



### **ERI Youth Ambassador Project**

There may be as many as 250,000 students in hundreds of Edmund Rice schools around the world. Imagine the potential to be a force for justice in our world that represents if those students could speak with one voice!

The ERI Youth Ambassador project aims to link Edmund Rice schools in their efforts to build a more just, sustainable and compassionate world, where all enjoy dignity, equality, freedom and full enjoyment of their human rights.

We would like each school to nominate one student to be an ERI Youth Ambassador

### **About ERI**

Edmund Rice International is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) jointly supported by the Christian Brothers and Presentation Brothers who have an active presence in more than thirty countries.

Inspired by the vision and life of Blessed Edmund Rice, ERI works with the Edmund Rice Network around the world to promote and protect the rights of children and young people, particularly in regard to education, and to work for environmental sustainability to ensure the future of our shared home, the Earth, for generations yet to come.

ERI works in partnership with like-minded groups to bring issues of concern to the attention of the international community through engagement with the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

### **What would an ERI Youth Ambassador do?**

In the beginning the ERI Youth Ambassador would simply join the ERI Youth Ambassador Facebook Group – a closed group where only members can post. The purpose of the group would be to share information about what initiatives each school is undertaking in regard to justice and advocacy.

It would be firstly be a responsibility of the ambassador to monitor the posts on the website and share information with the wider school community – perhaps initially to a school justice group, Edmund Rice Society or Student leadership body (different schools will have different structures). The aim is to ensure a greater awareness and involvement in justice and advocacy within each school.

Secondly the ambassador would share information about any justice initiatives in their school. It might include petitions, rallies, awareness-raising activities (eg Earth Hour <http://www.earthhour.org/>, the Caritas letter-writing [http://www.caritas.org/activities/hiv\\_aids/the\\_campaign.html](http://www.caritas.org/activities/hiv_aids/the_campaign.html) campaign for children with HIV) actions that are directed at addressing the underlying causes of injustice rather than responding to the symptoms (as is usually the case with fundraising). It is NOT about sharing fundraising ideas or requesting donations!

The group could also be used to offer expressions of solidarity with campaigns from other schools, or to request such expressions of solidarity eg as happened with the Nine is Mine campaign <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nineismine/>

The ambassador would hold the position for one year before handing over to a successor. It would be important to plan for the changeover to ensure continuity.

The group would also include a staff member from each school whose role would be simply to offer support and advice and monitor what is happening rather than to post because it is hoped that the group would be student led. Someone from ERI would also contribute posts from time to time.

The approval of the school principal would also need to be sought to participate in the Facebook group.

**So what happens next?**

The Facebook group has been set up at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/450276608347572/>

Once a school has nominated an ambassador and a staff member to be part of the group and received the permission of the Principal, a request for membership of the group could be forwarded via the website.

Once your membership is approved you can commence activity immediately. Where the group goes from there is up to you ...

Looking forward to hearing from your school and your involvement in the project

Br Brian Bond cfc  
Executive Director  
ERI Geneva