



# HUMAN RIGHT TO EDUCATION PROGRAM

A program of the NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS INITIATIVE

*The National Economic and Social Rights Initiative (NESRI)* promotes a human rights vision for the United States that ensures dignity and access to the basic resources needed for human development and civic participation.

*NESRI's Human Right to Education Program* works with advocates and organizers to promote policy change in public education using human rights. NESRI believes that human rights can transform our schools based on internationally recognized standards of equality, accountability, dignity and community participation. The language and values of human rights are powerful tools for mobilizing communities to hold governments accountable to the right to education. NESRI:

- Works with community-based organizations to document violations of the right to education and dignity in U.S. public schools;
- Promotes human rights based alternatives to current school policies that degrade and exclude primarily low-income Latino and African-American students from the learning process; and
- Provides training and public education materials on the use of human rights in advocacy.

## Human Rights and School Discipline in Los Angeles

NESRI conducts human rights trainings and documentation with Community Asset Development Re-defining Education (CADRE), a grassroots parent organization, in a campaign to reduce the use of suspensions and other policies that push students out of school. In 2006, CADRE parents held a South L.A. People's Hearing where they gave testimony about violations of the right to education and dignity, and in 2007 NESRI released the report—*Deprived of Dignity*. In a victory for CADRE in February 2007, the Los Angeles Unified School District passed a new “Positive Behavior Support” discipline policy aimed at reducing suspensions. Visit [www.cadre-la.org](http://www.cadre-la.org).

## National Dignity in Schools Campaign

NESRI is a leader of the Dignity in Schools Campaign, a national initiative that unites activists, lawyers, educators, parents and youth across the country to reframe the debate around school discipline from one that aims to punish and remove children from school, to a human rights perspective that respects the child's right to an education and keeps kids in school. The DSC facilitates a national conversation to discuss education policy and activism, and is launching a website to share information about the pushout problem. Visit [www.nesri.org/programs/education.html](http://www.nesri.org/programs/education.html).



## Recent Publications

- **Training Manual for Organizers**  
*Bringing a Human Rights Vision to Public Schools*
- **Report: *Deprived of Dignity***  
*Degrading Treatment and Abusive Discipline in NYC and LA Public Schools*

Visit [www.nesri.org](http://www.nesri.org)



Contact NESRI today to make a tax-deductible contribution to this project. Thank you!