GO-HRE | GENEVA OFFICE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

COLEGA

SIERRA LEONE

COLEGA

A MANUAL FOR TEACHING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

PRIMARY



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Presented by

GO-HRE | GENEVA OFFICE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

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This manual is based on the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) and the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC). Various simplified versions of the UDHR and CRC have been used to facilitate teaching and understanding. The focus of the lessons is to teach children their rights, as well as their responsibilities in the exercise of their rights.



Geneva Office for Human Rights Education: Our mission is to make human rights part of every child's education. We focus on children and youth worldwide, teaching them about their rights as stated in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, as well as the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. We provide **Colega** instruction materials at no cost to the educational organizations that wish to utilize them.

PERMISSION TO LOCALIZE COLEGA LESSONS

The Colega teaching manual introduces children and youth to the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)* and the *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)*. The lessons teach students not only their rights but also their responsibilities in the exercise of these rights.

Select the content that you consider best for your students while still including all six components of the lesson. You can use the songs, stories, character names, pictures or activities provided in the manual or substitute them for ones that are more familiar to young people in your country while maintaining the same principles and themes.

Do not change the wording of the Human Rights Articles.

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PREFACE

Colega: A Manual for Teaching Children's Rights is a product of the Geneva Office for Human Rights Education (GO-HRE) with international offices first in Geneva, Switzerland, and now ever expanding to other countries throughout the world. GO-HRE is an affiliate of Brigham Young University's David M.Kennedy Center for International Studies, a United Nations-accredited nongovernmental organization, in special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Grounded in the recognition of the inherent dignity of all human beings, as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, this manual is a compilation of best human rights education practices derived from our experience and creativity. We have also drawn on lessons gleaned from the many human rights handbooks, manuals and excellent programs created by organizations and individuals around the globe, such as the Council of Europe, Amnesty International, the Wegeland Centre, and Equitas Play It Fair, to name a few. We readily acknowledge the publications of these organizations as the source material for some of the key content of this manual. Their work and stalwart examples are awe-inspiring.

Colega is a flexible teaching resource for GO-HRE facilitators operating in a variety of national, language and media contexts worldwide, for use by all human rights educators. It provides ideas that we hope you'll use and develop to meet the needs of the young people you work with. Please share any feedback you may have regarding your experiences and what you've learned.

The instructional objective of Colega is two-fold:

The dissemination of knowledge of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is essential, particularly among school-age youth.

The development of Human rights behavior which increases knowledge and improves cultural climates based on human rights principles.

We are not the first, nor will we be the last, to be involved in human rights education. We hope that this manual will benefit the continued efforts to build and strengthen a global culture of human rights as we focus on children and youth, our best hope for the future.

Colega is not for sale and has no profit motive whatever. We have made all possible efforts to cite sources and adaptations.

OVERVIEW

What is the purpose of the *Colega* manual?

This manual is meant to promote education in human rights and responsibilities in a variety of settings, and includes learning activities that are not only entertaining but thought-provoking.

Who is Colega for?

1. Students approximately ages 6 to 18. The Primary Manual is for children ages 6 to 11. The Secondary Manual is approximately for youth ages 12 to 18. These manuals help instill human rights values into their awareness and behavior.
2. Facilitators and teachers. These manuals are intended to improve the teaching and promotion of human rights values in their interaction with students as they incorporate the ideas and lessons into planned activities.

What is in the Colega manual?

The manual contains general lesson plans, practical teaching tips and activities on specific human rights. Colega is divided into three sections:

1. Preface and Overview
2. Lessons
3. Facilitator Toolkit
    - Background History and Information
    - Guidelines and Teaching Tips
    - Songs, Glossary, UN Documents (UDHR and CRC), Sample Assessments, Mini Posters

How are the lessons structured?

1. Learning Points, Welcome and Review
2. Introduction and Development of the Human Rights Article for that lesson
3. Conclusion and Challenge
    - The Challenge includes the responsibility that goes with each lesson's human rights.

How do I use the Colega manual?

1. Read the brief Background Information in the Facilitator Toolkit at the back of the manual to learn the history of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), as well as human rights principles and values.
2. Plan ahead. Identify activities and strategies to meet the needs of your particular students.
3. Hold regular discussions with colleagues about the use of Colega. Work together to identify ways to improve the use of the manual.
4. Provide feedback. Share successes and any challenges you have faced with your colleagues, as well as comments and/or suggestions.
5. The lessons are designed to be taught consecutively. If you teach them in a different order you will need to adjust the review material at the beginning of each lesson to match what was previously taught.

OVERVIEW

***Colega* Lesson Components**

Each lesson in the manual follows the same six steps to simplify the teaching process. Open with a song, chant or poem. Review the challenge presented in the previous lesson and then introduce a new Human Rights article(s). The new article is then developed through a story, activity, questions and open discussion. The lesson is completed with a summary and a new challenge for the students to put what they've learned to work.





This is the Colega logo.

A logo is a picture or image that stands for or is symbolic of a person or a thing.

This logo stands for children and their books, celebrating human rights education.
It represents the lesson manual, which is called “Colega,” meaning friend, buddy, colleague or companion.

Colega invites everyone to hold hands, link arms and embrace a universal culture of human rights.