begun the process of revising its 2003 History and Social Science Curriculum Framework. We have put out an open call, in our newsletter and on our website, to stakeholders in Massachusetts, and have reached out individually to over 35 stakeholders we have personal connections to in Massachusetts, encouraging them to take the initial public comment survey put forward by the Massachusetts Department of Education, and to work with us later in 2017 when the draft standards are released and available for public comment as well. Also later in 2017, South Carolina will begin the process of revising its 2011 Social Studies Academic Standards. We have begun to identify colleagues who are stakeholders in South Carolina so that we can be involved in that revision process as well. In 2018, Colorado will begin to revise its standards, and we have committed to helping stakeholders there who want to make certain that HRE is a vital part of the new standards that emerge from that process.

U.S. Human Rights Treaty Obligations

In 2016, we partnered with [US Human Rights Network](#), to engage the United States on fulfillment of its human rights obligations. We attended and took part in several town hall meetings sponsored by federal agencies, to encourage these agents of the federal government to honor our treaty commitments to teach the US population about human rights and international humanitarian law. We convened, along with the US Human Rights Network, a National Summit on Human Rights Education - Taking Stock and Next Steps Part II to revisit the UPR report on the national status of HRE in the United States. HRE USA's position has been supported by the [National Council for the Social Studies](#), which has urged the US government to honor its treaty obligations to teach about human rights and humanitarian law through its programs that "support and encourage civic, social and global education." NCSS has offered its expertise and that of its members "to both governmental and civil society efforts to integrate human rights education into ... social studies education."

HRE 2020

HRE USA is a member of the global civil society coalition, HRE 2020. HRE 2020 supports and strengthens the implementation of international human rights education commitments and seeks to ensure a systematic monitoring of governmental implementation of human rights education provisions in international human rights instruments, including the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training and the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

Partnerships

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National Council for the Social Studies HRE Community of Interest:

In 2016, we continued to support the [National Council for the Social Studies \(NCSS\)](#) HRE Community of Interest. At the 2016 annual conference, the HRE Community of Interest submitted a proposed resolution to the NCSS House of Delegates asking NCSS to call upon the U.S. government to honor its treaty commitments to teach the US population about human rights and international humanitarian law. The resolution was approved unanimously.

University and College Consortium for Human Rights Education

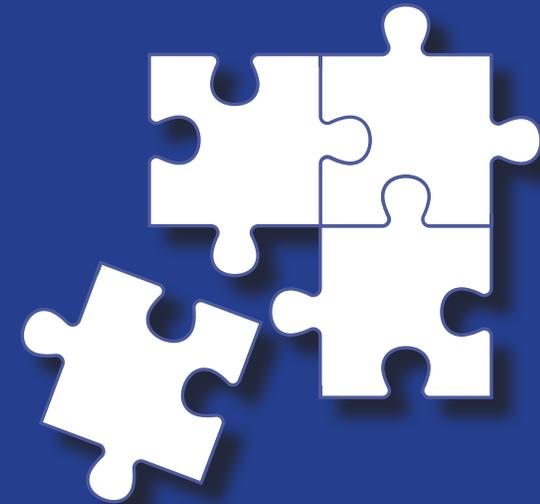
The [University and College Consortium for Human Rights Education](#) was established in April 2016 out of a group of individuals, including many HRE USA members, who saw the need for and benefit of collaboration among those engaged in human rights education. The consortium consists of practitioners, researchers, instructors, advocates, professionals, students, administrators, alumni and other members of the university and college communities globally that are engaged in human rights education. Their mission is to further human rights education, research and learning by promoting engagement, collaboration, innovation, and mentorship within higher education. More information can be found at www.ucchre.org.

Edward O'Brien Award

In memory of Ed O'Brien, pioneer human right educator and valued member of HRE USA who died suddenly in the summer of 2015, HRE USA established the Edward O'Brien Human Rights Education Award. The award recognizes an outstanding contribution to human rights education in the United States. HRE USA presented the 2016 award at the NCSS Human Rights Education Reception to two recipients: [Dr. Felisa Tibbitts](#), lecturer in International Education Development at Teachers College, Columbia University, for her innovative work as founding director of Human Rights Education Associates (HREA.org) and the [Washington DC Human Rights Learning Project](#), directed by Jean-Louis Peta Ikambana and overseen by the American Friends Service Committee, for its introduction of culturally-relevant, action-based human rights education into various schools in the DC public school district.



Dr. Felisa Tibbitts, May Yoneyama Gwinn O'Brien, and Jean-Louis Peta Ikambana pose with a photo of Edward O'Brien at a reception for the award recipients at RFK Human Rights in Washington, D.C.



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Get Involved

Members can easily become part of the growing Human Rights Education movement in the USA by joining one of HRE USA's organizing committees:

Collaborative Action, Policy and Advocacy Committee

This committee develops, reviews, and undertakes collaborative action projects in conjunction with HRE USA partner organizations. Projects include submitting shadow reports on HRE in the US to the United Nations, developing a HRE Curriculum Guide, and actively advocating US states to integrate HRE into education standards. CAPAC meets by teleconference, for one hour on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm EST.

Membership Committee

This committee develops ongoing strategies to engage and grow the involvement of HRE USA individual and organizational members. This includes outreach to regional representative groups, management of the HRE resource library, and communication on how to get involved within the network. The Membership Committee meets by teleconference for one hour on the third Thursday of each month at 2:00 pm EST.

Development Committee

This committee develops and carries out the fundraising goals of HRE USA including establishing relationships with and soliciting funding from prospective donors, identifying and submitting grants, and cultivating major gifts prospects for the organization. The Development Committee meets by teleconference for one hour on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm EST.

Archives Committee

This committee prepares and implements the records management and archiving policies and procedures for HRE USA in order to preserve both electronic and paper records of the network's activities and history. The Archives Committee meets by teleconference monthly.

Edward O'Brien Award Committee

This committee is responsible for administering and selecting the recipients of the annual Edward O'Brien Human Rights Education Award for recognition of an outstanding contribution to human rights education in the United States. The committee meets periodically as necessary.



Thank You to All of Our Supporters!

Donations given to date:

GIFTS OF \$10,000 - 50,000

Puffin Foundation

GIFTS OF \$5,000 - \$9,999

National Education Association

GIFTS OF \$1,000–\$4,499

Anonymous

GIFTS OF \$250 - \$999

Dorothy Cotton Institute
Rosemary Blanchard
David Shiman

GIFTS OF \$100—\$249

Pamela Bruns
Karen Robinson-Cloete
Violette Rodriguez Sofaer
Adam Stone

Up to \$99

Keith Barton
Bill Fernekes
Sarah Herder
Page Hersey
Laura Maffei
Felisa Tibbitts

Presently, HRE USA does not charge membership fees. The bulk of the work conducted in our activities and projects is done through the in-kind donation of time and energy given by our dedicated members.



HRE USA would like to thank the [Puffin Foundation](#) for their generous support without which this report and much of the work it lays would not be possible. The Puffin Foundation Ltd. has sought to open doors of artistic expression by providing grants to artists and art organizations who are often excluded from mainstream opportunities due to their race, gender or social philosophy.

Financials

Projected for Year Ending June 30, 2017

ASSETS

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Checking and Savings | 27,220.81 |
| Total Current Assets | 27,220.81 |

Total Assests 27,220.81

LIABILITIES & EQUITIES

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 283 - Deferred Revenue | 0.00 |
| Total Liabilities | 0.00 |
| Retained Earnings | 6,856.44 |
| Net Income | 20,364.37 |

Total Equity 27,220.81

Total Liabilities & Equity 27,220.81

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A national network dedicated to building a culture of human rights.

HRE USA, PO Box 151, Ithaca, NY 14851

HRE USA is a project of [The Center for Transformative Action](#)