



New Mexico
Human Rights Projects

www.nmhrp.org

“Social justice is best served by a strong, diverse community of people dedicated to advancing human dignity and challenging inequality.”

- Anonymous

NMHRP FACT SHEET

MISSION

To lay a foundation for a generation of young people to understand the fundamental importance of human rights and respect for others by offering unique, experiential educational opportunities that encourage, inspire and empower both students and teachers to work toward a more peaceful world.

NEED

A prerequisite for a more peaceful, respectful society with responsible, productive citizens is a culturally knowledgeable people with a greater understanding of the world and its historical lessons. New Mexico is a culturally diverse state that should and must address the significant lack of compassion, respect and consideration for others who are thought to be different in the classroom. According to a study conducted by Bully Police USA, an estimated 61,938 New Mexico children ages 5 – 18 years old are victims of bullying. As reported by the Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey, New Mexico youth still experience a suicide rate more than 60 percent higher than youth around the U.S.

TARGETED POPULATION

NMHRP programs target NM students (grades 5-12), teachers, school counselors, and social workers. NMHRP targets both high-risk students and non-risk students. All students can benefit.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IMPACTED SINCE 1995

NMHRP programs have impacted more than 400,000 students from 350+ NM public, charter and private schools. NMHRP has trained over 600 teachers, counselors, and social workers.

PROJECTS SINCE 1995

NMHRP offers programs that promote diversity in our community and encourage a more peaceful society. These programs are designed for students, teachers, counselors, and social workers in New Mexico. Some have been for the general public.

TEACHER FOCUSED PROGRAMS

Professional Development

NMHRP provides New Mexico teachers, counselors, social workers and school administrators with tools to use directly in the classroom that address prejudice, anger, and hate. More than 1400 educators have attended NMHRP workshops from 1995 – present.

- From Holocaust to the Present - 2001
- Moving Towards Respect – 2001, 2002, 2004
- Armenian Genocide Workshop – 2007
- A World Made New after WWII – 2009
- Moving Towards Civility – 2012
- Stand up to Bullying - 2013
- Identify, Stop and Prevent Bullying - 2014
- Coming to Justice - 2014
- Echoes and Reflections – 2015 -
- Bringing Human Rights to Life -2015
- Linking Civility and Human Rights - 2020

“This is the best workshop I’ve ever attended in 11 years as a teacher. A very safe environment, and wonderful, well-informed presenters. Thank-you for your time, effort and humanism. It was a privilege to be in the workshop. I am thoroughly impressed by your workshops. I learn so much and I utilize the materials. I just encourage you all to keep going. This is benefiting my work with students that I see in a group setting. I am especially grateful for the guest speakers and the training format utilized. I learn, I emote, I see how the change process can occur, and I am inspired.”

High School Teacher

“Wonderful, meaningful workshop! Great tools! Practical and easy to implement at school immediately. Energy/Dynamic speaker/ Best training on bullying that I have been to! Packed full of good info and strategies to help!”

Middle School Teacher

STUDENT FOCUSED PROGRAMS

Speakers’ Bureau

More than 30,000 middle and high school students have heard and been inspired by NMHRP’s speakers’ bureau featuring local, national and international speakers who have been victims of oppression, violence and/or spent their lives fighting for human rights. NMHRP is the conduit for local Holocaust survivors to speak in Albuquerque schools.

- Speakers in conjunction with Anne Frank Exhibits – 1995, 2000, 2010
 - Miep Gies, “helper” who provided assistance to Frank family hiding in Annex
 - Hannah Pick Gossler, childhood friend of Anne Frank
 - Cor Suijk, worked with Otto Frank to develop Anne Frank early exhibits
 - Samuel Oliner, PhD, Polish survivor and author of *Altruistic Personality*

- Jolene Chu, Researcher at Watch Tower Society – spiritual resistance
- Renee Firestone, internationally known speaker and survivor of Auschwitz
- Alfons Heck, author *Child of Hitler* – the perpetrator’s story
- Michael Berenbaum, PhD, former President and CEO of Steven Spielberg’s *Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation*
- Hon. Ian Hancock, Romani representative to UN, member of US Holocaust Memorial Council
- Renee Firestone – 2002 - Internationally known Holocaust Survivor of Auschwitz
- Morris Dees – 2002 - Chief trial lawyer for the Southern Poverty Law Center and longtime civil rights advocate
- Azim Khamisa and Ples Felix – 2003 - Violence Impact Forum
- Melissa Mueller – 2004 – Author of *Anne Frank: The Biography*
- Holocaust Panel Programs – 2006 – present
- Holocaust survivors in NM classrooms – 2000 – present

Exhibits

NMHRP exhibits challenge students to think about tolerance, human rights and democracy, inspire them to confront issues of prejudice, intolerance, bullying and scapegoating, and encourage them to promote positive values of diversity and tolerance in their own lives.

- **Anne Frank Exhibits** - Over 200,000 people attended the internationally acclaimed Anne Frank exhibits. 65,000 NM students were given guided tours.
 - *Anne Frank in the World: 1929-1945* – 1995, 2000
 - *Anne Frank Story* – library exhibit in 8 NM cities - 1995
 - *Anne Frank: A History for Today* – 2010
 - *Anne Frank: A History for Today mobile exhibit* - 2019

Student Focused Programs continued

- ***Choices: Through the Eyes of Students Exhibit*** – seen by more than 25,000 students 2005, 2007, 2008, 2015, and 2016 – 325 students were trained as docents.
 - Public Academy for Performing Arts
 - Ruidoso HS
 - Sandia HS
 - Manzano HS
 - Rio Grande HS
 - Jefferson MS
 - Rio Rancho Mid-High
 - Pojoaque HS
 - Belen HS with Infinity HS
 - Stronghurst Alternative HS
 - Wilson MS
 - Harrison MS
 - Christine Duncan Heritage Academy
 - La Cueva HS
 - The Great Academy
 - New America School-Las Cruces

“I just wanted to thank you for giving us the opportunity to work on such an insightful and important exhibit. It was a wonderful learning experience, which I cherish. After working on the exhibit I was enlightened in my own ways and I now more than ever believe in the ideals of tolerance and respect for people belonging to other races and religions. It felt great to help educate younger students about such an important event in world history.” High School Student

“Please bring this exhibit to more New Mexico schools. It is as valuable a learning experience for both docents and visitors, as I have ever witnessed. This exhibit has done more to educate students about the nature and horrors of prejudice than anything I could possibly have done in my classroom. The guest speakers who related their experiences made an unforgettable impact on the students.”
High School Teacher

- ***Anne Frank: A History for Today*** – 2019 – Jan. 28 through March 22
 - 2-day training - 4 trainers from Anne Frank House trained 48 students from 6 schools to be the tour guides – January 26, 27
 - Bosque School
 - New America School-Las Cruces
 - Menaul School
 - La Cueva HS
 - Sandia HS
 - East Mountain HS

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Essay Contests

Statewide essay contests give students the opportunity to think and write critically about their own behavior when confronted with all aspects of discrimination.

- Roles People Play – 2003
- Bully at School – Not Child’s Play: Bully and its Effects – 2007
- Stereotyping: From Anne Frank to the Present - 2009
- What is International Justice – 2012, 2013, 2014 2015, 2016, 2017
- Should the U.S. lift the Cuban Trade Embargo? – 2015

“I appreciate the opportunity to encourage students to write for “real world” situations and want to thank you for the opportunity to create a unit that has had real meaning for so many kids.”

Middle School Language Arts Teacher

Human Rights Student Conference - 2007

120 NM middle and high school students and their teachers attended this first-ever conference and addressed:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Signs of Impending Genocide
- Immigrant Experience
- Homelessness

Choices Exhibit Docent Training

NMHRP empowered 325 middle and high school students by training them to be docents in their respective schools. (See *Choices* under Student Focused Programs – Exhibits)

Violence Impact Forums

4,000 students heard and participated in a dialogue with Azim Khamisa and Ples Felix from the Tariq Khamisa Foundation, San Diego. They addressed the topic of teen violence and the power of forgiveness.

“The students were all affected by the story and the aftermath. They are impressed by the aspect of forgiveness and now can see it as an option to furthering non-violence. Thank you again for making this opportunity available to our students.”

Middle School Teacher

“I think this program is good for many kids. It will teach them how to react and how to handle things dealing with violence. Keep up the good work and keep reaching as many people as you can.”

High School Student

Rachel’s Challenge - 2011

NMHRP brought the national program *Rachel’s Challenge* to 4,500 NM middle and high school students. The program addresses the topic of bullying and ways to create compassion and empathy in young people.

Participating Schools:

- Highland HS
- Nex-Gen Academy
- Grant MS
- Jefferson MS

Model International Criminal Court mock trials – 2013, 2014, 2015 , 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022

New Mexico students participate in the Model International Criminal Court (MICC) in Krzyzowa, Poland. They are selected by NMHRP, the one organization in the U.S. invited by the Berlin Initiative, Berlin, Germany to

attend. Working in international teams from Germany, Israel and Poland, the students take on the roles of judges, prosecutors, defenders and observing journalists in three historical war crime cases. Real journalists and real attorneys with expertise in international relations provide guidance and training. To date, 84 NM students have participated.

“Thanks NMHRP! I'd never had this dream if not for the MICC experience. It changed all of our lives and aspirations. Thank you so much for putting so much effort into making that happen!!”

Campbell Galon, Academy for Technology & Classics, Santa Fe and MICC participant 2014

People to People Cross Cultural Program – March 2016

An interactive service-learning program designed for NMHRP by Cuba Educational Travel. NM students traveled to Cuba and had the opportunity to learn about a country in transition through lectures, site visits, community service projects, museums, nature hikes, exposure to art and music and engagement with Cuban university students.

Free2Choose Create – developed by AF House, Amsterdam April 2016

NMHRP trained students to create short educational films focusing on human rights dilemmas. Following a workshop about human rights history and its contemporary importance, students will identify human rights violations and dilemmas in their own communities. They will write their own scripts, followed by film interviews that lead to the final film product that will be available on YouTube and will be used as an educational tool at the Anne Frank House, Amsterdam.

***Anne Frank: A History for Today* –2-day training, January 26, 27, 2019.**

Four trainers from Anne Frank House trained 48 students from 6 schools to be the tour guides – January 26, 27

- Bosque School
- New America School-Las Cruces
- Menaul School
- La Cueva HS
- Sandia HS
- East Mountain HS

IN SUMMARY

NMHRP strives to create a more peaceful and respectful society. NMHRP recognizes that in order to promote these ideals, change must occur. While these changes should begin in the home, we recognize this is not always a reality. NMHRP, through professional development programs and student opportunities, helps educators to shape the minds of New Mexico youth in order to create a society that accepts and celebrates diversity. It is imperative that programs, like the ones designed by NMHRP can continue.