



UNRWA Gaza Field Office

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Human Rights Education in Gaza

The foundations for a dignified human existence are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and other instruments of international law. A sound understanding of these rights and the responsibilities attached to achieving and upholding them is central to UNRWA's human rights curriculum.

Since 2002, UNRWA has integrated human rights into the teaching of Arabic, Islamic Studies, and Social Science as part of its non-violent conflict resolution and human rights programme. Coinciding with the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Gaza Field Office is building on this experience with the implementation of a dedicated human rights curriculum for each of the 9 grades in UNRWA schools.

The Human Rights Education Initiative seeks to ensure that the 200,000 children enrolled at UNRWA schools in Gaza will have knowledge, understanding and commitment to:

- the fundamental human rights enshrined in the UDHR
- their individual responsibilities required to achieve human rights for all, including tolerance in thinking and behavior
- the historical context that gave rise to the Universal Declaration (WWII and the Holocaust)
- the history of the global struggle for human rights, using case studies including: the civil rights movement in the United States (Martin Luther King), colonialism in India (Mahatma Gandhi), apartheid in South Africa (Nelson Mandela), genocide in Rwanda, and ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia
- the global human rights context in terms of accountability and enforcement mechanisms.



**UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION
OF HUMAN
RIGHTS**

Dignity and justice for all of us



The four pillars of the initiative are:

- **Development of Curriculum**

Educationalists and specialists from UNRWA, ICRC, human rights NGOs and the wider academic community, develop a comprehensive curriculum anchored in the UDHR. One period per week is dedicated to the teaching of human rights for all 200,000 pupils. OHCHR, ICRC, and Palestinian human rights NGOs are engaged to assist with curriculum development and ongoing reviews.

- **Teachers**

Each school has one dynamic, highly motivated, respected and specially trained Human Rights teacher, skilled in the use of interactive teaching methods.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Progress is measured by the results of unified human rights exams in every grade. Human rights experts from OHCHR, ICRC, and NGOs monitor the effectiveness of the curriculum and the teaching methods.

- **Community Outreach**

Continued community support ensured through the use of committed and respected teachers, regular community outreach sessions, and fostering the recognition and support for the centrality of human rights in the human development of the next generation of Gaza.

About UNRWA

UNRWA provides education, healthcare, relief and social services, micro-credit loans and emergency aid to more than 4.4 million Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. UNRWA employs more than 28,000 staff, the vast majority of whom are Palestine refugees, including 20,000 educational staff and 4,000 health workers.