Human Rights Council

SOCIAL FORUM
30 - 31 October 2025
Assembly Hall, *Palais des Nations*, Geneva, Switzerland

"THE CONTRIBUTION OF EDUCATION TO THE RESPECT, PROMOTION, PROTECTION AND FULFILMENT OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL"

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK

Thursday, 30 October 2025

10h00-10h30 Opening Remarks

- **H.E. Mr. Carlos Sorreta / H.E. Ms. Anita Pipan**, Co-Chair Rapporteur of the Social Forum
- **H.E. Ms. Claudia Fuentes Julio**, Permanent Representative of Chile to United Nations Office in Geneva, Vice President of the Human Rights Council
- **Mr. Volker Türk**, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (video message)

10h30 - 11h30 Keynote Panel:

- **Ms. Farida Shaheed**, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, *The contribution of education including human rights education to realizing human rights, through the lens of the right to education as an enabling right*
- **Ms. Ana Luiza Massot Thompson-Flores**, Director, UNESCO Geneva Liaison Office, *Realizing human rights through education: Perspectives from the Evolving Right to Education Initiative*
- **Mr. Bonny Ibhawoh**, Chair, United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, Senator William McMaster Chair in Global Human Rights, McMaster University, Canada, and Founding Director, Centre for Human Rights and Restorative Justice, *The contribution of education in realizing the right to development, economic and social justice, equality and non-discrimination*
- **Ms. Whitney Melinard**, President, Kopounoule Inc., *The Triple Planetary Crisis and the contribution of education in realizing the right to a healthy environment, climate and environmental justice*

11h30-13h00 General Discussion

13h00-15h00 Lunch Break / Side Events

15h00-15h05 Musical interpretation of the right to education (Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights), by UN Music Club members, Mr. Damianos Serefidis (violin) and Mr. Michael Wiener (piano)

15h05-15h45 Education for civil rights – Freedom, safety and accountability

Moderator: Ms. Juana María Ibáñez Rivas, Member, United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

Video message on transversal issues: Ms. Verene Sheperd, Vice-Chairperson, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, *The contribution of education to racial and gender justice*

- **Ms. Petra Heusser,** Representative of the Geneva Hub on Education in Emergencies, *Education for the right to life: Ensuring education in emergencies as a life saving measure*
- **Mr. Cevor Tikerpuu**, United Nations Youth Delegate of Finland, *Education for the right to be safe in education: Bullying and feeling safe, seen and accepted*
- **Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe Torres**, Executive Director of Arigatou International, *Education for the right to freedom of religion and belief*
- **Ms. Denise Roche**, Advocacy Manager, Scholars at Risk Europe, *Education for the right to academic freedom*

15h45-16h30 Interactive Dialogue

16h30-17h15 Education for cultural rights - Diversity, memory and belonging

Moderator: Ms. Mylene Bidault, Human Rights Officer, mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, OHCHR

Video message on transversal issues: Ms. Alexandra Xanthaki, Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights, *The contribution of education to the right to participate in cultural and scientific life*

- **Ms. Canita Rilometo-Nakamura,** Specialist on Community Resilience for Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL), Federated States of Micronesia, *Education for cultural rights of indigenous peoples: Indigenous knowledge in schools and the realization of cultural rights* (video message)
- **Mr. Zongxu Xie,** UN OHCHR Indigenous fellow 2024, Miao youth from China's Guizhou and Co-founder of Vision 2061, *Education for intangible cultural heritage and the cultural rights of ethnic minorities: Pathways to a sustainable future*
- **Ms. Camilla Croso**, Executive Director of the Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas (CAFA), *Education for the right to science*
- **Mr. Patrice Meyer-Bisch,** Philosopher, President of the Observatory on cultural rights and diversity, Fribourg, Switzerland, *Education for cultural rights for all*

17h15-18h00 Interactive Dialogue

Friday, 31 October:

10h00-11h30 Roundtable on education for socio-economic rights – Participation in socio-economic life, well-being and care, Fair Distribution of benefits, resources and opportunities

Moderator: Mr. Pradeep Wagle, Chief, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Section, OHCHR

Video message: Ms. Jamila Al-Abbasi, CEO, Women, Youth and Kids Empowerment Initiative (WYKEI) for Sustainable Peace and Development, *Education for realizing rights and building resilience in conflict situations, with a focus on women, youth and children*

- **Ms. Yuefen Li**, Senior Adviser for South-South Cooperation and Development Finance, South Centre, Geneva, *Education for global governance and sustainable finance* (TBC)
- **Ms. Moira Faul**, Director of NORRAG Global Education Centre, Geneva Graduate Institute, *Education for realizing the Sustainable Development Goals, from an economic and social rights perspective*
- **Mr. Takashi Kajiwara,** Vice President of Education International, President of the Japan Teachers' Union, *Education for the right to work, including the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain their living by work which they freely choose or accept*
- **Ms. Jean Twenge**, Professor of Psychology at San Diego State University, USA, *Education for the right to health: Youth, Education, Mental Health and Technology* (video message)
- **Mr. Serges Kamga,** University of Free State, South Africa, *Education for the right to participate in inclusive societies: Inclusive education in Africa with reference to the right to education of persons with disabilities*
- **Mr. Mehmood Anwar**, International Liaison Officer, Humanity First, *Education in development projects, sharing experiences and lessons learned on the ground*

11h30-12h15 Education for political rights – Participation, citizenship and voice– Participation, citizenship and voice

Moderator: H.E. Mr. Carlos Sorreta, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations Office in Geneva, Co-Chair Rapporteur of the Social Forum

Video message on transversal issues: Ms. Claudia Flores, Chair of the UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, Equality and non-discrimination, citizenship and voice for women and girls

- **Ms. Delphine Dorsi**, Director, Right to Education Initiative, *Education for the right to participate in political life and public affairs: Democratic citizenship*
- **Mr. Alvaro Bello**, activist and academic on indigenous issues, Researcher of University of La Frontera, Chile, *Education for the right to self-determination: Education and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (video message)
- **Ms. Henriette Reierson Johnstone,** President, The Norwegian Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund (SAIH)
- **Mr. Gerard Kamga**, University of the Free State, South Africa, *Education for the right to equality*: *Gender, disability and access to education*

12h15-13h00 Interactive Dialogue

13h00-15h00 Lunch Break / Side Events

15h00-15h45 Human Rights Education for, with, and by children – Shaping a just and sustainable future

Moderator: H.E. Ms. Anita Pipan, Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations Office in Geneva, Co-Chair Rapporteur of the Social Forum

Panellists include 6 students from ECOLINT.

15h45-16h30 Human Rights Education for, with, and by youth – Taking action to advance promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights for all

Moderator: Ms. Elisa Gazzoti, Amnesty International with Soka Gakkai International

Panellists include:

- **Mr. Andrés Allán Sánchez Osorio** (Mexico / Panama)
- **Ms. Dejana Stosic** (Serbia)
- **Ms. Aizat Ruslanova** (Kyrgyzstan) (video message)

16h30-17h45 Closing Session–Roundtable on Recommendations: The Future of Education for Human Rights

Moderator: Ms. Farida Shaheed, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education

- **Mr. Ouattara Diakalia**, Community Development Activist, Member of the International Council of the World Social Forum, Member of the African Social Forum, *'Another World is Possible': Education for Community Development and Partnership Building from the Local to the Global*
- **Mr. Mihir Kanade**, Member, United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, and Professor of International Law and Director, Human Rights Centre, University for Peace (UPEACE), *Education on global governance and international cooperation for peace, human rights and sustainable development*
- **Ms. Whitney Melinard**, President, Kopounoule Inc., *Education for the rights of present and future generations, inter and intra-generational justice and equity*
- **Mr. Xigen Wang,** Dean, Law School, and Director, National Human Rights Education and Training Base, Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST), China, *Technology Development, and Realizing the Right to Education in the Digital Space*

17h45-18h00 Closing Remarks

- **H.E. Mr. Carlos Sorreta / H.E. Ms. Anita Pipan**, Co-Chair Rapporteur of the Social Forum

Featured Exhibitions -- 30 - 31 October 2025, Salle des Pas Perdus, Palais des Nations

- **Harnessing Education for the SDGs and the Geneva Ecosystem,** Network for International Policies and Cooperation in Education and Training (NORRAG)