



European Network of Masters on Children's Rights

CRnews 8

Children's Rights Newsletter
May 2006

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Dear Network Members and Network Interested,

We would like to welcome you to our public presentation, where you can meet many members of the European Network of Masters on Children's Rights and engage in fruitful discussions for cooperation possibilities at the University of Stockholm on June 8th, 2006, from 4.15-6 p.m.

We would also like to encourage you to engage in discussions in our Forum on www.enmcr.net. Topics discussed here range from the debate on Cultural Diversity vs. Universal Values in Human Rights to the New Global Monitoring Report, recently released by the ILO. Access to the forum is free, you just have to sign up and activate your user account. You are free to open up new topics related to the rights of the child and add any comments to the topics already included.

For comments and feedback on our newsletter, and/or our forum suggestions for improvement, or news you would like to have included please write to info@enmcr.net

Sincerely,

Rebecca Budde
Günter Chodzinski
Editors



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General News Internal

Public Presentation ENMCR at the University of Stockholm

Date: 8th June 2006, 16.15-18.00h

Location: University of Stockholm, Department of Education, Frescati Hagväg 16 A, building number 6, 10691 Stockholm

In the frame of our next meeting concerning the Curriculum Development project (www.enmcr.net/cd) we will present our network to the public. This is an opportunity to learn about our activities, plans and goals. Representatives of most member institutions will be present to answer questions personally and give in depth information on their work.

There will be enough time for discussions in an informal atmosphere after the presentation, a small buffet dinner will be offered as well. We welcome all interested students, professors, organisations, institutions and other stakeholders and aim at linking together common interests and establish contacts for cooperation.

For further information and directions to the Department of Education, please contact: Prof. Dr. Birgitta Qvarsell, Tel: ++46 (0) 8163976; e-mail: birgitta@ped.su.se or Rebecca Budde, Tel: ++49 (0)30 838 53968; e-mail: rbudde@ina-fu.org

General News External

Children's Participation in the Policy-Making Process

Date: 7 June 2006; Location: Brussels, Belgium

Eurochild AISBL is organising a reception in the European Parliament to hear from children themselves about what social exclusion means to them and how they have been involved in policy-making at different levels.

Twelve children are invited from six different types of participation projects, for example:

- the Children and Youth Board in the UK that are actively involved in defining the UK government's youth policy;
- the youth migration service in Lübben, Germany, where children from migrant backgrounds are helping to promote voluntary services and active citizenship;
- the Children's Parliament in Cyprus, elected through school councils from across the country.

The children will have the chance to ask questions to a distinguished panel of decision-makers from the EU institutions.

For more information, contact:

Eurochild AISBL, Rue de la Concorde, 53. 1050, Brussels, Belgium, Tel: +32 2 511 70 83; Fax: +32 2 511 72 98, Email: contact@eurochild.org, Website: <http://www.eurochild.org>

Eurizons – Hitchhike to the MDG's

In Summer 2006, 50 young people will hitchhike through 8 European countries. They want to inform the people about the Millenium Development Goals to create a joint European conscience for global action. Starting on August 22, the 50 young people will travel in couples through Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Germany and France. They will be welcomed by local NGO's and participate in information campaigns. The tour will end on September 8 with a concluding event in Strasbourg.

For further information please visit: www.eurizons.net.

Documentary Film "Demokratische Schulen" (Democratic Schools) in German

In democratic schools, pupils can decide themselves what and how they learn. There are now set curricula, no marks. Exams are voluntary. Pupils and teachers have equal rights and organize their schools together. In decision making processes everybody has a say. Can this model be successful? "Demokratische Schulen" is a film about the joys of learning. The next performance is scheduled for June 14, 2006 in the cinema Babylon, in Berlin- Mitte; For further information please visit: www democratic-schools.com.

Symposium "Right to Vote from Age 0- a Chance for more Equality?" in German

Date: 9-11 June 2006, Location: Berlin

One fifth of German citizens do not have the right vote. Especially in view of the demographic change and the aging of the population the question arises, whether the interests of children, young people and families are represented adequately in politics. In order to lift the interests of this group into public conscience and to give the political and societal debate new impulses, the foundation for the rights of future generations is organizing a symposium on the subject: "Right to Vote from age 0- a Chance for more Equality?" in Berlin in cooperation with the project office "generation dialogue". Participation possibilities of children and young people should be discussed with personalities from science and politics.

Further information as well as the registration form can be found on:

www.srzg.de/einmensch-einestimme.

Action Programme: Participation and Intercultural Political Education

Between 2003 and 2005 a total of 17 innovative projects were co-funded in the federal state of Hessen. The projects were scientifically accompanied, in order to secure relevant results from practice. The now published report on the action programme gives a good, scientifically founded overview of public, private and non-governmental children and youth participation projects.

The report can be ordered from the social ministry of Hessen from b.rigault@hsm.hessen.de. Please name the title: "Aktionsprogramm Partizipation und interkulturelle politische Bildung"

Children strengthen their rights

On May 18, 2006 the prize for the youth competition „The European Union and the rights of the child took place in Brussels. The competition had been initiated by Franco Frattini in order to sensitize young people for EU measures to promote children's rights.

In the age group 10-14, the first prize went to Cyprus. In the age group 15-18, Slovakian school groups one the first prize. A total of more than 10.000 young people participated in the competition, 2237 posters were handed in. The posters shall be used in future EU campaigns for the rights of the child.

The EU Commission foresees the release of a communiqué on children's rights for June 2006. The objective is to include a strategy for protection of children's rights in all internal and external policy areas of the EU commission. Further information (fotos, posters etc.) can be viewed at

<http://www.eurojugend.net/?lg=DE&page=presentation>

Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers

The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers works to prevent the recruitment and use of children as soldiers, to secure their demobilisation and to ensure their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. The official website gives information by country and region; International Standards on children and armed conflict; information for journalists; a comprehensive section on DDR (disarmament, demobilization and reintegration) of child soldiers; the Child Soldiers Newsletter and Global Report; child soldier news from around the world. Please visit: <http://www.child-soldiers.org/>

Media Code of Conduct to Realise Children's Rights

The Media Code of Conduct is a code developed by The Concerned for Working Children (CWC) in consultation with children, other organizations working with children's issues and media persons, on how the media should protect and promote the rights of children in the design, production and distribution of media. The Media Code of Conduct to realise Children's Rights, is an effort towards creating a paradigm shift in the media's approach to children – from recipients of adult benevolence to full partners in society. It has been evolved in the context of the Indian experience of mass media and the many issues that emerge with respect to children's participation, use of and representation in the media. It was released in 2005 at a conference on Human Rights and Media in Bangalore, when several people from the development field and the media endorsed it.

The violation of children's rights by the media, whether through insensitive reportage, misrepresentation or denial of space for children's opinions on various issues, is the focus of this Media Code of Conduct.

To place orders, please fill in the form on: <http://workingchild.org/OrderFormPub.doc>

For further information please contact: Kavita Ratna, Director – Communications, The Concerned for Working Children, 303/2, L. B. Shastri Nagar, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore - 560 017, Tel: +91-80-25234611/25234270, web: www.workingchild.org

Info from CRIN Newsletters

CHILD LABOUR: New ILO Global Monitoring Report [publication]

[GENEVA, 5 May 2006] - Child labour, especially in its worst forms, is in decline for the first time across the globe, the International Labour Organization (ILO) said in a new, cautiously optimistic report entitled *The End of Child Labour: Within reach*.

The ILO report also says that if the current pace of the decline were to be maintained and the global momentum to stop child labour continued, it believes child labour could feasibly be eliminated, in most of its worst forms, in 10 years. The new report says the actual number of child labourers worldwide fell by 11 per cent between 2000 and 2004, from 246 million to 218 million.

What's more, the number of children and youth aged 5-17 trapped in hazardous work decreased by 26 per cent, to reach 126 million in 2004 as opposed to 171 million in the previous estimate. Among younger child labourers aged 5-14, this drop was even more pronounced at 33 per cent, says the report.

Four years ago, the ILO issued the most comprehensive report to date on global child labour. Applying the same statistical methodology used in that report, the ILO finds a significant decline in child labour since then.

However, the Stop Child Labour (SCL) campaign has expressed disappointment at the report. It says it excludes hundreds of millions of children that work as domestic and agricultural labourers. As these 'invisible' children work at home and are unpaid they are not calculated in the official ILO statistics. The SCL campaign also criticises the ILO action plan in the report for its narrow focus on the worst forms of child labour. SCL worries that this report holds out no hope for the millions of children trapped in other forms of labour.

For more information, contact: International Labour Organisation, International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour, Pulchowk, Lalitpur, PO Box 8971, UK, Tel: +977 1 550691; Fax: +977 1 550714

CHILD RIGHTS INFORMATION NETWORK: Guidelines for Writing about Rights-Based Approaches to Programming [call for information]

CRIN is calling for information for future issues of our monthly CRINMAIL on rights based approaches to development to share best practices in programming. CRIN invites contributions about how your organisation uses rights based approaches.

Visit: <http://www.crin.org/hrbap/index.asp?action=theme.infoitem&item=7204>

For more information or to submit contributions, please contact:

Child Rights Information Network (CRIN), c/o Save the Children, 1 St. John's Lane, London EC1M 4AR, UK, Email: info@crin.org, Website: <http://www.therightsapproach.org>

LEARNING: Use of Information and Communication Technologies for Human Rights Work [course]

Date: 20 September -12 December 2006; Location: Distance Learning

This e-learning course is intended for staff members of human rights and social justice NGOs and inter-governmental organisations who are responsible for information and communication (i.e. information officers, web editors, webmasters/webweavers, communication specialists) within their organisation. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) is a dynamic field where success is dependent upon skill development and practical experience. Participants will be introduced to proven methods of using ICTs to promote their human rights work. They will become equipped with the knowledge and tools to more effectively design and implement listservs, web sites, databases or multi-media for advocacy campaigns, training and information management.

The deadline for applications is 15 July 2006.

For more information, contact: Human Rights Education Associates (HREA), Postbus 59225, 1040 KE Amsterdam, Netherlands, Tel: + 31 20 524 1404, Email: info@hrea.nl, URL: www.hrea.org

LIBERIA: Sexual Exploitation of Children by Aid Workers [publication]

[LONDON, 9 May 2006] - Save the Children UK is revealing in a study released today that children in Liberia are sexually exploited by humanitarian workers, peacekeepers and local businessmen. The study was conducted in temporary camps for those displaced by the civil war and amongst those recently repatriated to their towns and villages of origin after the end of the war.

Despite commitments made in 2002 by NGOs, the UN and peacekeepers to improve the worldwide monitoring of recruitment and staff conduct, vulnerable children are still exchanging sex for basic necessities such as money to attend school or food to feed their families.

Representatives of Government Ministries, International NGOs, UN agencies and UNMIL representatives in

Liberia have gathered last Friday to urgently and collectively address this issue.

In March 2006 a collective of international NGOs, of which Save the Children is a key partner, launched a new set of materials *Keeping Children Safe* to enable all NGOs to attain high standards of child protection.

For more information, contact:

Save the Children UK, 1 St John's Lane, London EC1M 4AR, Tel: + 44 20 7012 6400; Fax: + 44 20 7012 6963, Email: supporter.care@savethechildren.org.uk, Website: www.savethechildren.org.uk

STATES PARTIES INFORMATION: State reports and Alternative reports

States Parties reports submitted by governments to the Committee on the Rights of the Child are available in English, French and Spanish on the website of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Word and PDF formats.

Alternative Reports submitted by NGOs to the Committee on the Rights of the Child are made available on the CRIN website in partnership with the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The reports can be searched by country, Committee session or by organisation. Note that not all alternative reports are available yet. They are posted on the CRIN website as they are received.

MONITORING OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS: Article by Jaap Doek

The Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Jaap Doek, recently wrote an article for the [CRIN Newsletter](#) on monitoring the two Optional Protocols: the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts (OPAC) and the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC). The Optional Protocols are crucial instruments as they spell out very clearly what obligations States parties have and what measures must be undertaken by them to protect children. "Laying down the law: first reactions to Optional Protocol reports" provides a checklist for NGOs by describing what legal requirements need to be in place.

For more information, contact: Child Rights Information Network, 1 St John's Lane, London EC1M 4AR, UK Tel: + 44 20 7012 6865; Fax: + 44 020 7012 6899, Email: info@crin.org, Website: <http://www.crin.org>

JOB Opportunities:

NGO GROUP FOR THE CRC: Vacancy Announcement for a Coordinator

The NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child is a registered network with the mission to facilitate the promotion, implementation and monitoring of the CRC. The NGO Group is seeking to recruit a new Coordinator to ensure that the organisation's mission, strategies and programme plans are fulfilled with the full engagement of the Coordinating Committee (CoCo), staff and the membership of the network.

Application deadline: 31 May 2006

For more information, contact: NGO Group for the CRC, 1, rue de Varembe, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland, Tel: + 41 22 740 47 30; Fax: + 41 22 740 1145, Email: ngo-group3@bluewin.ch

Website: <http://www.crin.org/NGOGroupforCRC>

Funding

Short info on ASA-Programme

ASA – that means three months work, living and learning in Africa, Asia, Latin America or South East Europe. Young Europeans aged 21-30 can improve their knowledge in developmental internships. At the same time they get to know the lives reality in the South and experience global connections.

For further information please visit:

<http://www.asa-programm.de> or contact: asa@inwent.org

Upcoming Dates

June 2nd-3rd, 2006: Conference: Fostering Participation through Education and Cultural Exchange

June 7th, 2006: Children's Participation in the Policy-Making Process

June 8th, 2006: Public presentation ENMCR at the University of Stockholm

June 9th-11th, 2006: Seminar on HRE at the FU Berlin

June 9th-11th, 2006: Symposium "Right to Vote from Age 0- a Chance for more Equality?"

June 14th, 2006: Performance Documentary Film: "Democratic Schools"

June 30th, 2006: Deadline submission YOUTH programme, exchange of good practices in youth work

June 30th, 2006: Deadline submission contributions to general discussion CRC

July 1st, 2006: Deadline submission YOUTH programme, action 5, support measures

July 4th-6th, 2006: Conference: Childhood and Youth: Choice and Participation

July 10th -22nd, 2006: 7th encounter of African Movement of Working Children and Young People

July 17th- 20th, 2006: Asia-Pacific Childhoods Conference

July 17th-21st, 2006: Summer University on the Rights of the Child at IUKB, Sion Switzerland

July 18th-21st, 2006: Conference: Investment and Citizenship: Towards a Transdisciplinary Dialogue on Child and Youth Rights, Location: Brock, Canada

September 4th, 2006: MA in "Human Rights, Development and Social Justice" at the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague

September 15th, 2006: Day of General Discussion, UN-Committee on the Rights of the Child

September 20th- December 12th, 2006: Distance Learning Course on Rights-Based Programming (HREA)

October 1st -12th, 2006: Workshop "Children's Participation, Protagonism and Governance" **October 13th, 2006:** Start Expert Course on Children's Rights in Berlin

October 24-25, 2006: Juvenile Justice in Europe International Conference

November 1st, 2006: Deadline Pre-call Erasmus Thematic Network Project