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Re: International Conference on Human Rights Education: Educating for Human Rights, Peace and Intercultural Dialogue, University of Western Sydney (Parramatta Campus), 4-6 November 2010

I would like to offer my strongest possible support for the above international conference on human rights education. This international conference is most relevant to the current global dialogue surrounding human rights, intercultural dialogue and peace education. The conference aims to present up-to-date scholarly research on national, global and comparative trends in human rights social justice and policy research.

The conference is organised in response to a number of UN initiatives, including the UN International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010) and the World Programme for Human Rights Education (WPHRE). In particular it aims to analyse, evaluate and report upon the implementation of the first phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2005 - 2009), and plan and contribute to the implementation of Second Phase of WPHRE.

The conference will also examine the contribution of human rights culture to the good functioning of civil society; highlighting key trends and achievements in human rights education, in particular in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region, and aiming to secure greater government commitment for future human rights education and social justice.

The conference organisers have already developed an impressive and extensive draft program (enclosed), secured a conference venue and organisational support and secured a number of prominent human rights education experts and scholars, both from Australia and overseas, to address the conference.

Finally, an international publishing house, James Nicholas Publishers, which has been publishing seven international journals in education and political science, has agreed to consider the best papers for publication in a special issue of highly rated academic journals *Educational Practice and Theory* and *Education and Society* and to publish a book.

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This conference is dedicated to discussing issues confronting policy makers, community leaders and educators on current issues concerning human rights, social justice and equality of educational opportunities globally. It is aiming to offer strategic education policy analysis on recent shifts in human rights education both locally and globally. It will give suggestions for directions in human rights education and social justice policy changes, relevant to democratic and empowering Australian community in the 21st century.

There is no doubt in my mind that this international conference in terms of its objectives, program and dissemination will have a great impact on the current global dialogue surrounding human rights, intercultural dialogue and peace education—both nationally and globally. It is likely to contribute to a better understanding and knowledge of human rights education and social justice in Australia and the wider community.

Sincerely

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Editor, *Education and Social Justice* (Springer, 2006, the Netherlands), <http://www.springer.com>

Guest-Editor of Education and Social Justice, *International Review of Education*, (UNESCO), 52(1&2), 2006

Series Editor 12-volume *Globalisation and Comparative Education Research* (Springer, the Netherlands), 2009&2010.

Editor, *World Studies in Education*, volume 11, 2010

Editor, *The International Handbook on Education and Social Justice* (Sense, the Netherlands, 2010)

Editor, *Education and Society*, volume 28, 2010, j.zajda@jnponline

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