



Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children

TOOLKIT
for joyful interfaith learning and
new thinking on ethics in a global and plural
society

Draft Outline

Objectives

The toolkit will serve a dynamic thinking on ethics in a global and plural society and a joyful interfaith learning, emphasizing interaction and building positive relationships between people of different cultures and religions.

This will help fostering the development of children and young people who embracing ethical values:

- act to uphold respect for people of different religions, cultures and civilizations
- are empowered to develop their spirituality
- support and are supported by peers, families and communities
- have experience of what it means to be respected and involved as a child and therefore in turn respect and involve children in all aspects of their lives
- act to advance an environment of greater justice, peace, compassion, hope and dignity for all
- enabling a child or a young person in forming his or her identity
- dealing constructively with diversity and plurality
- respecting the common values
- taking seriously stewardship of the environment
- being spiritually sensitive



The Toolkit will also be a means for

- facilitating and enhancing the implementation of the Convention of the Right of the Child (CRC)
- promoting respect of the other in appreciation of religious and cultural diversity

- facilitating each child's and young person's full access to his or her innate capacity for spiritual development
- improving secular religious education and faith-based and traditional cultural instruction, with a dynamic thinking on ethics in a global and plural society
- enabling children and young people to live as persons of faith and citizens of a culturally religious and plural world
- highlighting existing strengths within traditions to deconstruct myths supporting harmful practices,
- promoting the capacity to be free critical thinkers and creative thinkers
- valuing democratic debate and discussion
- promoting a pedagogy towards understanding the other in a world of diversity and plurality

Guidelines

The toolkit should

- be a joyful learning experience
- promote dialogue with listening and interrelationships
- be developed in consultation with children and young people and with authorities within religious traditions and cultures as well as educational administrators, parents associations, related NGOs and communities
- be user friendly
- be updatable, flexible, modifiable, adaptable, relevant, open and practical
- enable possibilities for specific cultural, local and regional challenges, where practical ethical dilemmas could be addressed
- emphasize that it is not in the theory only but in practise that we understand each other, other faiths, other cultures and our own traditions.
- cross-reference with human rights, peace, respect, democracy, solidarity etc



Audiences

The audiences for the toolkit should be (in order of priority)

- the GNRC network¹
- religious and cultural communities
- religious educators, teachers,
- institutions training religious leaders and teacher trainers
- parents and PTAs
- Sunday school, Madrassah, Cheder, and traditional cultural communities
- youth who influence the perspectives and development of children

¹ the regions should each determine the best target audience(s) for their region

- UN, UNESCO, UNICEF, ALECSO, ILESCO
- journalists responsible for media content
- governments, education ministries, private schools, public schools and other educational institutions
- local authorities in urban and rural areas
- planners in post-conflict situations
- teachers' trade unions training departments

Content

The content of the toolkit should include:

- core spiritual values, reflecting the specificities of each religious and cultural tradition and how each tradition stands within them i.e.
 - uniqueness of all life and human life
 - self respect and self esteem
 - interdependence between self and community, self and nature
 - respect and care for nature
 - principles of caring and sharing
 - interreligious diversity and respect for diversity
 - connectedness with the entire globe
 - respect for specific local contexts
 - respect for human dignity
 - promotion of participation and democratic relationships
- a guide to interreligious learning
- stories and parables, etc., from various religious traditions and cultural belief systems, accompanied with interpretations appropriate for a pluralistic world
- prayers, readings, proverbs and sayings from various religious and cultural traditions
- documentation around various role models, not only from specific religions and cultures, but interreligious and women role models
- music from various religious and cultural traditions
- games and plays
- arts, poetry and other related literature
- position papers which would influence existing UN and other agendas such as educational monitoring and evaluation



Process

- identify and engage resource persons to produce material listed under content
- produce various components of the toolkit
- appoint an advisory committee for the toolkit
- develop a pedagogical study guide on the use of the toolkit
- test the toolkit in various regional workshops
- assemble and integrate the learning from the workshops
- publish the first version of the toolkit
- develop strategies for dissemination and an extended use of the toolkit
- continue the development and improvement of the toolkit

Resources

- Committee members and other experts in different related fields
- GNRC coordinators and other GNRC members
- Interfaith Council Secretariat
- Worldwide, regional and local institutions in the area of interfaith dialogue, ethics, education and child rights
- UN and its intergovernmental agencies
- Council and committee members existing contacts for dissemination and for PR for the toolkit
- The Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies for co-publishing the toolkit in English and Arabic and dissemination through government and public educational channels
- University Departments specialized on related issues
- Interns
- different religious institutions related to the theme
- local government officials and planners