



To Whom It May Concern

**Letter of Support: Educating for Human Rights, Peace and Intercultural Dialogue**

I write to offer my support for the 'Educating for Human Rights, Peace and Intercultural Dialogue' International Conference, which is scheduled for Thursday 4 November to Saturday 6 November 2010.

I was delighted to be invited to speak at the Conference, as I believe human rights education is critical at this time, given the recent recommendations on this topic by the National Human Rights Consultation.

I understand the conference aims to support 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 evaluate and report upon the implementation of the first phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2005 – 2009), and plans to 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; highlight key trends and achievements in human rights education, in particular in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region, and hopes to secure greater government commitment for future human rights education.

I am also advised a significant international publishing house, James Nicholas Publishers, has agreed to consider the best papers for publication in a special issue of a highly regarded academic journal Education and Society and to publish a book.

Yours sincerely

Dr Helen Watchirs  
Human Rights and Discrimination Commissioner  
12 May 2010