



CR news 14-12

EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MASTERS IN CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Inside this edition:

What's new

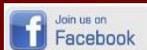
- International Conference: 25 Years CRC connects academics from all over the world
- Queen Belfast University: MSc Children's Rights
- Interview to Mohamed Al Rozzi
- MRU: New joint study programme Social Work with Children and Youth

SIGN THE PETITION TO SAVE THE
MACR IN BERLIN

Reply to the appeal of the
students of the MACR

Further information [here](#)

ENMCR Website:
You will find all the information
about ENMCR [here](#)



This newsletter is supported by:



Save the Children
Sweden

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Dear ENMCR network members and network interested,
In this issue you will read about the International Conference on the UN
CRC 25 Years, the new programmes in the UK and Lithuania.
You will also read about the ENMCR members recent publications and
read the first series of interviews to alumni.
If you have any suggestions, comments and / or ideas for improving the
newsletter you can use our email address: info@enmcr.net
Sincerely,
Rita Nunes (Editor)

General News Internal: page 2-5

- International Conference: 25 Years CRC connects academics from all over the world
- Queen Belfast University: MSc Children's Rights
- Mykolas Romeris University: New joint study programme Social Work with Children and Youth
- Save the only Children's Rights MA in Germany: FU Berlin Alumni
- Interview to Mohamed Al Rozzi
- CREAN: Conference Children's Right to Non-Discrimination

General News External: page 5

- Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty
- Hungary: Children with learning disabilities
- Czech Republic: right of children with disabilities
- Slovakia: Compulsory Vaccination
- EP: Resolution
- Turkey: Education

Publications: page 6

- Social work with children and youth: intercultural and international aspect
- Child Participation: from Rights to Reality
- Children and the Environment in an Australian Indigenous Community: A psychological approach
- Una condena compartida, Libro sobre los niños y las niñas invisibles: ¿encarcelados?
- On children's rights debt: Reconsidering the debates about working and street children in a globalized world

Upcoming Events and Membership: page 7



Jill Stein, Junior Lecturer Children's Rights at the Leiden University, wrote this article about the International Conference 25 Years CRC.

International Conference: 25 Years CRC connects academics from all over the world



To herald the 25th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Department of Child Law of Leiden

University organised the international conference '25 Years CRC'. On Tuesday 18 November and Wednesday 19 November more than 300 children's rights expert from all over the world convened in the City Music Hall in Leiden to actively discuss the following two questions: a. What has the Children's Rights Convention brought us so far? and b. How can the implementation of children's rights be improved in the next 25 years?



During this two-day conference many reputable children's rights experts spoke, including Prof. Dr. Michael Freeman from University College London, Dr. Hans van Loon, Former Secretary General at the Hague Conference on Private International Law, and the National Rapporteur Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence against Children, Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen. In the so-called 'arm chair sessions' several experts who were involved with the drafting of the CRC were consulted on the drafting process, their expectations then and the outcome so far. Furthermore, the future of the

CRC was discussed from the perspective of representatives of several organisations and actors, such as Plan International, the Council of Europe and Save the Children. In addition, approximately 150 participants presented their own research during parallel sessions, with topics ranging from child abuse to children and their online behavior, from the CRC in relation to other legal frameworks to children in armed conflict, from juvenile justice to divorce matters.



Prof. Dr. Michael Freeman at the Conference 25 Years CRC

The gathering of so many people who are driven by children's rights was unique and turned out to be the perfect recipe for a good atmosphere, the exchange of information, the discussion of several issues and to come up with new conclusions and plans. Currently, the organising committee of the conference is selecting the most relevant papers in order to bring these together to reflect the most important findings made during the conference. Children's rights are important; always and everywhere, was an obvious but important conclusion. Although more efforts need to be made to fully realize children's rights, the CRC has definitely led to many successes. This was not only brought about by the introduction of this treaty, but also by the efforts of many different actors, because, as Prof. Dr. Vitit Muntarbhorn also put it during

the conference: 'the CRC is an instrument of change, not an end in itself'.

The international conference was part of the children's rights week which took place from 17 to 21 November.



Prof. Ton Liefwaard at the Conference 25 Years CRC

During this week many events were organised which were, in one way or another, connected to children's rights. At the children's rights summit, for example, many children's rights experts, including policy makes, practitioners and children, gathered to discuss specific topics in more detail during several roundtable sessions. During the Children's Rights Moot Court Competition, 15 teams from all over the world pleaded a challenging case in front of a fictitious International Court on the Rights of the Child and were judged by international legal experts, ultimately resulting in the final in the Children's Rights House in Leiden. Please, [click here](#) for a short video impression of the children's rights week.



Author: Jill Stein

General News Internal



Queen Belfast University: MSc Children's Rights

Queen's University Belfast offers an

MSc Children's Rights which is currently recruiting for September 2015. The course equips participants with a thorough legal and philosophical grounding in the foundations of children's rights, and also provides options for students to explore implementation in a range of contexts such as education, social work, disability, and youth justice. The course also trains participants to undertake research into children's rights using research processes which promote children's participation and

understanding. Experts from the Centre for Children's Rights run core modules and a variety of interdisciplinary modules is offered by colleagues from a range of disciplinary backgrounds. The course is part on-line and part face to face to enable students from around the world to participate.

For more details about the course and international scholarships available through the university, contact: l.jerome@qub.ac.uk

Mykolas Romeris University: New joint study programme Social Work with Children and Youth

The goal of the joint study programme Social Work with Children and Youth - to develop masters with high personal and professional competence in social work that will be able to work on intercultural level with children and youth, do research while analyzing children and youth social problems; will be able to organize social work and provision of services, finding the most effective solutions to these problems, moreover – will be able to continually reflect on, evaluate their professional activities and provide these opportunities for performance

improvement.

The content of joint master study programme is organized to increase everyone's ability to take part in lifetime studies and provide possibilities for foreign students study together in different cultural and academical environment.

Provided master study programme is designed to prepare high qualification social work professionals who gained formed scientific analytical skills and are able creatively apply, evaluate and develop various social work strategies in order to seek sustainable change ensuring high quality service for children and youth.

One of the most unique thing of this program is that students both on the theoretical and practical level will

have the opportunity to gain a broader range of competencies because they will study with in international group of students, they will be working with teachers from different countries, who have a wider range of practical and scientific research skills and experiences of social work with children and youth. Thus, students will have a unique opportunity to gain experience from foreign teachers, to practice in the European Union countries (Latvia, Portugal, Spain and other) and take over the best social work with children and youth practices of that countries.

Further information available [here](#).



Johanna Richter, EMCR Alumnae at the Freie Universität Berlin, wrote this message appealing to sign the petition to continue the MACR in Berlin, Germany.

Save the only Children's Rights MA in Germany!

The international and interdisciplinary master's programme „Childhood Studies and Children's Rights“(MACR) at the Freie Universität Berlin is about to be abolished. The master's programme “Intercultural Education” faces the same threat. We, the students of the MACR, call for Germany's only degree programme on children's rights to be continued! Our master's programme not only

offers excellent academic standards, it also serves an important political and practical function. The MACR aims at advancing the relatively new sociological discipline of Childhood Studies and at spreading knowledge about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as at supporting the implementation of children's rights around the world. This is especially important in the face of the numerous violations of children's rights that are currently committed in many parts of the

world. The master's programme challenges a stereotypical view of childhood that leaves few options for creating social processes. We, the students of the MACR, invite all people that work for and support children and children's rights, scientists, alumni and all those who feel strongly about the MACR's goals, to sign [this petition](#) for the continuation of the master's programme and to share it with interested persons and institutions.

General News Internal - Interview



Diana, PhD candidate University of Geneva interview Mohammed Al Rozzi, an alumane! Thank you very much for your input.

Could you briefly tell us about your academic and professional background?

My name is Mohammed Al Rozzi. I'm from the Gaza Strip, in Palestine. I'm currently earning my PhD degree at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. I completed my Master's degree in Childhood Studies at Edinburgh University, and my Bachelor's degree in Occupational Therapy at Bethlehem University. In between degrees, I had worked with a number of organizations (including Mercy Corps, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Terre de Hommes Lausanne, UNICEF, and World Vision).

Tell us about your PhD research.

My PhD research focuses on the phenomenon of child labour in Palestinian territories, with a special focus on the Gaza Strip. It is my belief that the unstable political situation, the occupation, and continuous economic shocks have heavily impacted the work patterns of children as well as the general attitudes of the population in regard to child work. I'm currently in Gaza conducting fieldwork (September-November 2014), and I will return for a second trip in the spring of 2015.

What data collection methods are you currently using/are you planning on using?

During both phases of my fieldwork, I will be mainly gathering relevant information on the basis of interviews and focus groups. I also have recourse to participant observation in both public and private spheres. I will be conducting interviews with children, their parents, and "key informants", i.e. elites and decision makers in the field of education and work in the Palestinian territories. My main sources of information will be supplemented by other sources of data, such as statistics from the ministries of planning, education, and labour, and previous studies and literature.

In your opinion, which images of children and childhood are prevalent in Palestinian society?

This is an important question for my research, since images of children and childhood are intimately linked to parental decisions to encourage - or discourage - child work. The image and ideals of children and childhood in Palestinian society have evolved, especially in the last few decades. In the 1980s, there was a prevalent image of the child as a partner in the resistance and liberation movement. This image was utilised politically: Children were encouraged to take photos with guns, and to engage in small acts of militia activity. In 2014, I feel like Palestinian society is using the image of the innocent and victimized child to denounce the war through the channel of international media. Of course, these images and ideals of children and childhood many vary across communities. At any given time, different coexisting and contradictory images are utilized politically.

In the summer of 2014, we witnessed an escalation of violence in the Gaza strip. How did these events affect your research activities?

The Gaza Strip covers an area of 365 square kilometres. The population is 1.8 million, making Gaza one of the most overcrowded regions in the world. Border blockade is regularly enforced. Under large-scale bombings, over one third of the population was displaced to schools and shelters, which were also targets of hostilities. The very idea of security is lost. This really affects the psychological and the psychosocial well-being of the people, who are nervous at the idea of renewed bombings. During my interviews, people started talking about how the war had affected them. They used the interview setting as a kind of debriefing opportunity. I cannot stop

my interviewees from talking about the war. Acting ethically also means being sensitive to the emotional needs of the participants, I need to listen to them even if what they're saying is not relevant to my research. Besides, the post-conflict situation, which is full of chaos, has resulted in the disturbance of the overall human and social organization, and has thus affected the way research is being conducted.

What would you say are the greatest challenges you have faced while conducting your fieldwork in Gaza?

To be honest I faced lots of challenges, some were expected, and others weren't. The first challenge was to physically gain entry into the Gaza Strip. Blockade was enforced at national borders following the most recent military operations in the region in the summer of 2014. Once I had managed to get into the county and start conducting interviews and focus groups, I was faced with a second challenge: I needed to interact with children and parents who are recovering from traumatic event. These people came to interviews with a set of expectations, expected me to guide them to the appropriate service providers, or to provide financial support. It was a difficult task to temper the expectations of the interviewees and deal with their inevitable disappointment. The third challenge was posed by the children taking part in the focus groups, who demonstrated violent and aggressive behaviour, a symptom of the trauma they had experienced. As a researcher, it was challenging to keep track of the on-going contestations taking place inside this chaotic group. Despite these challenges, I have been quite fortunate in some regards: Being from Gaza myself, I was able to gain privileged access to participants and decision makers.

CREAN: Conference Children's Right to Non-Discrimination

The 2nd CREAN Conference [Children's Rights to Non-Discrimination](#) organised by Siauliai University and Mykolas Romeris University took place on December 4th and 5th, 2014 at the Lithuanian Parliament.

The conference counted with remarkable Key Note Speakers from Lithuania and other European countries and focused on the reasons why children's rights are violated namely, on the guarantee of the principle of non-discrimination, as

stated in Article 2 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The first day counted with the input from Rimantė Šalaševičiūtė, Minister of Health, Republic of Lithuania, Dr. Edita Žiobienė, Ombudsperson for Children's Rights in Lithuania, Prof. Dr. Karl Hanson, Prof. Dr. Wouter Vandenhoe, Prof. Dr. Maria Roth and Prof. Dr. Manfred Liebel. On the second day Prof. Dr. Dainius Pūras Dr. Natalja Istomina and Mr. Algirdas Šešgelis were the Key Note speakers.

CREAN
Children's Rights Erasmus Academic Network



General News External

Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty

The UN General Assembly has formally adopted a resolution to carry out a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty. Its adoption follows an NGO campaign requesting the UN Secretary-General to undertake the study. However, despite calls by the NGO panel behind the campaign to have an Independent Expert lead the study, this provision was removed from the final text of the resolution. The NGO panel had previously stressed the importance of an independent expert for such a study to be independent and authoritative, noting that two previous studies relating to children's rights (on violence against children and children in armed conflict) were led in this way.

Hungary: Children with learning disabilities

A draft bill in Hungary seeks to conduct annual mandatory drug tests on children aged 12 years and older, journalists and elected politicians. Test results would only be revealed to parents while a child who tests positive would not face legal consequences. The bill is expected to be presented in Parliament in February. In protest against the

proposal, the members of the youth section of the left wing opposition party, the Democratic Coalition, submitted urine samples to the 8th district local council.

Czech Republic: right of children with disabilities

The Czech Supreme Administrative Court recognised as enforceable the right of children with disabilities to receive state support to enable them to continue living within their community. The case challenged the public authorities' refusal to provide financial support for specialist social services to the children's parents who wanted to continue caring for them at home. The Court found that the authorities' refusal was unlawful. The Court also found that Czech law must be interpreted in line with the European Social Charter and the general comments of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Slovakia: Compulsory Vaccination

This month, Slovakia's Constitutional Court affirmed the legality of laws requiring the compulsory vaccination of children. The case concerned the imposition of a fine for a parent who refused to allow her child to be vaccinated.

EP: Resolution

The European Parliament recently adopted a resolution on the rights of the child which, called on Member States to uphold their obligations and combat any forms of violence against children, including by formally prohibiting and sanctioning corporal punishment against children. The resolution also noted that tradition, culture and religion should never be used to justify violence against children.

Turkey: Education

The ECHR has held that Turkey was in breach of Art. 2 of Protocol 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights, which grants parents the right to ensure that their children's education conforms to their own religious and philosophical convictions. The applicants, who are the parents of a child of school age and adhere to Alevism (a branch of Islam), complained that the classes in religion and ethics, which are compulsory in secondary schools in the country, are based on Sunni Islam, which is different to their beliefs. The Court agreed that the current system does not ensure respect for the religious beliefs of parents.

Publications

Social work with children and youth: intercultural and international aspect



This guidebook has been prepared for students of the programme entitled "Social work with children and youth". The theoretical self-study guide has been developed for master degree studies, entitled "Social work with young people: cross-cultural and international dimension". This publication has been prepared on the basis of theoretical study subjects.

Each part begins with a theoretical justification of a particular topic.

The theoretical sources of information and the analysis of these sources enable students to study the theoretical basis of the subject. The bibliography and the links to electronic information resources are provided at the end of each part, which allows students to analyse the subject studied in more detail. The questions and tasks for students are also provided and this should enable the students to self-check their knowledge. Moreover, every student can test their knowledge, understanding, or even the level of values. Furthermore, in this case we allow evaluating the competencies of studying persons and those lacking the competencies, as they can acquire or develop them. The links of the information resources enable students to study specific aspects of the subject and analyse the development of professional competencies and personal couches to the level of very specific, relevant skills for each student.

Recommendations for successful consultations, questions and tasks at the end of each chapter will help organising individual student work and plan effective consultations.

Questions and tasks at the end of each chapter will help students realise their level of understanding of theoretical material.

ISBN: 9789955196679.

Child Participation: from Rights to Reality



In collaboration with KidsRights, the Department of Child Law of the Leiden University developed the KidsRights Report 'Child Participation: from Rights to Reality'. It was prepared on the occasion of the tenth International Children's Peace Prize, awarded to Neha Gupta by Desmond Tutu on behalf of KidsRights.'

The report was prepared by Jill Stein and is available [here](#).

ISBN/EAN: 978-90-822558-9-8

Children and the Environment in an Australian Indigenous Community: A psychological approach

The book presents the first empirical study on Australian Aboriginal children's lives from within the field of child-environment studies, employing an environmental psychology perspective, combined with architectural and anthropological understandings. Chapters offer valuable insights into participatory planning and design solutions concerning Aboriginal children in their distinct community environment, and the cross-cultural character of the case study illuminates the commonalities of child development, as well as recognising the uniqueness that stems from specific histories in specific places.

Children and the Environment in an Australian Indigenous Community makes significant theoretical, methodological and practical contributions to the international cross disciplinary field of child-environment studies. It will be of key interest to researchers from the fields of environmental, ecological, developmental and social psychology, as well as anthropologists, sociologists, and those studying the environment and planning.

ISBN: 978-0-415-74117-0

Una condena compartida, Libro sobre los niños y las niñas invisibles: ¿encarcelados?

El presente estudio (M^a José Gea Fernández, Mario Domínguez Sánchez Y Pinillaigor Sádaba Rodríguez) trata sobre la criminalidad femenina asumiendo la diferenciación social de roles de género como punto de partida para el análisis, teniendo en cuenta asimismo la existencia de unos internos invisibles en las prisiones españolas: los niños y niñas.

A través de una discusión teórica y metodológica sobre las políticas penitenciarias, se desarrolla además un estudio de campo actual realizado en la Comunidad de Madrid.

Buscando superar el determinismo biológico y psicológico de la tradición clásica y positivista criminológica, se cuestionan los axiomas tenidos por verdaderos acerca de la naturaleza, el estatus y el papel de las mujeres en la sociedad contemporánea, así como la situación de sus hijos e hijas que las acompañan en prisión.

Con ello se procura elaborar una crítica feminista y de derechos de la infancia junto con un modo de estudio alternativo a la ortodoxia encubiertamente patriarcal y positivista, abundante incluso en los tratados críticos.

ISBN :9788493898250

On children's rights debt: Reconsidering the debates about working and street children in a globalized world

The new book edited by is divided in 3 parts, namely; review of different debates; points of view from Latin America and points of view around the world. Several authors have contributed to this book, namely: Michael Bourdillon, Nandana Reddy, Juan Martin Perez Garcia and Veronica Muller

ISBN: 9788898849017

Events and membership

JANUARY 2015

- 06/01: The effect of the Great Recession on Southern European Children's and Adolescents' Adaptation and Well-being: Risks and Resilience Processes, Brussels, Belgium
- 12/01: Seminar: Legal and Policy responses to child migration in Europe, Liverpool, UK.
- 16/01: Interrogations of young suspects in the European Union, Maastricht, the Netherlands.
- 21/01: Better Late Than Never: 25th Anniversary of the UK Ratification of the UN CRC, Oxford, UK.
- 22/01 to 23/01: Denialism and Human Rights, Maastricht, Netherlands.
- 26/01 to 30/01: World Congress on Juvenile Justice, Geneva, Switzerland.
- 27/01: Alternative Provision in Education, Leeds, UK.

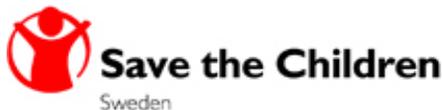
MARCH 2015

- 04/03: Online safety: Protecting children on the internet, London, UK.
- 18/03: Health & well-being: Eradicating Child Poverty in the UK, London, UK.

HOW TO JOIN THE ENMCR NETWORK?

Dear Network Members,

Please send us your agendas for the coming months as well as publications, funding and prizes or any other topic so we can include them in our newsletter (info@enmcr.net).



Save the Children, thank you for making this newsletter possible!



It is possible to join the European Network of Masters in Children's Rights as a member at any time. ENMCR was established in 2004 by five European Universities with the support of Save the Children Sweden (SCS). In the meantime 31 universities are members of ENMCR. ENMCR is collaborating with the Latin American Network of Masters in Children's Rights, which currently comprises nine universities in eight Latin American countries and is also supported by SCS. Furthermore, ENMCR is in contact with academic study programmes on children's rights in other parts of the world, e.g. in the MENA region.

Why is it worthwhile joining our network?

In becoming a member you will work with children's rights experts from all over Europe (and Latin America). We have been cooperating as a network for almost ten years and you will be able to build on the longstanding experience of our members. You will get an insight into children's rights from a variety of perspectives and disciplines. The member universities offer higher education in childhood studies and children's rights, at undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels. Some members offer full study programmes in children's rights, others offer modules, seminars or intensive courses. You will have access to knowledge in establishing study programmes, as well as to teaching materials developed in the network. We have implemented several European Union funded projects on children's rights themes and organize conferences, workshops and short intensive programmes in the same field. You will have access to all materials published in the frame of ENMCR, such as the monthly electronic newsletter Children's Rights news (CRnews), reports from projects, materials from conferences and workshops, etc.

To become a member of ENMCR, simply send us a letter of intent, in which you name what you believe you and your institution can contribute to and gain from our network. In addition, please include an outline of your child rights related programme and/or courses. It is important that you name a contact person at your institution for correspondence purposes. Our members contribute to ENMCR's work with an annual membership fee of 300€ which covers the daily expenses of the network.

Please send the letter to:
European Network of Masters in Children's Rights (ENMCR)
c/o European Master in Childhood Studies and Children's Rights
Freie Universität Berlin
Habelschwerdter Allee 45
D- 14195 Berlin, Germany

