



Civil Society Space Report - Input
Jeanne Sarson to: civilsociety

28/06/2015 17:40

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To: civilsociety@ohchr.org

History: This message has been replied to and forwarded.

Response to Civil Society Space Report - Input

Lessons learned that would contribute to **Civil Society Space** is promoting a positive safe and enabling human rights educational practice based on respect for the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training (A/RES/66/137). This requires ensuring that States parties have laws and initiate actions that match the intended non-discriminatory principles and all articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). For example, as global human right defenders we engage in teaching human rights approaches, for example, we just completed a side-event, "[Eliminate Torture in The Private Sphere](#)" during the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice which presents practicing from a human rights perspective; as Canadian human right defenders and practitioners we teach a human rights perspective to students in grade school as well as to university students including health science students. However, in Canada we are faced with teaching that there exists in our country fundamental human rights discrimination when we address article 5 of the UDHR which states that no one shall be subjected to torture. Only State torture is specifically named and criminalized in Canada; this is so in other countries as well. This discrimination becomes even more pronounced when considering article 2 of the UDHR which says that all articles in the UDHR applies to all peoples "without distinction of any kind"; therefore, to promote best human rights practices laws must match the UDHR if civil society spaces of equality are to be achieved.

We have worked specifically for 22 years as grass root professionals, human right defenders, and members of an NGO, to bring about the true meaning of fundamental universal non-discriminatory human rights in relation to the right not to be subjected to torture regardless of who the torturer may be—non-State or State actor. Upholding this fundamental human right in law is necessary for those who have endured torture by non-State actors if they are to gain their dignity and be included as persons who are entitled to the human rights as stated in articles 2 and 5 and as equal part of civil society space.

We conclude by recommending to the High Commissioner, in respect to paragraph 15 of the [Human Rights Council resolution 27/31](#), on civil society space, that the articles of the UDHR must be operationalized into States parties laws, including that article 5—the right to be protected from torture—is a human right that applies to all global citizens, if there is to be "promotion and protection of all human rights" as this resolution states. This would be fundamental non-discriminatory best practice on how to create and maintain safe civil society space.

Respectfully submitted,

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