

Student Task Force

Taking Responsibility for the Future

The Student Task Force (STF), launched in 1999, is a youth leadership-training program that brings together high school students from all over Los Angeles and empowers them to advocate for human rights issues that concern the rights of children. Human Rights Watch volunteers and STF teachers work in partnership to mentor students in leadership skills and activism, fostering confidence and maturity among students and enabling them to become effective voices for change and social justice within their communities.

Each STF chapter...

- Has a teacher advisor and an HRW STF intern available at each chapter meeting to mentor and to facilitate coordination with other STF chapters.
- Meets weekly (usually during lunch period), led by elected STF officers.
- Receives weekly human rights education and guidance from STF staff.
- Participates in September and winter leadership workshops with all STF chapters as well as more informal after-school meetings throughout the year to learn about human rights crises, to develop leadership skills, and to build working relationships between STF chapters.
- Plans events and campaigns for their own schools and communities in order to raise awareness and take action on children's rights issues.
- Educates Los Angeles-area schools and communities on local, national, and international children's rights crises and campaigns.

STF's Mission...

Children continue to be denied basic human rights in all parts of the world. The HRW STF is dedicated to promoting human rights for all children by raising awareness in our schools and communities and providing strategic advocacy support for the Children's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch. Each year the STF staff, in consultation with the Children's Rights Division, determines the issue themes for the year. Examples of STF focus include: stopping the use of child soldiers; protecting the children and their families in Darfur; protecting child farmworkers; and working for juvenile justice. STF projects include training workshops, meetings with elected officials and human rights activists from around the world, documentary film screenings, human rights education symposium and conferences, and other public awareness events. Visit www.hrwstf.org for a full report on STF education and activism.