

WELCOMING REMARKS

WELCOME EVERYONE TO THE 7TH IHRE CONFERENCE.

IT IS GREAT TO BE HERE IN SANTIAGO DE CHILE.

MANY THANKS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CHILE FOR HOSTING THIS IMPORTANT CONFERENCE.

ALLOW ME TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE WITH ME MEMBERS ON THIS DISTINGUISHED OPENING CEREMONY PANEL.

- **PRESIDENT BACHELET**
- **PROF. DAVOR HARSIC, DEAN OF FACULTY OF LAW**
- **MS LORENA FRIES, SUB-SECRETARY OF HUMAN RIGHTS, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**
- **MINISTRY FO FOREIGN AFFAIRS**
- **PROF. ENNIO VIVALDI VEJAR, PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHILE**
- **DR CECILIA MEDINA**

MY PARTICULAR WELCOME GOES TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO WORKED SO HARD TO MAKE THIS CONFERENCE POSSIBLE, AND ESPECIALLY TO THE CONVENOR OF THE 7TH CONFERENCE:

- **PROF. MIRNA VILLEGAS, HEAD OF THE CENTRO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS**

WELL DONE – WITHOUT YOU IT WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED.

ALSO THANKS TO MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND IN PARTICULAR TO THOSE OF WHO CHAIRED PREVIOUS CONFERENCES AND ARE HERE ARE WITH US:

WARM WELCOME TO ALL THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE PREVIOUS CONFERENCES - AND I SEE A NUMBER OF YOU HERE,

➤ **BUT ALLOW ME TO GIVE A SPECIAL MENTION OF:**

- **DR REINHILD OTTE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND**
- **PROF BOGDA BEDNARCZYK OF THE JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY**
- **FELISA TIBBITTS, Human Rights Education Associates**

MY SPECIAL WELCOME GOES TO YOUNG PEOPLE, STUDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS.

THE FUTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS IN YOUR HANDS.

THE TIMING OF THE CONFERENCE IS NOT ACCIDENTAL

DECEMBER IS A VERY SPECIAL MONTH FOR HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

10 DECEMBER 1948 IS THE BIRTHDAY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE DECLARATION RECOGNIZED IN INTERNATIONAL LAW THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE UNIVERSAL AND APPLY TO EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE AND ALWAYS.

IT DECLARED THAT ALL PEOPLE ARE BORN FREE AND EQUAL IN RIGHTS AND PROVIDED CERTAIN BASIC STANDARDS SUCH AS:

- **RIGHT TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND SECURITY;**
- **THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF OPINION AND EXPRESSION;**
- **RIGHT TO FAMILY AND EQUAL RIGHTS IN MARRIAGE;**
- **RIGHT TO OWN PROPERTY; AND**
- **RIGHT TO ELECT AND PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT.**

AFTER 68 YEARS IT REMAINS AS ONE OF HUMANITY'S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS AND A KEY EDUCATIONAL TOOL.

MY BACKGROUND - MY ACCENT

I WAS BORN IN POLAND AFTER WW2

IT IS **COMMUNIST POLAND** WERE MY **COMMITMENT** TO HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION HAS BEEN **FORMED**:

THEN THROUGH THE **REFUGEE EXPERIENCE**, AFTER I LEFT POLAND;

AND FINALLY DURING MY PROFESSIONAL LIFE IN **AUSTRALIA** WHERE I FOCUSED ON:

- **ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS** AND
- TO POLICY **OF MULTICULTURALISM**.

BECAUSE OF MY AUSTRALIAN BACKGROUND, I DECIDED THAT **PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS CULTURE IS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE IN SOCIETIES THAT ARE LINGUISTICALLY AND ETHNICLY DIVERSE**.

- AS YOU WOULD KNOW ABOUT 50% OF AUSTRALIANS ARE THE FIRST OR SECOND GENERATION MIGRANTS

THEREFORE **WHEN CONCEPTUALIZING** THESE CONFERENCES PARTICULAR FOCUS WAS **PUT ON HUMAN DIVERSITY** AND ON THE ROLE PLAYED BY CONCEPTS SUCH AS JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND DEMOCRACY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF SUCH DIVERSITY.

THIS IS BECAUSE ANY CULTURALLY DIVERSE SOCIETY **NEEDS STANDARDS** THAT DETERMINE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN DIFFERENT GROUPS AND TO EMPOWER INDIVIDUALS.

HUMAN RIGHTS PROVIDE SUCH INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SET OF SECULAR STANDARDS THAT ARE UNIVERSAL AND APPLY TO ALL PEOPLES REGARDLESS OF THEIR CULTURE, RELIGION, GENDER OR ANY OTHER CHARACTERISTIC.

HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK THUS PROVIDES THE AGREED MINIMUM STANDARDS OF HUMAN DECENCY AND BUILDS PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING.

MY EXPERIENCE AS AUSTRALIA'S HR COMMISSIONER ADDED ANOTHER FACTOR OF IMPORTANCE THAT SHAPED THE ORIGIN OF THESE CONFERENCES THAT NEEDS TO BE MENTIONED.

IN 2001 I HAVE DECIDED TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN MANDATORY SYSTEM OF IMMIGRATION DETENTION.

- **HOWEVER, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF EARLIER INQUIRIES – THAT REPORTED HR BREECHES, BUT NOT ACTED UPON.**

THE KEY QUESTION I WAS CONFRONTED WITH WAS THE QUESTION HOW TO MAKE THE INQUIRY EFFECTIVE AND DELIVER A CHANGE.

AFTER CONSIDERABLE DELIBERATIONS I HAVE

- **DECIDED TO FOCUSS THE INQUIRY ON CHILDREN AND**
- **TO ADOPT A METHODOLOGY THAT INVOLDED BROADLY THE PUBLIC THROUGH PUBLIC HEARING, MEDIA REPORTS, PUBLICISED VISITS TO DETENTION CENTRES.**

THE INQUIRY WAS DESIGNED AS A **BATTLE FOR HARTS AND MINDS** OF AUSTRALIANS AND AS INTENDED RESULTED IN **MAJOR CHANGE IN PUBLIC OPINION.**

WHEN I WAS STARTING THE INQUIRY **IN 2001 SOME 65% OF AUSTRALIANS WERE IN SUPPORT OF MANDATORY DETENTION POLICIES;** WHEN THE INQUIRY WAS COMPLETED **SOME 65% OF AUSTRALIANS WERE OF THE VIEW THAT CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES SHOULD NOT BE A SUBJECT TO LONG TERM MANDATORY DETENTION.**

THE NET OUTCOME WAS **THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY RELEASED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM AUSTRALIAN DETENTION CENTRES.**

THE INQUIRY HAS YET AGAIN DEMONSTRATED HOW IMPORTANT IS THE LORD DICEY WRITING ABOUT LINKAGE BETWEEN THE LAW AND THE PUBLIC OPINION.

I HAVE LEARNED THAT **HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION FORMS PUBLIC OPINION THAT IN TURN IMPACTS POSITIVELY ON GOVERNMENT HR PRACTICES.**

BUT LACK OF SUPPORT FOR HR - SETS LIMITS FOR HR CULTURE AS **GOVERNMENTS WILL NOT GO FURTHER THEN PEOPLE ALLOW IT.**

THE THIRD FACTOR WAS - IN 2006 I BECAME **PRESIDENT OF ACHRE** WHICH HAS A PROGRAM TO TEACH CHILDREN AT SCHOOLS ABOUT HR. GOING TO DIFFERENT SCHOOLS, I **HAVE FOUND THAT CHILDREN IN AUSTRALIA KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS.**

ALL THE ABOVE FACTORS LEAD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE 1ST IHREC CONFERENCE.

IT AIMED TO BRING A CHANGE THROUGH EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS, TO ESTABLISH **A MARKETPLACE FOR EXCHANGE OF HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION IDEAS** AND A SOLID TRAINING GROUND FOR THE FUTURE HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS.

THE CONFERENCES THEREFORE AIMED NOT TO BE ONLY LIMITED TO HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYERS, BUT TO ENSURE PARTICIPATION OF A BROAD SPECTRUM OF PEOPLE WORKING IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD, INCLUDING: EDUCATORS, NGO'S, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

THE AIM WAS **TO BROADEN TEACHING ABOUT HR** AND TO MAKE HRE A MAJOR PILAR OF MODERN CIVIL SOCIETY

THE SANTIAGO DE CHILE CONFERENCE

I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED ABOUT THE 7TH CONFERENCE TAKING PLACE IN SANTIAGO.

THERE ARE THREE KEY REASONS FOR IT.

FIRST, THE CONFERENCE IS FINALLY HELD AT THE SOUTH AMERICAN CONTINENT.

IT MEANS THAT THE IHRE CONFERENCES VISITED ALREADY ALL CONTINENTS – STARTING IN AUSTRALIA, THEN GOING TO AFRICA, ASIA, EUROPE, AND NORTH AMERICA.

SECOND, THE CONFERENCES CONTRIBUTED TO THE CREATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

LOOKING BACK TO 2010 WHEN I WAS WORKING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS SERIES OF HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION CONFERENCES, I WANTED TO ENSURE THAT THESE CONFERENCES WILL BE A MARKETPLACE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION IDEAS AND A SOLID TRAINING GROUND FOR THE FUTURE HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS.

IN FACT, THE SANTIAGO CONFERENCE IS A WITNES THAT WE HAVE SUCEEDED IN BUILDING A MASS MOVEMENT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION.

A MOVEMENT THAT BUILDS BRIDGES BETWEEN PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS, CULTURES AND ETHNICITIES. WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE WORLD PEACE.

THIRD, I VISITED CHILE ON AS HUMAN RIGHTS MISSION IN AUGUST 1986.

I REMEMBER – CHILE WAS THEN A VERY DIFFERENT PLACE

- **THE EVER PRESENT POLICE AND MILITARY EVERYWHERE**
- **LONG MEETINGS AT VICARIA DE LA SOLIDARIDAD AN PLAZA DE ARMS 444,**
- **MEETING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS AT ACADEMIA HUMANISMO CRISTIANO AT THE CATEDRAL - AND ELSSWHERE**
- **AND VISITS TO PRISONS TO MEET POLITICAL PRISONERS.**

I STILL CHERISH LITTLE COPPER DOVE GIVEN ME BY POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THEIR REQUESTS - IN QUIET BUT DETERMINED VOICE – TELL THE OTHERS WHAT IS HAPPENING TO US HERE.

I HAVE IT WITH ME AND WILL GIVE IT TO THE MUSEO DE LA MEMORIA Y LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS

IT IS PLEASING TO BE IN CHILE AGAIN AND TO SEE HOW IT HAS CHANGED.

IT IS ALSO PLEASING TO SEE THAT CHILE HAS LEARNED FORM ITS EXPERIENCE WITH MILITARY DICTATORSHIP AND

NOW IS A WORLD LEADER IN HUMAN RIGHTS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN – PLEASE USE THIS CONFERENCE TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER EXPERIENCE AND SPREAD THE HUMAN RIGHTS MESSAGE ACROSS THE WORLD.

ALLOW ME TO FINISH MY REMARKS BY QUOTING THE PATRON SAINT OF HRE NELSON MANDELA –

‘NO ONE IS BORN HATING ANOTHER PERSON BECAUSE OF THE COLOUR OF HIS SKIN, OR HIS BACKGROUND, OR HIS RELIGION.

PEOPLE MUST LEARN TO HATE, AND IF THEY CAN LEARN TO HATE, THEY CAN BE TAUGHT TO LOVE, FOR LOVE COMES MORE NATURALLY TO THE HUMAN HEART THAN IT'S OPPOSITE.’

I WISH YOU A VERY SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE.

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL ARIVE BACK HOME WITH FRESH IDEAS AND NEW ENERGY TO ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL. THANK YOU

CONCLUDING SESSION

BIRTH OF HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION MOVEMENT

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION WAS ELEVATED DURING THE POST-COLD WAR VIENNA WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF JUNE 1993.

THE VIENNA DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION STATED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION IS *“ESSENTIAL FOR THE PROMOTION AND ACHIEVEMENT OF STABLE AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONS AMONG COMMUNITIES AND FOR FOSTERING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, TOLERANCE AND PEACE.” (ARTICLE 78, PART II). THE CONFERENCE CALLED ON ALL STATES *“TO INCLUDE HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMANITARIAN LAW, DEMOCRACY AND RULE OF LAW AS SUBJECTS IN THE CURRICULA OF ALL LEARNING INSTITUTIONS.”**

NOW WE ARE EMBARKING ON THE THIRD PHASE OF THE UN WORLD PROGRAMME ON HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION THAT WILL LAST FROM 2015 TO 2019.

LET US USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE MEDIA TO EMBED HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION CULTURE WITHIN OUR NATIONAL RADIO AND TV BROADCASTERS, PRINTED AND ON-LINE NEWSPAPERS AND IN EVERYDAY PRACTICES OF OUR MEDIA PROFESSIONALS AND JOURNALISTS.

15 DECEMBER 2014 –FUNERAL OF NELSON MANDELA

ON 5 DECEMBER 2013, NELSON MANDELA, THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA TO BE ELECTED IN A FULLY REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRATIC ELECTION, AS WELL AS THE COUNTRY'S FIRST BLACK HEAD OF STATE, DIED AT THE AGE OF 95.

I AM MENTIONING HIM BECAUSE MANDELA, THROUGH HIS EXEMPLARY LIFE, HAS DONE MORE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION THAN THOUSANDS OF LEARNED BOOKS AND ARTICLES.

HE HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT PEACE CAN BE ACHIEVED AND MAINTAINED THROUGH FOCUS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE.

- **MANDELA KNEW THAT: “*TO DENY PEOPLE THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS IS TO CHALLENGE THEIR VERY HUMANITY.*”**
- **HE KNEW THAT HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION IS A KEY MECHANISM ASSISTING WITH THE ADVANCEMENT OF EQUALITY AND LIBERTY WITHIN THE LIMITS OF MODERN LIBERAL DEMOCRACY.**

WHAT'S ABOUT THE FUTURE?

BY NOW, WE HAVE MANAGED TO BUILD A MASS MOVEMENT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

- **A MOVEMENT THAT BUILDS BRIDGES BETWEEN PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS, CULTURES AND ETHNICITIES. WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE WORLD PEACE.**

THESE CONFERENCES WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT SUCH A MASS MOVEMENT!

THE CONFERENCES WILL CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO HRE IN THE FUTURE AND TO STRENGTHENING OF CIVIL SOCIETIES.

THE NEXT CONFERENCES ARE BEING PLANNED TO BE HELD IN;

- **CANADA AND**
- **AUSTRALIA IN 2018.**