



CIVITAS DECLARATION

10th Annual World Congress • Warsaw, Poland • May 2006

IN 1995, PARTICIPANTS FROM FIFTY-TWO nations gathered in Prague to advance the cause of democracy and promote education in the knowledge, skills, and values essential to democratic systems that respect human rights and cultural diversity. At the close of the Prague conference, participants adopted a declaration that pledged in part "...to create and maintain a worldwide network that will make civic education a higher priority on the international agenda."

MANY OF THOSE PRESENT IN PRAGUE have reassembled in Warsaw, in May 2006, joined by educators from other nations pursuing the democratic path, for the Tenth World Congress on Civic Education. Today, we reaffirm our commitment to democracy and to the education of our young people in the requirements of an effective and active citizenship.

THE LAST DECADE WITNESSED important progress in advancing our common objectives. Despite its flaws, democracy has reached nearly universal legitimacy as the desired form of government. Citizens are better educated, informed, and connected to each other through the Internet, advances in the speed and ease of travel, and nearly instantaneous global news coverage. Supported by increased literacy, more widespread basic education, and rising standards of living in many countries, civil society has expanded and strengthened. As a result, individuals have greater opportunities to organize, represent their interests, and achieve levels of influence in their communities and societies.

HOWEVER, THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS to exercise control of their political futures remains uncertain and unavailable in many parts of the world. Established and emerging democracies suffer from low voter turnout rates and troubling levels of disaffection with the political process. Moreover, new challenges to democracy have joined the enduring ones identified at Prague. International terrorism, religious and racial intolerance, growing gaps between rich and poor, and governmental abuse of power threaten to undermine the citizen as the ultimate source of political power.

THE BELIEF IN OUR ABILITY to work together as civic educators across boundaries of language and nationality has proven itself: civic education is today a worldwide movement with support in every inhabited continent of the globe. Our tasks for the next decade are to defend the advances of the past eleven years and create the conditions in which all young people have the opportunity to become informed and skilled practitioners of the art of democracy.

TO THIS END, WE AFFIRM THE FOLLOWING.

- ◆ Democracy is not a destination, but rather a journey to advance human freedom, dignity, social justice, and respect through peaceful means.
- ◆ Democracy requires not only laws, constitutions, elections, and institutions, but also values and dispositions, and the commitment of citizens to preserve and protect it.
- ◆ Since these traits of democratic citizenship are gained in part through acquired knowledge, civic education must be viewed as an essential component of basic education in every country and included in all educational reform initiatives.
- ◆ Governments and international financial and philanthropic institutions should recognize the centrality of civic education in educational systems by allocating the resources necessary to create innovative, interactive, and engaging curriculum materials and support for professional development programs for teachers in the use of high quality materials.
- ◆ As at other moments in history when political parties, trade unions, or economic reforms have been essential ingredients in creating the basis for a democratic, participatory state, so today education of young people in the knowledge, skills, and dispositions of democracy is a central element in strategies for assistance to emerging democracies and support for transitions to democracy.
- ◆ Established and emerging democracies have a vested interest in working together cooperatively to promote the growth of democracy internationally and to do so in ways that respect the sovereignty and dignity of other nations and peoples. All nations should dedicate significant and sustained funding to support democracy education through formal, informal, governmental, and non governmental means.

We dedicate ourselves to advancing the cause of civic education in the coming decade and call upon the leaders of governmental and international institutions to respond to the needs we have identified.

Dr. James F. Adomanis
MARYLAND CENTER FOR THE STUDY
OF HISTORY AND CIVIC EDUCATION
UNITED STATES

Mr. Daniel D. Afropong
PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY
COMMISSION / CIVITAS GHANA
GHANA

Ms. Mona Al Alami
JORDANIAN CENTER FOR CIVIC
EDUCATION STUDIES
JORDAN

Ms. Muna Darwish Al Shami
ARAB CIVITAS REGIONAL OFFICE
JORDAN

Dr. Khalid A. Alkhaja
CURRICULUM DEPARTMENT MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION
BAHRAIN

Ms. Maha Alshaer
USAID
JORDAN

Ms. Ann Chan Sopheak
PANNASASTRA UNIVERSITY
CAMBODIA

Mr. Jason W. Apgar
CIVICS MOSAIC

Ms. Elva Maria Aranguena Morales
INSTITUTO PERUANO DE EDUCACION
EN DERECHOS HUMANOS Y LA PAZ
PERU

Mr. Arman Argynov
RESEARCH INFORMATION CENTER
FOR CIVIC EDUCATION
KAZAKHSTAN

Ms. Mercedes M. Aust
CIVIC PARTICIPATION UNIT
ONG SUMANDO
PARAGUAY

Mr. Al Kharusi Badar
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
SULTANATE OF OMAN

Ms. Katarzyna Batko-Toluc
CENTER FOR CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION
POLAND

Mr. Jorge G. Baxter
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
UNITED STATES

Mr. Evgeny Belyakov
CIVITAS FOUNDATION
RUSSIA

Mrs. Janice Bedford
ALABAMA CENTER FOR LAW & CIVIC EDUCATION
UNITED STATES

Mr. Amara Benromdhane
ARAB CIVIC EDUCATION NETWORK
TUNISIA

Ms. Ivette Bender
HEARTLAND AREA EDUCATION AGENCY
UNITED STATES

Mrs. Phyllis Bowie
CIVITAS ALASKA
UNITED STATES

Ms. Annette Boyd-Pitts
FLORIDA LAW RELATED
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.
UNITED STATES

Mr. Robert C. Brazofsky
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
UNITED STATES

Mrs. Mary Bristol
CIVITAS ALASKA
UNITED STATES

Mr. James S. Brown
INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION INSTITUTE
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY
UNITED STATES

Dr. Susie Burroughs
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
UNITED STATES

Ms. Marie-Louise Caravatti
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
UNITED STATES

Mr. Somphanh Chanhthalyvong
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAO PDR
LAOS

Mr. Leigh R. Chiarellott
DIVISION OF TEACHING AND LEARNING
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY
UNITED STATES

Mr. Said H. Chitour
ARAB CIVITAS
ALGERIA

Mr. Tom Collins
WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LARAMIE OFFICE
UNITED STATES

Mr. Hugo A. Concha Cantu
FEDERAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTE
MEXICO

Dr. Alden W. Craddock
SCHOOL OF TEACHING AND LEARNING
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY
UNITED STATES

Mr. Osmel L. Cuan
FLORIDA LAW RELATED EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION, INC.
UNITED STATES

**Ms. Maria Mercedes De
Freitas Sanchez**
CIVITAS VENEZUELA
VENEZUELA

Mr. Pablo F. Dumet
FUNDACION HORIZONTE
ECUADOR

Ms. Rahela Dzidic
CIVITAS@BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Mr. Patton Feichter
CIVITAS ILLINOIS
UNITED STATES

Ms. Susana Arranz De Finger
ASOCIACION CONCIENCIA
ARGENTINA

Mr. John M. Fischer
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY
UNITED STATES

Ms. Ruth Gadebusch
CENTER FOR CIVIC EDUCATION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNITED STATES

Mr. Tibor Gal
CIVITAS ASSOCIATION HUNGARY
HUNGARY

Ms. Maia Gogoladze
FUND FOR DEMOCRACY DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

Ms. Maria A. Gonzalez
PROGRAMA COSTA RICA JOVEN
COSTA RICA

Ms. Barbara Graves
CIVICS MOSAIC

Ms. Astrid Gustafson
ONG SUMANDO
PARAGUAY

Mr. Arkady Gutnikov
ST. PETERSBURG INSTITUTE OF LAW
RUSSIA

Mrs. Kathy Hand
CIVIC EDUCATION WASHINGTON STATE
UNITED STATES

Ms. Carol Hatcher
HATCHER CONSULTING
UNITED STATES

Mr. William D. Hatcher
(WILL ASK TO PROVIDE ORGANIZATION)
UNITED STATES

Ms. Ivana Havlinova
CIVITAS-CZ
CZECH REPUBLIC

Mrs. Michelle Herczog
LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
UNITED STATES

Ms. Bui Minh Hien
HANOI UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION
VIETNAM

Ms. Dana Hoffmann
CIVICS MOSAIC

Dr. Marilyn Howard
IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
UNITED STATES

Mr. Mark Howell
CIVICS MOSAIC

Miss Miriam Hubova
ORAVA ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION
SLOVAKIA

Professor Syed Ahmad Hussein
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA CENTER
FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
MALAYSIA

Mr. Elarbi Imad
MOROCCAN CENTER FOR CIVIC EDUCATION
MOROCCO

Mr. Andrei Ioffe
RUSSIAN IN-SERVICE EDUCATORS TRAINING ACADEMY
RUSSIA

Mr. Jack Jarmes
CIVITAS WISCONSIN ECUADOR PARTNERSHIP
UNITED STATES

Ms. Jackie Johnson
CENTER FOR EDUCATION IN LAW
AND DEMOCRACY
UNITED STATES

Mr. David Kammerer
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
UNITED STATES

Ms. Eugenia Kemble
THE ALBERT SHANKER INSTITUTE
UNITED STATES

Mr. Tony Kennedy
CO-OPERATION IRELAND
NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr. Zafarullah Khan
CENTRE FOR CIVIC EDUCATION PAKISTAN
PAKISTAN

Ms. Fanny Kumah
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CIVIC EDUCATION AND
CIVITAS, GHANA
GHANA

Mr. Karl Kurtz
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES
UNITED STATES

Dr. Giedre Kvieskiene
LITHUANIAN COLLEGE OF DEMOCRACY
LITHUANIA

Ms. Ravikun Ky
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS
OF KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
CAMBODIA

Ms. Erin Lasky
CIVICS MOSAIC

Ms. Debra Lesser
JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER
UNITED STATES

Mr. Sergey Losev
SAMARA REGIONAL CENTER FOR
CIVIC EDUCATION
RUSSIA

Mr. Victor N. Lupoyadov
BRYANSK IN-SERVICE TEACHERS TRAINING INSTITUTE
RUSSIA

Mr. Abraham Magendzo
FUNDACION IDEAS
CHILE

Mr. Anash Mangalparsad
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY & ORGANIZATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. Glenn Manns
CIVITAS AFRICA
UNITED STATES

Dr. Dora Marroquin
CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY AND CIVIC EDUCATION
UNITED STATES

Ms. Linda Martin
AREA EDUCATION AGENCY 267
UNITED STATES

Mr. Gary Marx
CENTER FOR PUBLIC OUTREACH
UNITED STATES

Dr. Terrence C. Mason
INDIANA UNIVERSITY
SOCIAL STUDIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
UNITED STATES

Ms. Jane C. McConnell
OKLAHOMA BAR ASSOCIATION
UNITED STATES

Ms. Marianne Mcgill
CO-OPERATION IRELAND
NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr. Juan B. Mckay
CIVITAS PANAMA INTERNATIONAL
PANAMA

Ms. Beatriz Medinaceli
EDUCADORES PARA LA DEMOCRACIA
BOLIVIA

Ms. Roula Mikhael
LEBANESE CENTER FOR CIVIC EDUCATION
LEBANON

Mr. David Moorhouse
LA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
UNITED STATES

Dr. Kamal H. Mougheeth
TAHA HUSSEIN ORGANIZATION FOR CIVIC EDUCATION
EGYPT

Mr. Alois Muhuta
DOMASI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
MALAWI

Mr. Misheck Y. Munthali
CIVITAS MALAWI
MALAWI

Ms. Trinh Nguyen Huong Le
HANOI UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION,
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE
VIETNAM

Ms. Alicja Pacewicz
CENTER FOR CIVIC EDUCATION
POLAND

Mr. Dennis T. Pillay
WESTERN CAPE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. Peter Polozhevets
RUSSIAN ASSOCIATION FOR CIVIC EDUCATION
RUSSIA

Ms. Patricia Quann
DELAWARE LAW RELATED EDUCATION
UNITED STATES

Ms. Susana Restrepo
FUNDACION PRESENCIA
COLOMBIA

Ms. Narangerel Rinchin
CENTER FOR CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION
MONGOLIA

Dr. Pimon Ruetrakul
KING PRAJADHIPOK'S INSTITUTE
THAILAND

Mr. Calin Rus
INTERCULTURAL INSTITUTE OF TIMISOARA
ROMANIA

Mr. William J. Ryan
CENTER FOR CIVIC EDUCATION INDONESIA
INDONESIA

Ms. Marcia Saab Vasconcellos
INSTITUTO BRASILEIRO DE DESENVOLVIMENTO
DA CIDADANIA
BRAZIL

Mr. Refaat Sabbah
TEACHER CREATIVITY CENTER
WEST BANK AND GAZA

Ms. Carrie A. Sanchez
FOREST HILLS HIGH SCHOOL
UNITED STATES

Mr. Arturo Sanchez Gutierrez
FEDERAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTE
MEXICO

Ms. Angela E. Sanders
OCEAN SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL
UNITED STATES

Ms. Stephanie Schechter
COUNCIL FOR CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION
UNITED STATES

Professor Stephen Schechter
COUNCIL FOR CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION
UNITED STATES

Mr. Mark Schlakman
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
UNITED STATES

Dr. James Schmidt
CONNECTICUT CONSORTIUM FOR LAW
& CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION, INC.
UNITED STATES

Mr. Tha'ir Shraideh
CENTER FOR CIVIC EDUCATION
JORDAN

Mr. Shefqet Shyti
INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH
AND ALTERNATIVES (IDRA)
ALBANIA

Ms. Judith F. Simpson
RELEVANT EDUCATION ABOUT THE LAW
UNITED STATES

Dr. Louis R. Smith Jr.
UNIVERSITY OF WEST ALABAMA
UNITED STATES

Mr. Jakov Sokolov
GRAZHIDANIN TRAINING CENTER
RUSSIA

Ms. Linda J. Start
MICHIGAN CENTER FOR CIVIC EDUCATION
UNITED STATES

Dr. Jacek Strzemieczny
CENTER FOR CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION
POLAND

Mr. Zdravko Sunkic
CIVITAS@BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Mr. Boubacar Tall
INSTITUT NATIONAL D'ETUDE ET D'ACTION
POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DE L'EDUCATION
SENEGAL

Ms. Marcie T. Taylor-Thoma
MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
UNITED STATES

Mr. Mirshariff C. Tillah
UNIVERSITY OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC PHILIPPINES

Mr. Tigran Tovmasyan
IREX ARMENIA
REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Mr. Michael A. Trofi
WEST WARWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
UNITED STATES

Ms. Aija Tuna
EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CENTER
LATVIA

Ms. Svetlana V. Ulanova
PENZA CITY SCIENTIFIC AND METHODS CENTER
RUSSIA

Ms. Silvia Uranga
ASOCIACION CONCIENCIA
ARGENTINA

Mr. Suley Valdmaa
JAAN TONISSON INSTITUTE
CIVIC EDUCATION CENTRE
UNITED STATES

Ms. Natalia M. Voskresenskaya
RUSSIAN ASSOCIATION FOR CIVIC EDUCATION
RUSSIA

Ms. Kristi Wallin
WYOMING PARTNERSHIP FOR CIVIC EDUCATION
UNITED STATES

The Honorable Nimi Watson-Jack
CIVITAS NIGERIA
NIGERIA

Dr. Mary Lee Webeck
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
UNITED STATES

Dr. Charles S. White
BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
UNITED STATES

Mr. Andrzej Wielowieyski
CENTER FOR CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION
POLAND

Dr. Teresa G. Wojcik
VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
UNITED STATES

Mr. Pablo Zuniga
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
UNITED STATES