

# Constitution

## Young Citizen's Human Rights Club in Schools

### Preamble

We, the pupil of .....(*School Name & Place*)....., hereby agree to form a Young Citizen's Human Rights Club (hereinafter called YCHRC) in our School and convinced that the pupil have an important role to play in the promotion and protection of human rights and peace,

As members of the YCHRC in School, we commit ourselves to the promotion and protection of human rights and peace in our school and in our home communities.

We hereby enact this Constitution to guide our work as a school YCHRC. The Constitution shall form the basis upon which our activities shall be based and conducted.

### 1. Name of the CLUB

The club should have a specific name. It would be better if the name is related to human rights. It is necessary to encourage the students to decide the name of the club.

### 2. Name and Address of the School

The name and address of the school in which the club is formed can be mentioned.

The Club shall operate from,

Name of the school : .....  
Situating at [Address] : .....

.....

### 3. Aim

The aim of the YCHRC is,

- to create awareness among Children about Human Rights
- to bring out inherent talents of Children regarding Human Rights Knowledge
- to bring in constructive changes in Children's attitude and thinking process
- to transform our children from being Human Rights students to Human Rights Defenders

### 4. Objectives

The Specific objectives of the Club are:

- To sensitize students and teachers on human rights in general and child rights in specific
- To strengthen the effective implementation of the RTE act 2009

- To monitor and report on the respect for child rights in the school and at home
- To identify and address cases of child rights abuses in the school and at home
- To give advice and assistance to fellow students who are victim of child rights abuse
- To act as a link on child rights issues between the school, the community and Human Rights Institutions
- To promote peace and reconciliation among students and in the community at large
- To promote the peaceful settlement of disputes among students and between students and teachers, for example through mediation
- To advocate against any form of discrimination in the school based on one's nationality, gender, tribe, colour or abilities
- To lobby and advocate for schools' enabling environment for disabled children
- To welcome and integrate former child soldiers, refugee children and Internally Displaced Children in the school
- To promote the spirit of volunteerism among students
- To do any other activities deemed fit by the Club's membership

## **5. Membership**

### 5.1. Who can become members

Any student will be allowed to become a member of the YCHRC as long as he or she:

- is a student of [name of the school]?
- subscribes the aim and objectives of the YCHRC
- agrees to be committed to the YCHRC
- the students of Human Rights Education from class 6 to 9 who are interested in human rights can also become the member
- the students who wished to become a member can give their names to the advisor of the club
- Physically challenged students will be provided equal opportunities
- First preference to female students

5.2. The names of all the members of the YCHRC shall be entered in a Club's Membership Register that shall be kept by the Secretary of the Club.

## **6. Working Group**

The members of the YCHRC shall elect a Working Group comprising:

### **6.1. Students Initiators**

- The students will be divided into small working groups and the interested person-in-charge will become initiators of the groups.
- One of the initiators should be the coordinator. Coordinator can be either male or female student interested in human rights. She/he shall be elected from the initiators of the small working groups
- Opportunities will be provided to new coordinator once in every three months.

### **6.2. Motivator cum Advisor**

- The motivator should be a guide to the club and a good advisor. A teacher who is interested in human rights education and has undergone human rights training can become a motivator.
- The motivator should cooperate with the students in implementing the decisions taken by the club and executing their duties.

### **6.3. Chief Advisor**

- The chief advisor of the club will be the Head Teacher. HT will be the chief guide who will encourage the club members in all their activities.

### **6.4. Selection of initiators**

- i. Selections of the initiators shall take place every year, at the beginning of the school year.
- ii. The initiators shall serve for maximum one year. This means that the same person cannot be elected for more than one time for the same function. However, that person can be re-elected for another function in the Working Group.
- iii. No one shall be allowed to hold more than one post in the Working Group
- iv. After leaving the school, former Club members can continue to act as advisors and sponsors of the Club

## **7. The Role & Responsibilities of the working Groups:**

### **Group on Human Rights Education**

The Human Rights Education group shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- To coordinate human rights training and sensitisation activities carried out by the Club in the school and in the local community

- To distribute human rights materials among students of the school and local community members
- Any other functions which the membership shall determine

### **Group on Human Rights monitoring**

The Human Rights Monitoring group shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- To monitor the observance of children's rights in the school and in the local community
- To report on child rights abuses
- To advice victims of child rights abuses
- Any other functions which the membership shall determine

### **Group on Women's (Girls) Rights**

The Women's Rights group shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- To promote the rights of women (Girls) in the school and in the local community
- To monitor the observance of the rights of girls in the school and in the local community
- Any other functions which the membership shall determine

### **Group on Rights of Disabled Students**

The group shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- To represent the interest of disabled students in the Club
- To promote the rights of disabled persons in the school and in the local community
- To monitor the observance of the rights of disabled persons in the school and in the local community
- To advice disabled students that are victim of human rights abuses or discrimination
- Any other functions which the membership shall determine

### **Group on Cultural Activities**

The Cultural group shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- To coordinate cultural activities that promote human rights and peace, carried out by the Club in the School and in the local community
- Any other functions which the membership shall determine

### **Group on Environment Awareness**

The Environment group shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- to explore possibilities for launching environment protection awareness campaigns
- to spreading awareness of environmental concerns among the students and local community
- to launching plantation and cleanliness drives
- to organise a campaign to protect the environment at school and community level

## **8. Meetings**

It shall be mandatory for the Club to hold the following meetings:

- Monthly meeting
  - All the initiators of the working group of the Club shall be invited to attend the monthly meetings of the Club.
  - The working group shall be free to hold informal meetings as and when need for such meetings arise.

## **9. Dispute Handling**

- In the event of a dispute between two or more members of the Club, the motivator shall try to bring the members to an agreement through mediation
- If members involved in a dispute do not reach a mutual understanding, the dispute shall be referred to the Chief Advisor in order to hear and decide upon the dispute.

## **10. Activities**

### **Awareness:**

- To create an understanding among students about human rights and thenceforth create awareness about human rights around the school environment
- Reading news about human rights. Conduct interactions and to discuss about human rights and human right violations
- To gather intimation about human rights and discuss them at the meeting held in the club
- To celebrate important days like Human Rights Day and Women's Day in schools and its locale.
- To discuss the issues regarding human rights and thereby to enhance the voluntary participation of the students.
- To organize human rights discussion programs where the human rights students, teachers and parents will discuss the implementations of the club
- To conduct conferences and awareness campaigns about human rights

- To work with parents and teachers in preventing the drop out of children from school thereby ensuring education is fundamental right of every child
- To conduct campaigns against child labour
- To ensure that there is no gender discrimination and to emphasize equality of female children
- To enlighten public about the various human right violations through folk art
- To explain the importance of human rights to government officials, officers of education department, parent-teacher association and other Panchayat bodies in the village and to seek their support for the protection and promotion of human rights.
- To perform cultural programmes to create awareness on human rights.
- To interface with the media for creating awareness on human rights protection and promotion.
- To inform the daily activities of the club through notice board

#### **Capacity building:**

- To conduct programmes among the children which helps them in building their capacities in speech, communication and creativity
- To bring out the latent talent of the children in writing awakening songs and folk arts
- To develop their capacity in documenting the activities of the club
- To introduce basic laws to the students Right To Education, Right to Information Act, Constitutional Law, Consumer Protection Act etc
- To Help them in identifying the organizations which work for child rights
- To Make students participate in the legal aid camps, to assist the legal officers
- To provide training in writing complaints about human right violations
- To help students in analyzing the human right violations that occur around them and to develop their capacity to questioning the same

#### **Implementation Process:**

- The students themselves should write articles to the newspapers about human rights
- Students to be encouraged to take up campaigns to protest human rights violations particularly through cultural action.
- To conduct signature campaigns insisting human right defense
- To show friendly concern to the people, victimized by human right violation.