

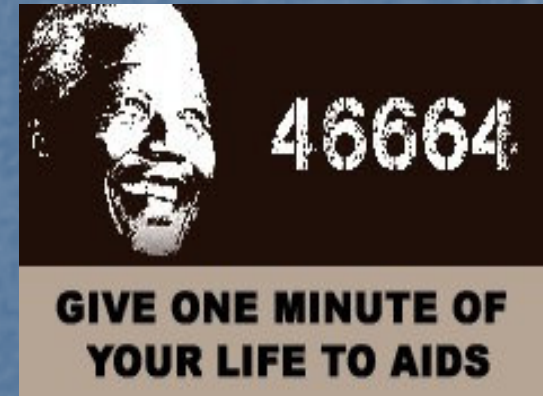
Children's Rights: facing challenges, taking risks, and sharing stories

Presentation to Hong Kong Social Service Council
Celebration to mark 20th Anniversary of the Convention on
the Rights of the Child
20 November 2009

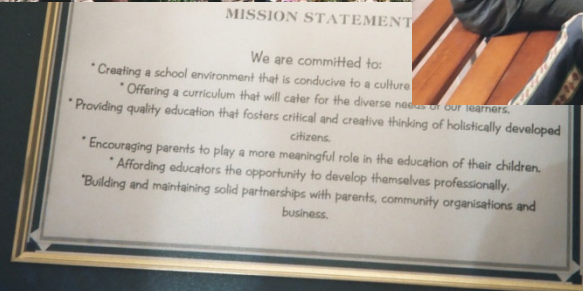
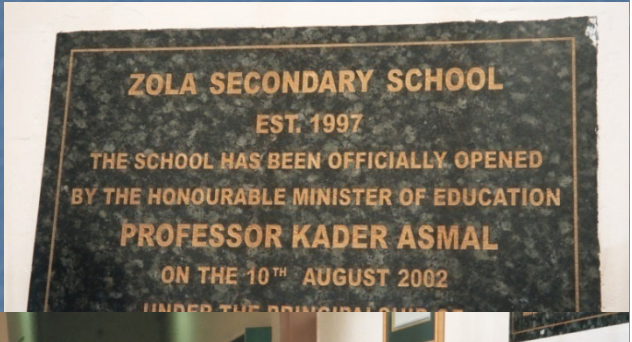
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46664

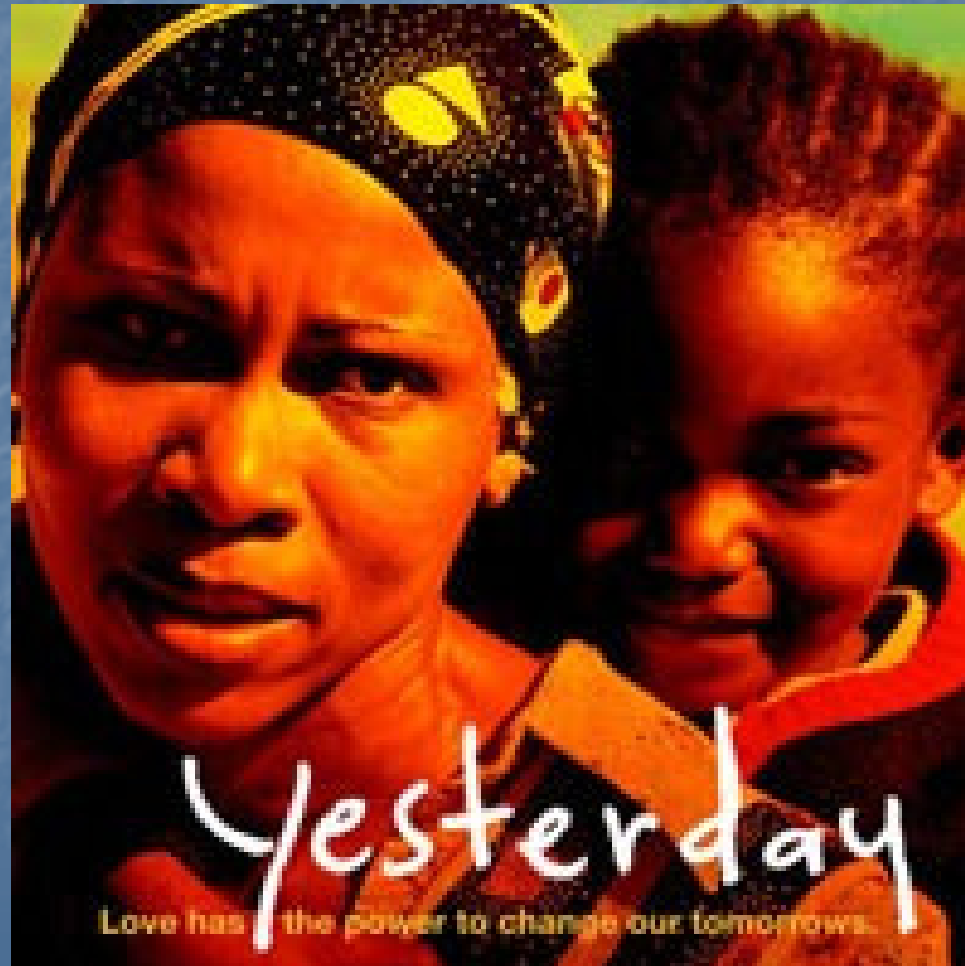
- 46664 was the prison number of Nelson Mandela on Robben Island, Cape Town where he was held in captivity for 18 years. The issue in South Africa then was apartheid. The issue today, across the continent, is Aids.



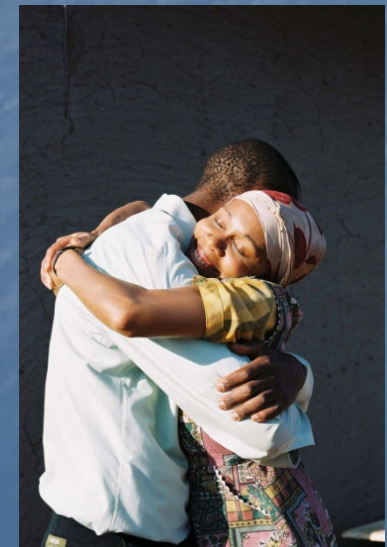
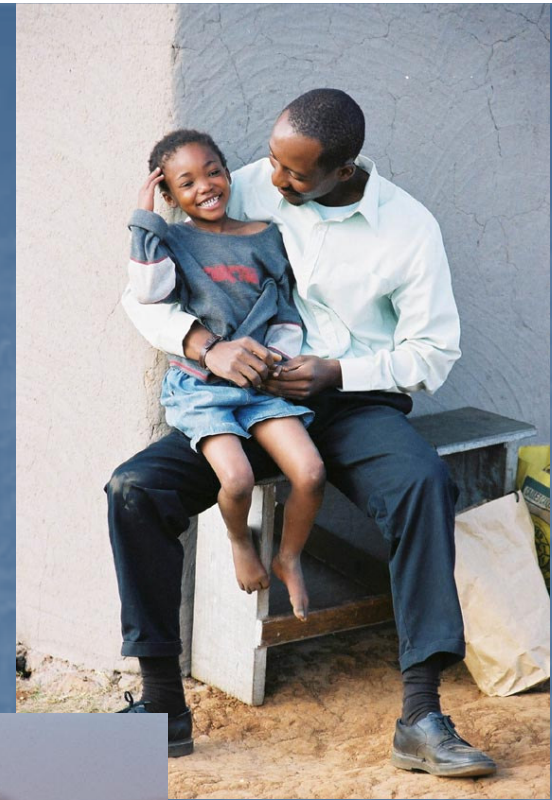
Zola High School, Khayelitsha: learning from learners



'You must see this film. It is about
our lives.'



Scenes from *Yesterday*



PROMOTING CHILDREN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

Promoting children's human rights and ensuring quality education

The right to human rights education:

- Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 28 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child do not only state that such education should be free and compulsory, they also specify *the right to human rights education*.

Dakar EFA goals:

- all children, particularly girls, children in difficult circumstances and those belonging to ethnic minorities, have access to a completely *free and compulsory education of good quality*.
- the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through *equitable access to appropriate learning and life skills programmes*.
- Improving every aspect of the quality of education and ensuring excellence so that recognised and measurable learning outcomes are achieved by all, especially in *literacy, numeracy and essential life skills*.

What is human rights education?

training, dissemination and information efforts aimed at the building of a universal culture of human rights through the imparting of knowledge and skills and the moulding of attitudes directed to:

- the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms
- the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity
- the promotion of understanding, tolerance, gender equality and friendship among all nations, indigenous peoples and racial, national, ethnic, religious and linguistic groups the enabling of all persons to participate effectively in a free society.

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 1997

Human rights education

- The right *to* education
- Rights *in* education
- Rights *through* education

(Verhellen, 2000)

Developing democratic citizens: building on student identities and experiences in communities



Developing democratic citizens

4 principles

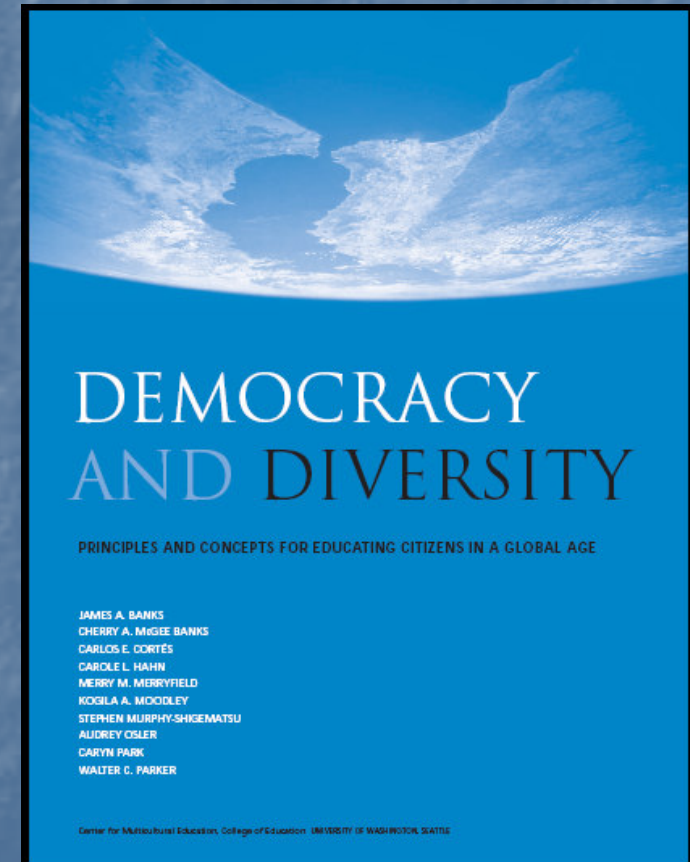
Diversity and Unity

Global interconnectedness

Human Rights

Experience and participation

<http://depts.washington.edu/centerme/DemDiv.pdf>



Unity and Diversity

Students should learn about the complex relationships between unity and diversity in their local communities, the nation, and the world.

Banks *et al.* (2005) *Democracy and Diversity: principles and concepts for educating citizens in a global age.*

Global Interconnectedness

'Students should learn about the ways in which people in their community, nation, and region are increasingly interdependent with other people around the world and are connected to the economic, political, cultural, environmental and technological changes taking place across the planet.'

Banks et al. (2005) Democracy and Diversity: principles and concepts for educating citizens in a global age.

Learning to live together?

Solidarity with people in distant places (the stranger)

Solidarity with those from different backgrounds (the stranger in our own community)

Learning *alongside* each other or learning to live together?

Learning about each other or learning to live together (intercultural knowledge or intercultural skills) ?

Learning to live together: an entitlement for *a//* children?

Article 29 Convention on the Rights of the Child

- (c) The development of respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, for the national values of the country in which the child is living, the country from which he or she may originate, and for civilizations different from his or her own;
- (d) The preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin;

Human Rights and Educators

'The teaching of human rights should underpin citizenship education courses and programmes in multicultural nation-states'.

Banks *et al.* (2005) *Democracy and Diversity: principles and concepts for educating citizens in a global age.*

Experience and participation

Students should be taught knowledge about democracy and democratic institutions and provided opportunities to practice democracy.

Banks et al. (2005) Democracy and Diversity: principles and concepts for educating citizens in a global age.

Facing challenges and taking risks

It is easy to become cynical about our ability to change systems, about working for peace and justice, about human rights flouted in so many places throughout the world.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Teachers as agents of change

Teachers as agents of transformation

- What can I do as a global citizen?
- What issues do you face today in securing all children's rights to HRE? What stories need to be told?
- We cannot leave the matter of human rights education only to governments and others. What can I do (as a teacher, parent, neighbour) acting on my responsibilities as a global citizen?

Teaching for democracy and human rights

Teachers, Human Rights and Diversity: educating citizens in multicultural societies

Trentham, 2005

Changing Citizenship: democracy and inclusion in education

Open University Press
2005

Students' Perspectives on Schooling

Open University Press
2010

