



European Network of Masters on Children's Rights

CRnews 5

Children's Rights Newsletter
April 2006

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Dear Network Members and Network Interested,

In this easter edition of CRnews you will find a report on an interesting seminar on the situation of children living in Germany without a German passport, you will find many job opportunities and as usual a compilation of news from the CRIN newsletters of the past two and half weeks.

As usual: direct your feedback and comments to info@enmcr.net

We wish you all a very Happy Easter 2006!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Budde
Günter Chodzinski
Editors



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General News Internal

INFO From Members

Expert Course Childhood Studies and Children's Rights Practice in the International Context (course)

The expert course to be offered by the International Academy at the Free University Berlin has to be postponed by 6 months. The course will now start on October 13th, 2006 and will continue in 10 sessions ending on March 10th, 2007. The new deadline for application is July 14th, 2006.

The course is directed to professionals in the child and youth sector. Students are welcome also.

The course is divided in modules that will be held every fortnight on Fridays and Saturdays. The first two sessions will give an introduction to childhood research and research with children as well as the history and basics of children rights.

Examples of modules are: Protection. Survival and development and participation rights of the child; children as protagonists, child and human rights pedagogy.

The course will be held (mainly) in German.

For further information and application forms please contact Prof. Dr. Manfred Liebel, Course leader, Habelschwerdter Allee 45, D-14195 Berlin, Tel: +49-30-53968; e-mail: mliebel@ina-fu.org; www.iglis.de

General News External

„Children without German passport“ State obligation and Children's Rights (event, report)

On May 30 and 31, the seminar „*Children without German passport*“: *State obligation and Children's Rights* was held in the Friedrich- Ebert Foundation in Berlin. The event, organized by the National Coalition for the implementation of the UNCRC in Germany and the Forum for Human Rights, informed on the situation of migrant and refugee children in Germany and aimed at finding solutions for an improvement of their situation.

The Federal Republic of Germany ratified the UNCRC under the provision that it not apply to migrant and refugee children aged 16-18, this in particular concerning the right to a guardian in juridical matters.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has repeatedly demanded that Germany abolish the provision, which is rigorously upheld, as it is not compatible with the UNCRC itself and violates the rights of this group of children.

In reality, the rights of even younger children with an unsecured status in Germany. The gravity of these violations were demonstrated artistically in the theatre play “Hiergeblieben” (stay here) which the youth theatre GRIPS performed in the evening of the first day. The play tells the (true) story of a 13 year old Bosnian school girl who was forced out of the classroom to be taken to her parents by the police who had been taken into deportation detention in the morning.

However she was locked into a cell all alone at first for several hours before she was brought to her family's cell. The girl had been living in Germany with her family since 10 years- she only had faint memories of Bosnia and was well integrated in her neighbourhood and successful in school. Through enormous efforts by her school, demonstrations, letters actions, she was able to stay in Germany. This is however a case in which many very engaged people were involved- it is not clear how many cases happen regularly that do not experience this amount of public attention.

After two introductory presentations on the UNCRC in the morning of the first day, the participants worked in groups on various subjects to elaborate on demands and suggestions for presentation during the panel discussion on the second day of the conference to which human rights politicians from the two governing parties (CDU and SPD) and one from the opposition were invited.

The discussion was to be centred around Art. 3. 1. of the UNCRC: “In all actions concerning children,, the best interest of the child shall be a primary consideration” which through the provision of the German Government is clearly violated in writing with respect to children without German citizenship aged 16-17. The discrepancy between reality and the written claim of children's rights also of children at younger ages in Germany was also a subject and clearly demonstrated in the play described above.

Even though the discussion was emotionally loaded due to all the work and discussion of the previous day and the very engaged seminar participants, of which many work directly with those groups of children affected by the provision, the politicians were given food for thought which they agreed to carry into their working groups and committees to hopefully turn it into food for action.

For more information on the seminar, please contact: National Coalition, Mühlendamm 3, 10178 Berlin, Tel: +49-30-400-40218, info@national-coalition.de

Adults First! An organisational training for adults on children's participation. Child Rights Foundation Cambodia, 2004, by Henk van Beers with Caspar Trimmer, Save the Children Sweden, Bangkok, 2006. (publication)

For children's fundamental participation rights to be realised, it is adults, not children, who most urgently need to learn. Children's participation rights demand that adults listen to children, understand them and take action based on what children say. Adults often need to encourage children to participate and provide opportunities for them to do it. Thus, children's rights to participate is, for now at least, heavily dependent upon adults.

Adults First! is aimed at staff and managers of child-focused organisations hoping to improve their work with children. People thinking of facilitating such trainings should also find it a rich source of ideas and exercises to use with adults and young people.

This publication can be downloaded from the following website: www.scswedenseap.org

Hard copies and CD ROMs of this publication can also be obtained –free of charge - at: Save the Children Sweden Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, 14th Fl, Manceya Centre, South Tower, 518/5 Ploenchit Rd., Bangkok 10330, Thailand Henk.van.beers@seap.savethechildren.se

Kidlink (web resource)

Kidlink is a website to strengthen children's rights involving children around the world who have access to the web. There is a section on children's rights, and there is a teacher's portal with useful resources and materials for motivating engaged learners. Have a look at: <http://www.kidlink.org/english/general/abstract.html>

Info from CRIN Newsletters

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: Mobilising Communities for Ratification [event]

Date: 18 – 20 May 2006, Location: Washington D.C., US

The Campaign for US Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is holding a conference in May in Washington D.C., United States, for a dynamic and diverse gathering of non-governmental organisations, government officials, the private sector, child rights advocates, scholars, religious organisations, parents, youth, students, and others committed to promoting US Ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

In addition to morning and afternoon plenary sessions, the Summit will feature interactive workshops, panels, and artistic presentations organised by and for the national child rights community. These meetings will share best practices for advancing children's rights, offer opportunities for developing skills and provide organising strategies.

For more information, contact:

Marty Scherr, Campaign for US Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 2237 Bancroft Place, NW, Washington, DC 20008 USA, Tel: + 1 202 986 2780; Fax: + 1 202 332 0219, Email: pslc1@earthlink.net, Website: <http://www.childrightscampaign.org>

ITALY: Routine Detention of Migrant and Asylum-Seeking Minors [publication]

The Italian authorities should stop their practice of routinely detaining minors, especially those seeking asylum and unaccompanied by a family member, Amnesty International said in a recent report entitled: [Invisible children - The human rights of migrant and asylum-seeking minors detained upon arrival at the maritime border in Italy](#).

During the past five years, approximately 80,000 migrants and asylum-seekers have reached Italy by sea after a hazardous journey, often onboard small, unseaworthy boats. Among them have been hundreds of children, generally very young, including infants, and some of them unaccompanied. In many cases, they have been detained upon arrival along with adults, though there is no domestic law that justifies this routine practice.

Amnesty International has received more than 890 allegations and other information regarding the presence of minors in most detention centres in Italy in recent years. The organisation has a detailed knowledge of 28 unaccompanied minors who have been detained at some point between January 2002 and August 2005. Almost all were asylum-seekers from sub-Saharan African countries in which the human rights situation is very precarious.

For more information, contact:

Amnesty International, 99-119 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4RE, UK, Tel: +44 20 7814 6200; Fax: +44 20 7833 1510, Email: info@amnesty.org
Website: <http://www.amnesty.org>

CHILD SPONSORSHIP: Research by Plan International [call for researchers]

[Plan International](#) is seeking proposals from researchers to study the developmental impact of child sponsorship.

The research will be conducted in two parts over 2006. Part 1 will concentrate on a review of the literature and perceptions, the conceptual framework and preparation for Part 2, the main part of the research project. Core costs and expenses associated with the research will be paid. Application deadline: 13 April 2006

For more information, contact: Dr Simon Heap, Global Research Portfolio Co-ordinator; Plan International Headquarters; Chobham House, Christchurch Way, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6JG, UK; Tel: +44 (0)1483 733325 Email: simon.heap@plan-international.org

Website: <http://www.plan-international.org>

STREET CHILDREN: EU Fundraising and Project Management Seminar [event]

Date: 27–28 April 2006 Location: Brussels, Belgium

EFSCW is organising a Fundraising and Project Management seminar on EU funding and assistance programmes for NGOs working for abandoned children and youth.

Participants (10-15) will be representatives from social NGOs working for child and youth protection, exercising their activities for at-risk children and youth in the EU Member and Accession States and in developing countries.

The speakers will be experts, either direct representatives of the European Commission and more specifically of the children and youth programmes presented at the event, or high-profile consultants with years of experience and expertise in the European Commission's social policy and programmes.

For more information, contact: Melanie Vritschan, Information and Public Relations Officer, European Foundation for Street Children Worldwide, Square Vergote 34, B - 1030 Brussels, Belgium; Tel: + 32 2 347 78 48; Fax: + 32 2 347 79 46; Email: melanie.vritschan@enscw.org Website: <http://www.enscw.org>

GLOBAL ACTION WEEK FOR EDUCATION: Every Child Needs a Teacher [news]

Date: 24-30 April 2006

Right now, over 100 million children wake up every day without the hope that education offers. The UN estimates that at least 15 million more teachers are needed for the universal primary education goal alone. During this year's Global Action Week for Education, the [Global Campaign for Education](#) (GCE) coalition will be watching politicians, to ensure they keep their promises of enabling every child to go to school and be taught by a qualified teacher.

Visit the [Global Campaign for Education](#) website to get a comprehensive resource pack or email actionweek@campaignforeducation.org. Visit the [NetAid](#) website which provides options to get involved in this year's campaign, facts, figures and an action pack.

Resources [Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2006: Literacy for Life](#) (UNESCO) [Education Fact Sheet](#) (NetAid) [CRIN's thematic page on education](#)

JUVENILE JUSTICE IN EUROPE: Framework for Integration [event]

Date: 24-25 October 2006, Location: Brussels, Belgium

Since its beginning, the goal of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory has been the promotion of developing a public opinion conscious of the rights of children and, especially, juveniles in conflict with the law. Every two years, the IJJO organises an International Conference with the aim to make possible the meeting of professionals, public organisations, institutions and universities under a common interest: the development of a global juvenile justice without frontiers.

For more information, contact: International Juvenile Justice Observatory, C/ Teso de la Feria, 9. 37008, Salamanca, Spain, Tel: +34 923 194 170; Fax: +34 923 194 171, Email: bruxelles2006@oiji.org, Website: <http://www.oiji.org>

JOB Opportunities:

Swansea University School of Human Sciences/School of Law
Professor in Children's Rights (Centre for Child Research)

The development of the Centre for Child Research at Swansea University has created a new Chair in Children's Rights who will act as a Co-director of the Centre. The successful applicant will offer research leadership and strategic guidance for the development of the Centre.

Candidates must have an international reputation in the field of children's rights, with a strong track record of attracting external funding and experience of working in an interdisciplinary context. An interest in criminology, law, social policy or social work would be an asset, although applicants from all fields will be considered.

Informal enquiries about this post can be directed to Dr Trisha Maynard (T.Maynard@Swansea.ac.uk), acting Head of the Centre for Child Research.

Further particulars may be obtained, quoting the reference **M2280**, from the Personnel Department, University of Wales Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, Tel: 01792 295136 (24 hours) or at www.swansea.ac.uk/personnel/vacancies.

Application by CV (**10 copies**), which should include the names and addresses of three referees, should be forwarded by **Friday 5th May 2006**.

ECPAT International

ECPAT International is a network of organisations and individuals working together to eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children. It seeks to encourage the world community to ensure that children everywhere enjoy their fundamental rights free from all forms of commercial sexual exploitation. ECPAT has vacancies for the following positions:

Campaigns Officer

The overall purpose of the job will be to strategise, plan and coordinate ECPAT International campaigns related to commercial sexual exploitation of children, as well as to provide technical support in advocacy, lobbying and campaigning to the ECPAT Secretariat and the network. The postholder will be based in Bangkok, Thailand. The contract is for two

years (renewable).

Communications Officer

The overall purpose of the job will be to raise awareness and understanding about all forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children by sharing information and promoting the work of ECPAT International through liaisons with media, other agencies and the ECPAT Board, Secretariat and Network. The postholder will be based in Bangkok, Thailand. The contract is for two years (renewable).

Programme Officer, Child and Youth Participation

The overall purpose of the job will be to promote, coordinate, encourage, and support the integration of children and young people's participation in the ECPAT network and among all partners committed to the work against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC); to ensure the integration of children and young peoples' views and opinions in all aspects of ECPAT's work; to support projects by and for youth involved in combating CSEC; to develop the skills of youth in order for them to be able to participate meaningfully in the promotion of children's right to live free of sexual exploitation; to document ECPAT experiences of child and youth participation in working to combat CSEC. The postholder will be based in Bangkok, Thailand. The contract is for two years (renewable).

Application deadlines: **18 April 2006**

For more information, contact: ECPAT International, 328 Phaya Thai Road, Bangkok 10400, Thailand, Fax: +662 215 8272, Email: vacancy@ecpat.net , Website: <http://www.ecpat.net/eng/index.asp>

Consortium for Street Children: Corporate Fundraiser

The Consortium for Street Children (CSC) is a well established and internationally recognised NGO working to promote and protect the rights of street children in the developing world. CSC is seeking to recruit a Corporate Fundraiser, to be based at their London office, to develop and implement the corporate fundraising strategy, research and identify corporate partners and donors, manage the donor database and raise awareness of street children's issues throughout the corporate world.

Application deadline: 21 April 2006

For more information, contact: Emily Browne, Consortium for Street Children
Unit 306, Bon Marche Centre, 241-251 Ferndale Road, London SW9 8BJ, UK Email: emily@streetchildren.org.uk
Website: <http://www.streetchildren.org.uk>

SOS-Kinderdorf International: EU Liaison and Advocacy Officer

SOS-Kinderdorf International is the umbrella organisation for more than 130 affiliated national SOS Children's Village associations worldwide. SOS-Kinderdorf International has a vacancy for the position of liaison officer, to be based in Brussels, Belgium, as part of the Liaison and Advocacy Office. The postholder will be in charge of representation, networking and advocacy towards the institutions of the European Union and Brussels-based NGO-networks on child rights and child care related issues, both inside and outside the European Union; liaising with the services of the European Commission, in particular on human development and humanitarian aid issues; developing related policies and strategies.

Application deadline: 12 April 2006

More information on the website: SOS-Kinderdorf International Human Resources; Hermann-Gmeiner-Str. 51, A - 6021 Innsbruck, Austria; Email: personal@sos-childrensvillages.org Website: <http://www.sos-childrensvillages.org>

Funding

For funding possibilities, please take a look at previous newsletters!

Upcoming Dates

- April 13th, 2006:** Deadline application research Plan International
- April 15th, 2006:** Deadline application HEI partnerships DAAD
- April 19th-21st, 2006:** Workshop on CSR in South Asia (SCS)
- April 20th, 2006:** Deadline submission posters by children and young people on their rights (DG Justice)
- April 24-30th, 2006:** Global Action Week for Education
- April 27-28th, 2006:** EU Fundraising and Project Management seminar (EFSCW)
- April 30th, 2006:** Deadline application Erasmus Mundus, Action 1
- May 2nd, 2006:** Deadline submission Exploratory Workshops (ESF)
- May 4th-7th, 2006:** Seminar: Human Rights Education in Youth Work and School
- May 11th-13th, 2006:** Seminar: Diversity-Human Rights- Participation
- May 18th-19th, 2006:** International Interdisciplinary Conference on Children's Rights University of Ghent, Belgium.
- May 18th-20th, 2006:** Campaign event for US ratification of the UNCRC
- 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 10th -22nd, 2006:** 7th encounter of African Movement of Working Children and Young People
- 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 20th - December 12th, 2006:** Distance Learning Course on Rights-Based Programming (HREA)
- October 1st -12th, 2006:** Workshop "Children's Participation, Protagonism and Governance"
Deadline application: September 1st, 2006
- 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