



Associazione culturale “**Giuseppe Dossetti: i Valori**”
TUTELA E SVILUPPO DEI DIRITTI

Osservatorio per la Tolleranza e la Libertà Religiosa
Observatory for Religious Tolerance and Freedom

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Education plays a great role in promoting universal respect of fundamental freedoms and human rights and it also contributes to a more tolerant society. Educational programmes should be developed and strengthened in order to promote a better understanding and respect for different cultures, ethnicities and religions. These programmes should also hand on some superior values as the dignity of every person and the solidarity among people. The access to human rights education is important not only for students at all levels, but also for those attending military, police and public service schools.

According to the indivisibility, interdependence and interrelation of human dimension commitments, in developing and performing these programmes participating States should always respect the right of parents to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions. Primary responsibility of educating young generations in fact does not rest with participating States, but it rests with parents of children and youth.

Many participating States provide – or intend to provide – in public school compulsory teachings on ethical or religious subjects, promoting values that may conflict with moral or religious convictions. Such teachings are appreciable but it should be bear in mind that States cannot pursue an aim of indoctrination and children cannot be forced to a teaching that is not consistent with the convictions of their parents. Therefore it is preferable that such teachings are facultative, but when they are compulsory participating States should provide non-punitive and non-discriminatory opt-out possibilities.