

UNESCO PROMOTES RESPECT FOR ALL THROUGH PEACE EDUCATION TO CURB EXTREMISM

Peshawar: To advocate the need of mainstreaming peace and human rights education, UNESCO recently organized an advocacy seminar to highlight issues to curb intolerance, extremism violence and instability through peace education in the province. The Policy Dialogue was aimed to identify the gaps in the present curriculum and policy-making, in order to minimize violence. All participants; including Policy makers, educationists, and religious scholars



agreed upon the need of Peace & Human Rights Education to enhance knowledge, skills; and to promote values associated with peaceful behaviors and attitudes.

The Minister for Education, Government of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Mr. Sardar Hussain Babak stressed on continuation of peace dialogue for change in attitudes. He admitted that violent messages were inculcated in textbooks in the past but, he committed to reform the curriculum in the light of human rights and peace.

UNESCO Representative informed the participants that UNESCO's approach to educating for peace was multidimensional, in that it links education with a range of activities that address the root causes of violence, from human security to sustainable development. It was reinforced that two fundamental concepts of peace education were respect and skills. Respect refers to the development of respect for self and for others; skills refer to specific communication, cooperation and behavioral skills used in conflict situations.

It will encourage people to think constructively about issues, both physical and social and to develop constructive attitudes towards living together and solving problems that arise in their communities through peaceful means.