



中国人权研究会

China Society for Human Rights Studies

在联合国经社理事会享有咨商地位

NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC of the United Nations

China Society for Human Rights Studies – UPR Report – China –

October 2018

Key words: China; human rights education; National Human Rights Action Plan; universities

1. During the previous (2nd) cycle of the UPR, suggestions on human rights education were put forward by several countries, which were listed in paras. 186.39-186.48 of the Report of the Working Group (A/HRC/25/5). These suggestions include strengthening human rights education, training and publicity, integrating human rights knowledge into curriculum, continuing human rights trainings for civil servants, and raising public awareness about human rights.
2. *Recalling* the General Assembly's resolution 66/137 on the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, such cause should encompass *education about human rights, education through human rights, and education for human rights*. The former one, *education about human rights*, is only the first step. We shall bear in mind that the knowledge of human rights theories and practices serve as the method but not the purpose. Through such education and training programmes, the importance should be attached to empowering persons to enjoy and exercise their rights and to respect and uphold the rights of others.
3. In the National Human Rights Action Plan of China 2012-2015 and 2016-2020,

human rights education is one of the six areas to implement the Action Plan. Since the last Periodic Review, China has made a considerable progress in such area.

4. *Pleased to see* that China has identified three main fields to implement human rights education, namely in the national education, the government employees training programmes, and public knowledge. And in all these three fields, the authorities are the primary actors. Specifically speaking, it involves the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Culture, the State Council Information Office, and other related ministries and departments. They promote the human rights education respectively, on the basis of their functions. In this regard, for instance, the Ministry of Education has put law and human rights knowledge in the content of national education, from elementary and middle schools, to institutions of higher learning. With the help of the universities and research institutions, the Ministry of Justice and the State Council Information Office have organised human rights training programme especially for the university professors, judges, prosecutors and police officers. The Ministry of Culture has focused primarily on raising public awareness of human rights.
5. *Noting with appreciation* China has been continuing to support human rights education in the universities. For instance, several universities have set up human rights-related disciplines, from undergraduate education to Ph.D. programme. It is also worth noting that, after previous cycle of UPR, another five National Bases for Human Rights Education and Training have been established, based respectively in Renmin University of China, Fudan University, Wuhan University, Shandong University, and Southwest University of Political Science and Law. Such a measure considerably improves the abilities of universities and research institutions to carry out studies on important theories and practical problems concerning human rights.
6. *Noting with satisfaction* in the latest National Human Rights Action Plan of China,

the arrangement for human rights education has been more detailed and practical. Among others, it demands training programmes for some particular groups of people. These people are either linked directly with human rights protection, such as cadres of party and government, judges, prosecutors and police officers, or undertaking the task of education, including the teachers in preschool, and elementary and secondary school. In addition, the Action Plan calls for training programmes in enterprises and public institutions. It requires state party to take human rights as an important factor in decision making process concerning both domestic and foreign investment.

7. *Also noting with appreciation* China recognised the indispensable role played by media, including social media, in publicising human rights knowledge and raising awareness.
8. *Recommends* that, at the stage of undergraduate education, human rights law should be widely recognised as the compulsory course by the law schools. We call upon all the National Bases for Human Rights Education and Training to take the lead in making such a change. More universities should be encouraged to offer human rights courses to students, and more human rights Master and Doctoral programmes should be established in Chinese universities. This shall set up a human rights research platform to provide intellectual support for the cause of human rights. In addition, the government of China should choose more universities, government and Party related continuing education institutions to set up National Bases for Human Rights Education and Training. The state shall standardise management and make innovations in the operation mode of these bases. More human resources and investments will be necessary for setting up new-type and high-end human rights think tanks in China.
9. From a general point of view, the cause of human rights education in China requires a wide acknowledge of its vital role in promoting peace, security and prosperity. We recommend that, the state party of China continues to make a

systematic arrangement for human rights education, training and publicity through its National Human Rights Action Plan.