

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

9 APRIL 1981

DOCUMENT 1-127/81

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs van den HEUVEL, Mr PENDERS, Lord BETHELL,
Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO, Mr BETTIZA and Mr ISRAEL

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the teaching of human rights in the European
Community

PE 72.774

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948,
 - recalling that the United Nations General Assembly had proclaimed this Declaration 'as a common standard for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms',
 - reaffirming its attachment to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms signed in Rome on 4 November 1950,
 - deeply convinced of its solemn duty to hand on to future generations the principles and ideals of human rights and fundamental freedoms forming an integral part of the common intellectual and moral heritage of the nations of Europe,
 - being aware of the need, if human rights are to be better observed, for them to be better known and therefore better taught,
 - considering that better knowledge of human rights is vital to the maintenance and furtherance of an understanding and peace in Europe and to the development of harmonious political, economic and social relations with the other peoples of the world,
1. Invites the Member States of the European Community to take appropriate action to introduce or extend the teaching of human rights in schools and universities and outside the education system;
 2. Suggests to the Member States that they:
 - at pre-school level, consider measures to introduce children by means of games and creative and recreational activities to the concepts of racial and international fraternity, equality, respect for the right of others to be different, to the fascination of different cultures and natural environments, and a knowledge of the life and customs of children in other parts of the world;
 - in schools, ensure that ample time is set aside in the teaching of subjects such as history, geography, economics, and biology to inculcate the ideals of human rights, their origins, their history, the role they should play in relationships between the individual and the State, the single origin of the human race and the scientific impracticability of attempts to establish any hierarchy of the various races and cultures;

- in the universities, extend the teaching of human rights in faculties other than the law, especially politics, sociology, anthropology, science, medicine and the Arts,
 - in the non-academic context, use all means, including audio-visual, to alert non-governmental organizations, youth movements, sports bodies, socio-vocational organizations and unions to the need to encourage a policy of knowledge of and respect for human rights;
3. Regards it as a fundamental duty to encourage a thorough knowledge of human rights in all teacher training colleges and courses, and in civil service, military and police colleges;
 4. Believes that the governments of the Ten should act on the recommendations of the international Congress on the teaching of human rights organized by UNESCO in Vienna (Austria) in September 1978;
 5. Invites the governments of the Member States, those in charge of education policy, teaching staff, prominent persons in industry, youth leaders and all those concerned to do their utmost to make knowledge of human rights an integral part of the intellectual and moral education of all citizens of the European Community;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission, to the Ministers of Education of the Member States, to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe and to the Director-General of UNESCO.