

## **Citizenship Education and Human Rights Education – An overview of recent developments in the UK**

*Launch of a new **British Council** publication.*

Citizenship and human rights education are increasingly recognised as key areas of work in governance. Citizenship is part of the statutory provision for young people in England and Wales whilst in Northern Ireland, it will become so fairly soon and in Scotland, schools have to address it as one of the National Priorities.

It is clear that much of the hard work done over a good number of years by the many organisations, teachers, youth workers and others concerned with citizenship and human rights education is coming together in an encouraging and exciting way. There are many examples of partnership and collaboration where, for example, local education authorities, government departments, publishers, NGOs and other organisations are working together to develop young people's understanding of and active participation in citizenship and human rights education. Often this involves developing and building links with schools, communities and groups in different parts of the world and there is increasing recognition that such links are about building mutual respect and understanding and about learning from and with each other.

This is the second publication – the original appeared in 2000 – updated and re-launched in response to demand from the UK and other countries. This new publication builds on existing programme activity in this area and offers a brief overview of some of the key changes and trends over the past 2 or 3 years in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It also contains illustrative case studies of successful international projects focusing on global citizenship, which the British Council hope will support the development of further bilateral activity.

The British Council's UK Governance team provides support to governance activities and programmes in more than 86 countries. This work responds to the needs and requests of partners and practitioners from Civil society, and of British Council colleagues working in the areas of Governance in other countries, to keep them updated on relevant UK developments and to initiate new products to support their work through the sharing of experience and resources.

### **The publication can be downloaded as a PDF from the British Council website:**

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/governance/index.htm>

### **A further note on the British Council's work in Governance**

Through its work in Governance, the British Council aims to enhance the UK's reputation as a modern diverse society, committed to strengthening democracy, political participation and human rights through dialogue and partnership with other countries.

In keeping with the internationalism and integrity of the British Council, mutual benefit and partnership are central to its work, and to how it does it. The British Council's commitment to equality of opportunity for all underpins all its work in governance.

The British Council works in Governance by creating partnerships which demonstrate the diversity and creativity of the modern UK, and contribute to a global society which enables individuals to realise the full range of their human rights – civil, political, economic, social and cultural.

The British Council achieves impact by:

- Highlighting UK experience in governance which conveys its diversity, depth and relevance to overseas partners
- Facilitating valued and sustainable partnerships and networks between a wide range of government, civil society and private-sector organisations and individuals, both bilaterally and multilaterally
- Supporting the development and implementation of policies which contribute to more effective, politically accountable and socially inclusive government.

For more information on the British Council's work in Governance see <http://www.britishcouncil.org/governance/index.htm>

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