

RECOMMENDATIONS (Items  
(Group 1)

## GROUP 1 HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

The participants in the workshop on human rights education and the Internet first made a list of the various issues surrounding this subject. This involved defining the target audience, identifying the objectives to be reached when developing strategies to promote human rights on the Internet, evaluating the possibility of monitoring information on the Internet, and implementing strategies to evaluate the content of the messages and information being circulated on the Internet.

The issue of cultural and ethnic communities within Canada having access to educational programs, and the impact on the general public of establishing such educational programs, was mentioned during the workshop but not discussed in depth. *Were both*

The participants ~~thus~~ underlined the importance, first, of identifying the target audience; ~~that is~~, whether programs and strategies for human rights education tend to target children, parents, educators, teachers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or governments in general. \_\_\_\_\_

*of* The second step consists in defining the reasons why the government would want to establish programs to promote human rights: would it be to develop awareness of this issue, to mobilize an apathetic public with a view to specific action, to pass on knowledge and information or to educate? \_\_\_\_\_

The debates that took place during this workshop on the issue of human rights education on the Internet led to the development of several recommendations for the Canadian government in its role as leader in promoting human rights on the Internet.

\* Courses and training programs should be offered in schools to both teachers and students, to help them decode the messages transmitted by electronic media and distinguish quality information from propaganda.

\* Canada should ensure the development of an index or electronic tool detailing the activities of the various Canadian non-governmental human rights organizations.

\* In addition, during the workshop on human rights education and the Internet, the participants referred to the International Symposium on Human Rights and Hate on the Internet\*, held in Toronto in September 1997. Some of the recommendations made by the participants in this symposium were repeated during the workshop, including the following:

\* That schools offer courses and programs on the media and computer literacy to students and teachers. These would include strategies to evaluate the authenticity of materials and to develop critical thinking about information retrieved on the Internet, so as to be able to distinguish propaganda from real information.

\* Translator's note - unofficial translation