

Friday, February 25, 2022 -- 4:00pm – 5:00pm EST

Teaching and Learning About Children’s Rights Using Creative Drama

Presenter: Dr. Hala Mreiwed, King’s University College at Western University



Education plays an essential role in ensuring that children’s voices are heard, and their rights are fully implemented in the here and now. For teachers to be able to fully support children in the process, they must be trained in children’s rights education (CRE). Through CRE, children learn about their rights, how to protect their rights and the rights of others, and where to go when their rights are violated, and teachers approach teaching and learning across curriculum using a children’s rights lens. In this introductory workshop for pre- and in- service teachers, creative drama will be used as a pedagogical approach to transferring this knowledge and opening the path for creative and collaborative practices and forms of inquiry into children’s rights. This process of knowledge transfer can help educators and learners make the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and relevant domestic laws lived (experienced) and living (contextualized and adapted to present and emerging needs) ultimately bridging diversities, leading to equitable practices, and fostering understanding, respect, and inclusion in and beyond the classroom walls.

About the Presenter:

Hala Mreiwed, PhD is an Assistant Professor in Childhood and Youth Studies (CYS) at King’s University College at Western. Hala has a Master’s in Public Policy and Public Administration from Concordia University, and a PhD in Educational Studies from McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. Her research interests in children’s rights, impact of war-trauma on education, teacher education and training, children’s media and creative drama come from her experiences in Canada and abroad. Her current research explores the transformation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) from a symbolic text to a lived and living experience using creative drama and critical discourse analysis. Hala

is the recipient of several awards including the P. Lantz Fellowship for Excellence in Education and the Arts (2015), the Outstanding Leadership & Service Graduate Award (2019) from McGill University, as well as the FRQSC Doctoral research scholarship (2017-2020). Hala's most recent publication is the co-edited book *Art as an Agent for Social Change* (2020) with Mindy R. Carter and Claudia Mitchell. Hala is also the Vice-Chair of the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children (CCRC), Children's Rights Advisor to the Centre for Research-Action on Race Relations (CRARR), and Co-President of the Canadian Association for Curriculum Studies (CACS).