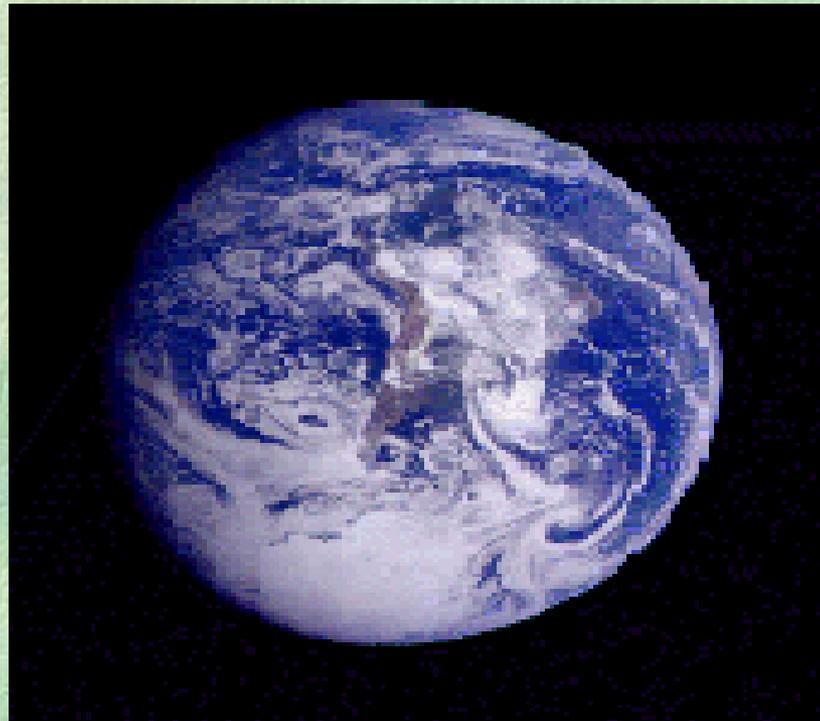


**Human Rights Center Presentation  
for AI Groups 315 and 37  
June 21, 2001**



# About the Human Rights Center (HRC)

- Principal Focus
  - To help train effective human rights professionals and volunteers.
  - To assist human rights advocates, monitors, students, and educators.
- Inaugurated December 1988
  - 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

# About the Human Rights Resource Center (HRRC)

- **Principal Focus**

- To serve as a national clearinghouse for human rights education, resources, training, and advocacy networks.

- **Established in 1997**

- To support Human Rights USA, a national initiative to educate people in the USA about human rights
- To establish a primary program of the Human Rights Center

- **The Resource Center offers a wide range of services to the human rights movement.**

# HRC Program Areas

- Applied Human Rights Research
- Educational Tools
- Field Training Opportunities
- Human Rights On-line
- Learning Communities and Partnerships

# Applied Human Rights Research

- Most actors in the human rights field do not have the time or opportunity to do careful research before they act.
  - The HRC develops **insights, analytical tools, guidelines**, etc. for use by advocates and other actors.
    - criterion for such research is the degree to which research can inform and be useful to policy makers and other actors.

# Educational Tools

- The Resource Center has become a principal source of human rights education materials in the United States.
- Current distribution
  - more than 75 human rights education materials including:
    - passport size versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Convention on the Rights of the Child, training guides, resource kits, curricula, books, posters, and videos.

# **Educational Tools:**

## ***The Human Rights Education Series***

- Human Rights Here and Now
- Economic and Social Justice
- Raising Children with Roots Rights and Responsibilities
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights
- The Human Rights Education Handbook
- Forthcoming 2001: Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights and Freedom of Religion and Belief

# Field and Training Opportunities

- *Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellowship Program*
  - The Human Rights Fellowship Program encourages individuals from the Upper Midwest of the United States to pursue a lifetime of human rights work -- either as professionals or as knowledgeable volunteers -- by providing them with opportunities for practical experience.
  - A fellowship placement offers both training for the individual and assistance to the organization.

# Field and Training Opportunities

- *U.S. Training-of-Trainers for Human Rights Education*
  - The Human Rights Resource Center, in collaboration with the Stanley Foundation, hosts an annual U.S. Training-of-Trainers for Human Rights Education Institute.
  - The 25 participants selected for this advanced human rights training workshop are expected to conduct human rights training in their home communities, upon completion of the training.
  - Each participant becomes part of the national training corps of the Human Rights Resource Center.



# Human Rights On-line

- The University of Minnesota Human Rights Library houses one of the largest collections of human right materials
  - More than 6,900 core human rights documents, including 238 human rights treaties and other primary international human rights instruments.
  - Access to more than 2,700 links and a unique search device for multiple human rights sites.
  - This research tool is accessed by more than 15,000 students, scholars, educators, and human rights advocates weekly from over 140 countries around the world.
  - Documents are available in five languages - Arabic, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.

# Human Rights Documents and Materials

- Treaties and other International Instruments
- Other United Nations Documents
- Regional Materials
- Bibliographies and Research Guides
- Human Rights Education
- Refugee and Asylum Resources
- U.S. Human Rights Documents

# Mirror Sites

- *Africa:* University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
- *Europe:* Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, Switzerland
- *South America:* Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos, Lima, Peru
- *West Pacific:* Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, Monash University, Victoria, Australia

# Human Rights Resource Center On-line

- The Human Rights Resource Center on-line acts as a network and a clearinghouse for human rights educators and activists in the United States and abroad.
- The Resource Center publishes the Human Rights Education Series, available on-line free of charge.

# HRRC On-line

- Online catalog of more than 100 human rights education curricula and training materials
- General human rights education
- Training/field opportunities
- Job opportunities
- Distance learning opportunities
- Human rights events in the Twin Cities, Minnesota
- Advocacy networks

# Human Rights Learning Community



**What are the ways that AIUSA,  
AI Groups and the HRC can  
work together?**

# HRC - AI Partnership

- Distribute AI publications.
- Produced training materials:
  - Human Rights Here and Now
  - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights
- Connected fellows with Amnesty Groups around the world.
- Conducted joint conferences & workshops.
- Served on AI boards and steering committees.

**QUESTIONS?**



**What is  
Human Rights Education?**

Education *for* human rights helps people feel the importance of human rights, internalize human rights values and integrate them into the way they live.

Education *for* human rights also gives people a sense of responsibility for respecting and defending human rights and empowers them, through learned skills, to take appropriate action.

Human Rights is not a subject that can be studied at a distance. Students should not just learn *about* the Universal Declaration, *about* racial injustice or *about* homelessness without also being challenged to think about what it all means for them personally. As human rights educators, we must ask our students and ourselves, “How does this all relate to the way we live our lives?” The answers to this question will tell us much about how effectively we have taught our students.

- David Shiman, “Introduction,” *Teaching Human Rights*

# Why Human Rights Education?

# Human Rights Education:

- Produces changes in values and attitudes
- Produces changes in behavior
- Produces empowerment for social justice
- Develops attitudes of solidarity across issues and nations
- Develops knowledge and analytical skills
- Produces participatory education

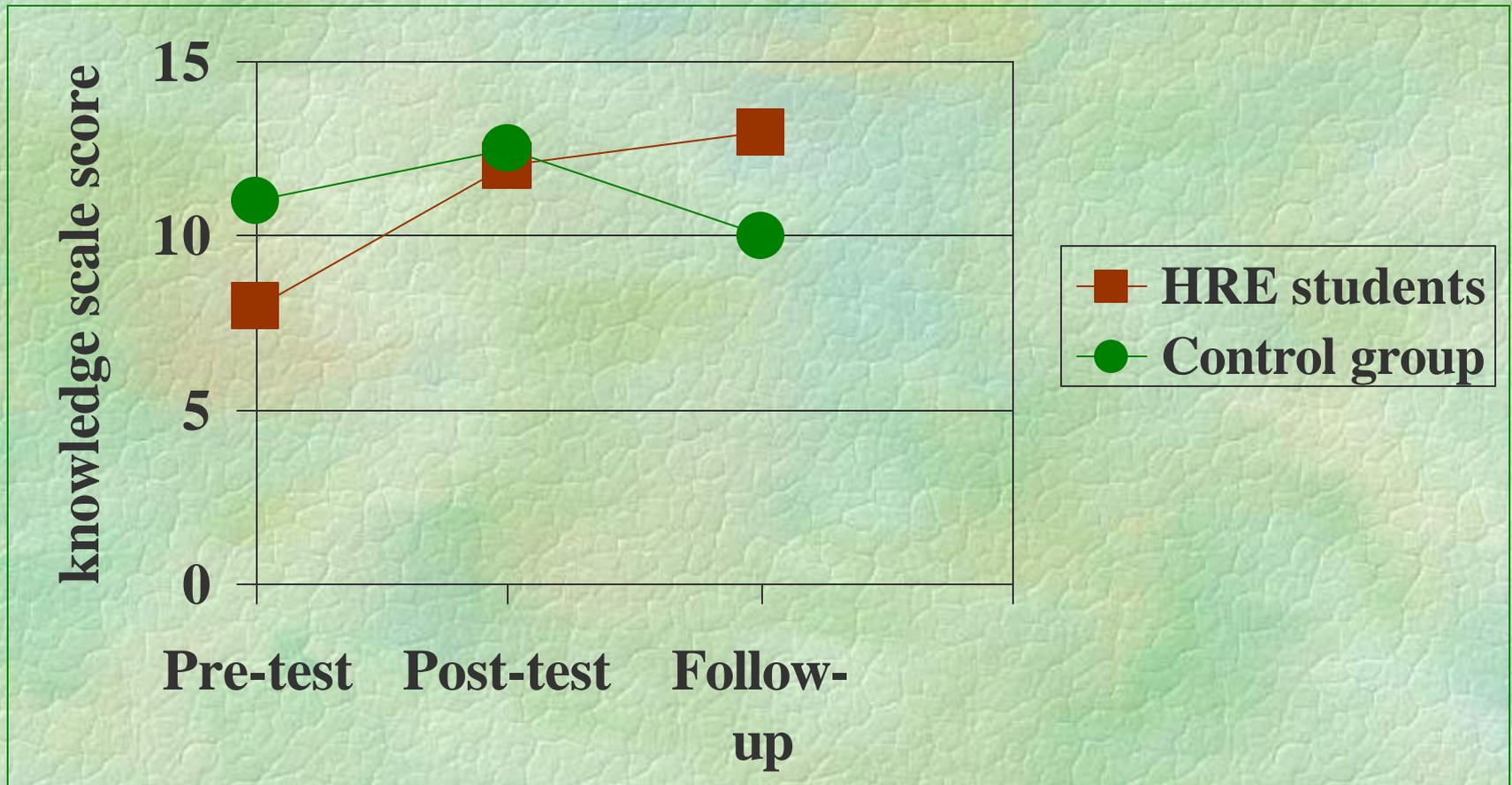
# **Human Rights USA**

## **1997 Survey Results**

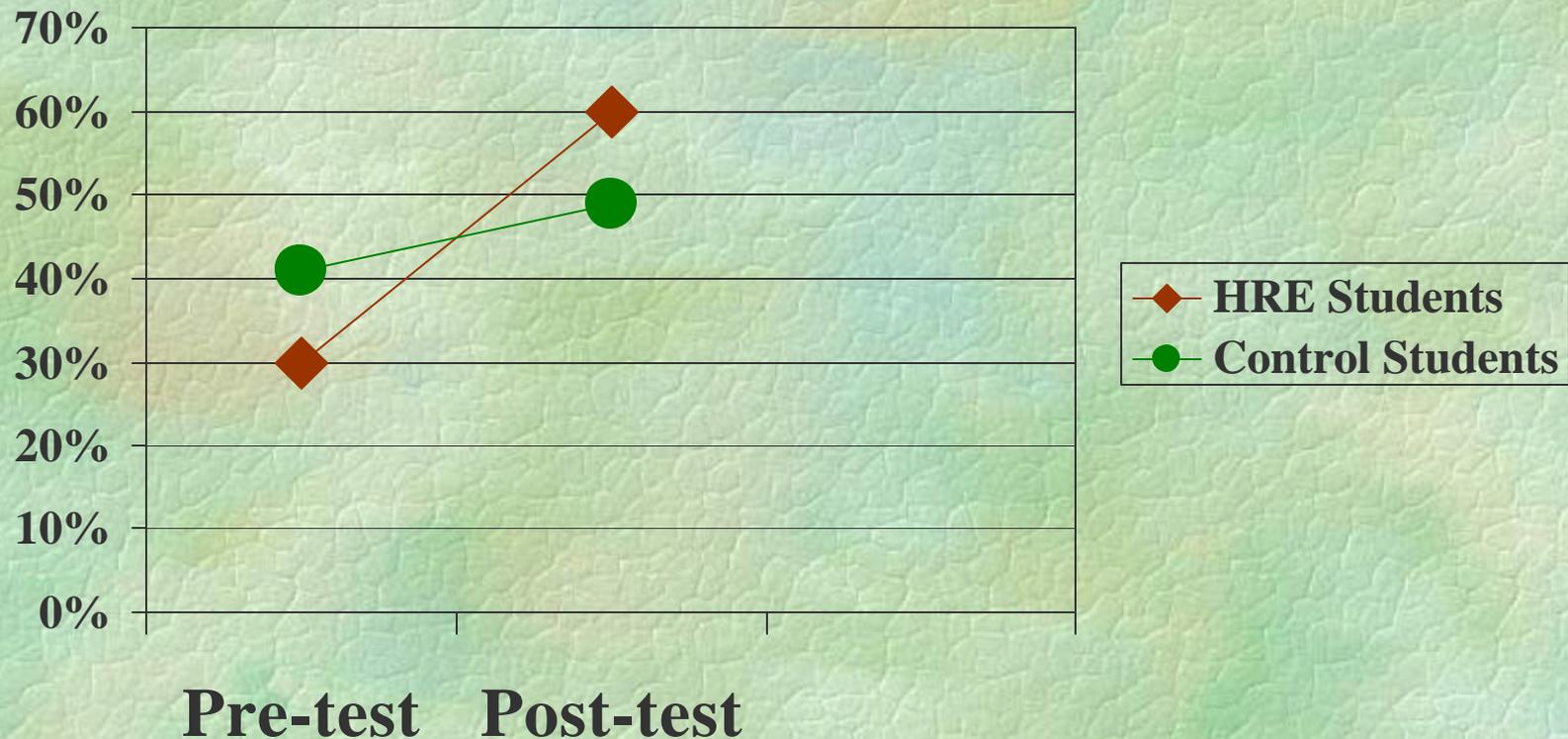
- **Only 8% of adults and 4% of young people are aware of and can name the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.**
- **A large majority of Americans, 83%, feel that the United States should do more to live up to the principles of the UDHR.**
- **2/3 of the people polled (63%) say that the poor are usually discriminated against in our society.**  
**Americans also feel that the following are routinely discriminated against: the disabled (61%), the elderly (54%), gays and lesbians (51%), Native Americans (50%), and African Americans (41%).**

**Does human rights  
education really work?**

# Change in self-report of knowledge of human rights related issues



# Changes in self report of feeling bothered when people put down others because of differences\*



\* **Question #19:** “It really bothers me when people put down other people because they look or act differently.”

# 1997 Human Rights Education Behavioral Outcomes

	Inappropriate Physical Activity	Inappropriate Verbal	Uncooperative Behavior
No HR Education	11	25	14
HRE 3x a week	4	6	3
HRE Fully Integrated	0	0	0

\*Snapshot of 1997 study conducted at Minneapolis Public Elementary School by The Search Institute and Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights

## Inappropriate Physical Behavior

- Spitting, hitting, choking, jeers, pinching, scratching, hand gestures, writing on other's work, throwing objects, drumming, pulling hair, out-of-place and striking with objects

## Inappropriate Verbal Displays

- Swearing or using vulgar language, talking too loudly, racial or sexist slurs, taunting, booing, talking back, arguing, complaining or interrupting

## Uncooperative Behavior

- Refusing to obey or follow rules, acting defiantly or pouting, refusing to take turns or share, cheating and lying

How do we move from learning about human rights to action on a personal and community level?

# Goals of a Human Rights Learning Community

- Know your human rights
- Value your human rights
- Be inspired to take action toward realizing human rights for yourself and others

# Defining Characteristics of A Human Rights Learning Community

- Popular Education
- A Systems Framework
- Global Community Building
- An Integrated Human Rights Framework
- Our Story: Perpetrator, Survivor and Healer