

News & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minds that Matter: Report on the Consultation on Human Rights, Mental Health and Addictions

On September 13, 2012, the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) released their most recent consultation report entitled *Minds that Matter*. The report contains the findings from the OHRC's province-wide consultation on the human rights issues experienced by people with mental health disabilities or addictions. It provides a summary of what they heard from more than 1,500 individuals and organizations across Ontario. This report sets out recommendations for action for government, housing providers, employers, service providers and other parties, as well as a series of OHRC commitments towards eliminating discrimination based on mental health and addictions in Ontario.

Some key findings from the report include:

- People with mental health disabilities and addictions face widespread discrimination in housing, employment and services
- Stereotypes about people with mental health disabilities and addictions are deeply embedded in legislation, institutional policies and practices of institutions and individual attitudes
- Many people with mental health issues or addictions do not know they have a legal right to be free from discrimination under the Ontario *Human Rights Code* (*Code*).
- Many organizations do not appear to be aware of their responsibilities under the Code to uphold the human rights of people with mental health disabilities or addictions
- People with mental health issues or addictions are much more likely to live in poverty than people with other types of disabilities or without disabilities
- Discrimination based on mental health and addictions can combine or intersect with other forms of discrimination, creating distinct experiences of disadvantage
- Important themes that ran throughout the consultation were respect for people's dignity, privacy and individual differences, as well as people's rights to autonomy, non-discrimination, and full integration and participation in the community

You can access the full report (as well as the OHRC's numerous other publications) at:

<http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/minds-matter-report-consultation-human-rights-mental-health-and-addictions>

If you have any questions about human rights or the Code as it applies to people with mental health disabilities please feel free to consult directly with the Centre for Human Rights at York University (CHR).

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, October 3rd:

UofMosaic Middle East Dialogue in Action – Session 1: The Current State of The Israel-Palestine Conflict

The CHR is pleased to support the student group UofMosaic @ York U for a second year with its series of dialogues focused on Middle Eastern issues. This first session will map out the current state of the Israel-Palestine conflict, focusing particularly on recent developments, such as the emergence of social justice movements in Israel and Palestine, and changes in Israel's government. Do these developments mark any significant changes in the nature of the conflict? How should Canada – and particularly Canadians interested in peacebuilding and development efforts – respond? These and other questions will be explored in this important session.

Time: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Location: 305 York Lanes



Monday, October 15, 2012:

Access York Roundtable Discussion

Access York is proud to present:

The 3rd Annual Round-Table Discussion for York Students with Disabilities & York Administrators

With President Mamdouh Shoukri, Vice-Provost Students Janet Morrison, Chair of Access York Neita Israelite and your Access York student representatives

Moderated by: Dr. Nancy Viva-Davis Halifax (Vice-Chair Faculty and Staff, Access York) & Kaley Roosen (Vice-Chair Students, Access York)

The goal of this discussion is to join students with disabilities at York with its administrators in order to provide a safe space and conduit for disabled students to voice their opinions on various disabling barriers present at York University (whether they be educational, architectural, attitudinal etc.) and to make suggestions for a future barrier-free university. Often, these complaints rarely reach the offices of the administrators who make decisions about resource allocation. This is one way to help prevent that. Further, student also need to voice what has been working or not working thus far and what needs to be done. The time is ripe with all the recent changes at York university!

Time: 2 pm – 4 pm

Location: Winters 021 (Senior Common Room), York University, Keele Campus

RSVP preferred! Please email: kaley@yorku.ca (with any accommodation requests)

Refreshments will be provided!



An image of a scene from the film *My So Called Enemy*

Tuesday, October 16, 2012:

Film Screening & Dialogue – *My So Called Enemy*

The CHR presents the screening of the film *My So Called Enemy*, which tells the story of Palestinian, Israeli and Palestinian Israeli teenage girls who travelled to the United States to participate in a women's leadership program called Building Bridges for Peace in July 2002. The film follows the story of 6 of the girls and how their transformative experience in the program, of knowing their "enemies" as human beings, meets with the realities of their lives at home in the Middle East over the next seven years. The film is about multi-faith and multicultural understanding and the important role of women in building peaceful communities. The film is timeless, and explores the human consequences of all conflicts as well as the power of individual narratives to open hearts and minds, challenge long held preconceptions, and create the space for dialogue, with the goal of creating more just societies here and abroad.

Time: 7 pm – 10 pm

Location: N102 Ross (Nat Taylor Cinema)

Film Official Website: <http://mysocalledenemy.com/>

Sample Film Reel: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kKOLI4t2XE>

Thursday, October 25, 2012:**Are You a Climate Zombie?:
A Climate Justice Unconference*****Come and take action!***

Are you aware of climate justice issues? Are your actions hurting disenfranchised people worldwide? Do you want to take action and make a difference here at York and beyond? The purpose of this climate justice unconference is to create a forum for students, staff, and faculty to have open conversations around social justice, human rights, sustainability, and climate change issues. The end goal is to create opportunities to work together in order to take action both personally and here at York University.

An unconference uses 'open space technology' to host a conference that allows participants to determine the agenda themselves at the start of the day within the scope of a particular topic. So You set the agenda!

Time: 10 am – 3 pm**Location:** 280N York Lanes**Outline for the Day:**

9:30am to 10:00am – sign up and welcome

10:00am to 11:00am – introduction and setting the agenda

11:00am to 2:00pm – breakout sessions

2:00pm to 3:00pm – conclusions and wrap-up

This unconference is brought to you through the joint efforts of *IRIS - Institute for Research and Innovation in Sustainability*, the *Centre for Human Rights*, *CSBO – Campus Services and Business Operations*, the *President's Sustainability Council*, *York University - TD Community Engagement Centre*, *Net Impact*, *Regenesis @ York*, and the *Climate Consortium for Research Action Integration*.

For more information about the unconference please go to:
www.iris.yorku.ca/unconference

For questions or to register please contact Annette Dubreuil (IRIS Coordinator and IPY Project Manager) at:
afdubreu@yorku.ca.

Look out for **Inclusion Day**, and our call for proposals by checking the CHR website at:
www.yorku.ca/rights

**Past Event Highlights****Can I Kiss You?** 

On September 5, 2012 Mr. Mike Domitrz, dating expert and executive director of the Date Safe Project, delivered a hilarious and powerful performance entitled "Can I Kiss You?" at the Rexall Centre to a group of more than 1500 York community members, most of whom were first year York students.

The successful event brought students, staff, faculty, and senior administrators of the York community together to proactively engage with the issue of sexual assault prevention during Frosh Week through watching the show and then providing students with information about campus resources related to safety issues and crisis management. The main event was preceded by a Train the Trainer session for York's student leaders. The event was sponsored by the Centre for Human Rights (CHR) with generous contributions from Residence Life (SCLD) and the Women & Trans Safety Committee.



Left: Mike Domitrz speaking to YorkU students at Can I Kiss You?
Right: Can I Kiss You? volunteers tabling before the event

Updates from the CHR's

Diversity Peer Education Team (DPET)

The very dedicated and energetic DPET team was at the forefront of both Can I Kiss You? event, and the long standing York University Festival Village (York Fest). DPET members came out on both days for day long promotions and to give away some nifty swag. The Team got to meet some of this year's Frosh and tell them about the various services offered by the CHR. The response from the student body was positively overwhelming and DPET hopes to continue this momentum throughout the year. If you haven't had the chance to meet the Team, drop by the Red Zone Kiosk in Vari Hall on Wednesdays between 10:00AM-2:00PM, and you may win some amazing prizes too!



Some members of the DPET Team

WORKSHOPS

Respect in the Workplace
Thurs Nov 1, 2PM-4PM

(Register for this workshop through York's Learning and Development Program: <http://www.yorku.ca/hr/units/learningdevelopment/learningtraining/index.html>)

Positive Space
Thurs Nov 15 9:30AM-12:30PM

* Please note that in addition to the above scheduled workshops, the CHR offers the York community a variety of additional workshops upon request, such as *Understanding Human Rights, Introduction to the CHR, and Inclusivity Training.* Please visit our website for full workshop descriptions and further workshop updates: <http://www.yorku.ca/rights/education.html>

Quotes of the Month

To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity.

- Nelson Mandela

Connect with the CHR!

Visit our Website to get more information about our services, events, workshops, and human rights resources <http://www.yorku.ca/rights/>



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York University Centre for Human Rights



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<http://twitter.com/#!/YorkURights>

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<http://yuconnect.yorku.ca/>