

## **INPUT FOR THE HR75 YOUTH DECLARATION**

### **SUBMITTED BY EDMUND RICE INTERNATIONAL**

**PROCESS: Students representing St John's, Christian Brothers College, Cape Town, South Africa participated in a survey and then a discussion based on the questions below**

**1. *What are the challenges the world is facing now, how they will affect the future of human rights, and what future do you want for human rights?***

Throughout the world there is a constant battle between good and evil. We can see how people are being persecuted for their religion. In places like Afghanistan we see how the women there are being treated. Taking away most of their human rights, such as their education etc. I want a future where children grow up and feel like they can try to do anything because of the example of freedom they have around them. A future where, women and children feel safe and people feel united.

Gender-Based Violence. They violate a woman's right to safety and protection. I hope that in the future countries would try harder to protect women living within their borders. In South Africa GBV is a very serious issue, and I hope that the government would put more rules to help protect the safety of women.

Problems the world is facing are: climate change, inequalities and extreme poverty. A future for human rights would involve global cooperation to address issues like inequality, oppression, and environmental challenges. It would ensure equal rights and opportunities for everyone, regardless of their background, while upholding individual freedoms and fostering a more inclusive and just society.

**2. *What are your recommendations to decision-makers and policymakers, including governments, civil society, international organizations, the United Nations, and others, to advance human rights in the future?***

I think a good idea for all the policy makers etc. would be to have people who live in the areas that they are trying to help, join their teams. People who face these problems and human rights violations everyday, know these problems the best. Thus making it easier for them to know how to combat it.

They should hold press conferences, where they ask the public for problems that the country is facing and solutions that they could use to solve said problems. They could also have tip lines where people can call in about any major concerns the country may face, or surveys that can be done countrywide.

Promote women empowerment and education, have transparency and accountability and address inequalities.

**3. *What commitments and actions can young people take towards advancing human rights in the future?***

There are plenty of organizations which target specific areas of Human Rights that anyone can volunteer and join. For example, volunteering at a soup kitchen for the homeless or at the red cross children's hospital, as many of these places are short staffed.

Through advocacy, by promoting the problems through social media we can help make people aware of issues that we may be facing. It helps bring awareness to those who may be uneducated on the subject.

Young people can advance human rights by raising awareness, advocating through social media and events, volunteering, engaging in dialogue, joining youth organizations, participating in civic activities, expressing creativity, supporting marginalized groups, and staying informed about global issues.