

RECOMMENDATION No. 24

concerning

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL
UNDERSTANDING AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE
AND TEACHING ABOUT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
(1948)**

The International Conference on Public Education,

Convened at Geneva by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Bureau of Education and being assembled on the twenty-eighth of June for its eleventh session adopts on the second of July, nineteen hundred and forty-eight, the following recommendation:

The Conference,

Considering that one of the chief aims of education today should be the preparation of children and adolescents to participate consciously and actively in the building up of a world society, rich in its diversity, yet unified in its common goals of peace, security and a fuller life for every human being,

That this preparation should include not only the acquisition of skills, but more particularly the information and the development of psychological attitudes favourable to the construction, maintenance and advancement of a united world,

That this preparation should be adapted to the capacities of school children of all ages, and to the teaching conditions peculiar to the different countries of the world,

Submits to the Ministries of Education of the various countries the following recommendation:

R 24

1) That all teaching should help to develop a consciousness and understanding of intentional solidarity;

2) That life in all educational institutions should be so organized as to develop in the pupils and students a sense of responsibility and social cooperation, necessary for better understanding between the peoples, and that the various forms of social life being organized at different stages of study should be such as to interest young people in the problems of the world of tomorrow;

3) That a sense of duty towards the world community be developed as an extension of civic duties;

4) That international understanding, based on mutual respect among nations and on an appreciation of historical development, be encouraged by all possible means, including, for example, the commemoration of the great pioneers of human progress and the celebration of special days of world-wide interest;

5) That in this connection the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, their purpose and principles, their structure and function, be studied objectively and with scrupulous accuracy. Whatever may be the weaknesses of these institutions, they should be viewed as a unified and growing system and considered as a part of the long series of man's attempts to develop international understanding, to remove the scourge of war, affirm faith in fundamental human rights, establish justice, promote social progress and ensure freedom and better standards of life for all;

6) That as this instruction is new and complex and should appeal as much to the heart as to the head, teachers who are themselves imbued with the spirit of international understanding should be specially trained to carry it out, both by direct and indirect teaching, as an integral part of all education;

7) That local organizations, such as public libraries, museums, youth clubs, and girl guides' and boy scouts' groups, should assist, in collaboration with the school authorities, in developing a spirit of cooperation amongst young people, and, at the same time, in presenting the various aspects of the United Nations, its Specialized Agencies and kindred organizations;

R 8) That having regard to the responsibilities of adults as parents and citizens, steps should be taken to promote an intelligent understanding of international organizations by means of popular adult education;

9) That suitable audio-visual and other material should be prepared, taking into account the age and mental development of the young people and adults to whom it is to be presented and the importance of making the pictures aesthetically satisfying, that young people and adults should be encouraged to take part in the preparation of such material, which should be designed with some reference to studies of child psychology concerning children's reactions to films; and that systematic arrangements should be made for the wide distribution of such material;

10) That textbooks of different countries be re-examined as often as possible; with a view to eliminating the passages that would be likely to lead to misunderstanding among nations, and to incorporating materials that would lead to fuller appreciation of world cooperation;

11) That the educational authorities of different countries exchange views and information on the nature and results of this teaching in order to make the best use of their experience;

12) That the Ministries of Education and other educational authorities use their influence to encourage the creation of international understanding amongst young people, and to assist teaching about international organizations which are working for the promotion of world peace.