

Human Rights and Climate Change in K-12 Classrooms

Educational Resources Developed for the RHRN Global Climate Summit

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In December 2022, United Nations Human Rights, CU Boulder, and the Right Here, Right Now Global Climate Alliance hosted a three-day global climate summit addressing human rights and climate change: The Right Here, Right Now Global Climate Summit (RHRN). To support and empower educators and youth attending the summit, educator guides were developed by CIRES Education and Outreach in partnership with the CU RHRN team to match each RHRN theme: Impacts, Obligations, and Solutions. During the summit, a group of teachers worked together to develop lessons focused on braiding climate change and human rights across grade levels and subjects. Together, the educator guides and teacher-designed lessons provide support for teachers to bring a human rights focus on climate change into their classrooms.



The RHRN Educator's Guide and lessons were built for all educators who wish to bring conversation and action on climate change and human rights to the classroom. The guide and lessons are free and available to all.



Access the
Educator's Guide

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

The RHRN Educator's Guide was built for educators working to connect formal and informal learning spaces to the conference content. The guide is divided into three sections to match the three conference themes: Impacts, Obligations, and Solutions and includes educational materials focused on climate science and understanding earth systems through a human rights lens.

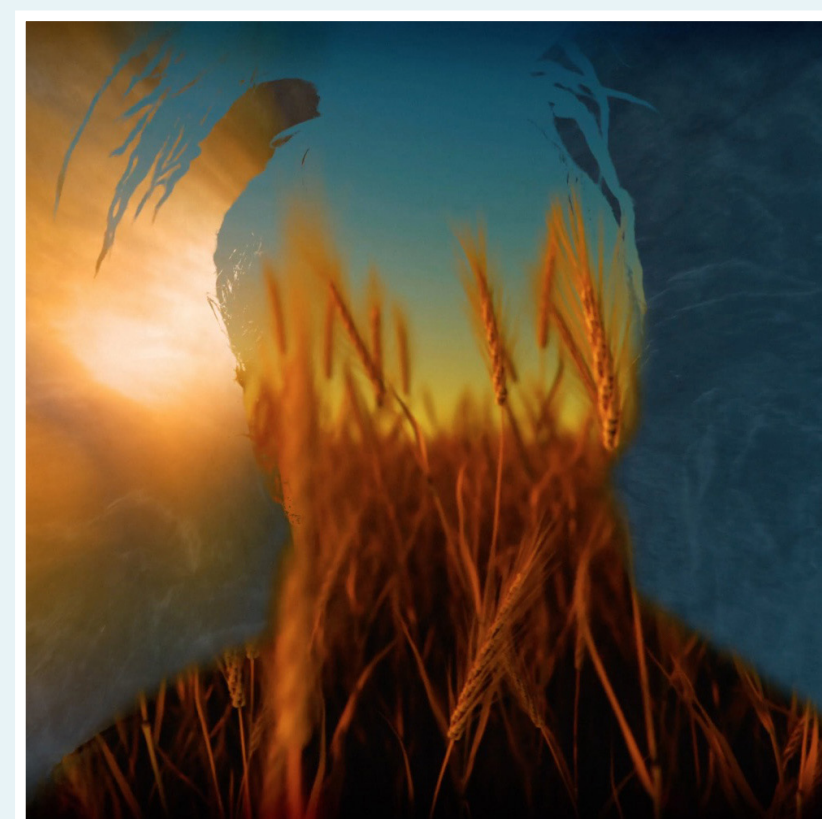
Guide Structure

Each section of the guide adheres to the following format to scaffold learning i) activities and lessons, ii) stories, and iii) ways to engage youth. Beginning with an activity helps students actively learn about different aspects of each theme. The stories that comprise the second section of the guide connect students to the people and places impacted by climate change and create empathy. The final section provides students and educators multiple pathways to engage in each theme. After exploring a topic and who it impacts, focusing on action allows students to find hope, energy, and purpose while focusing on issues that may feel overwhelming.

GUIDE THEMES

Theme One: Impacts

- Poverty, livelihoods and sustainable development
- Cities, settlements and community infrastructure
- Ocean and coastal ecosystems
- Health, well-being and safety
- Biodiversity and ecosystems
- Food and ecosystems products



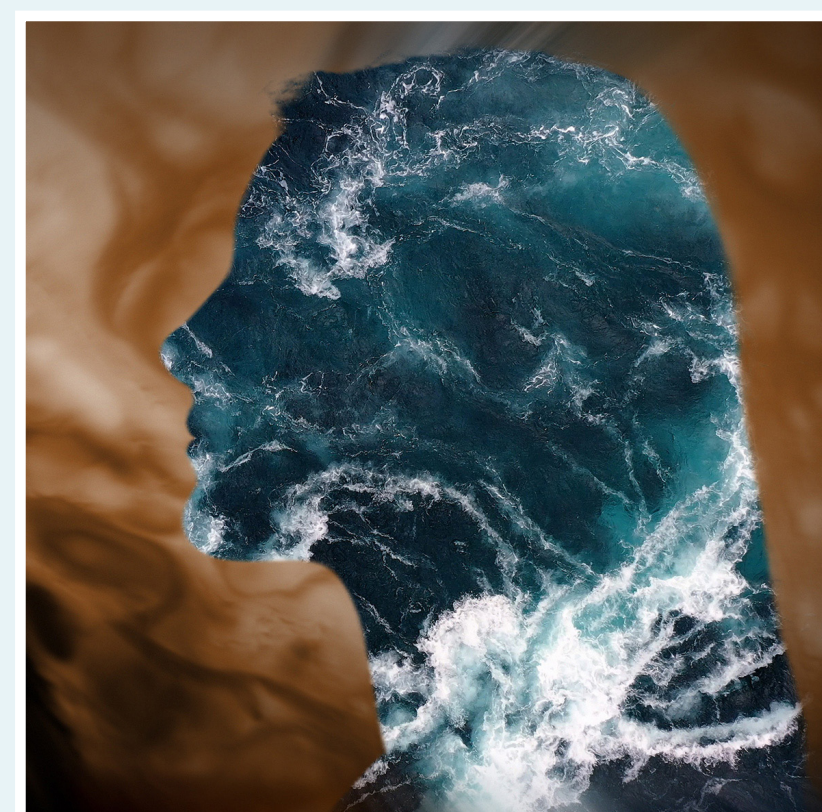
Theme Two: Obligations

- Education
- Business and Industry
- Law & Policy
- States
- Global Collaboration
- Individual Action



Theme Three: Solutions

- Mitigation
- Adaptation
- International Cooperation
- Strengthened Accountability Mechanisms



BRING CLIMATE JUSTICE INTO YOUR CLASSROOM

Lessons Designed by
Teachers for Teachers



This collection features lesson plans developed by teachers centered on climate change and human rights building on the RHRN summit content. These materials were developed during an interactive teacher workshop held during the summit. The lessons are built for different subjects and grade levels based on participating teachers' needs and involve several teaching styles and types of activities. They are meant to inspire educators to bring climate justice into their classrooms in a way that works for them.



Impacts: Understanding the Vulnerabilities of Climate Change



Obligations: Who Is Responsible?



Solutions: Human Rights-Based Climate Solutions

Lesson Plans

- Climate Change: Who Creates It? Who Feels It?
- Climate Change & Human Health
- Living with Drought
- Learning from the Dakota Access Pipeline Protests
- Modeling Climate Change with Temperature
- Designing Resilience
- Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change
- Gender Equity in STEM Education

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