



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Human Rights Sub-Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 2 October 2002

NEW INQUIRY

Human rights and good governance education in the Asia Pacific Region

Parliament's Human Rights Committee is to conduct an inquiry into human rights and good governance education in the Asia Pacific region.

The Committee is to review the role of human rights and good governance education in promoting fair and sustainable social political and economic development. The inquiry is examining Australia's role in such education as well as the involvement of the UN and other international and regional government and non-government organisations.

As 1995 to 2004 has been designated the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, the Committee will examine progress made in the Asia Pacific region towards the realisation of the goals for the decade.

Announcing the new inquiry, the Human Rights Committee Chair, Senator Marise Payne, said human rights education is a key to ensuring that the concept of human rights underpins our legislative framework, our social policies and the way we think about ourselves and others.

"As arguably one of the world's most successful democracies, Australia is in a very good position to make, and indeed does already make, a strong contribution to human rights and good governance education in the Asia Pacific region," Senator Payne said.

"We look forward to examining this very important area and considering the way forward from here. We have an opportunity through this inquiry to make a very positive contribution to the UN Decade for Human Rights Education."

The Committee will receive written submissions until 29 November 2002 and is encouraging the lodgment of electronic submissions from anyone with an interest in the issues raised by the terms of reference (see overleaf).

For media inquiries, contact the Sub-Committee Chair, Senator Marise Payne, on 02 9893 5151 or via 0405 255 010 (Adam Joseph).

For all other inquiries, contact the Sub-Committee Secretary, Janet Holmes, on 02 6277 4628 or visit the committee website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt



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AN INQUIRY INTO HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOOD GOVERNANCE EDUCATION IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION

The decade 1995-2004 has been designated as the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education. As a contribution to achieving the goals of the decade, the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade will examine and report on human rights and good governance education in the Asia Pacific region.

The Committee will examine:

- the role of human rights and good governance education in the promotion of fair and sustainable social, political and economic development;
- Australia's involvement in human rights and good governance education in the Asia Pacific region identifying achievements and obstacles to further progress;
- the involvement of the UN and other international and regional government and non-government organisations in promoting human rights education and good governance in the Asia Pacific region; and
- progress made in the Asia Pacific region towards the realisation of the goals of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education.

Submissions are due by Friday, 29 November 2002 and should be sent to: The Secretary, Human Rights Sub-Committee, Room R1 120, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 or emailed to: jscfadt@aph.gov.au

The Committee encourages the lodgment of submissions in electronic form. Emailed submissions must include the author's full name, phone number and postal address.