

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION Inc.



Patron-in-Chief

His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared for ACHRE AGM held on Thursday, 24 November 2016

Thanks to tireless work of the ACHRE Patrons, Advisory Committee, Committee of Management and individual members. The year 2016 was very successful for human rights education in Australia; much was achieved and ACHRE is in a stronger position to focus on our tasks in 2017.

Below is a short summary of key activities undertaken at the national level.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION CONFERENCES

Over the past six years, the IHRE conference series has explored the various facets of Human Rights Education worldwide. The inaugural IHRE Conference, *'Educating for Human Rights, Peace and Intercultural Dialogue'* was hosted by the University of Western Sydney in 2010 with successive annual conferences hosted by the University Kwazulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa; Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Poland; Soochow University, Taipei, Taiwan and the American University, Washington DC, United States of America.

The [International Human Rights Education \(IHRE\) Conferences](#) will continue to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information and facilitate open discussion on human rights education amongst participants. Participation in these conferences will allow students and academics alike, as well as members of the civic community, to share their views and to gain insights from their fellow participants.

Human rights education is about societal standards that need to be learned by each generation and transferred to the next. Thus, at the conferences, world class experts focus on the contribution of a human rights culture to the good functioning of civil society and highlight key trends and achievements in human rights education across the world. They explore philosophical questions and more pragmatic aspects such as how, what and when, as well as human rights education methodologies. The conferences include practical hands-on workshops where participants walk away with transferable human rights education skills and knowledge.

The 6th International Human Rights Education Conference *'Translating Roosevelt's Four Freedoms to Today's World'* was held at the University College Roosevelt in Middelburg, Holland, between 17-19 December 2015 and it was attended by some 300 people from 40 countries. The Conference was opened by Drs. JMM Polman, King's Commissioner of Zeeland, Dr Jet Bussemaker, Dutch Minister of Education, Culture and Science and Dr Morten Kjaerum, Head, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. Dr Ozdowski, ACHRE President delivered the opening and closing remarks and chaired two sessions. The Conference program included a message from The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, MP, and Prime Minister of Australia. At its conclusion the 6th IHREC adopted the Middleburg Resolution.

For more about the Middelburg IHREC see: photos below and access <http://ihrec2015.org/program>

Australian Council for Human Rights Education Incorporated

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The following conferences are planned to be held at the Human Rights Centre, Faculty of Law (Centro de Derechos Humanos, Facultad de Derecho) at the University of Chile in 2016; Equitas, International Centre for Human Rights Education, Montreal, Canada in 2017 and at The Western Sydney University in 2018.

Below enclosed is the call for papers for the [7th IHRE Conference](#) 'Addressing the Challenges of the Civil Society' that will be hosted by the Human Rights Centre, Faculty of Law (Centro de Derechos Humanos, Facultad de Derecho) at the University of Chile from 12-15 December 2016.

7th IHREC

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY
SANTIAGO/CHILE 2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

DATE
December 12th – 15th 2016

PLACE
Faculty of Law, Universidad de Chile
Pío Nono 1, Providencia, Santiago

CONTACT
ihrec2016@derecho.uchile.cl

WEBSITE
www.cd.h.uchile.cl

DEADLINE FOR PAPER PROPOSALS
June 30th 2016

The Human Rights Centre warmly invites submissions of paper proposals for the International Human Rights Education Conference.

We invite the submission of academic papers as well as papers concerning innovative experiences or effective solutions to common barriers to Human Rights Education (HRE).

SUBJECT MATTERS FOR PAPER PROPOSALS:

1. HRE in Formal Educational Systems
2. HRE in Professional Training
3. HRE for the General Public
4. Judiciary and HRE
5. Transitional Justice and HRE
6. Multiculturalism and HRE
7. Gender and HRE
8. Demands for Social Rights and HRE

ACHRE KEY PROJECTS

Symposia, conferences and seminars

- **12-09-2016 ACHRE Supports Model Global Parliament**
Pera Wells, Vice President, ACHRE, addressed the 4th Model Global Parliament that took place in the Legislative Assembly chamber of the New South Wales Parliament.
- **16-09-2016 Address to the University of Western Australia**
Associate Professor Nina Burridge, member of the Management Committee of ACHRE addressed the Faculty of Education Centenary, The University of Western Australia on: "*Teachers as agents of change. Making connections between human rights, social justice and global citizenship in our education systems.*" on Thursday 15th September 2016.
- **22/3-07-2016 United Nations Association of Australia Conference, Sydney**
Associate Professor Nina Burridge and Ms Pera Wells represented ACHRE at the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) conference at Customs House, Circular Quay, Sydney, on 22 - 23 July 2016. The conference was addressed by some 30 excellent speakers discussing some of the most important issues that confront Australia and the global community in the 21st Century.
- **6/18-06-2016 Cooperation with Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosae (UNTL)**
Dr. Lynda Blanchard Vice-President, ACHRE was invited as professor in peace studies to a regional roundtable in human rights education hosted by Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosae (UNTL), Dili East Timor. In addition to her teaching duties, Lynda accompanied postgraduate students in Peace Studies at UNTL to meetings with the Minister for Education; UNTL Rector; and, Director General AANA.



Minister of Education, Timor Leste



**Rector, Prof. Dr Francisco Miguel Martins,
National University, Timor Leste**

- **21-03-2016 Harmony Day at the Governor General's Residence**
His Excellency General The Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and Patron-in-Chief of the Australian Council for Human Rights Education has hosted the Harmony Day function in the garden of the Government House in Yarralumla on Monday 21 March 2016. ACHRE was well represented by its president Dr Sev Ozdowski and his wife Hanna, Vice-President Pera Wales and member of the management committee Mr Chander Khera with his wife Wendy.
- **17-12-2015 The 6th International Human Rights Education Conference**
On 17-19 December 2015 ACHRE President Dr Sev Ozdowski participated in the 6th International Human Rights Education Conference in Middleburg, Holland where he delivered opening remarks and closing speech as well as he chaired two sessions. The president also has met with Sir David Baragwanath, Judge of Appeal chamber, Special Tribunal for Lebanon (and former Supreme Court Chief Judge in New Zealand) in The Hague.
- **2015-16 A regional human rights education initiative with Japan**
Dr Lynda Blanchard, Vice President, ACHRE, continued to work on a regional human rights education initiative entitled "*Investigating Diversity, Human Rights and Civil Society in Japan and Australia*" as a collaboration between Chuo University's Law Faculty (Japan) and University of Sydney's Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPACS Australia). A number of successful seminars were organized at the University of Sydney and in Japan as a part of the project. This academic and cultural exchange highlights an approach to human rights education that values student-centred learning and relationship building between academic institutions, civil society organizations and community groups.



Investigating Human Rights, Diversity and Civil Society in Australia and Japan. Chuo University staff and students with ACHRE President Dr Sev Ozdowski at the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Sydney, February 2016.

Government consultations

ACHRE has participated in the following government consultations:

- **09-09-2016 Human Rights Dialogue with Vietnam**
Following the thirteenth Australia-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue in Hanoi on 4 August 2016, on Friday 9 September Dr Sev Ozdowski represented ACHRE at the open discussion and feedback provided by DFAT on the Human Rights Dialogue with Vietnam. In particular it was encouraging to learn about the progress made on advancement of LGBT rights in Vietnam.
- **23-06-2016 13th Australian-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue**
Mr Chander Khera of ACHRE attended the meeting with Australian CSO community prior to the 13th Australian-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue that was organised by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. A large number of interested CSO were also present. Although there are still challenges with regards to human rights, Australia sees a significant benefit in continuing the dialogue and maintaining a bilateral approach to human rights.
- **08-02-2016 2016 DFAT and NGO Forum on Human Rights**
Mr Chander Khera of Canberra represented ACHRE at the Forum organised by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The forum was attended by 50 NGOs, and as the Foreign Minister said it gave an opportunity to share ideas as well as discuss issues of common interest.

Submissions

- **30-08-2016 Submission to the Legislative Council of NSW**
ACHRE commented to Submission to the Legislative Council of NSW on *Human Tissue Amendment (Trafficking in Human Organs) Bill 2016*

TEACHING ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS

Model Global Parliaments

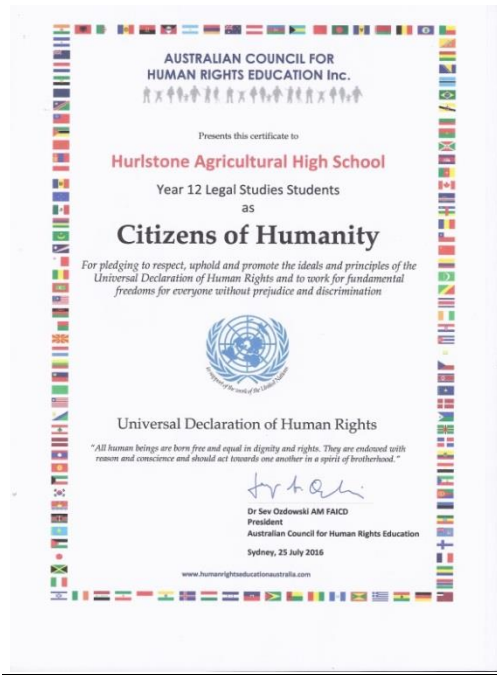
- ACHRE Vice-President Pera Wells has successfully continued a program of Model Global Parliaments in which university students learn about international human rights issues, formulate resolutions and then debate and negotiate with each other on the issues (see modelglobalparliament.org).

The Citizen for Humanity Project

- This continues to be popular with students in NSW, ACT and South Australia. For example, the Citizen for Humanity Citation awarded to the St Mary's Senior High School 16 June 2016. The School is running a series of talks on a theme: "Festival of Provocative Ideas" to challenge their students with ideas in a range of areas that fall under the students' studies within Society and Culture and Legal.



Another good example of good human rights education practice is the Hurlstone Agricultural High School which was awarded Citizens for Humanity Citation on 25 July 2016. ACHRE best congratulations go to Ms Yelena Vercoe and Ms Mai Ni Pham, Teachers and Year 12 students at the Hurlstone Agricultural High School on this worthy achievement.



Year 12 students at the Hurlstone Agricultural High School

- 01-08-2016 Grant for the Brighton Secondary School in Adelaide.**
 The ACHRE has provided a \$1,000.00 grant to the Brighton Secondary School in Adelaide, South Australia to implement whole-of-school Citizen for Humanity Project.
- 15/29-08-2016 Peace Boat Global University**
 Dr. Lynda Blanchard Vice-President, ACHRE invited guest human rights educator for PEACE BOAT GLOBAL UNIVERSITY (Japan) Finding Solutions to Human Security Challenges. The security challenges confronting Asia-Pacific go beyond dimensions of strategic national security and involve human security challenges of poverty, climate change, natural disasters, pandemics and migration. (www.peaceboat.org/english)



Staff, guest educators and students at Peace Boat Global University (Japan) in August 2016.

HRE PAPERS

ACHRE members' publications include:

Ozdowski, S. (2016) *Relevance of Australian Immigration and Multicultural Experience to Poland and Contemporary Europe*. Published by Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland. ISBN 978-83-63047-95-5.

Ozdowski, S. (2016) Racism, Equality and Civil Liberties in a Multicultural Australia. In *Globalisation, Human Rights Education and Reforms*. pp. 187-220. ISBN 978-94-024-0870-6, Springer Science+Business Media Dordrecht. <http://www.springer.com/gp/book/9789402408706>

Ozdowski, S. (2016) How Australians are dealing with immigration problems - Sugar on the table (Interview in Polish). *Jak Australijczycy radzą sobie z problemem migracji - Cukier na stole*. Marek Ostrowski's interview with Dr Sev Ozdowski published in Polish weekly magazine "Polityka" in Warsaw, 12 July 2016. http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1107926/Sev_Ozdowski_wywiad.pdf

KEY CORRESPONDENCE

- **14-11-2016 Letter to PM re Organ Harvesting**
ACHRE wrote to the Prime Minister Turnbull expressing concern about organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience in China.
- **16-08-2016 The Prime Minister endorses 7th IHREC**
The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, Prime Minister of Australia, has sent a message of support to the organisers of the 7th International Human Rights Education Conference (IHREC) "Addressing the Challenges of the Civil Society" to be held in Santiago, Chile on 12 - 15 December 2016
- **2016-05-12 No Federal Funding for HRE**
Attorney General's Department responded to the ACHRE letter written to Attorney General Brandis that there is no Commonwealth funding available for human rights education and for Citizen for Humanity program.
- **11-03-2016 Response re Children in Nauru**
Minister of immigration responded to ACHRE letter re. human rights situation of children in Nauru.
- **07-01-2015 Letters to the ACHRE Patrons**

ACHRE sent letters to the ACHRE Patrons Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, The Hon Michael Kirby AC and Mr Patrick Dodson providing them with the copy of President's Report on ACHRE activities in 2015.

OTHER MATTERS

Application for Grants

- Regrettably, ACHRE did not secure a Federal government grant in 2016. This resulted in ACHRE being not able to organise our usual HRE seminars across Australia.
- However, ACHRE-NT secured a grant from the NT Law Society Public Purposes Trust (AUD20,850). The grant was used for purposes of facilitating a four-day course in International Humanitarian Law (IHL) at Charles Darwin University. It was conducted by Professor Dale Stephens and Jeswynn Yogaratnam in collaboration with Red Cross (NT). The course was attended by over 150 students internally and externally across Australia. The outcome of the course was the successful dissemination of IHL legal knowledge, active engagement of students on IHL themes and a publication by Helen Wilson & Patrick van Esch on contemporary IHL issues Journal of Law and Politics entitled: *International Humanitarian Law: Attack of the Binary Bullet?* <http://www.ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/jpl/article/view/60222>



Professor Dale Stephens, Jeswynn Yogaratnam and the highly enthusiastic IHL students at the IHL intensive course from 18-22 January

ACHRE Website

- The ACHRE website was upgraded and is ready to move into the Word Press format. ACHRE is exploring possible sources of funding to upgrade information on teaching materials available from ACHRE website. See: <http://humanrightseducationaustralia.com/about.php>

Australia Day Award

- On 26-January-2016 Dr Sev Ozdowski, President, ACHRE was named in the Australia Day Honours list as a Member of the Order of Australia for "for significant service to the community, particularly to human rights education, social justice and multiculturalism, and as an academic".

Anti-racism Agreement with AHRE

- ACHRE continues to work with the Australian Human Rights Commission to support the Commission's 'RACISM. IT STOPS WITH ME.' Campaign. ACHRE cooperation agreement with AHRC will expire in 2019.

UNESCO Project

- Prof Joseph Zajda, ACHRE Treasurer participates in the UNESCO Governance in Education (BRICS countries) project. It is the UNESCO Governance in Education (BRICS countries) project.

The South Australian Council for Human Rights Education

- SACHRE undertook a range of activities and made major advancement in popularising the Citizen for Humanity project. Mr Vincenzo Andreacchio is its President.

Ugandan Coalition for Human Rights Education

- ACHRE sister organisation, Ugandan Coalition for Human Rights Education (UCHRE) continued active involvement with HRE, with special focus on underprivileged children and LGBTI issues. ACHRE has provided technical and advisory assistance to UCHRE.

ACHRE ADMINISTRATION & SECRETARIAT

- The Australian Council for Human Rights Education Inc. (ABN 21 396 291 313) has been registered by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission as a charity with the subtypes of advancing education, promoting reconciliation, mutual respect and tolerance between groups of individuals that are in Australia, as well as promoting or protecting human rights. The effective date of registration is 3 December 2012.
- ACHRE Public Officer Dr Madeleine Laming contacted the Australian Business Register to arrange for the ABR record to be amended to correctly reflect the fact that the ACHRE has been changed from NCHRE and that ACHRE holds ABN number 21 396 291 313.
- ACHRE has contacted ATO to remove annual reporting responsibility under the GST legislation.
- The Administration work in support of the Management Committee has continued relatively smoothly. The electronic filing system has been kept up to date which includes all agendas, minutes and correspondence throughout the year. As the teleconferencing with Skype has presented significant connectivity issues, ACHRE moved its teleconferences to ZOOM system.
- ACHRE Public Officer Dr Madeleine Laming reported that there had been no further changes to legislation that might affect ACHRE and that we have complied with reporting requirements.
- ACHRE Treasurer Associate Professor Joseph Zajda reported that the balances on 24 November on the Australian Human Rights Education Fund Account Term Deposit of \$23,131 and on the ACHRE Inc. Account #10496627 is \$219.30. In 2016 ACHRE has secured \$600.00 in donations.

STATE BRANCHES

Presidents of state branches and affiliated organisations will table their reports at the AGM meeting.

Again my best thank you to the ACHRE Management Committee for your support and for ensuring that ACHRE continues to make substantial contributions to HRE in Australia and elsewhere.



Dr Sev Ozdowski AM FAICD
ACHRE President

24 November 2016