

RECOMMENDATIONS (Ideas - Options) (Group 1)

• The Canadian government should promote the production of teaching materials available on the Internet that are adapted to different sociocultural contexts, allowing for the expression of various points of view on human rights. To do this, it would be important to allocate additional resources to local communities and to favour co-operation between the various players, that is, NGOs and public institutions.

• Canada should promote the use of standards for approving, identifying, authenticating, organizing, protecting and transferring electronic information, in particular in the field of human rights.

• Canada should promote the idea of bringing together the four players identified in the workshop as sources of power, that is, government, corporations, civil society and public educational institutions, in order to develop and strengthen international Internet education standards. In fact, the Internet has enabled profit-making institutions to automate education and reach a large audience. For this reason, there are major differences in the quality and balance of the various educational resources. Given the proliferation on the Internet of educational institutions without any real standards, there is a need to develop and strengthen standards in this area.

• The Canadian government should fund training that would meet NGOs' needs as regards the operation and promotion of their site in order to increase their visibility on the Internet and thus attract a larger audience.

• The Canadian government should release funds for the Internet publication of human rights content produced by NGOs.

• 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 circulated on the Internet, so as to be able to distinguish propaganda from real information.

* Translator's note - unofficial translation