

# Compass Directions

'Compass - Development Education in the Primary School', hosted by Comhlámh and funded by Irish Aid, is a not-for-profit alliance of organisations and individuals, established in 1996, to promote and support opportunities for development education in the primary education system so as to contribute to justice, equality and sustainable development at local and global levels.

Theme: Human Rights

Compass Directions is compiled and edited by Lizzie Downes

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## Welcome!

Article 26.2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states that "Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights". Human Rights Education teaches the principles of human rights and nurtures the values and attitudes that lead to the support of those rights. This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), so no better time to focus on rights issues. Why not organise an activity or event for Human Rights Day (10th December) in your school? This issue of Compass Directions will hopefully get you started! Should you have any feedback or comments about this e-mag please feel free to contact [lizzie@comhlamh.org](mailto:lizzie@comhlamh.org). Please note that Comhlámh has moved office. Our new address is Second Floor, Ballast House, Aston Quay, Dublin 2 and our phone number (temporary) is 086 226 5802.

Lizzie



## What are Rights?

The concept of natural rights for humanity is very old, although not universally applied. People worldwide have had to struggle for the recognition of their rights. Some of the most memorable movements for rights justice have included the fight for right to freedom from slavery, the right to vote, the right to religious beliefs and so on. Throughout history different laws have helped to describe and protect rights but the most universally recognized are probably the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). In spite of the fact that we are all born with rights and the existence of these rights in national law, millions of people worldwide still have those rights denied or violated.

Adapted from 'Developing Rights. Background Information for teachers' at [www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/developing\\_rights](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/developing_rights)



## What are Children's Rights?

The following is a summary of the **Convention on the Rights of the Child**:

- Each child has the right to life - Every child has the right to a name and nationality - Children have the right to be with their family or with those who will care for them best - Children have the right to enough food and clean water -

Children have the right to an adequate standard of living - Children have the right to health care - Children with a disability have the right to special care and training - Children have the right to play - Children have the right to free and suitable education - Children have the right to be kept safe and not to be hurt or neglected - Children must not be used as cheap workers or as soldiers - Children must be allowed to speak their own language and practise their own religion and culture -

Children have the right to say what they think and to meet together to express their views -

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) spells out the range of rights that children everywhere are entitled to. The Convention is the first universal legally binding code of Child Rights in history.

Adapted from *Lift Off, Introducing Human Rights Education Within The Primary Curriculum*, Cross Border Human Rights Education Initiative, 2003; and *Children's Rights: A Teacher's Guide*. Save the Children, 2006. Downloadable from <http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/>

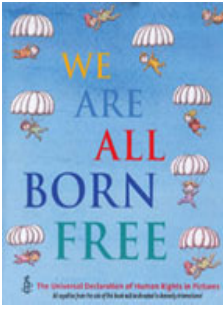


## What is Human Rights Education?

Human rights education is a learning process which seeks to:

- ensure that children have an understanding of their own human rights and associated responsibilities
- foster attitudes of respect and appreciation of the uniqueness of each individual
- promote skills among children that will enable them to act in ways that defend and promote human rights

Taken from *Me, You, Everyone: rights and responsibilities*. Lift Off Cross Border Primary HRE Initiative. For more information see <http://www.liftoff.com>



## New Human Rights picture book

### We Are All Born Free - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures

*We Are All Born Free* is a beautiful picture book celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Artists and illustrators from all over the world offer their personal interpretation of each article, making them easy to understand for young readers. Children can engage with the principles of human rights with enthusiasm and imagination from a very young age. This book is an exciting way of introducing human rights to a very important audience. As David Tennant states in the introduction "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a clear and uncomplicated document. It reads like a list of common sense".

Available from Amnesty International.

## Exploring the Convention on the Rights of the Child

### Children have a right to enough food and clean water:

- Survey of children's homes to determine where their water supply comes from
- Health Education lessons on the importance of water in the diet
- Exploration with children of the fact that billions of people on the planet do not have access to a reliable supply of clean water.

### Children have a right to hold and express an opinion:

- Circle time activities which encourage children to express opinions on issues such as where to go on school tour, how to improve school play facilities, etc.

### Children have a right to be with their family or those who cater for them best

- Discussing or reading about different kinds of family groupings
- Displaying photographs of pupils' families
- Interviewing family members
- Compiling family trees



### Children have a right to free education

- Reading stories of school days
- Visiting other schools in the community or linking through e-mail
- Developing a display about 'Our School'
- Examining countries where education is not a right that is enjoyed by all.

### Children have a right to speak their own language and practice their religion and culture:

- Learning basic vocabulary of other languages e.g. the languages of children from different ethnic backgrounds in the school
- Visiting places of worship, e.g. church, mosque, kingdom hall.
- Learning songs from other cultures and languages

Adapted from *Lift Off, Introducing Human Rights Education Within The Primary Curriculum*, Cross Border Human Rights Education Initiative, 2003



## untangling the web

Below is a list of useful websites that look at human rights education.

<http://www.kidsrights.ie/>

Unicef's site allows primary school kids in Ireland children to find out all about their rights and the rights of children living across the world. Lots of useful background information for teachers and parents too.

<http://www.amnesty.ie/live/irish/default.asp>

Amnesty International's Irish Section has an extensive human rights education section for primary schools which includes information on their current resources, events, campaigns and relevant links.

[www.savethechildren.org.uk/](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/)

See Save the Children's many resources for teachers on human rights - and other issues. Wide selection of downloadable material. Highly recommended.

<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/>

A range of activities around Human Rights issues lessons. Full series of lesson plans which explore the difference between wants, needs, and rights for ages 8-10. Activities include designing a poster, debating the issues, and writing letters in support of children's rights.

[www.oco.ie](http://www.oco.ie)

Explore human rights issues through the Big Ballot DVD available free from the office of the Ombudsman for Children or download resource from the site. Write to the Ombudsman at [oco@oco.ie](mailto:oco@oco.ie) or by post to Millennium House, 52-56 Great Strand Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 865 6800.

## Teacher Professional Development



### Comhlámh's Skills in Dev Ed Course

This nine-week evening course uses participatory methods to introduce the concepts of development education, and to equip participants with the skills to work more effectively and creatively with groups when exploring intercultural and development issues.

**Date:** Tuesday evenings, February 17<sup>th</sup> - April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Venue:** Dublin City Centre

### Diversity through the Arts Workshops

These one day workshops will explore how music, drama, dance, and visual arts can be used to celebrate diversity and promote inclusion in the primary classroom.

**Dates:** 15th and 29th November 2008

**Time:** 10am–5pm

**Venue:** Irish Aid Centre, O'Connell St., Dublin 2

**Cost:** €10 (lunch included). Bursaries available for immigrants.

**For information or to book on either of the above courses contact:**

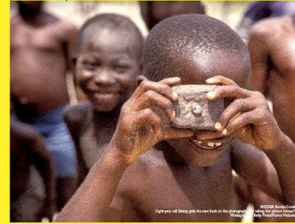
Alison Leahy at [ali@comhlamh.org](mailto:ali@comhlamh.org) or tel. 086 226 5802

## Compass publication

Compass recently published a free leaflet for teachers 'Images of the Global South - Guidelines for primary educators for working with photographs from around the world'. The leaflet is designed as a guide for primary school educators who wish to enrich the global dimension of their work with children through the use of images. Photographs are one of the most direct and accessible means of introducing the wider world into the classroom, but images can be contentious and complex. This resource provides specific criteria on how to go about choosing

### Images of the Global South

Guidelines for primary educators for working with photographs from around the world



images of the developing world, suggestions for developing photo-literacy in the classroom, ideas for incorporating image work across the curriculum, and resources and contacts for further reference. For copies of the leaflet contact [lizzie@comhlamh.org](mailto:lizzie@comhlamh.org) or phone Comhlámh at 086 226 5802. Alternatively log onto [www.comhlamh.org](http://www.comhlamh.org) for a downloadable copy.

## Upcoming Conferences



### DICE Conference

27th and 28th February 2009, Froebel College, Dublin

Educators are increasingly encouraged to 'bring the world into their classrooms' in order to provide an adequate educational response to our globalising world. There are, however, divided views whether or not this encouragement should be supported by an increased investment in research or by concentrating on what happens in the classroom. The DICE conference seeks to bridge this gap

between theoretical debates and educational practice by facilitating a creative and investigative dialogue between theory and praxis.

For updates on programme please check the DICE website [www.diceproject.org](http://www.diceproject.org)



### LIFT OFF Conference

6th November 2008, Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast

The theme of this year's LIFT OFF conference is mainstreaming human rights education. Through presentations and workshops facilitated by a range of educationalists and experts in human rights education, this conference aims to identify opportunities where human rights can be mainstreamed within the formal education sectors in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

**TIME:** 9.45am (registration). Conference 10.30am - 4.30pm

**COST:** £35/ €45 (bursaries available on application)

**SPEAKERS INCLUDE:** Dr Linda King, UNESCO chief of section for rights and values in education; Gunilla Larsson, Director of Education at the National Agency for School Improvement in Sweden; Caitriona Ruane, Minister for Education, Northern Ireland.

For further information contact [mary.kerr@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:mary.kerr@amnesty.org.uk)



## Diary Dates

There are many days being recognised by the United Nations in this first term of the school year. Below are a few of the dates, and some actions you can take to recognise them in your classroom. For a more detailed listing of UN dates please visit [www.unac.org/en/news\\_events/un\\_days/international\\_days.asp](http://www.unac.org/en/news_events/un_days/international_days.asp)



### 20<sup>th</sup> November - Universal Children's Day

Universal Children's Day aims to increase awareness of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention helps to promote the rights of children everywhere around the world. The adoption of the

Convention on the Rights of the Child and the creation of Universal Children's Day emphasise that children are important and valued members of society, now and in the future. Universal Children's Day celebrates children just for being themselves. It reminds us that children need love and respect to grow to their full potential.

From: [http://www.unac.org/en/news\\_events/un\\_days/children1.asp](http://www.unac.org/en/news_events/un_days/children1.asp)

#### Activity: Convention Collage.

Get the children to choose one right from the Convention and encourage them to make a collage which depicts that right. Use material cut from newspapers, magazines, packaging etc. Over a series of sessions, different rights of the Convention can be explored using other artistic media.

### 6<sup>th</sup> December - Global Day of Action on Climate Change

As climate change talks involving world leaders take place in Bali, all around the world people will be finding different ways of making their politicians do something about climate change.

Many people think that the government should do more to prevent climate change. One umbrella group of Irish non-governmental organisations (NGOs) called the Stop Climate Chaos coalition are campaigning for legislation to reduce Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions. Their campaign is also asking the Irish government to support developing countries, which are already feeling the effects of climate change.

For more information and ideas for action see [www.stopclimatechaos.ie](http://www.stopclimatechaos.ie).

#### Activity: Red light survey

Have children do a 'red light survey' in the school or their house to see how many electrical appliances have been left on standby when they are not in use.

This suggestion – plus a range of activities, resources and links on climate change – can be found at <http://www.climatechoices.org.uk/>

## Compass

The Compass project is hosted by Comhlámh and is part funded by Irish Aid. It includes participation from various NGOs and individuals committed to promoting development and intercultural education in the primary education system. For enquiries about Compass or feedback about this e-mag please contact - [lizzie@comhlamh.org](mailto:lizzie@comhlamh.org)



### 10<sup>th</sup> December - Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day 2007 marked the start of a year-long commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) the first universal statement on the basic principles of human rights. The UDHR was the first international recognition that all human beings have fundamental rights and freedoms and it continues to be a living and relevant document today. UN organizations around the globe have been using the year to focus on helping people everywhere to learn about their rights.

From <http://www.un.org/events/humanrights/2007/> For the most comprehensive collection of translations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in over 337 different language versions see: <http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/>

#### Activity: Human Rights Corner:

Create a Human Rights corner in the classroom/school. Display a copy of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and use this dedicated space to display children's work done throughout the year, exploring the different rights.

Adapted from *Me, You, Everyone: rights and responsibilities*. Lift Off Cross Border Primary HRE Initiative.



### 18<sup>th</sup> December - International Migrants Day

On this day in 2000 the UN adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all migrant workers and their families. Governments are invited to celebrate International Migrants Day by ensuring that everyone knows and strives to protect the rights and freedoms of migrants.

Adapted from <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/events/migrants/>

#### Activity: Talk to an expert

The children could be encouraged to invite a speaker from a human rights or migrant rights organisation to come and talk to the class.

For a list and contact details of relevant groups see the Index Contact List at <http://www.comhlamh.org/resources-index-contacts-list.html>

*"Human rights are inscribed in the hearts of people; they were there long before lawmakers drafted their first proclamation."*

Mary Robinson- former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights



### Code of Conduct on Images and Messages

Comhlámh is a signatory to the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages (for full document see: <http://www.comhlamh.org/resources-library.html> or contact us for a copy of the Dóchas flyer).

Feedback on this issue is most welcome - email:

[lizzie@comhlamh.org](mailto:lizzie@comhlamh.org)