

## Reflection and Action

Organizations and individuals around the world are using the Charter of Human Responsibilities to reflect on their own situations and circumstances and inform their actions. The range of interpretations, meanings and cultural opportunities has inspired great diversity of projects in different countries. For example:

In New Zealand, a university and community partnership promotes stewardship of waterways through school arts competition, musical performance and lakeshore restoration.

In Brazil, a national children's conference "We are going to take care of Brazil" was the culmination of year-long school and community-based programs and regional conferences. Six hundred student delegates formulated their own Charter of Responsibilities, implementation plan and partners.

In the Philippines, a conference on Ethics and Responsibility in the Teaching Profession encouraged new teachers to consider their own vision and mission as teachers in the context of social issues.

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# Ten Principles to Guide the Exercise of Human Responsibilities

- 1 *To face the challenges of today and of tomorrow, it is just as important to unite in action as to express cultural diversity.*
- 2 *Every person's dignity demands that he or she contributes to the freedom and dignity of others.*
- 3 *Lasting peace cannot be established without a justice which is respectful of human dignity and of human rights.*
- 4 *To ensure the full flowering of the human personality, its non-material aspirations as well as its material needs must be addressed.*
- 5 *The exercise of power can only be legitimate if it serves the common good, and if it is monitored by those over whom it is exercised.*
- 6 *Consumption of natural resources to meet human needs must be integrated in a larger effort of active protection and careful management of the environment.*
- 7 *The pursuit of prosperity cannot be separated from an equitable sharing of wealth.*
- 8 *Freedom of scientific research implies accepting that this freedom is limited by ethical criteria.*
- 9 *The full potential of knowledge and know-how is realized only through sharing them, and through using them in the service of solidarity and the culture of peace.*
- 10 *In reaching decisions about short-term priorities, the precaution must be taken of evaluating long-term consequences with their risks and uncertainties.*



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In Zimbabwe, community members produced a book titled "Calming the Storm: Community Views on Responsibility" as a tool to promote reflection and action.

The women's college of Togo has used the principles of the Charter of Human Responsibilities as a reference for its work on the promotion of gender equity in the management of public affairs.

European participants are producing a series of booklets under the theme "Acting responsibly." The first booklet focuses on the concept of the ecological footprint and how each of us can take action to reduce our individual impact on the environment.

In Bangalore, India, a marathon with the theme "Cycling for a Clean Tomorrow" included an activity for students and parents on the question "What is our responsibility for clean air in Bangalore?"

Scholars and activists in the United States are planning a national conference on energy, ethics, responsibility and the environment.