

# AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION Inc.

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Patron-in-Chief

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

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared for ACHRE AGM held on Monday, 13 November 2017

Thanks to the tireless work of the ACHRE Patrons, Advisory Committee, Committee of Management and individual members, the year 2017 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 2018.

Below is a short summary of key activities.

### INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION CONFERENCES

Over past years, the IHRE conference series has explored 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, the American University, Washington DC, United States of America, and recently the University of Chile in Santiago de Chile.

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 civil society 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 to apply human rights education methodologies. The conferences include practical hands-on workshops so that participants walk away with transferable human rights education skills and knowledge.

The 7<sup>th</sup> International Human Rights Education Conference *'Addressing the Challenges of the Civil Society'* was held at the Human Rights Centre, Faculty of Law (Centro de Derechos Humanos, Facultad de Derecho) at the University of Chile between 12-15 December 2016. The first of these Conferences to be held in Latin America, it was organized by the Faculty of Law's Centre for Human Rights and its Office of Outreach, in cooperation with ACHRE and Western Sydney University. The Organizing Committee included representatives from both the University of Chile and Western Sydney University as well as ACHRE. From the University of Chile: Lea Newfarmer, Myrna Villegas, Alex Choquemamani, Paulina Pulido, Natalia Reyes, Lorena Pino, Camila Araneda, Claudia Cárdenas, Javier Godoy, Nicolas Bosbach, and Sebastián Candia. From Western Sydney University and ACHR: Sev Ozdowski. The conference was attended by 185 people from 25 countries.

The conference structure included 12 panel presentations, introduced by specially invited speakers, such as Claudio Grossman, Dean of the Washington School of Law, American University in Washington, DC, and Professor Sev Ozdowski, Director Equity and Diversity, Western Sydney University in Sydney, Australia and

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AHREC founder. Each panel was moderated by local Chilean human rights professionals, such as Dania Maquilón, Sub-secretary of Human Rights, Chilean Ministry of Justice, and Myrna Villegas, Human Rights Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Chile. Panel topics covered a wide span of themes, such as: “Gender and HRE,” “Multiculturalism and Human Rights Education,” “Global Tendencies and Local Experiences in HRE: Memory Sites, Urban Spaces, and the Role of the State,” and “HRE in Formal Educational Systems.” In addition, poster sessions were held simultaneously with the panels.

For more see:

- conference papers: <http://humanrightseducationaustralia.com/word/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/VII-IHREC-Chile.pdf> , <http://www.derecho.uchile.cl/publicaciones/139918/vii-conferencia-internacional-de-educacion-en-derechos-humanos-ihrec>
- conference report: <http://humanrightseducationaustralia.com/word/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Record-of-the-VII-IHREC.pdf>
- article by Susan Katz about the conference published in International Journal of Human Rights Education: <https://repository.usfca.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1007&context=ijhre>



**Opening Session of the 7<sup>th</sup> International Human Rights Education Conference ‘Addressing the Challenges of the Civil Society’ held at the Human Rights Centre, Faculty of Law**

Future conferences are planned to be held in Montreal, Canada in 30 November – 3 December 2017 and at Western Sydney University in November 2018 to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

## **ACHRE KEY PROJECTS**

### **Symposia, conferences and seminars**

- **The 7<sup>th</sup> International Human Rights Education Conference**  
ACHRE President Dr Sev Ozdowski participated in the 7th International Human Rights Education Conference held in Chile from 30 November - 3 December 2016 where he delivered opening and closing remarks, a speech on “HRE in Multicultural Society” and chaired a number of sessions.

- **ACHRE’s Support for Australia’s bid for the UN Human Rights Council**  
ACHRE strongly supported Australia’s candidature for a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council for the term 2018-20. Ms Pera Wells, Vice-President of ACHRE participated in a panel discussion on 11 April 2017, convened by the Human Rights Law Centre, on Australia’s bid for a seat on the UN Human Rights Council. The ACHRE has joined several civil society organisations to call on the government to improve the quality of its voluntary pledges.
- **Anti-racism Agreement with ACHRE**  
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.
- **ACHRE Supporting Regional Human Rights Education**  
ACHRE sponsored the provision of fifty Citizen for Humanity certificates to graduates in The Women Peace and Leadership (WPL) Program. WPL Program is an initiative of the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies at the National University of Timor Leste (UNTL). In the words of participants: “[We are] so happy to have this certificate, thank you ACHRE”.

Dr Lynda Blanchard has circulated an ACHRE Vice-President’s report for presentation at 2017 ACHRE AGM with details of her work at Timor Leste.



**Participants in The Women Peace and Leadership Program**

- **Regional Human Rights Education Initiative with Japan**  
In its fifth year, Dr Lynda Blanchard, Vice President, ACHRE, continued to work on developing this regional human rights education initiative. 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.

A detailed report was provided by Dr L Blanchard to 2017 ACHRE AGM.



**Staff and students from the Chuo University (Japan) Human Rights Education Exchange at the Nura Gili Centre, UNSW, February 20th 2017**

- **Ms Pera Wells, Vice-President of ACHRE**, serves on the Board of Cultural Infusion. The Cultural Infusion educational program for schools around Australia is focused on teaching about different cultures and is participating in the WISE Summit in Doha, 14 – 16 November 2017.

## **Government consultations**

ACHRE has participated in the following government consultations:

### **9-02-2017 - DFAT Consultation on Human Rights with NGOs**

ACHRE was represented by Vice-President, Pera Wells, at the annual DFAT consultation on human rights with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) which took place at the National Museum in Canberra on Thursday 9 February. The event attracted representatives of NGOs from all over Australia, including a significant number of Aboriginal people.

### **7-06-2017 - Australia – Lao PRD Human Rights Dialogue Civil Society Consultation Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)**

Mr. Chander Khera of ACHRE attended civil society consultations at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) on the forthcoming Australia-Laos Human Rights Dialogue.

### **12-07-2017 - 14th Australia-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue Civil Society Consultation Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)**

Mr Chander Khera of ACHRE along with other interested NGOs attended a meeting with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) on the forthcoming 14th Australia-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue. The meeting was chaired by Dr Lachlan Strahan, First Assistant Secretary Multilateral Policy Division.

### **18-08-2017 - Australia-Iran Human Rights Dialogue Civil Society Consultation Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)**

Mr Chander Khera of ACHRE along with other interested NGOs attended a meeting with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) on the forthcoming Australia-Iran Human Rights Dialogue. The meeting was chaired by Dr Lachlan Strahan, First Assistant Secretary Multilateral Policy Division.

### **17-10-2017 - Australia Iran Dialogue follow up**

Australia and Iran held the human rights dialogue on 24 August 2017 in Canberra. Following up the August dialogue a debrief for community human rights organisations was provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra on 17 October 2017 at which Mr Chander Khera, Member of Executive Committee of ACHRE was present.

## **TEACHING ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS**

The Citizen for Humanity Project continues to be popular with students in NSW, ACT and South Australia.

### **The Citizen for Humanity Project - South Australia**

ACHRE provided financial assistance and operational support to the Brighton Primary School in Adelaide to undertake the following projects.

- **The Brighton Secondary School in South Australia**

The school undertook the Citizens for Humanity Project with all Year 9 students (over 300). The project objective was to broaden students' understanding of human rights through their engagement with local communities across Adelaide. The project was concluded with all the Year 9 students taking part in a formal ceremony at which Dr Sev Ozdowski AM, the ACHRE President, awarded "*Citizens for Humanity*" certificates to each of the Year 9 classes. The school ceremony celebrated the diversity of student work and achievements together with some guests from local communities and parents.

Student Art work display was created for a Human Rights Laneway between the school buildings which interpreted the Sustainable Development Goals. The art work consisted of two large murals:



**Mural A – Painting inspired by the Millennium Goals**

A separate report detailing the above activities by Mr Vincenzo Andreacchio, Executive Officer, ACHRE, was circulated to ACHRE membership prior to the 2017 ACHRE AGM.



**Mural B – Mosaics created with pulses (2016 UN International Year of pulses)**

- **Adelaide International Conference**

The Brighton Secondary School students presented their work undertaken under the auspices of ACHRE Citizen for Humanity program at the Council for International Schools (CIS) Adelaide International Conference held on 7 September 2017.



**Participants in Adelaide International Conference**

## **The Citizen for Humanity Project - NSW**

- In November 2016 Dr Sev Ozdowski AM visited Regents Park Christian School to speak with Year 11 Legal Studies students on the topic of Australia and Human Rights. The students participated in a lively discussion and the students from Year 12 were awarded “Citizens for Humanity” citation by the Australian Council for Human Rights Education in recognition of their achievements in the study of human rights.



**Year 11 Legal Studies students from the Regents Park Christian School**

- In June 2017 some 30 senior students St Marys Senior High School in St Marys attended a lecture by ACHRE President Dr Sev Ozdowski AM about the origin and contents of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and about the current human rights situation in Australia and worldwide. During the question time St Marys Senior High School students demonstrated superior knowledge of human rights issues and afterwards were awarded a 2017 Citizen for Humanity Certificate.



**St Marys Senior School Certificate of Citizen for Humanity ceremony**

## HRE PAPERS

ACHRE members' publications include the following HRE articles:

- Dr Blanchard, Lynda-Ann (2017) "ACHRE Citizen for Humanity program". Pages 69-71 in Journal of the Economics and Business Educators New South Wales, Issue 2.  
It is an important article about ACHRE Citizen for Humanity program to help teachers and their students to develop a passion for human rights.
- An article titled *Educating teachers about human rights: building a rights-based culture in Australian schools* by Associate Professor Prof Nina Burrige, Executive Committee Member of the Australian Council for Human Rights Education has now been published on Taylor & Francis Online and is in the latest issue of Asia-Pacific Journal of Teacher Education, *Issue 5*.
- Ozdowski, S. (2017) Women in migration: empowering for new challenges. *FECCA's Mosaic*, Canberra
- Ozdowski, S. (2017) Reforming Australian Human Rights Commission, *The Australian*, 19 January 2017
- Ozdowski, S. (2017) Australian Multiculturalism. Pp.633 – 648 in Myrna Villegas Díaz (Ed.) *VII IHREC 2016. VII Conferencia Internacional de Educación en Derechos Humanos, Los desafíos de la sociedad civil*, Facultad de Derecho - Universidad de Chile, ISBN: 978-956-19-1042-3; [www.cdh.uchile.cl](http://www.cdh.uchile.cl)
- Zajda, J. & Ozdowski, S. (2017). (Eds.), *Globalisation and Human Rights Education* Dordrecht: Springer. [http://www.springer.com/generic/search/results?SGWID=5-40109-24-653415-0&submit=Submit&sortOrder=relevance&searchType=EASY\\_CDA&searchScope=editions&queryText=Joseph+zajda](http://www.springer.com/generic/search/results?SGWID=5-40109-24-653415-0&submit=Submit&sortOrder=relevance&searchType=EASY_CDA&searchScope=editions&queryText=Joseph+zajda)

## KEY CORRESPONDENCE

- **The Prime Minister endorses 8th IHREC**  
The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, Prime Minister of Australia, has sent a message of support to the organisers of the 8th International Human Rights Education Conference (IHREC) to be held in Montreal, Canada Nov/December 2017
- **AHREC calls for the immediate release of Oscar Lopez Rivera**  
ACHRE has written to US President Barack Obama asking for the immediate release of Oscar Lopez Rivera
- **Response from PM re Organ Harvesting**  
The Prime Minister has responded to ACHRE representations demanding stop to organ harvesting from Prisoners of conscience in China.
- **Nominate to increase diversity in awards in the Order of Australia**  
His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Governor-General of Australia has written to Dr Sev Ozdowski AM, President, Australian Council for Human Rights Education to ask the Council to engage with members and broader public to encourage the nomination of women and other under-represented groups within the Australian community. The ACHRE warmly endorses this important initiative. It is important that the honours list outcomes reflect the diversity of modern Australia.

## OTHER MATTERS

### Application for Grants



- In 2017 ACHRE secured a Federal government grant of \$38,480.00. The purpose of the grant is for ACHRE to provide educational material on human rights and humanitarian law. The grant is to be used for



the following three activities:

- Update of ACHRE website;
- Broadening of the Citizen for Humanity Program; and
- Humanitarian Law Seminars

### **The South Australian Council for Human Rights Education (SACHRE)**

- SACHRE that is affiliated with ACHRE, undertook a range of activities and made major advancement in popularising the Citizen for Humanity project. Mr Vincenzo Andreacchio is its President. A separate 2017 Annual report was presented to 2017 ACHRE AGM.

### **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. A new donation of used university furniture is being organised for dispatch to Uganda.

### **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.
- 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 Treasurer Associate Professor Joseph Zajda reported that the balances on 13 November on the Australian Human Rights Education Fund Account Term Deposit of \$23,453 CR and on the ACHRE Inc. Account #10496627 is \$1,506.16 CR. In 2016 ACHRE has secured \$1,500.00 in donations.

The Treasurer Zajda has informed ACHRE that he will not nominate for the position of Treasurer for 2018. It is my privilege to have worked with Professor Zajda for last 12 years and I wish to put on public record my gratitude for his achievements as ACHRE Treasurer over this time. Thank you, Joseph.

### **STATE BRANCHES**

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

Again, my best thanks 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  
13 November 2017