

press release

HUMAN RIGHTS 101 TRAINS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO BE GLOBAL CITIZENS

Thirteen/WNET New York Announces A Multimedia Human Rights Initiative At 15 Tri-State New York Area High Schools. New Web Site Provides Students And Teachers Anywhere With Tools To Raise Awareness And Inspire Student Action.

With news headlines full of reports on human rights issues around the world and in our own backyard, students struggle to grasp global concerns and ask themselves what they can do.

Human Rights 101, a new initiative from Thirteen/WNET New York, offers students insight into such complex topics such as tolerance, racism, women's rights, refugees, and religious freedom, and helps show students how they can become effective catalysts for change.

Human Rights 101 kicked off with an October 4 seminar for students and their faculty advisors from 15 tri-state New York area high schools designed to encourage discussion and exploration of local, national, and global human rights issues. The training seminar includes a screening of the PBS program *Frontline/World*, guest speakers and discussion, and special workshops for students and teachers designed to prepare them to develop projects that address a particular human rights issue or need in their community. Thirteen will recognize the most outstanding **Human Rights 101** projects conducted during the school year in a June 2004 awards ceremony.

"By helping students take a greater view of human rights and giving them the tools to make a difference, we hope to create passionate global citizens," said Ronald Thorpe, director of Thirteen's Educational Resources Center. "These students will be equipped for life with knowledge that will help them effect change."

"We don't take enough time to think about the rights we have and we don't step back and appreciate them," said Allyson Chung, a sophomore at Packer Collegiate High School, Brooklyn, NY, in her presentation at the seminar. "I'm taking part in **Human Rights 101** because it is important to get kids involved at a younger age, when it's more effective."

Online, the **Human Rights 101** Web site (www.thirteen.org/edonline/hr101), serves as a launching pad for project ideas and provides students and their advisors with tools to help them



learn about human rights, focus their interests, and actively work for change. The site features a wealth of resources, ideas for project that can make positive change, volunteer and internship opportunities and an interactive profile feature that uses human rights stories to help students focus their interests and goals. Teachers anywhere will be able to use the **Human Rights 101** toolkit to guide the development of projects. The toolkit includes model projects, a list of PBS programs that address human rights issues and complementary teaching resources.

Human Rights 101 is an initiative of Thirteen's Educational Resources Center, a leading provider of innovative programming, online education, and professional development for educators.

Major support for **Human Rights 101** is provided by Phillips-Van Heusen Corporation and the Reuters Foundation.

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Thirteen/WNET New York is one of the key program providers for public television, bringing such acclaimed series as *Nature*, *Great Performances*, *American Masters*, *Charlie Rose*, *Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly*, *Wide Angle*, *Stage on Screen*, *EGG the arts show*, and *Cyberchase* – as well as the work of Bill Moyers – to audiences nationwide. As the flagship public broadcaster in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut metro area, Thirteen reaches millions of viewers each week, airing the best of American public television along with its own local productions such as *The Ethnic Heritage Specials*, *The New York Walking Tours*, *New York Voices*, *Reel New York*, and its *MetroArts/Thirteen* cable arts programming. With educational and community outreach projects that extend the impact of its television productions, Thirteen takes television “out of the box.” And as broadcast and digital media converge, Thirteen is blazing trails in the creation of Web sites, enhanced television, CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs, educational software, and other cutting-edge media products. More information about Thirteen can be found at: www.thirteen.org.

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