

### Letter of Endorsement and Support

It is highly commendable that the organizers of this year's sixth International Human Rights Education Conference have chosen "*Translating Roosevelt's Four Freedoms to Today's World*" as the leading theme of the Conference. The host city of Middelburg (the Netherlands) entertains precious historical and current ties with the Roosevelt legacy which, marked by the cherished values inherent in Roosevelt's Four Freedoms, continues to serve as a source of inspiration and a cornerstone in the pursuit of political and social justice. Against this background it is most fitting that the Roosevelt legacy will be appraised in theory and practice of Human Rights Education as a resourceful and strategic means to strengthen universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was a major driving force in the process leading to the foundation of the United Nations. His untimely death prevented him from being present at the signing and the subsequent entry into force of the UN Charter. But Roosevelt's vision of peace and justice attainable in a world of present and future generations was already impressively articulated in the dark year of 1941 when in his State of the Union speech he unfolded his inspirational message of the Four Freedoms.



The sixth International Human Rights Education Conference holds special promises as it coincides with the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations. The message of the Four Freedoms was instrumental in the post-World War II era in helping to shape the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Further, its comprehensive and inclusive scope setting out fundamentals of human dignity and freedom, in particular conveying the values inherent in freedom from fear and freedom from want, have served over the years as a beacon to orient the work and mission of the United Nations.

I warmly commend University College Roosevelt in Middelburg and the Human Rights Education and Training Centre for hosting this important event in the light of the continuing challenges of Roosevelt's inheritance to humankind. I am confident that the commitment and the leadership of the organizers and the active participation of all involved will significantly contribute to a successful outcome and follow-up of the Conference.

With all good wishes,

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