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## ORAL STATEMENT

### High-level panel discussion on the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training: good practices, challenges and the way forward

UN Human Rights Council  
Forty-eighth regular session  
13 September – 8 October 2021

Madam President

Amnesty International and Soka Gakkai International welcome this commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training.

Human rights education and training (HRE) is one of Amnesty's core objectives and is at the heart of the organisation's work. In 2020, Amnesty's HRE Network engaged over 2 million people and led more than 1 million to take action to defend human rights in 212 countries and territories, 85% of them being young people.<sup>1</sup>

However, there are many challenges facing HRE today.

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted and aggravated existing threats to human rights, from the right to life and health to the right to education and many more. HRE faces an additional challenge, with many states failing to prioritize effective delivery amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. Lack of alternatives to in-person training programmes in many countries has excluded millions who have unequal access to technology.

Young people in particular are facing a growing list of challenges, from intersectional discrimination to arbitrary restrictions on their freedom of expression, assembly and association. And this comes at a time when young people are increasingly demanding action to address the growing human rights emergency as result of climate change.<sup>2</sup>

It is critical that young people are enabled to **lead** the ideation, design and implementation of HRE programmes focusing on addressing major global human rights concerns, including those amplified by COVID-19 and climate change, which directly affects their lives and future.

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<sup>1</sup> The HRE progress report 2020 - <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol32/4026/2021/en/>.

<sup>2</sup> Final evaluation of Amnesty International's youth strategy 2017-2020.

And finally, we want to thank Mr. Irfaan Margan for his work on HRE and for sharing his story as part of the joint multimedia educational tool developed by OHCHR, Amnesty and SGI

We have one question for him: in promoting HRE, the safety, security, and wellbeing of young people is paramount. What can States do to ensure this at a national and global level?

Thank you.