

Oral Statement
46th Session of the Human Rights Council

ITEM 3 General Debate

‘Covid-19, human rights and youth’

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Organisations co-sponsoring

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Thank you Madam President

On behalf of 23 organizations of the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning.

One year of pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges upon the world. Besides the health crisis, the looming economic downturn has had a dramatic impact on people's lives and greatly affects the right to education of children and young people, impacting particularly those with fewer opportunities while deepening inequalities.

As NGO WG on HREL we have reaffirmed that human rights and human rights education should not be paused. Referring to the global response, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mrs. Michelle Bachelet emphasized that "Human dignity and rights need to be front and centre in that effort not an afterthought."

We encourage Member States to address the human rights impacts of the pandemic in a concrete way through recommendations during the UPR Working Group sessions and in particular the right to quality of education. Especially in the times of the crisis, member states must have a coherent approach to human rights education.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training (UDHRET). On this occasion our working group would like to highlight its rising relevance, call on member states to meaningfully implement the Plan of Action of the fourth phase of the World Programme as this is a key condition to ensure that human rights are at the core, and not an afterthought in this Covid-19 crisis.

Thank you